

Just for clarification: In my presentations I am using YHVH (Yahuwah) instead of LORD, which is a title and not a name and I am using Yahusha instead of Jesus, which is not a translation but a transliteration and really has no meaning, neither in Hebrew nor in English! YHVH (Yahuwah) and Yahusha are the actual original names and the true nature and character of them.



Let's see, if we can find out, what Galatians is really talking about! We need to read everything in context and let the Bible interpret itself.

Here is what Paul states in Galatians 5:1: **“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”**

Insisting that Paul taught that the OT law was “done away”, **Christians conclude that they no longer need to keep the Law of Yahuwah**, which according to their idea means that they should not keep the 7th day Sabbath nor YHVH's yearly appointed festivals.

There was an old hymn, which sums up the popular but emotional belief of Christians and their attitude towards Yahweh's law, especially the Torah, which said:

"Free From The Law, O Happy Condition!"



However, Yahusha, our Savior had a different message in Psalm40:8: **"I delight to do thy will, O my Elohim (Elohim): yea, thy law (Torah) [is] within my heart."** *KJV*

Let's turn to Galatians 4:8-11: **8. "Howbeit then, when ye knew not Elohim (Elohim), ye did service unto them which by nature are no Elohims. 9. But now, after that ye have known Elohim (Elohim), or rather are known of Elohim (Elohim), how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? 10. Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. 11. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain."** *KJV*

The common, traditional explanation of Galatians 4:8-11 is that Paul is reprimanding the Galatians for returning to Old Testament observances that were a form of "bondage".

Is that explanation Correct? Is that what Paul is saying?

It is extremely important to pass on the warning Peter gave in reference to some of Paul's writings and not to take his advice lightly!

2. Peter 3, 16 (*KJV*) states: **"As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which**

they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.“

Could among the ignorant mentioned in these verses also be preachers and pastors?

In Galatians 4:10 Paul states: “Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.” People claim that the days referred to here are YHVH’s yearly feast days. They further hold the idea that this Scripture gives permission to avoid observing these holy days. They are no longer valid for His followers today.

At first glance does it say literally Pentecost, Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Day of Atonement or Feast of Tabernacles?

Of course NOT! Is it really expected that one should believe that Yahuwah’s Holy Feast days have been abolished without any biblical proof! That would be a dangerous assumption!

That could put one in the category Peter spoke of - twisting Scripture unto our own destruction. We need to ask some questions and then search for the answers.

Is Paul referring to YHVH’s yearly appointed festivals in Galatians 4:8-11? What right does anyone have to make that kind of an assumption? We should never read anything more into a Bible verse than what it actually says.



Who were the Galatians that Paul wrote to? Where did they live, what was their background?

Galatia was not a city but a province in Asia Minor. The church membership was undoubtedly composed mainly of Gentiles, and the males were physically uncircumcised. (See *Galatians 5:2; 6:12-13*).

They were Gentile converts and had come from a background of pagan practices. As mentioned Galatia was a region in Asia Minor where the

churches of Lystra, Iconium, Antioch, Derby and others were located. Acts 14:8-18 talks about their background.

These people had a history of worshipping pagan deities. The Galatians were Gentiles. They used to serve idols instead of the true Elohim as Galatians 4, verse 8 says: **“When ye knew not Elohim, ye did service unto them which by nature are no Elohims.” They served the “no Elohims!”**

Acts 14:8-10 shows us plainly that the Galatians believed and worshipped idols. Paul was used by Yahusha (*Jesus*) to heal a man born in a crippled condition.

What were the results?



As a result the pagan Gentiles wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas thinking the apostles were their Elohims, Jupiter and Mercury! They even wanted to do sacrifice to them v.11-13 **They wanted to do what? They wanted to do sacrifices to them. They thought Paul and Barnabas were Jupiter and Mercury that came down from Heaven and they wanted to worship them.**

Paul and Barnabas pleaded with them to not do such a thing and were scarcely able to restrain them (v. 14-18) People were so convinced that Paul and Barnabas were Elohims that it was very difficult to restrain them!

What is the major theme of the Galatians epistle?

The major theme of the Galatians epistle is **to put the Galatians “back on track”** because someone had been teaching **“a different gospel”**, a perversion of the gospel of Messiah according to Galatians 1:6-7.

They got off track! Actually that can happen to anyone, if we don’t know why we believe what we believe. We need to build on a firm foundation otherwise we will be “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine” as stated in Ephesians 4:14.

Paul wasted no time in expressing his disappointment with the Galatians, and how “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Messiah and are turning to a different gospel — which is really no gospel at all” (1:6-7). **This is a rebuke where Paul is quite**

disturbed about the Galatians being led off course. He expresses being upset at how “some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Messiah” (1:8), actually telling the Galatians that even if an angel comes with a different message than the one that he had preached to them—“let him be eternally condemned!” (1:8b)—something he makes a point of repeating (1:9).

False teachers were trying to beguile them into returning to their former ways. What were they returning to? To their former ways! And Paul was alarmed!

Paul’s concern for the Galatians is that they would be led astray and led right back into the life they should have left behind.

Many interpreters conclude that Paul now associated Judaism with paganism, which does not make sense at all. Paul observes how “when you did **not know** Elohim, you were slaves to those who by nature are not Elohims. But now that you know Elohim — or rather are known by Elohim — how is it that you are returning back to those weak and miserable principles. **Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?”** (*Galatians 4:8-9*).

In Galatians 4:1-7 Paul compares the state of a non-Believer to **being a child**, (4:1), someone who is silly and foolish, who lives under the bondage to sin, under the elements of the world. Until the time is set by his father to formally acknowledge his son as Heir.

Paul tells the Galatians, “**Also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world**” (4:3). But it is quite problematic to associate “**the elemental things of the world**”, as many interpreters do, as somehow Elohim’s commandments actually being of the same substance as paganism.

According to Galatians 4:6 the Messiah came in order to free them from the elements of the world, “when the time had fully come, Elohim (YHVH) sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights as sons.”

Yahushas sacrificial work has freed Believers from the Torah’s curse and penalties laid down upon them for the sins they had committed (*Galatians 3:13-14*).

We read in Galatians 4:8: "Howbeit then, when you knew not Elohim (Elohim), you did service unto them which by nature are no Elohims."
KJV

In this verse Paul brings up the subject of the idolatry and paganism that the Galatians had participated in before their conversion.

*Paul is making it clear that Elohim (Elohim) had **called them out of that former way of life**. Don't go back to that way of life again! I am very concerned about you!*

Let's go to Galatians 4:9 "But now, after that you have known Elohim (Elohim), or rather are known of Elohim (Elohim), how turn you again (back) **to the weak and beggarly elements**, whereunto you desire again to be in bondage?"

So verse 9 reveals that these Galatians after their conversion to Yahusha, did "turn again" or backslid to the "weak and beggarly elements". These "beggarly elements" Paul says, is what they got in "bondage" of, again! Since the Galatians were Gentiles, it makes no sense to say that they were returning to the "law of Moses", which they did not even know anything about before and which they had not kept before in the first place! So this "weak and beggarly elements" had nothing to do with the commandments of Elohim or even the "Law of Moses."

Before their conversion at certain days, times, months and years they were serving their pagan Elohim, which they were doing again.

It is very difficult to break old habits and customs!



Can you identify with that? Have you tried before to break old habits? Was it easy? Plus you have all the peer pressure from your old friends and family!

Isn't that the same today? It is very difficult to break the custom of celebrating Easter, Christmas, Halloween, Mother's Day, Valentines, birthdays etc., even though they originated in paganism and have absolutely nothing to do with our Messiah Yahusha. Because we are used to these holidays, we learned to like and to love them and there is such a good time being together with old friends and family! It takes conviction to break such customs and loose friends because of that.

Paul calls them „weak and beggarly elements.“
This is still true today as it was then! **It was pagan then and it is pagan now!**

The “weak and beggarly elements” were demon-inspired, idolatrous practices, Not something YHVH Elohim had commanded.



They are called “the elements of the world”. It does not say “the elements of YHVH.” We are not dealing with something from Yahuwah, but with elements and foundations coming from Satan.

Paul is warning the Galatians NOT to go back to the “rudiments of the world” – the man-made practices which Paul regards as “yoke of bondage”. Yahusha Himself spoke strongly against such man-made commandments, because they negate the very Commandments of Yahuwah.

The Bible stated in Mark 7:7-9: “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. 8. For laying aside the commandment of Elohim, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. 9,

And He said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of Elohim, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

Paul’s warning to the Galatians is surely also for mankind today, which is largely steeped in human traditions that are mostly borrowed from paganism which, needless to say, are contrary or antagonistic to Yahuwah’s commandments. Since they are contrary to His way, these human traditions, far from being harmless, actually bring curse as Paul warns.

Another important fact is verse 3 that mentions being “in bondage”.

Bondage is something difficult to be born, of oppression, of captivity, of withholding liberty. Bondage is grievous, but keeping of Yahweh’s Law is not. James 2:12 calls it the law of liberty.



Keeping Yahuwah’s commandments is freeing, liberating. It is not a burden. *Love is never a burden but always supports, frees and liberates. It should be very clear that the “elements of the world” and “bondage” of Galatians 4:4 cannot refer to the Law of Elohim (Elohim), nor does verse 10.*

Another point to consider is that it would be about as close to blasphemy as one could get if a person, in this case the apostle Paul, were to call something that Yahuwah Elohim gave, intended to be good and liberating as “weak and beggarly” and tending to “bondage”!

What does pagan worship look like?

There is Saturnalia – *(The Carnival Celebration that became Christmas & New Year’s Eve)*

In pagan Rome, the celebration of the Winter Solstice began on December 17 with the feast of Saturn -- also called the Saturnalia. Through December 23rd, the Roman world engaged in merrymaking and the exchanging of gifts in honor of father sun and mother earth.
<http://www.carnaval.com/saturnalia/>

The Feast of Astarte with special cakes made to this 'queen of heaven' - today it is **Easter** and hot cross buns; Astarte or Ishtar was the main female deity, and is known in the Bible as the 'Queen of Heaven'. In Jeremiah 7:16-18, Yahuwah told His prophet, **'Pray no more for these people... My anger is great! Watch the children gather wood and the fathers build fires, and the women knead dough and make cakes to offer to the "Queen of Heaven" and to their other Elohim'**.

All Saints Day or Halloween!

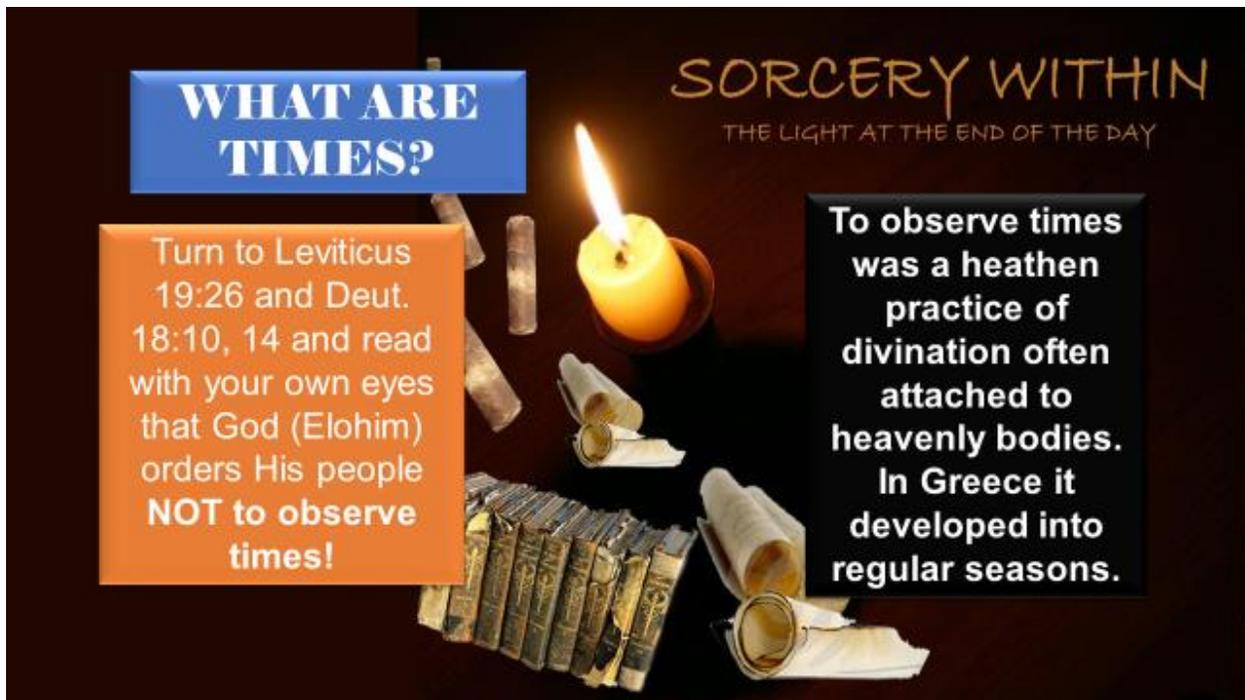
Halloween actually began with the ancient Celtic tribes who lived in the British Isles (609-610 AD). November 1 was a day of honoring the dead and celebrating the New

Year. Christians combined the ancient practices and came up with All Saints Day, a Sacred Christian holiday meant to honor the Saints of the church who died, especially those who have been martyred for their faith. **Halloween is a blend of pagan and Christian rituals, leave it alone.**



Women weeping for Tammuz – is called Lent today.

Lent was unknown to the disciples and it did not find its way into the Christian Church until several centuries after the time of Christ. **The celebration of Lent has no basis in Scripture, but rather developed from the pagan celebration of Semiramis mourning for forty days over the death of Tammuz.**



I am quoting from Bingham's Antiquities of the Christian Church, pp 1123 and 1124

"Many were superstitiously addicted to divination...in the celebration of these 'times' (they) set up lamps in market place, and crowned their doors with garlands" - as is done at Christmas time today!

How much more proof does a person need *that the days Paul was forbidding were pagan and NOT Yahuwah - given?*

The Law of Moses absolutely forbids the observance of **'times'**. These superstitious **'times'** which Paul forbids, were pagan customs. These same pagan customs were practiced by so called 'Christians' in the days of the Catholic Bishop Chrysostom, who lived in the fourth century.

DAYS CELEBRATED!

Besides 'times', special days in honor of the dead were observed by the Greeks.

"The rites took place on the ...unlucky days accompanied by complete idleness and cessation of business." (From Rest Days, p. 79)

Several churches today celebrate pagan days in honor of the dead, such as All Soul's Day and All Saints Day (called Halloween by the world). Paul forbids Christians to observe these heathen days!



The days the Gentile Galatians were returning to, are the same old pagan days even now masquerading under Christian sounding names! "Many of the holy days in the religious calendar of Christendom were borrowed, as is well known, from the festivals of ancient paganism." (*Rest Days*, p. 306)

And the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob THUNDERS at our people saying: "**LEARN NOT the way of the heathen!**" *Jeremiah 10:1-4*
One wonders, how long it will take for professed Christians to get that message?

There were numerous days observed as idolatrous festivals by the old heathen idolatry.

These days, consecrated to deities of the State religious cults, were 'unlucky' because of the influence of the gods.

These civil and religious days were "regarded as unsuitable for many purposes, both public and private: for battles, levies, sacred rites, journeys and marriages We are told they owed their unlucky quality to the pronouncement of the Senate and pontiffs." (*From Rest Days by Webster, p. 171*).



Unlucky Friday the 13th?

How many people today, even so called Christians, continue similar beliefs? Have you never heard of unlucky Friday the thirteenth?



Paul tried to educate these Galatians to forego this foolish and superstitious regard for heathen days. The same should be done today. We must educate believers to let go of these pagan festivals.

In Gal. 4:10 Paul also mentions "months and years" - another heathen custom!

Heathen festivals were held, during the months of the year in honor of the Greek gods!

The months of April and October were dedicated to the Greek god of Apollo, the god of prophecy, music, intellectual pursuits, healing, plague, and sometimes, the sun.



Zeus, was their highest Elohim!

The month of February and June were dedicated to him. He was considered to be the Elohim of the sky and weather and his image appeared on most Greek coins. For the Greeks, he was the King of the Elohim, who oversaw the universe.

The Roman Elohim Bacchus!

The month of January was dedicated to him. Bacchus was the Roman name for the Greek Elohim Dionysus, the Elohim of wine.

Dionysus was the Elohim of wine and inspired madness, and was a major figure of Greek mythology. He represents not only the intoxicating power of wine, but also its social and beneficial influences. He was also known as Bacchus and the frenzy he induces, bakcheia.

Never did Yahuwah Elohim our Creator command His people to observe months.

Check these things out for yourself in the Encyclopedia Americana, under the article "Festival".

Certain years were also set aside every two or four years.

National idolatrous feasts took place during those years, like the Olympics, the Isthmian Games, the Nemean and the Pythian Games.

Each one of these games was connected with idolatrous worship and ceremony.

Paul and Yahusha never observed them and commanded the Church NOT to observe them! That means His followers today shouldn't observe or participate in them either.

The Galatians had been converted from heathen customs to KNOW the true Elohim, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and they kept His commandments, including HIS feast days. To KNOW Him meant they kept His Law (His Torah), they turned from sin and all pagan practices, and kept His commandments, statutes and judgments. Is that a reasonable assumption?

The Galatians walked even as Messiah walked. (I John 2:6) Sp must we walk as HE walked!

How did Yahusha walk? Among other things, He kept the weekly Sabbath as well as the Holy days and set us an example that we should follow His steps.

If Yahusha is truly living within our hearts, we will keep the same days as He did while on earth. **HE does not change!** (Heb. 13:8). *Hebrews 13:8* says: „Yahusha *the same yesterday, and today, and forever.*“

SUMMARY!

Researching the Bible and History, it is obvious that the Gentile Galatians were being admonished **NOT** to return to the heathen practice of observing days, months, times, and years they had kept **before their conversion.**

Galatians 4:10 does NOT refer in any degree to the Holy days of YHVH, which He gave as statutes to be observed by His people forever. Paul didn't want these Galatians, once converted and keeping Yahuwah's commandments, to go back to their previous idolatrous heathen practices of keeping the pagan "days, months, times, and years."



Let's remember and keep Yahuwah's weekly and yearly appointments. These convocations will be a blessing as well as a joy, a delight, holy and honorable.

These appointments are for our sanctification, to be sanctified!

To emphasize again: Neither the weekly Sabbath, the New Moons nor the Yearly Feast days were ever nor will they be ever called: „weak and beggarly elements.“ Neither will they be leading to „bondage“.

Actually it is a slap in the face, and an offence to our Creator to call HIS appointed festivals „**weak and beggarly elements that lead to bondage.**” The purpose of all the feast days (weekly, monthly, yearly) is to focus on the Creator and Savior, to spend time with him. From Him come all the earthly and spiritual gifts and blessings. When we meet with our Creator we are being recharged anew! *In Matthew 11:28 he invites His people to come to Him: „Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.“ KJV*

We could say it this way: „**Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden to my appointed weekly, monthly and yearly feasts; and ye shall find rest unto your souls and be refreshed.**“

The Creator himself invites man to His feast days. He personally made the appointments, not the Jews, nor the Israelites, nor any other individual! And He expects man to come to these appointments! Has He a right to do so?



However, there are places listed in the Bible when ...

Yahuwah calls the new Moons and the yearly feast days **“Your New Moons, your appointed feasts etc.”** We have some examples in Isaiah 1:13-14; Amos 5:21; Amos 8:10; Malachi 2:3; Is there a contradiction? Aren't all these His appointments? **Why the change from “My” to “yours”?**

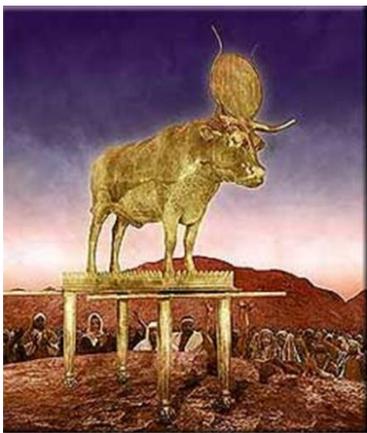
What caused the sudden change? When Judah or Israel observed Yahuwah's feasts with sinfulness, Yahuwah refers to them as “Your feasts”. Because they did their own thing, their own pleasure, they fulfilled their own wishes and separated themselves from HIM!

When we are doing our own pleasure, when we do our own thing and speak our own words on that holy day, **then it is no longer Yahuwah's Sabbath but our Sabbath, neither are we His people any longer!** (See Isaiah 58)
What brought that change about?

In Exodus chapter 32 Yahuwah did not acknowledge the Israelites His people anymore by calling them Moses' people! It states in Exodus 32:7:

“And the YHVH said unto Moses: Go, get thee down; for thy people which thou broughtest out of the Land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.”

Why not? Because they had corrupted themselves by making a golden calf proclaiming that these are thy Elohim, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the Land of Egypt, even thou they claimed that this would honor Yahuwah by proclaiming a feast for Him. By doing this they changed leaders, they separated from the Life giver and were no longer his people.



So when the Israelites made a golden calf, they separated themselves by this act from YHVH, even though they proclaimed the next day a feast to His honor. (See Exodus 31:5)

They were no longer His people when they did that, because His people do not make and worship golden calves. The same holds true when we today

celebrate pagan holidays even though we are giving them Christian names. That does NOT make them holy and acceptable to the Creator. Why do people refuse to see that? **Because most of the time they do not want to!**

Man cannot make something holy or keep something holy that Yahuwah, the Creator has not made holy!

We cannot keep pagan holidays and expect that we receive a blessing from the Creator. Only His appointed days are blessed and holy. Is that so difficult to understand!

Remember, Satan hates Yahuwah's, His appointed times for rest and worship! **That's the reason he invented his own holidays!**

The bottom line is loving our Creator and worshipping HIM ALONE!

**It is an invitation
to worship!**

The weekly, monthly and yearly divine appointments should be considered invitations from our Creator to spend quality time with him for the purpose of being sanctified.



An invitation to worship, what's wrong with that?

Let's stay away from the pagan holidays, the "weak and beggarly elements!"

Let's obey and honor the Life-giver by **keeping His appointed times is my prayer for each one of us!**

THE END



*The supreme provider is
Y'shua Ha Mashiach*

Produced and Narrated by
Walter Tschoepe
Malachi4.4@Reagan.com