

Hello to Jay and Stephanie Hall, and Erica: On Dec. 8, you asked...

We have a question for you— figured you may be able to answer it. Why do we keep the feasts when we are in the final Day of Atonement ? And why do we keep the Day of Atonement ? We have shared the feast message with an old Pastor/friend of ours and he has asked some intriguing questions. Particularly these two, which we do not know how to answer. Any comments ?????

You Pastor/friend's questions are perplexing only when considered in the context of three major assumptions, which are:

- 1) the Day of Atonement prefigures the beginning of the final judgement process.
- 2) the antitypical Day of Atonement arrived on the Day of Atonement in 1844, which, incidentally, was felt to have fallen on October 22 of that year.
- 3) There is something wrong, or at least out of order or in poor form, about celebrating a festival after it has been "fulfilled."

Examining these assumptions in the order they were mentioned, I would offer the following comments:

- 1) re. the Day of Atonement as the beginning of final judgement: it is generally understood by students of the Hebrew economy that the Day of Atonement concludes the final judgement process, rather than begins it. The Feast of Trumpets begins judgement, as can be verified through a study of Jewish reference materials. For an excellent overview of this subject, please review "God's Festivals in Scripture and History," Volume II, by Samuele Bacchiocchi.
- 2) re. the antitypical Day of Atonement as arriving on the Day of Atonement in 1844, which was felt to fall on Oct. 22: firstly, it should be stated the students of the Bible and the Hebrew economy have virtually unanimously agreed that October 22 is too late in the year to have possibly been the actual Day of Atonement. But, laying aside for now that observation, and for the purpose of discussion accepting Oct. 22 as the Day of Atonement in 1844, we are confronted with the following problem: we cannot find congruent fulfillments of the Feast of Trumpets and the Feast of Tabernacles!! The spring festivals were fulfilled exactly on a day-for-a-day basis from Passover to Pentecost, leading inescapably to the conclusion that the fall festivals will be fulfilled in like manner or possibly on a day-for-a-year basis to suit the somewhat altered prophetic paradigm of some "historical" Adventists. Try as we might, we cannot find a suitable event for *the* antitypical Feast of Trumpets either ten days or ten years before Oct. 22, 1844, nor can we find a suitable event for the beginning of the antitypical Feast of Tabernacles either five days or five years after Oct. 22, 1844. Some "historical" Adventists lamely propose that William Miller's ministry constituted the antitypical Feast of Trumpets, but it is a matter of historical record that William Miller was boldly proclaiming his message in 1833, a full twelve years inclusive before Oct. 22, 1844. Since our Heavenly Father would not say 10 and mean 12, that proposal will have to fall by the way.
- 3) re. the "error" of observing a festival after it has been fulfilled; ignoring all the evidence given so far and assuming that Oct. 22, 1844 is *the* antitypical day of Atonement, we should note that the idea of discontinuing festival observance after festival fulfilment is completely unbiblical. In Matthew 5:18, our Messiah tells us that not a jot or a tittle will pass from the law, or torah, until *all* is fulfilled. So it *all* stands until it is *all* fulfilled. You might remind your Pastor/friend that he observes Passover four times a year, in the form of the "Lord's Supper" or "communion" which is

nothing more than a new covenant Passover service with man-made timing, even though he will readily agree that Passover was fulfilled more than 1900 years ago, at the Messiah's first Advent. If we are "guilty" of something because we observe the Day of Atonement (in compliance with our Master's explicit command in Matthew 28:20) after the alleged antitypical Day of Atonement in 1844, your Pastor/friend's Passover observance after proven Passover fulfilment at the first Advent must make him four times as guilty!

What then do we make of October 22, 1844? Since it lacks the identifying hallmarks of antitypical festival fulfilment as discussed, I conclude that at best it was a preview of final fulfilment, much as the Mount of Transfiguration experience was a preview of final Feast of Tabernacles fulfilment. While the concept of a pre-Advent judgement is supportable in Scripture, its proposed 150+ year duration is lacking in support from that source, and must rely almost entirely on the writings of Ellen White for credibility. Also, the idea of an investigative judgement of the *dead* in *heaven* is conveniently non-verifiable by any objective verification criteria, and must be accepted as a belief without any of the firm evidence available to those who study the fulfilment of the spring festivals. I would suggest that the *actual* antitypical fulfilment of the Day of Atonement is yet future, that it will be accompanied by fully congruent and appropriate antitypical fulfillments of Trumpets and Tabernacles, that it will involve those alive on the earth when it occurs, and that it will lead directly the empowerment of the 144,000 which equips them to do their final work as described in Joel. Yahuah willing, we will meet again at some future festival convocation and study through these matters in more depth. In the meantime, may our Heavenly Father bless you and your family as you, and we, endeavour to "prepare to meet thy Elohim, O Israel." (Amos 4:12)

Sincerely,

Your brother in Yahushuah the Messiah,

Ron Buhler and Family
R.R.1 Gilford Ontario,
Canada L0L 1R0
phone: (905) 775-9172