

Elul	Tishri	Heshvan	Kislev	Tevet	Shevat	Adar	Nisan	Iyar	Sivan	Tammuz	Av
SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG

SEPTEMBER AUDIO: Claire R. Pfann

Series: *Following Jesus With Mark* | Episode 5: *John Mark, Peter's Protege*
AUDIO, VIDEO, AND MORE ONLINE AT JCSTUDIES.COM/HAVERIM

2020 FALL FEASTS CALENDAR

TRUMPETS - September 19 (Saturday)

- ❖ *Fall Feasts Workshop: God's Path to Anxiety-free living*
- ❖ *September 19, 11:00-Noon (ET-USA)*

DAY OF ATONEMENT - September 28 (Monday)

TABERNACLES (SUKKOT) - October 3-10

- ❖ *Haverim School of Discipleship: October 5-9 (Monday-Friday)*
- ❖ *How God Used the Torah to Save the World with Lois Tverberg*

To God's People in Exile,

Simon Peter helps us place our current circumstances in a more comprehensive framework. On the horizontal plane of reality, we followers of Jesus are spread out, even separated from one another. Yet wherever we reside, it is not our final destination. He anchors us in our High Priest, who applies his victory on the vertical plane of reality by continuously sprinkling his royal priesthood with his blood so that we can receive his Spirit and obey, loving earnestly out of a purified heart.

The Abraham Accord



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed of the United Arab Emirates

A landmark agreement to normalize relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was announced on August 13th. Israel has peace treaties with only two other Arab countries, Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994). A haverim member asked me about the prophetic (read, end times) implications of this historic accord.

I don't have an answer, but I offer two observations.

(1) There is consensus among prominent voices claiming expertise in biblical prophecy that when Israel is treated with respect, a reciprocal blessing results for those who treat them fairly (Gen 12). However, when something like this happens, those same voices do not respond consistently. Instead, it becomes another piece to the puzzle in their particular end-of-the-world scenario.

(2) We now know this agreement formalizes a secret, ongoing relationship between the two countries. Try this helpful exercise. Imagine yourself living in Israel, surrounded by hostile countries. A leading power like the UAE decides to publicly acknowledge your right to exist, which further marginalizes the murderous Iranian and Turkish influence in the region and draws a sharp contrast to the Palestinian leadership's rejection culture. I know my family would be cautiously optimistic.

Here is the point around which we can all rally. Our trust is in no other than the Holy One of Israel. He desires that "all Israel shall be saved." He commands us to "stay awake," uniting in heartfelt intercession for that which brings her His shalom (Ps 122:6).

Robin Lane and Christian Friends of Israel-UK are developing important educational videos on the pivotal question of the West Bank. I encourage you to check out the series, *Annexation or Restoration*, on YouTube.

Fall Feasts Workshop: September 19th

The theme for my annual Fall Feasts Workshop is *God's Path to Anxiety-free Living*. The time is 11:00 AM (ET - USA) on Saturday, September 19th. That day is the Feast of Trumpets, inaugurating the Feast cycle. What better time to join together and renew ourselves according to God's divine design: jcstudies.com/fall-feasts.

Haverim School of Discipleship: Oct 5-9th



Nothing replaces meeting face-to-face. Because we can't, our upcoming Haverim School of Discipleship can provide opportunities to go deep in Bible study while going wide in relationship with haverim from all walks of life. Learn all about this unique blend of pre-recorded teaching and live interactive meetings with Lois and me. You can also register early and save \$50 at jc-studies.thinkific.com/courses/hsd-2020.

Living "in the world but not of it" implies an environment hostile to God's gospel. One in which opportunities to be his royal priesthood abound!

James

One of our primary ministry commitments is to keep the prophetic teaching voice of Dwight A. Pryor foremost among our network of Jewish roots scholars. It is a privilege to witness believers from all walks of life encounter their Hebrew Lord through his faithful Bible studies.

The Divine Symphony

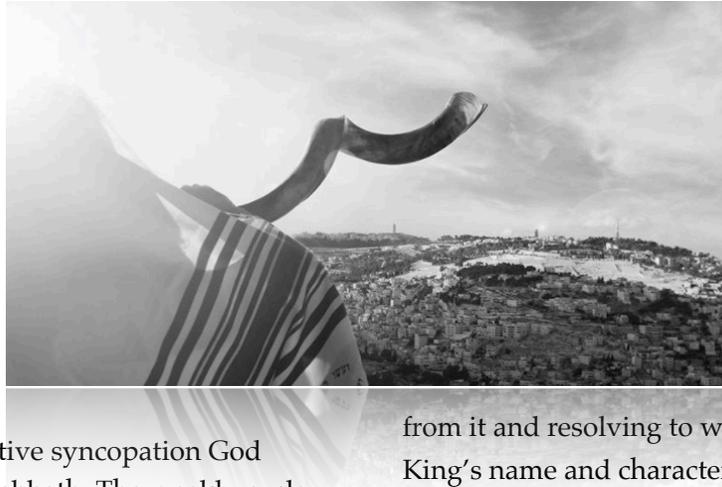
Dwight A. Pryor, 1945-2011

2 min 48 sec reading time

GOD'S GOT RHYTHM! It is in evidence from the very beginning.

The Composer of the masterwork of Creation imbues the warp and woof of the cosmos with repeating rhythms, cycles, and seasons.

Note for instance the rhythmic repetition of four words at the beginning of Genesis: *Vay'hi erev, vay'hi voker...* "And it was evening, and it was morning..." day one (two, three, etc.).



After six days of this creative syncopation God writes in a full stop: the Sabbath. The weekly cycle of six days of work punctuated by a seventh day of rest seems entirely natural to us. But in fact it exists because of Divine fiat, not as a natural by-product of the created order. Neither the monthly lunar cycle nor the annual solar cycle is divisible by 7. The seven-day rhythm is the Composer's imprint upon the score of His creation.

In sanctifying the 7th day – the first thing in all creation to be hallowed (Genesis 2:3) – in effect God sanctified time, notes the great Jewish philosopher Abraham Joshua Heschel. He set in motion divinely appointed times (*moadim*) for celebrating with His covenant people.

These *moadei-Adonai*, "set times of the Lord," recur in seasonal cycles: spring (Passover), summer (Pentecost) and fall (Tabernacles). Each festival has its unique rhythm and character, corresponding on the one hand with agricultural harvests and on the other with key events in Israel's redemptive history.

Now, in the autumn of the year, we are witnessing the climactic concert of the Divine Symphony: the High Holy days, consummated by the Feast of Tabernacles. It is a magnificent production with varied moods and intersecting melodies, repeatedly punctuated with the great trumpet of the Lord, the shofar.

To help you appreciate the rhythms and beauty of this divinely orchestrated fall concert, here are some "Program Notes".

Reflection: The month preceding the High Holy Days is a time for reflection and preparation of the soul for the awesome days ahead. The name of the month *Elul* is read as an acronym for "*Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li*" ("I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine") (Canticles 6:3). The love of God gives us

confidence to approach Him for the approaching day of reckoning.

Recognition: The day on which the world was made is commemorated on Rosh HaShanah (New Year) and signaled by the loud sounds of a trumpeting ram's horn. "Awake all you who slumber!" cautions Maimonides, and "know before Whom you stand." The righteous Judge of the

Universe is examining the records of our lives, for good or for ill.

Repentance: The shofar inaugurates Ten Days of Awe (*Yamim Nora'im*) during which the appropriate response is taking responsibility for wrong doing, turning

from it and resolving to walk in ways that befit the King's name and character. We seek out anyone we have offended and ask for forgiveness.

Remission: The shofar gives us hope because it reminds us that God provided a ram in place of Isaac's sacrifice. So on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) we fast to humble ourselves and then earnestly confess our sins, individually and corporately, beseeching Heaven to "forgive us, pardon us, atone for us." The final extended and triumphant blast of the shofar concluding the Yom Kippur service reminds us that the Lord God does indeed make a way to remit our sins.

Our confidence is not in bricks and mortar and bank accounts but in the firm foundation of God's steadfast love and covenant faithfulness.

Rejoicing: The haunting refrains of the shofar quickly give way to the tapping of hammers as families begin constructing their booths (*sukkot*) for the Festival of Tabernacles, in which God commands that we be altogether joyous. We know now that our confidence is not in bricks and mortar and bank accounts but in the firm foundation of God's steadfast love and covenant faithfulness. So for seven days we dwell in fragile booths and give extended thanks for the abundant final agricultural harvest of the year and the prosperity bestowed by a gracious God. And we look forward to the Great Day foreseen by Zechariah (14:9) when the Lord will be One in all the earth, and the nations shall acknowledge Him as King and come up to Zion for Tabernacles to rejoice with all the people of God.

THE SYMPHONY HAS BEGUN. Let those with ears to hear, hear!