

THE MYSTERY OF SHEMINI ATZERET – THE EIGHTH DAY

Our Father you have kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season. We are your people and the sheep of your pastures. We enter your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise. Blessed be your name. Your kindness endures forever, and from generation to generation is your faithfulness. We serve you with gladness. Inspire our thoughts and words that will glorify you. Thank you for the year of progress, your protection, a bountiful harvest and we ask for the rain you see we need this coming year. Give us direction and discernment by the power of your indwelling Holy Spirit that we may love you with our whole heart and love our neighbor as our self. Praise, honor and glory to you, our Father, forever in the name of Yeshua Hamichiach, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Greetings! Eight is actually a number that means new beginning. The seven days of Sukkot which end with Hoshana Rabbah are followed by another holiday Shemini Atzeret the eighth day of Assembly. It is a festival in its own right, independent of Sukkot. In one sense we are concluding one year and in another sense beginning another. The fall Festival of Sukkot (Tabernacles) pictures God's kingdom and the millennial reign of Christ. Seven days completes a week ending with Sabbath and then the next day (day eight) is the beginning of the week all over again. God's time plan is cyclical. The Universe is filled with revolving cycles. Life is dependent upon cycles. The letter Cheit (Ch) is numerically equivalent to 8 and Zayin (Z) is equivalent to the number 7.

The Hebrew Alphabet

ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
Tet	Chet	Zayin	Vav	Hei	Dalet	Gimel	Bet	Alef
(7)	(Ch)	(Z)	(V/O/L)	(H)	(D)	(G)	(B/V)	(Silent)
ס	נ	מ	ל	כ	י			
Samakh	Nun	Mem	Lamed	Khaf	Kaf	Yod		
(S)	(N)	(M)	(L)	(K/Ch)	(K/Kh)	(Y)		
ת	ש	ר	ק	ץ	צ	ף	פ	ע
Tav	Shin	Resh	Qof	Tzadai	Tzadai	Feh	Pei	Ayin
(T/S)	(Sh/S)	(R)	(Q)	(Tz)	(Tz)	(F)	(P/F)	(Silent)

Today is also the day the Jews conclude the reading of the last portion of the *Torah* and it is a joyous celebration. The reason for the happiness is the awareness that we know we have

completed the Torah yet realize that we are beginning the Torah all over again and will begin the new cycle we have yet to start tomorrow. This is the real source for joyous celebration.

Today, we end the Torah (Simchat Torah)— which is the first five books of the Bible and written down by Moses— with the words *le`einei kil Yisrael*, “before the eyes of all Israel,” and again we begin with *Bereishit*, “In the beginning God created.” The last letter of the Torah is a *lamed*: the first letter is a *bet*. Together they form the word *lev*, “heart”. This teaches us that the most important thing is to observe the Torah with heart, with burning enthusiasm.

God created the universe this earth, the universe and us. The universe is a big place, filled with surprises, and including realms far beyond everyday experience. There is much more to the universe than what is immediately visible. Imagine that you are standing outside on a clear night and looking into the sky with perfect vision, including not only ordinary light but all other kinds of radiation (radio waves, infrared and ultraviolet light, X-rays and gamma-rays). The first things you notice are stars. Our Sun is a star, much like the other stars in the night sky except much closer to us. Stars are arranged into a disk and our solar system is near one edge of the disk. This disk of stars, is our galaxy, the **Milky Way**. It shows up as a faint band stretching from one horizon to the other with approximately one hundred billion stars orbiting slowly under their mutual gravitational attraction.

“What scientists, found startlingly, was that at the center of most galaxies in the universe—is a teeming bulge of stars and gas and dust. At the very hub of this chaotic bulge in virtually every galaxy looked at including our own Milky Way there is a blank spot of space extremely heavy and extraordinarily compact with a very ferocious gravitational pull. Astronomers are getting ready to spy on SgrA*, the one in the Milky Way, while SgrA* is pulling a gas cloud G2 toward it about 1800 miles a second. Within as little as a year G2 will approach the hole’s *event horizon* to begin its process that eventually forms new stars, refreshing the galaxy like a fountain of youth. At this point radio telescopes around the world will focus on SgrA* in a synchronizing pattern to form a planet-size observatory called the Event Horizon Telescope to hopefully produce the image of a black “hole” in action.” (*National Geographic*, (3/2014), “Our Star the Sun, Will Die a Quiet Death” by Michael Finkel.

Isaiah 9:6-7—Sometimes when I speak on this subject it happens to be the Sabbath day, I often wind up in Isaiah 9. Today, we are going to begin at the beginning and the end. **Isaiah 9** is the end and the beginning. It is like the alpha and omega. It is really an unending song—unending reality, always cycling into the future. I want you to notice very carefully what the prophecy is. “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. [Verse 7- (the critical verse)] **Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end**, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and **establish it with judgment and justice. From that time forward, even forever, the zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**” God’s kingdom will be one of authority and power.

The word peace in Hebrew is *shalom* and it also means *prosperity/successfulness*. It will go on for infinity—ad infinitum—eternally. There will not ever be an end to his government and peace. This includes both physical and spiritual realms which will be unending. The increase will never stop. The universe is an expanding universe, not static. God is the origin of life and the giver of life—the Creator. **Hebrews 2:6-9**—“He (God) has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. ⁶ But **one testified in a certain place, saying:** ‘What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that you take care of him?’ ⁷ You have made him

*a little lower than the angels
crowned him with glory and honor
set him over the works of Your hands.⁸ You have
put all things in subjection under his feet.’ ”*

The one who testified **in a certain place** is King David. He testifies of this in **Psalms 8:4** —“**What is man that you are mindful of him, and the Son of man that you should visit him?**” Why are you God, concerned about human beings? Why do we exist? Why are we here? Do we comprehend or even begin to understand that you have a purpose and a plan?’ “What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?’ ⁵ For you have made him a little lower than the angels and you have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, ⁷ All sheep and oxen—Even the beasts of the field, ⁸ The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas. ⁹ O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is your name in all the earth!” Man is made of the dust of the earth. Adam means red clay. **Genesis 3:10**—“In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust (dirt) you are, And to dust you shall return.” **Genesis 5:1**—“In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.” Man is flesh for a little while, but God intends to crown man with glory and honor and set him over the works of His hands.

What are the works of God’s hands? Everything! God made everything— every living thing, everything after its own order and kind—elements of the cosmos: science, math, physics, light, atoms, bacteria, times, seasons, the sun, moon, stars, galaxies with the “black holes,” planets—the Universe, and the inhabitable earth. “All things” in Greek mean basically “the Universe.” The works of God’s hand—the Universe and everything in it will be ruled by Christ and the redeemed at His return. **Hebrews 2:8**—God put all things in subjection under his feet; “He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him.” This is man’s destiny when he is changed and made a glorified spirit being at the resurrection at Christ’s second coming.

Men have a lot of authority on the earth today over all cattle, the birds of the air, and every domestic beast of the field, fish of the sea, and kingdoms—but not like it is going to be. ⁸ “But now we do not yet see all things put under him. ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.” ¹⁰ “**For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing**

many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying: 'I will declare your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to you.' "

Mark 16:14-19—gives the account of Christ's resurrection by God. He appeared to the eleven disciples and rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. Then, Christ said to them: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. After the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven –ascended into heaven and "sat down at the right hand of God."

Romans 3:23 —"For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God." **Romans 5:6**—"When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly"—**all mankind**. We earned the death penalty.⁸ "But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." **everyone who repents**, accepts Christ as Savior and worships God the Father. **Romans 14:9**—"For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living." Christ qualified to rule and is second under the command of God the Father. He qualified to bring all mankind to up to the point of salvation and to share in his celestial glory with him. Because of that the family of God is able to increase and expand forever (Isaiah 9). **Hebrews 2:9-14**—"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death (Phil. 2:8) He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

1 Chronicles 29:16-13—"David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

"Praise be to you, LORD,
the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
¹¹ Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.
¹² Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.
¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name."

Paul says, **Corinthians 15:3** —‘I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that He was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures. After that he was seen by Cephas, the twelve, and me. Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept.’

Man today is dependent on oxygen to live and breathe. **Romans 8:14-17**—“ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” We are to literally be sons of God, his children. I have a son and a daughter who are successful, married happily and who have growing sons whose ages range from high school down to two years. Thus families grow to the delight of parents, grandparents, and great grandparents as the cycle continues from our earlier forefathers and generations long past.

Humans know so little about God who made the whole universe. **Isaiah 55:9**- “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Is God reproducing Himself? This is quite a concept to think about! How can he reproduce himself? He has ways that we know not of. God has taken the dust of the ground and created intelligent male and female, creative human beings in his own image that are capable of reproducing themselves (multiplying/families) and instilled those beings with his Spirit. Then He put before them choice and allowed trials and tests during their lives to bring them to the point where they are ready to be transformed into glorious spirit beings enabled to enter his literal Divine God family as his children with His attributes. My son has my physical attributes—two arms, two legs, two feet, a heart and brain, hair, nose, eyes, bodily systems—everything that he needs mentally and physically. He is not my spitting image, but he’s a new human being able to think, create, work and have a family of his own. Some things he does better than I do. He is our child, but he has been given his own mind and body independent of us. Yet he is like us—made after our kind. Children grow up to be like their parents with similar attributes and will be our heirs when we die.

The difference is that the parents remain the parents. God commands children to honor their father and mother. Without them, you would never have been born. Physical life is a type of God’s kingdom yet to come. He is creating family through us—reproducing himself, creating potential sons with His attributes, abilities, Spirit and qualities to be in His kingdom (spiritual family). **Romans 8:16-17**—“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.**” We are children of God. Christ died for us, and is now our high priest at the right hand of God. As heirs of God, we are to receive from God that which he has created. We are joint heirs with Christ. We are going to join him and inherit all these things with Him and under Him who is our elder brother.

Romans 8:18-25—“For I consider that *the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.* ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only that, but we also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”
God’s plan in operation is eternal and so great that we get only a small glimpse.

To help us understand a little bit about our human potential, this same subject is addressed in **1 Corinthians**. Paul writes about God’s plan unfolding and in operation. **1 Corinthians 15: 21**—“For since by man came death (sin of Adam and Eve), by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.” ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the first-fruits (from the dead), afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**—“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

Hebrews 9:27—“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” Those who belong to Him, those who are faithfully following his commands today will join him in the resurrection –will join him in glory at His second coming. His coming appears imminent in just a few short years — we are seeing a lot of the signs and times (Luke 21) prophesied happening in the world today. **Mark 13:32 (Matt. 24:36)**—Christ says, No one knows the day or the hour of his return. “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” It is a secret known only by God the Father.

Revelation 19:11-16, 19—Christ returns from heaven. ¹¹ “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (**Revelation 5:5**—“the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has prevailed.”) ¹⁹ “And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to

make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.” **1 Corinthians 15:12**—“For He (Christ) must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.” The final enemy is Satan the devil who will be destroyed after the Millennium.

Zechariah 14 talks about the day of the Lord. ¹“Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem... And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.” ⁹ In that day it shall be —‘The LORD is one,’ And His name one.” What is going to happen to all those armies who are going to fight against Christ? ¹² “And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet. Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.” At that time, **Revelation 20:1-3** says “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years;** ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But **after these things** he must be released for a little while.” Satan is the Prince of the Power of the Air, our adversary (the great deceiver and father of the lie) who continually tries to lead us astray and seeks to devour and destroy us. During the reign of Christ for a thousand years, Satan is bound in the bottomless pit (the abyss).

Revelation 20:4-5—“I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they **lived and reigned with Christ** (when he returns) **for a thousand years.** This is the **first resurrection.** Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

The resurrection of the saints who are raised from the dead and made immortal at the beginning of the millennium when Christ returns to the earth shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Christ a thousand years. This is called the first resurrection. **Revelation 20:7**—“⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out **to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth,** Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose **number is as the sand of the sea.**” Satan will be allowed to go out into the earth again to see how many he can deceive and seduce away from the laws of God and the worship of Almighty God.

These people will once again allow themselves to be seduced and deceived by the devil and be angry at God, his saints and His kingdom. They will want to have a *change and insist upon a new world order at that time.* ⁹ “They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city of God (Jerusalem). And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.” At this time the devil will

suffer his final punishment. Verse 10—“The devil who deceived them (and his demons) will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown (NIV). They will be tormented *forever and ever*.” In Greek this means to the point of forever. **Luke 12:4-5** —“Be not afraid of them that kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom you shall fear: Fear him which after he has killed has power to cast into hell: yes, I say unto you, fear him.” God is able to destroy that which he has created. Satan is the ultimate wicked one.

Malachi 4:1-2—“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.² But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.³ And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, says the LORD of hosts.”

Before his fall Satan’s name was Lucifer, a great covering cherub of God. Satan’s fall is written in **Isaiah 14:12-17**. His heart became lifted up and he set his heart to sit as God (in control). In **Ezekiel 28** the language goes beyond the king of Tyre to Satan (inspirer and unseen ruler of all such pomp and pride as that of prince of Tyre. In **Revelation 20:10** prince of Tyre foreshadows the beast (Dan 7:8; Rev.19:20). **Ezekiel 28:18-18**— God says, I will destroy you. “I will bring forth a fire from the midst of you, it shall devour you, and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all men that behold you. “

What happens next in God’s plan? **Revelation 20:11-13**—“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the **books were opened**: and another book was opened, which is the **book of life**: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.” At that time, all the dead that ever lived will be judged by the things written in the books—from Adam and Eve down through our current generation. All people that have not been called of God and not been given a chance for salvation will be resurrected to human life and they will live and be given a chance for salvation.¹⁴ “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Isaiah 65 also speaks about this great resurrection and Day of Judgment when all these people are brought back to life to live out their lives, and have a chance to understand God’s plan and what they need to do to be in the kingdom of God as members of the final harvest. They will be given the knowledge of the truth of God and salvation and a chance to obey and serve God by his commandments. They will rejoice and be happy.

Verses 17-25—“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.¹⁸ But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.¹⁹ And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.²⁰ *There shall be no more thence*

*an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*²¹ And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.²² They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.²³ They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.²⁴ And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, says the LORD."

It appears the time given will be 100 years to grow and have a real opportunity for salvation. Those who are incorrigible and will not repent of their sins but remain in their wickedness will be accursed and cast into the Lake of Fire. After that, the final judgment is given. Revelation 20 says we are all judged each according to his works. Anyone whose name was not found in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire. For the past 6,000 years the devil as "prince of the power of the air" with his vast host of fallen angels (demons) (Matt. 7:22) makes earth and air the scene of his tireless activity (Eph. 2:2; 1Peter 5:8). He beguiled Eve by his subtlety, secured the downfall of Adam and through him of the race, and the entrance of sin into the world of men. (Rom. 5:12-14). To Satan, under God, was committed the power of death (Heb. 2:14). Cast out of heaven, he still has access to God as the "accuser of our brethren" and is permitted a certain power of sifting or testing men, but this is a strictly permissive and limited power.

In Ezekiel 37 God is talking about his people Israel. And all those Israelites who have ever lived and never were converted including infants, to the elderly—all those who did not understand God's word – are going to come up in that great resurrection. Verses 1—"The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. ² Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. ³ And He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' So I answered, 'O Lord GOD, You know.'⁴ Again He said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, "O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: 'Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.' " ' ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.⁸ Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them."

⁹ "Also He said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.' " ¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.¹¹ Then He said to me, 'Son of man, **these bones are the whole house of Israel.** They indeed say, "Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut

off!" ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, O my people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ **Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up from your graves.** ¹⁴ **I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it, says the LORD.'** "

They are going to really know the Lord is God. This is talking about a great resurrection, not about the Jews that are migrating back to Israel from various countries today. God has a timetable and a plan that he is working out here below. **Romans 11:1**— "Has God cast away His people? Certainly not! ⁵ Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. ⁸ Just as it is written: 'God has given them a spirit of stupor--Eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day.' " I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. ¹² Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!"

25 "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob, ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.' " God is about to remove the veil from their eyes.

Then what? So far we have covered the Millennium, and that Great Day of Salvation. The Great White Throne Judgment refers to Hoshanna Raba the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles which represents that great salvation when great numbers of people are offered the gift of salvation in the final great resurrection to human life. **Revelation 21:1- 8**—John goes on, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. I, John saw the holy city new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a great voice from out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said to me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. It is done. I am Alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. **He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be my son.**"

That is God's plan in a nutshell. This day Shemini Atzeret follows right after the seven days of the Feast of Sukkot/Tabernacles which represents the millennial reign of Christ and concludes with Hoshanna Rabba the Great Day of Judgment which is considered

by the Jews to be the final Day of Judgment beginning with the month of Elul and Yom Teruah — the cry and warning to repent , and the call to repentance during the Days of Awe, followed by Yom Kippur and the return of Christ to judge the nations of the world and his saints at his coming. Then the Feast of Sukkot that pictures his Divine kingdom and the thousand years rule over the world—The Millennium, followed by Hoshanna Rabba the Great Day of Salvations, the Great White Throne Judgment. Then the Feast is over. The plan is complete! Now we enter into a new plan, a new cycle begins. By definition, it means the eighth day of assembly. This day — the eighth day – after the feast of Sukkot pictures the new heavens and the new earth, the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven and our dwelling with the Father forever and ever—a new day and new beginning. It is the beginning of God’s great plan of our ruling the universe with Him. The headquarters of the universe will be the new earth and the New Jerusalem.

Genesis 9—The eight souls that entered the ark and were spared from the flood, started the new world after the flood. God made an everlasting covenant between Noah and all flesh on earth, his sons and every living creature that was with them in the ark for **perpetual generations**. When God brings a cloud over the earth, a bow will be seen in the cloud as a promise that waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. This means God’s plan is ever increasing, never ceasing. Notice **1 Chronicles 16:24**—“David delivered a Psalm (Verses 8-36) to thank the Lord the day he brought the ark of the covenant of God to Jerusalem and set it in the midst of the tabernacle. “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name. Sing psalms to Him and talk of all his wondrous works. Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually. Be mindful always of his covenant he made with Abraham, his oath to Isaac and confirmed the same to Jacob (Israel): the word which he commanded for a thousand generations.”

What is the length of a generation? This can be debated by different scholars. When Israel disobeyed God and refused to enter the Promised Land, God made that generation wander in the desert 40 years, a year for each day the spies had spied out the land and came back with an evil report. Then that generation perished. Some say that means a generation is 40 years. If you go by that, a thousand generations would be 40,000 years. Mankind has only been on the earth for 6,000 years today. **Psalm 90** speaks of the life span of a man being 70 years, and if by reason of strength, even 80 years. The life span of a man can also be interpreted as his generation. If you use that terminology, then a thousand generations is 70 or 80 thousand years. Six thousand years that man has been on earth is just the beginning and a drop in the bucket. Ahead of us lies all eternity and *perpetual generations*. *Shemini Atzeret* pictures our dwelling with the Father and the Son in the Holy City of Jerusalem ruling over the universe in the new heavens and the new earth.

This is God’s plan and his great purpose. We are called and chosen to be among the first fruits and be a part of His ruling kingdom. This is what *Shemini Atzeret* is all about. Review and refresh all these Holy Days and their meaning in your mind and review these lessons learned through the coming weeks and months so you will never forget.

How great and how marvelous are the works of God! Thank Him for the knowledge of His plan of salvation. Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us. Glory be to God! Praise and honor to the most High YHVH. Hallelujah!