A Holy Convocation - Church VS Scripture

HIGH-LEVEL STUDY GUIDE

Finding the Ancient Path

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBtmHeralVQ

Prepared from supplied teaching transcript; doctrinal interpretations are attributed to the speaker.

## Teaching Summary

This teaching contrasts the speaker's understanding of biblical holy convocations with institutional church patterns. Ed acknowledges how churches introduced many believers to Scripture and to Yeshua, but criticizes performance-oriented worship, centralized authority, mandatory institutional meetings, and leadership incentives. He uses Acts 7:38 to connect ekklesia with the assembly of Israel in the wilderness, Leviticus 23 to explore Sabbath and appointed-time assemblies, and Mark 10 and Ephesians 4 to argue for servant leadership that equips the body. The teaching treats the feasts as rehearsals pointing to Messiah and future events, presents specific end-times festival alignments as hypotheses, and concludes with a call to form caring, Scripture-centered local fellowships. Historical reconstructions and prophetic proposals in the talk are the speaker's interpretations, not settled conclusions established directly by the passages.

## Key Scriptures

- Jeremiah 6:16-21 - The call to seek the ancient paths and warning about rejecting divine instruction frames the teaching.
- Proverbs 1:28-31 - The speaker discusses consequences of refusing counsel and choosing one's own way.
- Psalm 81:11-12 - Israel's refusal to heed God is described as leading to its own counsels.
- Leviticus 10:1-3 - Nadab and Abihu offer unauthorized fire, prompting reflection on reverent worship.
- Acts 7:38 - Stephen describes the assembly in the wilderness; ekklesia is the Greek term discussed.
- Leviticus 23:1-4 - The Sabbath and appointed times are called holy convocations.
- Numbers 8:19 - The Levites are appointed to service on behalf of the children of Israel.
- Numbers 8:24-26 - Levitical service-age instructions are examined as a principle, not a modern pastor retirement mandate.
- Mark 10:42-45 - Yeshua contrasts domineering leadership with servant leadership.
- Ephesians 4:11-16 - The gifts and ministries equip believers and build the body in love.
- Exodus 23:14-17 - Three annual pilgrimage occasions are described in the Torah.
- Leviticus 23:5-44 - The annual appointed times provide the foundation for the teaching's feast discussion.
- Exodus 12:1-14 - The original Passover narrative is used in the speaker's typological comparisons.
- Acts 2:1-4 - The Spirit is poured out at Pentecost; the speaker links this with the feast pattern.

- 1 Corinthians 10:1-2 - Paul describes Israel's passage through the sea in baptism imagery.
- 1 Peter 2:9 - Believers are described as a royal priesthood and holy nation; relevant to the call to collective service.

## Key Takeaways

- The speaker distinguishes God's called assemblies from later institutional forms of Christian worship; this is his theological argument, not a universal description of all congregations.
- Acts 7:38 uses ekklesia for Israel's wilderness assembly, providing a continuity theme in the teaching.
- Leviticus 23 identifies the weekly Sabbath and annual appointed times as holy convocations; the speaker emphasizes their prophetic significance.
- The Nadab and Abihu account is presented as a warning against substituting human preferences for explicit divine commands.
- Mark 10 and Ephesians 4 are used to argue that leadership should serve and equip believers rather than control them.
- The teaching criticizes incentives and abuses that can arise within centralized church organizations; its broad historical and statistical claims warrant independent checking.
- The speaker interprets the feasts typologically as rehearsals, including proposed end-times fulfillments that he expressly treats as hypotheses.
- The closing call encourages believers to develop welcoming, Scripture-centered, in-person fellowship in their communities.

## Study Outline

### 1. From Church to Convocation

- The speaker recognizes good received through churches while critiquing institutional practices.
- Compare Scripture-centered gathering with the speaker's description of contemporary performance-based worship.

### 2. Ancient Paths and Reverent Worship

- Read Jeremiah 6, Proverbs 1, Psalm 81, and Leviticus 10 in their original contexts.
- Separate what those passages explicitly state from the speaker's modern applications.

### 3. Ekklesia and the Wilderness Assembly

- Examine Acts 7:38 alongside Leviticus 23.
- Discuss what the Greek word ekklesia establishes, and what it does not establish about modern institutions.

### 4. Leadership as Service

- Consider Numbers 8:19, Mark 10:42-45, and Ephesians 4:11-16.

- Discuss accountability, shared responsibility, and service without assuming every organized church has the same structure.

### 5. Appointed Times as Rehearsals

- Review weekly Sabbath, annual feasts, and pilgrimage practices.
- Distinguish direct commands, typological parallels, and prophetic predictions.

### 6. Fellowship and Community Action

- Consider the speaker's call to join or establish local home fellowships.
- Practice hospitality, shared learning, mutual service, and careful use of Scripture.

## Discussion & Reflection

1. What is a holy convocation?

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2. Does Acts 7:38 use ekklesia for Israel in the wilderness?

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3. What does Jeremiah 6 contribute to the teaching?

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4. What is the warning from Nadab and Abihu?

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5. How does Scripture describe the Levites' service?

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6. What does Yeshua teach about leadership?

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7. What is the purpose of the ministries described in Ephesians 4?

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8. What role do the appointed times play in the teaching?

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9. What are the three annual pilgrimage occasions?

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10. How does the teaching link Passover and Pentecost to Messiah?

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11. Are the proposed end-times feast alignments certain?

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12. Does the teaching reject every person attending a church?

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## Personal Application

How can your fellowship put servant leadership into practice?

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How will you distinguish direct biblical instruction from interpretation and application?

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## Prayer Focus

Pray for humility, faithful study, meaningful fellowship, hospitality, and service.