

The Fall Festivals - Map to Our Ultimate Future

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Maps show the way to your destination. The Bible lays out annual observances that point the way to human destiny. Doesn't it make good sense to plan your life's journey by learning how to read the genuine biblical map?

[My experience with maps... growing up with them both for finding the "best" route by car and following a line with checkpoints on a map when flying.]

Long before GPS and modern maps, people still needed directions and created representations of their place in the world. As John Noble Wilford wrote in *The Mapmakers*: "Before Europeans reached the Pacific, the Marshall Islanders were making stick charts. Sticks were lashed together with fibers to depict prevailing winds and wave patterns; shells or coral were inserted at the appropriate places to represent islands. When a Tahitian communicated his knowledge of South Pacific geography to Captain Cook by drawing a map, it was clear that he and his people were quite familiar with the map idea.

"Pre-Columbian maps in Mexico indicated roads by lines of footprints. Centuries ago Eskimos carved accurate coastal maps in ivory, the Incas built elaborate relief maps of stone and clay, and early Europeans drew sketch maps on their cave walls" (1981, p. 7).

Cartographers agree there is something fundamental about the map idea: "It is a basic form of human communication . . . Indeed, the term *map* is often used metaphorically to explain other types of knowing and communicating. In everyday conversation, the word *map* is used to convey the idea of clarification: someone maps out a plan or maps out his future" (p. 13).

Could there also be a map of sorts, a set of symbols in progression, to show us all where our lives are ultimately going? Yes, and it's found in the Bible—not just in its overall teachings but in a sequence of observances God has commanded, His annual feasts or festivals.

Sadly, mainstream Christianity has basically ignored the basic biblical map leading to salvation and "penciled in" traditional pagan symbols instead, such as substituting holidays like Christmas and Easter for God's revelatory Holy Days. When you misread a map, a miss is as good as a mile.

*[Amelia Erhart? Disappeared **July 2, 1937** (aged 39) Pacific Ocean, en route to Howland Island from Lae, New Guinea]*

No wonder humankind has consistently run into biblical dead ends or taken frustrating and confusing religious detours—rather than following the road to eternal life. *[Specific Purpose of this Article & Sermon]* **Let's briefly explore God's symbols, His annual festivals in the autumn that mark out and point the way to immortality in God's coming Kingdom.**

Besides His [weekly Sabbath](#), our Creator has revealed seven annual festivals starting in the spring, each one depicting some great event in the ongoing mapping of God's salvation for humankind. However, this particular article will focus on and highlight only the four festivals that occur in the late summer and autumn of the year (in the northern hemisphere).

[I believe it is important that we understand the importance of these upcoming Holy Days of God.]

1 Kings 2:1 BES - And the days of David drew near that he should die: and he addressed his son Solomon, saying, I go the way of all the earth:

1 Kings 2:2 BES - but be thou strong, and shew thyself a man;

1 Kings 2:3 BES - and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep the commandments and the ordinances and the judgments which are written in the law of Moses; that thou mayest understand what thou shalt do in all things that I command thee:

NLT: Observe the requirements of the LORD your God, and follow all his ways. Keep the decrees, commands, regulations, and laws written in the Law of Moses so that you will be successful in all you do and wherever you go.

1 Kings 2:4 BES - that the Lord may confirm his word which he spoke, saying, If thy children shall take heed to their way to walk before me in truth with all their heart, [I promise thee], saying, there shall not fail thee a man on the throne of Israel.

*Psalms 111:10 KJV - The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom: **a good understanding have all they that do [his commandments]:** his praise endureth for ever.]*

Each represents a decisive turning point in human history. The previous three spring festivals of Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost signify and represent personal responses to the workings of God in the people He calls and chooses during this age of man. The Bible calls them the firstfruits of God's salvation. (For a fuller discussion of all seven of these annual occasions, request or download our free study guide [God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind.](#))

The Feast of Trumpets maps the arrival of Jesus Christ

The first autumn festival is the [Feast of Trumpets](#). This biblical festival helps us understand why Jesus Christ must return and reveals how and what He will do when He arrives.

It also reveals what happens to His true followers, both those who are still alive and those who are “dead in Christ,” at His coming. Both are transformed immediately to immortal children of God (1 Corinthians 15:22-23, 42-44, 50-53).

1 Corinthians 15:22 KJV - For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:23 KJV - But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

...

1 Corinthians 15:42 KJV - So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

1 Corinthians 15:43 KJV - It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

1 Corinthians 15:44 KJV - It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

...

1 Corinthians 15:50 KJV - Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

1 Corinthians 15:51 KJV - Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1 Corinthians 15:52 KJV - In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:53 KJV - For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

Jesus gathers His elect (see 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17),

1 Thessalonians 4:15 KJV - For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 KJV - For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1 Thessalonians 4:17 KJV - Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 KJV - Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

who will afterward follow Christ when He descends on the Mount of Olives (Revelation 19:14; Zechariah 14:4).

Revelation 19:14 KJV - And the armies [which were] in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Zechariah 14:3 KJV - Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

Zechariah 14:4 KJV - And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which [is] before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, [and there shall be] a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Zechariah 14:5 KJV - And ye shall flee [to] the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: **and the LORD my God shall come, [and] all the saints with thee.**

When the Feast of Trumpets was revealed to God's nation Israel (Leviticus 23:24),

Leviticus 23:24 NKJV - "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first [day] of the month, you shall have a sabbath-[rest], a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.

trumpets were, as they still are, symbols indicating an alarm for war. Israel often blew trumpets to alert its army and regular population that battle was imminent. Consider the trumpets that were blown when God instructed Israel to conquer Jericho (Joshua 6). A blowing of trumpets signaled imminent battle.

Joshua 6:4 NKJV - "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

Joshua 6:5 NKJV - "It shall come to pass, when they make a long [blast] with the ram's horn, [and] when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

The book of Revelation likewise shows blowing of trumpets in preparation for Jesus' return. The fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets is loudly sounded in Revelation chapters 8 through 11, where the seven trumpets of God warn of major cataclysmic events. These trumpet blasts serve as the prelude to the seven last plagues of Revelation 16.

Revelation 8:2 NKJV - And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

Revelation 8:6 NKJV - So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Revelation 8:7 NKJV - The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

Revelation 8:8 NKJV - Then the second angel sounded: And [something] like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

Revelation 8:10 NKJV - Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

Revelation 8:12 NKJV - Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

Revelation 8:13 NKJV - And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

Revelation 9:1 NKJV - Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

Revelation 9:13 NKJV - Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

Revelation 11:15 NKJV - Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become [the kingdoms] of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

The Feast of Trumpets symbolizes the return of Christ, the most pivotal and well-mapped-out event in all of human history. When Christians celebrate the Feast of Trumpets, they are in a sense acting out in advance a great symbol of their salvation. (If you would like to understand the significance of these biblical prophecies in much greater detail, request or download our free study guide [The Book of Revelation Unveiled](#).)

The Day of Atonement maps Satan's removal

The [Day of Atonement](#) focuses on the future removal of the devil and his cohorts, powerful evil spirits unseen by the naked human eye, called demons. As agents of deception and baleful influence, they have been misleading mankind since the Garden of Eden (see Revelation 12:9).

Revelation 12:9 NKJV - So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The fact that many today doubt the existence of evil spirits demonstrates the success of the deception. (For the biblical proof, request or download our free study guide [Is There Really a Devil?](#))

Many biblical passages reveal that Satan is intricately involved with humanity at large. Recall that when the devil offered Jesus Christ the kingdoms of the world, Jesus did not dispute his rule over mankind. "Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, '*All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me*'" (Matthew 4:8-9, emphasis added throughout).

The apostle Paul tells us that Satan is the god of this world and that he has blinded the minds of all humanity (2 Corinthians 4:4). He began his deception of mankind with our first parents, Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:14-15).

Genesis 3:1 NKJV - Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

Genesis 3:2 NKJV - And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

Genesis 3:3 NKJV - "but of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

Genesis 3:4 NKJV - Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

Genesis 3:5 NKJV - "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:6 NKJV - So when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make [one] wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Romans 5:14 NKJV - Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

Romans 5:15 NKJV - But the free gift [is] not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

Thankfully Satan's destructive work will cease. Christ will remove the devil from the human realm for a thousand years at His return (Revelation 20:1-3; compare Romans 16:20).

Revelation 20:1 NKJV - Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 20:2 NKJV - He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is [the] Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Revelation 20:3 NKJV - 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.

Romans 16:20 NKJV - And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you. Amen.

This major event is mapped out or symbolized by the Day of Atonement. Christians observe this unique biblical festival by fasting, drawing close to God and acknowledging their total reliance on Him (Leviticus 23:26-32; Acts 27:9).

Leviticus 23:26 NKJV - And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Leviticus 23:27 NKJV - "Also the tenth [day] of this seventh month [shall be] the Day of Atonement. **It shall be a holy convocation for you;** you shall afflict your souls, and

offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.

Leviticus 23:28 NKJV - "And you shall do no work on that same day, for it [is] the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.

Leviticus 23:29 NKJV - "For any person who is not afflicted [in soul] on that same day shall be cut off from his people.

Leviticus 23:30 NKJV - "And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people.

Leviticus 23:31 NKJV - "You shall do no manner of work; [it shall be] a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

Leviticus 23:32 NKJV - **"It [shall be] to you a sabbath of [solemn] rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth [day] of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."**

Acts 27:9 NKJV - Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them,

The reason God is going to remove Satan and the demonic realm from the human sphere is very clear: They are at the heart of all human troubles, pain, suffering, war and death. Without the destroyer, peace can break out on the earth (Isaiah 14:4-7). Only then can humanity continue on the road to God's peace and prosperity.

Isaiah 14:3 NKJV - It shall come to pass in the day the LORD gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve,

Isaiah 14:4 NKJV - that you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: "How the oppressor has ceased, The golden city ceased!

Isaiah 14:5 NKJV - The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, The scepter of the rulers;

Isaiah 14:6 NKJV - He who struck the people in wrath with a continual stroke, He who ruled the nations in anger, Is persecuted [and] no one hinders.

Isaiah 14:7 NKJV - The whole earth is at rest [and] quiet; They break forth into singing.

The Day of Atonement keeps the path open for all humankind to experience the wonderful world tomorrow, the coming Kingdom of God! That time is symbolized by the joyous Feast of Tabernacles, the next stop on the road map to eternal life.

The Feast of Tabernacles maps universal peace and prosperity

The [Feast of Tabernacles](#), a seven-day celebration, is strongly symbolic of the great destination for humanity on the road to universal peace and prosperity. Yet that destination cannot be reached before the previous ones. A specific and orderly sequence of benchmark events must take place for humankind to arrive safely at its ultimate destination. There are no shortcuts.

By way of a brief review, the Feast of Trumpets heralds the return of Jesus Christ, where He resurrects the dead in Christ and changes those Christians who are still alive (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15),

1 Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV - 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 NKJV - 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 NKJV - Therefore comfort one another with these words.

and begins to remove all tyrannical governments (Revelation 11:15-18).

Revelation 11:15 NKJV - Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become [the kingdoms] of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Revelation 11:16 NKJV - And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

Revelation 11:17 NKJV - saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

Revelation 11:18 NKJV - The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

The next destination in God's master plan of salvation is, as we saw, the Day of Atonement, where Christ removes Satan and incarcerates him (Revelation 20:1-3).

Revelation 20:1 NKJV - Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 20:2 NKJV - He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is [the] Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Revelation 20:3 NKJV - 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.

Only then can peace break out on earth (Isaiah 14:7; 11:1-9).

Isaiah 14:7 NIV - All the lands are at rest and at peace; they break into singing.

Isaiah 11:1 NLT - Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot--yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.

Isaiah 11:2 NLT - And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Isaiah 11:3 NLT - He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay.

Isaiah 11:4 NLT - He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the

exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.

Isaiah 11:5 NLT - **He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment.**

Isaiah 11:6 NLT - In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all.

Isaiah 11:7 NLT - The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow.

Isaiah 11:8 NLT - The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm.

Isaiah 11:9 NLT - **Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the LORD.**

This leads to the next step as represented by the Feast of Tabernacles, when Jesus will rule as King over all nations for 1,000 years.

Today Christ's disciples who understand the meaning of the symbols of God's step-by-step map of salvation observe the annual Feast of Tabernacles in anticipation of mankind's great future.

Throughout the earth, humanity will rejoice in unparalleled peace and prosperity. War, violence, deception, famines and all the other insoluble problems that plague mankind today will disappear (Isaiah 11:1-9; Micah 4:1-7).

Micah 4:1 NLT - In the last days, the mountain of the LORD's house will be the highest of all--the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship.

Micah 4:2 NLT - People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of Jacob's God. **There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths.**" **For the LORD's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem.**

[We will help teach God's way!]

Micah 4:3 NLT - The LORD will mediate between peoples and will settle disputes between strong nations far away. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.

Micah 4:4 NLT - **Everyone will live in peace and prosperity**, enjoying their own grapevines and fig trees, for **there will be nothing to fear**. The LORD of Heaven's Armies has made this promise!

Micah 4:5 NLT - Though the nations around us follow their idols, we will follow the LORD our God forever and ever.

Micah 4:6 NLT - "In that coming day," says the LORD, "I will gather together those who are lame, those who have been exiles, and those whom I have filled with grief.

Micah 4:7 NLT - Those who are weak will survive as a remnant; those who were exiles

will become a strong nation. **Then I, the LORD, will rule from Jerusalem as their king forever."**

This war-weary earth will become a new Garden of Eden, beginning at Jerusalem and then spreading to all nations (Ezekiel 36:35; Zechariah 14:16).

Ezekiel 36:35 NLT - And when I bring you back, people will say, 'This former wasteland is now like the Garden of Eden! The abandoned and ruined cities now have strong walls and are filled with people!'

Zechariah 14:16 NKJV - And it shall come to pass [that] everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Eighth Day maps salvation for mankind

During the autumn festival season, yet one major event follows the Feast of Tabernacles.

This destination on the biblical map that Christ has revealed to His saints has astounding meaning. It figuratively shows the destination of all human beings who have ever lived from Adam's time to Christ's second coming.

It's called the [Eighth Day or Last Great Day](#), following the seven days of Tabernacles. "On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation . . . It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it" (Leviticus 23:36).

Keep in mind that as an ordinary road map has the appropriate symbols to depict the reality of destinations, so has God given symbols to show the reality of His major goals for humanity.

God's people are instructed to observe the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days, with the first day being a Holy Day (verses 34-35). Following, on the eighth day, is a final festival that represents the opportunity for salvation for all human beings who have ever lived without knowing nor really understanding God's truth. **This involves a general resurrection to physical life, at which time Jesus Christ and His reigning saints will reveal the true path to salvation.**

Let's notice two significant passages in Revelation 20 that help us understand this symbolic festival: **"But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished"** (verse 5). **"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away . . . And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books"** (verses 11-12).

True understanding will be given to the masses of past ages, who will then have their first opportunity to repent and change. It is a time of *judgment* because these human beings are

then judged or evaluated by Jesus Christ in mercy and compassion over a period of time (1 Corinthians 11:31-32), not yet immediately sentenced.

1 Corinthians 11:31 NKJV - For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

1 Corinthians 11:32 NKJV - But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Another notable passage is found in the oft-misunderstood prophecy of Ezekiel 37. **The valley of dry bones represents the whole house of Israel**, all 12 tribes (not just the Jewish people), who lived and died with no apparent hope. At this time, Christ will resurrect all human beings, Israelites and gentiles alike, all those who have ever lived and who never really knew God. They will be resurrected to physical life but offered His Spirit and the hope of salvation they never had (Ezekiel 37:11-14).

Ezekiel 37:11 NKJV - 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!'

Ezekiel 37:12 NKJV - "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.

Ezekiel 37:13 NKJV - "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.

Ezekiel 37:14 NKJV - **"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.' "

[A physical resurrection:

Ezekiel 37:6 NKJV - "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." ' "]

Though some will ultimately reject God and be lost—destroyed in a lake of fire (Revelation 21:8)—most will embrace Him and His ways, joining the saints in eternal salvation.

Revelation 21:8 NKJV - "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Jesus' return symbolized by the fall festivals

The four autumn festivals can rightly be compared to great milestones for all of mankind, mapped out in advance by God in His Holy Bible. Each one comes in its own order and proper sequence, just as following an ordinary road map from town to town leads to a physical destination. **But with God's map, the end result is the salvation of humankind.**

Most people today do not know or understand how to read and study the Bible. During this age of confusion, **God's people are given the understanding to follow His map of the future leading to eternity with Him.**

The grand ultimate destiny of humanity is to become immortal children of God the Father, younger brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, living and serving in the New Jerusalem on a new earth and throughout the universe forever and ever (Revelation 21–22; Hebrews 2:8; Deuteronomy 4:19).

[Conclusion:]

Understanding God's plan and purpose revealed in the pages of the Bible constitutes the map that the people of God now follow in earnest. However, with the God-given ability to read His map of salvation comes responsibility. Those who have the knowledge of God, sprinkled throughout a darkened global society, should rejoice in these festivals and help show the world God's way and His path to salvation for mankind.