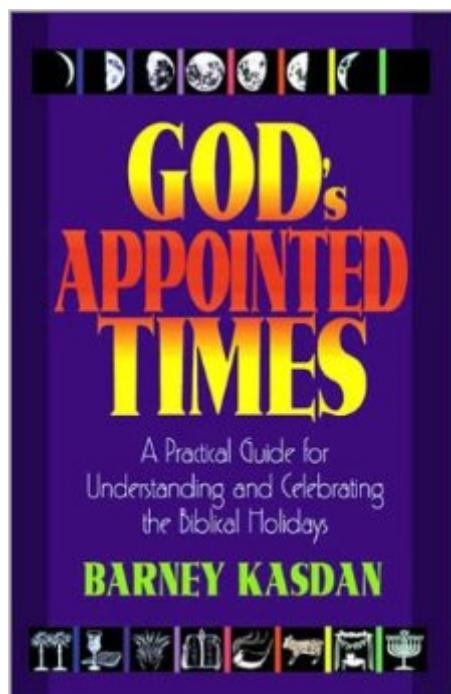


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# God's Appointed Times: A Practical Guide For Understanding And Celebrating The Biblical Holidays



## **Synopsis**

The biblical holy days are not just for Jews. Christians, too, can receive the blessing of these glorious days, the greatest object lessons in the Bible. God gave each day to teach his people about him and his relationship to them. From the Sabbath, which pictures eternity, to the popular holiday, Hanukkah, mentioned by name only in the gospel of John, the special times were set apart to bless the people of God. In this book, Barney Kasdan, leader of Kehilat Ariel of San Diego, one of the largest Messianic congregations in the world, explains every holy day described in Scripture. He teaches about the major and minor holy days, ever mindful that he is writing to both Jews and Christians. Beginning with the Sabbath, the first holy day revealed in Scripture, he writes about Passover, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, The Feast of Tabernacles, Hanukkah&#x97;the Festival of Dedication, and Purim, the special day given in the time of Queen Esther. Each chapter offers historical background, traditional Jewish observance, relevance to the New Testament, prophetic significance, and a practical guide for believers, including recipes, songs, and crafts. There are other books on the subject of the Feasts of Israel, but this one goes beyond them all. It is written by a Messianic Jew, a Jew who trusts Yeshua. Who better to explain God's Appointed Times?

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Written from a Messianic Jewish perspective, this book is an excellent introduction to both the spring and fall feasts of the Lord. The reader is guided through the history, prophetic significance, traditional Jewish observance, and New Testament observance. The author also explains how the holy days can be celebrated today by all believers in Yeshua Ha Mashiach. He even includes

games, music, and recipes. The Gentile believers in Yeshua will be fascinated by the discovery of their Jewish heritage, and will understand more of what their Bibles are telling them. This is a must-have reference for the Christian's bookshelf, along with "God's Appointed Customs" by the same author. You may also want to check out "The Feasts Of The Lord" by Marvin Rosenthal.

Barney Kasdan has given us a valuable book on the Lord's Feasts of the Old Testament. He writes as a Messianic Jew - a Jew who has come to believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah. His goal for writing the book is to acquaint Christians with the Jewish Feasts. He examines the seven Feasts of the Lord found in Leviticus 23. He presents historical background, traditional Jewish observance (both Old Testament and rabbinic tradition), New Testament observance/significance, and prophetic fulfillment. Kasdan intended this book to be a practical guide to the feasts. He suggests ways in which each of the holy days can be observed by believers in order to deepen their understanding of what God has done and will do. He includes recipes and crafts for each of the holy days. At first, I thought this book was a little simplistic. Then, I read three others related to the same feasts. Kasdan has given us the most readable book of the lot. Two of the others that I read were primarily focused on the prophecy of the feasts - to me that took away from their practicality for today. I believe Kasdan has given us the better basic introduction for believers who want to know more about their Jewish heritage, without getting bogged down in prophetic studies based on typology and numerology. I highly recommend this book as your starting place for learning more about the Feasts - God's Appointed Times.

The structure of this book makes it exceptionally easy to follow (and to reference). Each holiday (including Sabbath, Purim, and Hanukkah, as well as the Levitical feasts) gets its own chapter, divided into five sections: historical background, traditional Jewish observance, mentions in the New Testament, prophetic significance, and a guide for believers. In the first several sections of each chapter, the author's point of view as a Messianic Jew (a Jewish believer) adds a unique depth to the information offered. It is a truly Jewish perspective of the Jewish celebration and historical background, and his explanations of the New Testament significance of each holiday are exciting and easy to understand. The whole book is, overall, very concise yet quite thorough. Very practical suggestions are given for celebrating each holiday, including recipes and craft ideas. (The craft ideas are mostly what I consider "junky" crafts, but the recipes look good.) The author is very down-to-earth and non-dogmatic about celebrating the holidays the "right" way, understanding and communicating that Christians who celebrate these holidays do so for their richness, not out of a

lawful obligation. The "Hebraisms" are all clearly defined so terminology is not confusing. I would like to have seen a glossary, to corral all of the Jewish words in one place for easy reference. A more in-depth explanation of how each detail of the Last Supper fits into the Passover seder would also have been appreciated. However, overall, I was very favorably impressed by this book and would highly recommend it as a first - or only - book about the Biblical feasts.

I've read several books on the biblical holidays, and this is by far the most useful. It strikes the perfect balance in presenting traditional and Messianic interpretations of the holidays and is written with great sensitivity to those of differing backgrounds. It is practical and includes recipes, music, and craft suggestions for each holiday. If you read only one book on this topic, make it Kasdan's.

In an age of smorgasbord religion and overall confusion, this book shows the beauty of original Christianity. It offers proof that true Christianity is simply an extension of ancient Judaism, as opposed to "one of the three monotheistic religions of our world," which is often assumed. Light and yet informative reading, this book is easy to follow and clearly shows the divine link between Judaism and Christianity based on the Jewish calendar and its holidays. If one feels lost in the commercialization of the Western/Christian holidays and is looking for more spiritual depth in their calendar year, read this book.

A book that should be read by every believer - and those interested in opening their mind to the possibilities of belief - of the relevance of the Biblical holy days/holidays for us today. Clear and concise, it would benefit from being a bit longer at times, but is an asset to anyone's library.

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