

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter September 2006

Dear Brethren:

This is now the month (by Roman calendar) in which God's fall Holy Days will commence, and how exciting to think about the convocations that await us very soon. We pray that all of you continue to hold fast to the hope of that treasured promise, no matter what trials confront you day by day. It is always an honor to address and serve the dear children of God in these monthly mailings, and to encourage you to remain steadfast in your calling. And what a privilege it will be for us to gather together very soon in those designated places around the world to honor and praise the God who formed us into a spiritual family.

This is a critical time of preparation. There is no way we will be able to fulfill God's command to observe the Feasts of Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles if adequate thought and energy has not been expended to make provision. This is, therefore, the time that our adversary often strikes to try and dissuade and discourage. Satan knows what these fall Holy Days picture in the plan of God. He knows they symbolize the time when his rule as the god of this world will be over and he will be bound in chains of darkness. He also knows that it is you, dear brethren, who are beloved in God's thinking, and that He is preparing you to rule with Jesus Christ in place of himself. Therefore, it is you he seeks to destroy most of all. And Satan understands fully that it is the holy Sabbaths that are the sign between God and His beloved people (Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12, 20). To destroy you, he must separate you from God. And to do that, he need only prevent you from keeping God's Sabbaths appropriately.

Do you really understand the significance of these Feasts as they relate to your eternal salvation? Anyone who cannot detach himself from the world and make God's commanded assemblies the absolute priority is telling God that He is secondary in consideration. It is a message that whatever cares we face in this life are more compelling than the promise of Sonship in the Family of God. God has offered us the full riches of His majesty and power. But He will not force any of us to accept it if we do not really cherish the gift. One of the primary ways He is testing to see if we really relish that promised Kingdom is by evaluating

our efforts to obey these Sabbath commands. The ones who have the vision of that Kingdom and are truly embracing that promise are doing anything and everything necessary *right now* to assure they will appear before God at the time and place He has ordered. Such ones would never dare miss a commanded appearance before their King. Those, however, who have allowed the weights of this world and their physical circumstances to overwhelm them will succumb to that pressure and be absent. There are certainly justified reasons for being absent. God knows the hearts and judges with compassion. But brethren, be very reluctant to assume you have a legitimate excuse. There are many who may claim to be excused for reasons God may say are insufficient.

Will we be among those who simply cannot overcome those obstacles to obedience? Or will we be among those who use their will and determination to triumph over every setback, and by the intervention of God, insist upon being present to honor Him? It still may not be too late, even if necessary preparation has not been arranged to date. How industrious will you be to prove to God that He comes first? The old adage says, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." How true. Are you one of those claiming your circumstances will not permit your attendance this year, but you "hope" to appear next year? Satan is hoping you find the challenge of full obedience too daunting and decide to stay home. Then, by failing to appear in the appointed place, he will have removed from you the sign of God—His Sabbaths. If that happens, dear brethren, you may only *think* your personal problems are bad right now. You may be amazed to find how truly cursed you will become outside of God's favor. And keep in mind, when God commands us to keep the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day, He expects us to be in that appointed place *the entire eight days*. We do not picture Christ's Millennium by going back and forth—in and out of this world—during that Feast. We are not to try and have it both ways by working or going to school classes part-time during the Feast. God requires our full and undivided attention to celebrate His promised Kingdom.

The Sabbaths of God are an awesome responsibility. God is evaluating our hearts and minds based upon the choices we make. As each year goes by toward the end of this age, it is going to get harder and harder to obey. Yet God says it is more important than ever to make provision to keep those Feasts appropriately. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). No matter what our struggles, those Feasts are a blessing God wants us to enjoy. He *commands* us to enjoy them in His presence. May every one of you be among the few at this present time who will renew His favor under the sign of God's Sabbaths through faithful obedience. We pray for your safety and protection in your travels to fulfill those commands, and hope you have a truly marvelous Holy Day season.

Holy Days

Feast of Trumpets Sabbath, September 23
Atonement Monday, October 2
Feast of Tabernacles October 6–October 13
Last Great Day October 14


Trip Schedule

September 23 (Feast of Trumpets) Modesto, California
October 6–9 (Feast of Tabernacles) Newport, Oregon
October 11–14 (Feast of Tabernacles) Townsend, Tennessee

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 80-16	08-17-06	09-09-06	A Survey of the Book of Job #16 Eliphaz's Second Speech
WSP-RWL 3	08-17-06	09-16-06	How Do You Feel About Alternative Lifestyles?
Holy Day Tapes	08-17-06	09-23-06	Trumpets A.M. and P.M.
WSE-JB 80-17	08-31-06	09-30-06	A Survey of the Book of Job #17 Job's Second Reply to Eliphaz—Part 1
Holy Day Tape	08-17-06	10-02-06	Atonement
HFT-RC 76-7	08-31-06	10-21-06	What Does the Kingdom of God Mean to You? #1

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby