

The Christmas That *'Almost'* Did Not Happen



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Revelation 12:1-5

¹And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed in the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars; ²and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor pain to give birth. ³And another sign was seen in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems ⁴And his tail swept a third part of . . .



Revelation 12:1-5 (cont'd)

. . . the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman that is about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he may devour her child. ⁵And she gave birth to a son, a man child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.



CAST OF 3 CHARACTERS

Revelation 12:1-5

1. SON (v.5)
2. DRAGON (v. 3)
3. WOMAN (v.1)



Literal Interpretation

One Meaning

Plain Literal

The literal interpretation is the explicit assertion of the words—DENOTATIVE

Figurative Literal

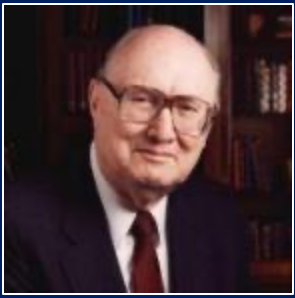
The literal interpretation is the specific intention of the figure—CONNOTATIVE

Chart by Earl Radmacher

Revelation 12:1-5

¹And a great sign (*sēmeion*) appeared in heaven: a woman clothed in the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars; ²and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor pain to give birth. ³And another sign (*sēmeion*) was seen in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems . . .





Two Rules of Interpretation

- Search the immediate context
 - ◆ Walvoord: 26X

- Search the remote context
 - ◆ Old Testament

 - ◆ Thomas: 278 / 404 verses

CAST OF 3 CHARACTERS

Revelation 12:1-5

1. SON = MESSIAH

– *Ps. 2:9; Acts 1:9*

2. DRAGON = SATAN

– *Rev. 12:9; 20:2*

3. WOMAN = ISRAEL

– *Gen. 37:9-10*



Genesis 37:9


Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, “Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”



Genesis 37:10

He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?”





Sun = Jacob

Moon = Leah

11 Stars = Joseph's brothers

12th Star = Joseph

12 Stars = Israel's twelve tribes

Biblical Reality of the Angelic World

- Job 1:12
- 2 Kings 6:15-17
- 1 Chron. 21:1
- Dan. 10:12-13, 20
- Matt. 16:21-23
- Luke. 22:31-32
- Eph. 6:12



Satan as Ruler of this World

- Job 1:7; 2:2
- Luke 4:5-7
- John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- Ephesians 2:2
- 1 John 4:4; 5:19



Names & Titles Demonstrating Satan's Post-Fall, Earthly Authority

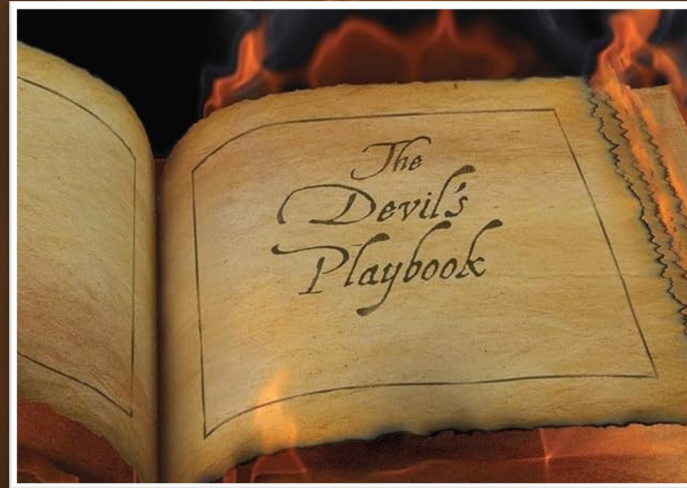
(Job 1:7; 2:2; Luke 4:5-8; Rom. 8:19-22)

- Prince of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- God of this age (2 Cor. 4:4)
- Prince and power of the air (Eph. 2:2)
- Who the believer wrestles with (Eph. 6:12)
- Roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8)
- Whole world lies in his power (1 John 5:19)



2 Corinthians 2:11

“so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”



Ezekiel 28:17

“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.”



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Different Perspectives – Same Event

- Matt. 2 – Physical World
- Rev. 12:1-5 – Spiritual World



Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”



Genesis 4:1

“Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, ‘I have gotten a manchild with **the help of* the Lord.’”



* **Not in the Hebrew text.**



Genesis 5:29

“Now he called his name Noah, saying, ‘This one will give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands *arising* from the ground which the LORD has cursed.’”



Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”



Two-Fold Pattern

- Satanic attack
- God's miraculous protection



7 Satanic Attempts to Stop Messiah's Birth



1. Cain & Abel (Gen. 4)
2. Sons of God (Gen. 6)
3. Pharaoh persecutes Israel (Exod. 1)
4. Joash protected from Athaliah (2 Chron. 22–23)
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Patriarch	Age (in years)	Bible Reference
Adam	930	Genesis 5:4
Seth	912	Genesis 5:8
Enosh	905	Genesis 5:11
Kenan	910	Genesis 5:14
Mahalalel	895	Genesis 5:17
Jared	962	Genesis 5:20
Enoch	365 (translated)	Genesis 5:23
Methuselah	969	Genesis 5:27
Lamech	777	Genesis 5:31
Noah	950	Genesis 9:29

Source: Answers in Genesis

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Genesis 6:1-4

“¹ Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. ³ Then the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and . . .



Genesis 6:1-4

. . . twenty years.’⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.”



Genesis 6:8-9

“⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹ These are *the records of* the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.”



Exodus 12:5

“Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.”



2 Major Alternative Views

1. Intermarriage between the Godly line of Seth and the ungodly lines of Cain.
2. Fallen angels procreating with human women.



DOES NOT REFER TO ANGELS

DOES REFER TO ANGELS

Millard Erickson

John MacArthur

J. Sidlow Baxter

Henry Morris

Warren Wiersbe

Arnold Fruchtenbaum

Paul Enns

Robert Lightner

Gleason Archer

D. Edmond Hiebert

John Sailhammer

James Boice

Wayne Grudem

Robert Morey

Meredith Kline

M. R. DeHann

Leupold

Charles Ryrie

Williamson, unpublished paper, DTS

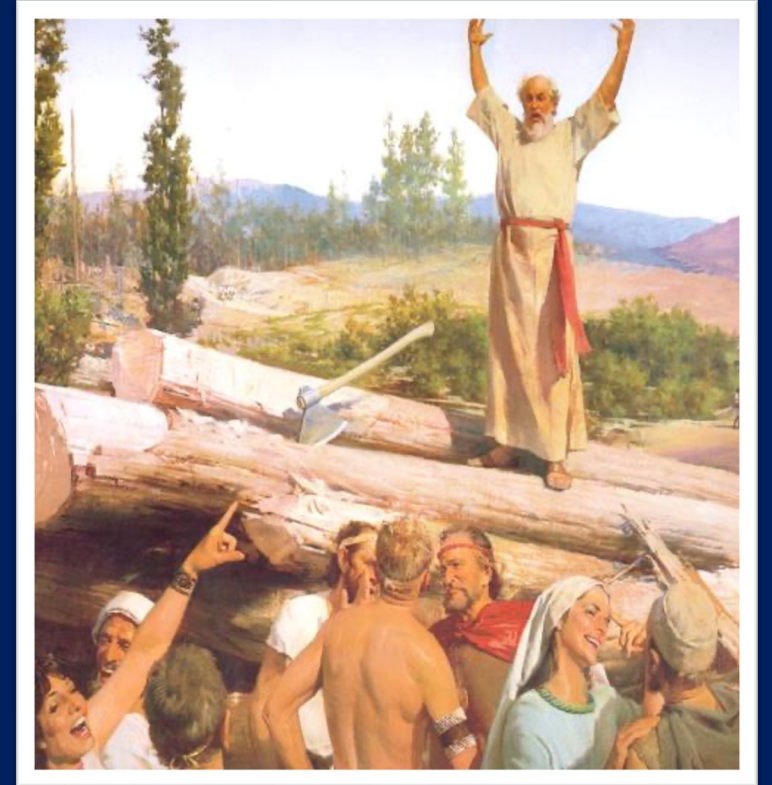
2 Reasons Supporting Sons of God

1. Old Testament uses (Gen 6:2, 4; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7)
2. Septuagint (LXX)



4 Additional Arguments From Genesis 6

1. Nephilim (Gen 6:4)
2. Noah's perfection (6:9)
3. Evil of pre-flood humanity (Gen 6:3, 5-7, 11-13)
4. Necessity of the flood



Relevant New Testament Passages

- 1 Peter 3:19-20
- 2 Peter 2:4-5
- Jude 6-7

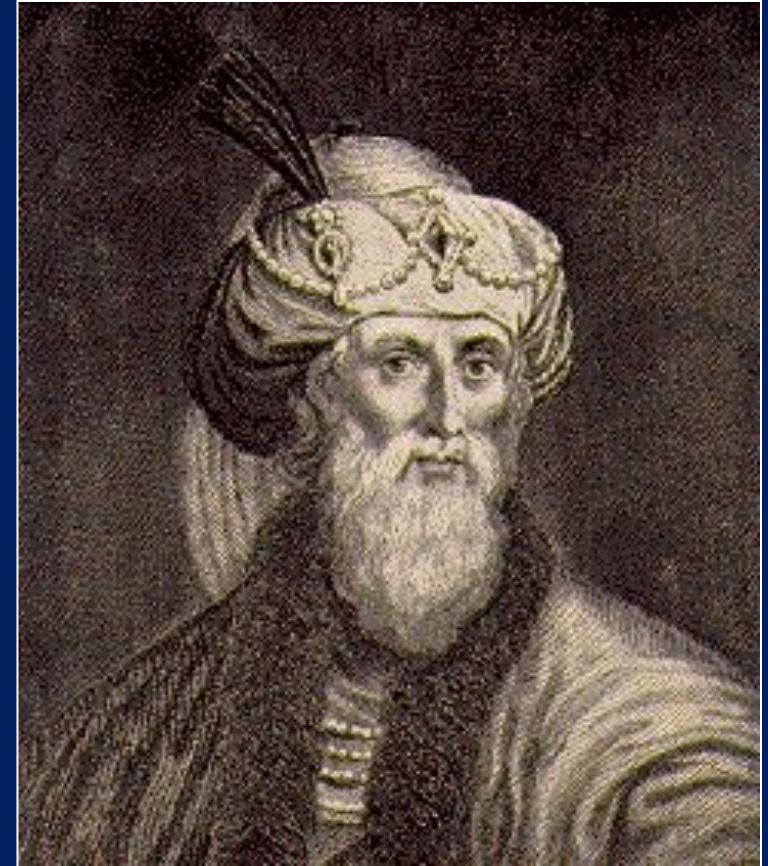


GOOD ANGELS & EVIL ANGELS



Jewish Tradition

- Philo
- Josephus
- Most Rabbinical Writers
- Apocrypha
- Pseudepigrapha



Christian Tradition

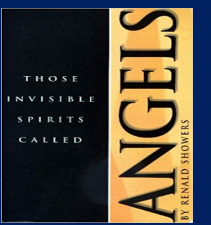
- Justin
- Clement
- Tertullian
- Cyprian
- Ambrose
- Lactantius





Renald Showers

Those Invisible Spirits Called Angels (Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel, 1997), 96-97.



“...it is interesting to note that the Sethite Line-Cainite View **does not begin until the fourth century A.D.** This makes it the newest of the three major views. The New Catholic Encyclopedia states that this view ‘that sees in these sons of God the Sethites and in the daughters of men the Cainites dates from the fourth century and is **influenced by theological concern for maintaining the spirituality of the Angels.**’ This seems to imply that the major motivation for starting this view was not exegesis of Scripture but opposition to the angel view...”

Objections

- Angels do not marry? (Matt. 22:30)
- Angels are spirits (Heb. 1:14)



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Messiah Must Be:

- ◆ A man (Gen 3:15)
- ◆ Semitic (Gen 9:26)
- ◆ From Abraham's line (Gen 12:3)
- ◆ From Isaac's line (Gen 17:18-19)
- ◆ From Jacob's line (Num 24:17)



Numbers 24:17

“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth.”



*We have seen his star
in the east, and are
come to worship him.*

Matthew 2:2



WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM



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- ◆ From the Tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10)



Messiah must be from the tribe of Judah

- Genesis 49:10
- Revelation 5:5



Genesis 49:10

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.”



Revelation 5:5

“and one of the elders said to me, ‘Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.’”







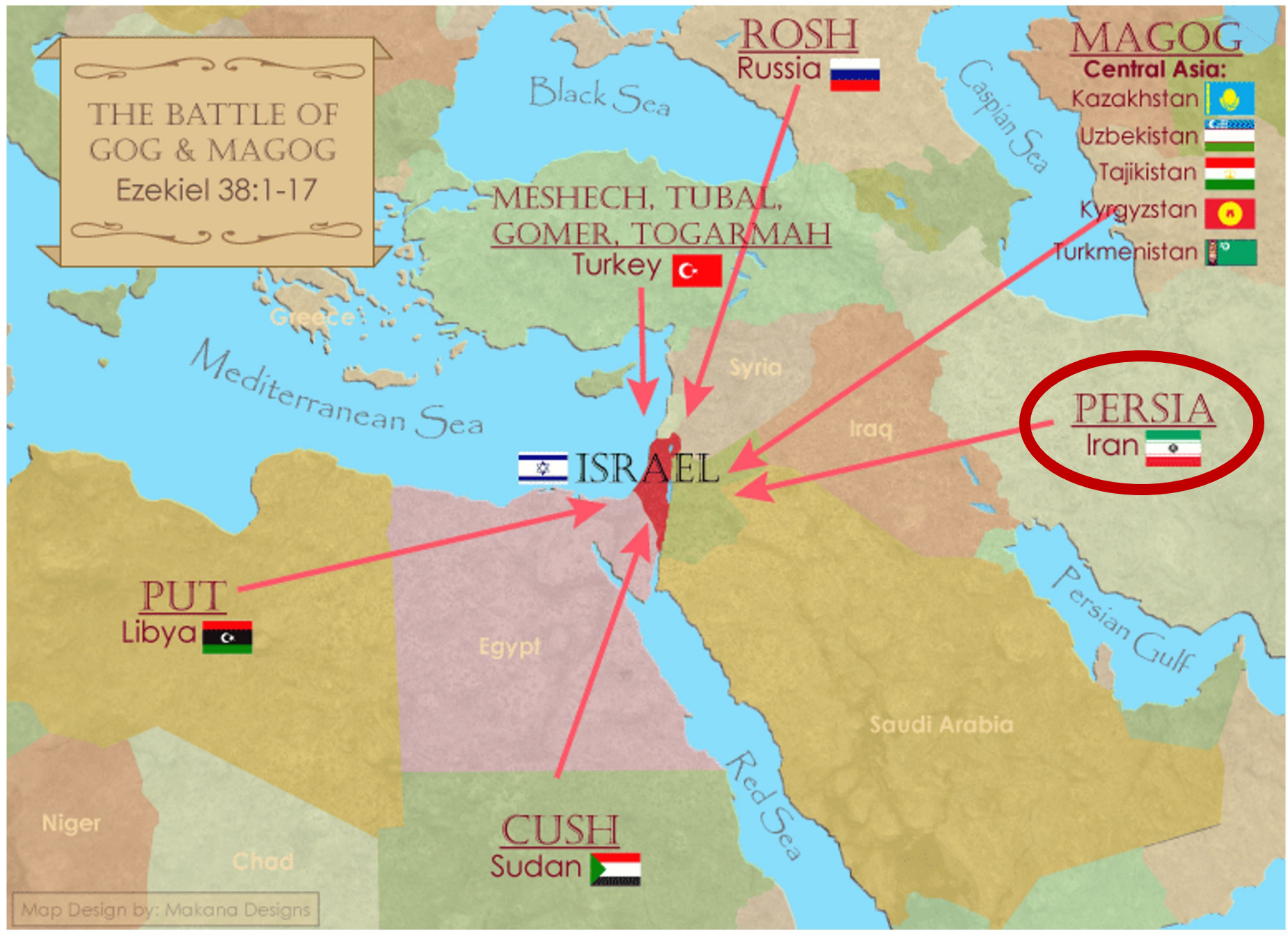
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THE BATTLE OF
GOG & MAGOG
Ezekiel 38:1-17



ROSH
Russia

MAGOG
Central Asia:
Kazakhstan
Uzbekistan
Tajikistan
Kyrgyzstan
Turkmenistan

MESHECH, TUBAL,
GOMER, TOGARMAH
Turkey

PERSIA
Iran

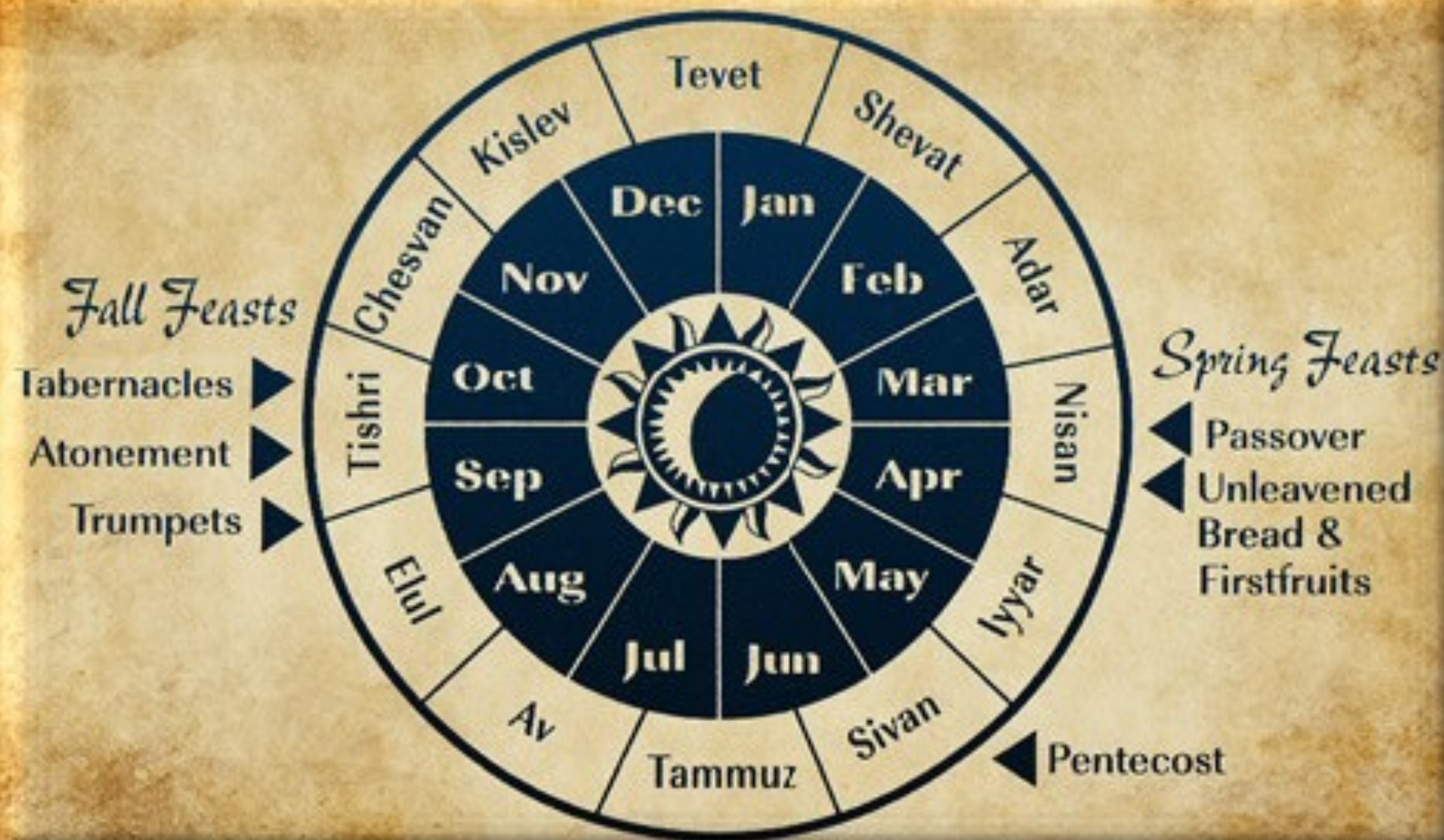
ISRAEL

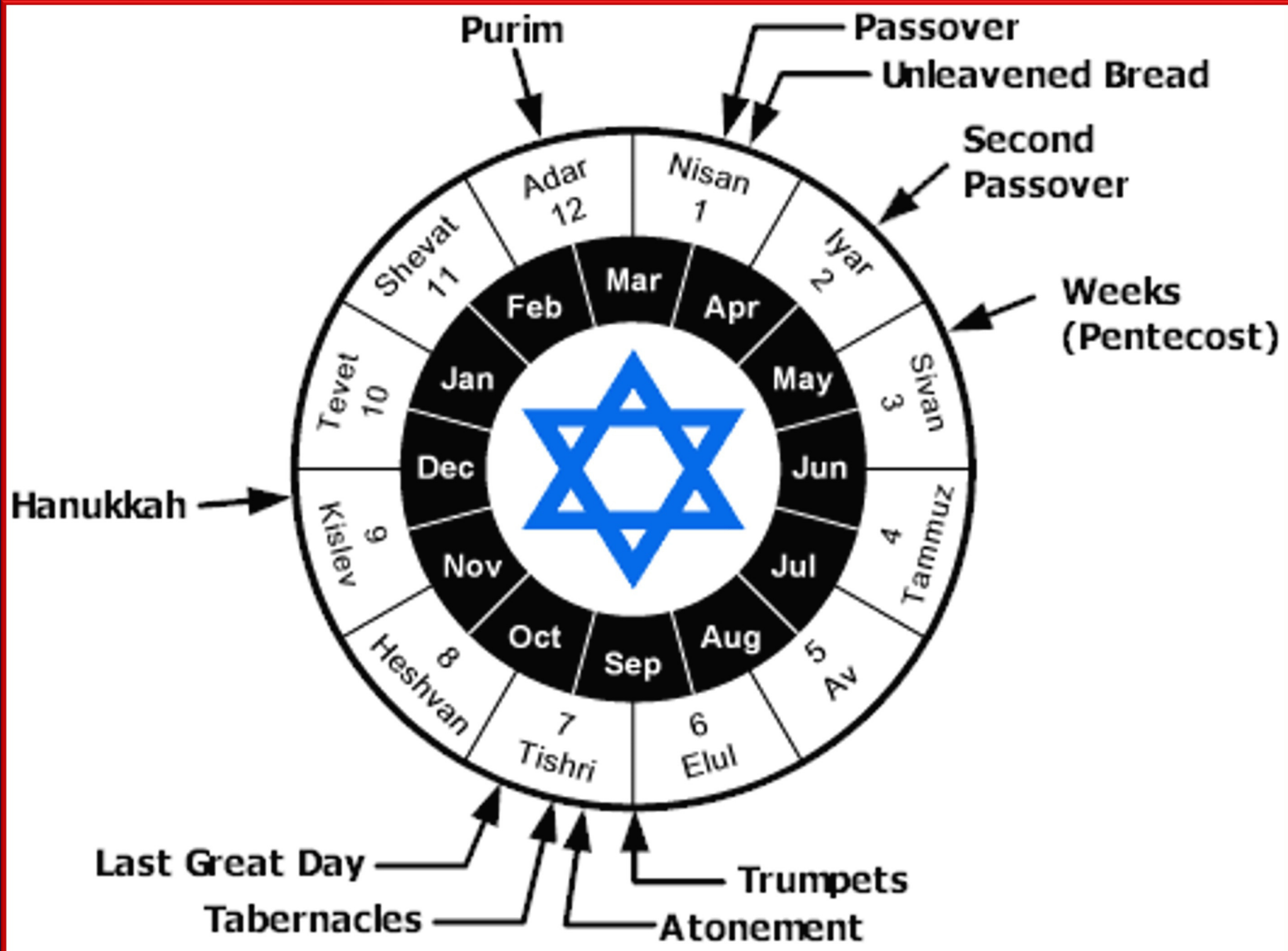
PUT
Libya

CUSH
Sudan

Levitical Feasts (Leviticus 23)

Feast	Season	Purpose	Type
Passover	Spring	Redemption	1 Cor 5:7
Unleavened Bread	Spring	Separation	John 6:35
1st fruits	Spring	Praise	1 Cor 15:20
Pentecost	Spring	Praise	Acts 2:1-4
Trumpets	Fall	New Year	Matt 24:31
Atonement	Fall	Lev 16	Zech 12:10
Booths	Fall	Wilderness provision	Zech 14:16-18





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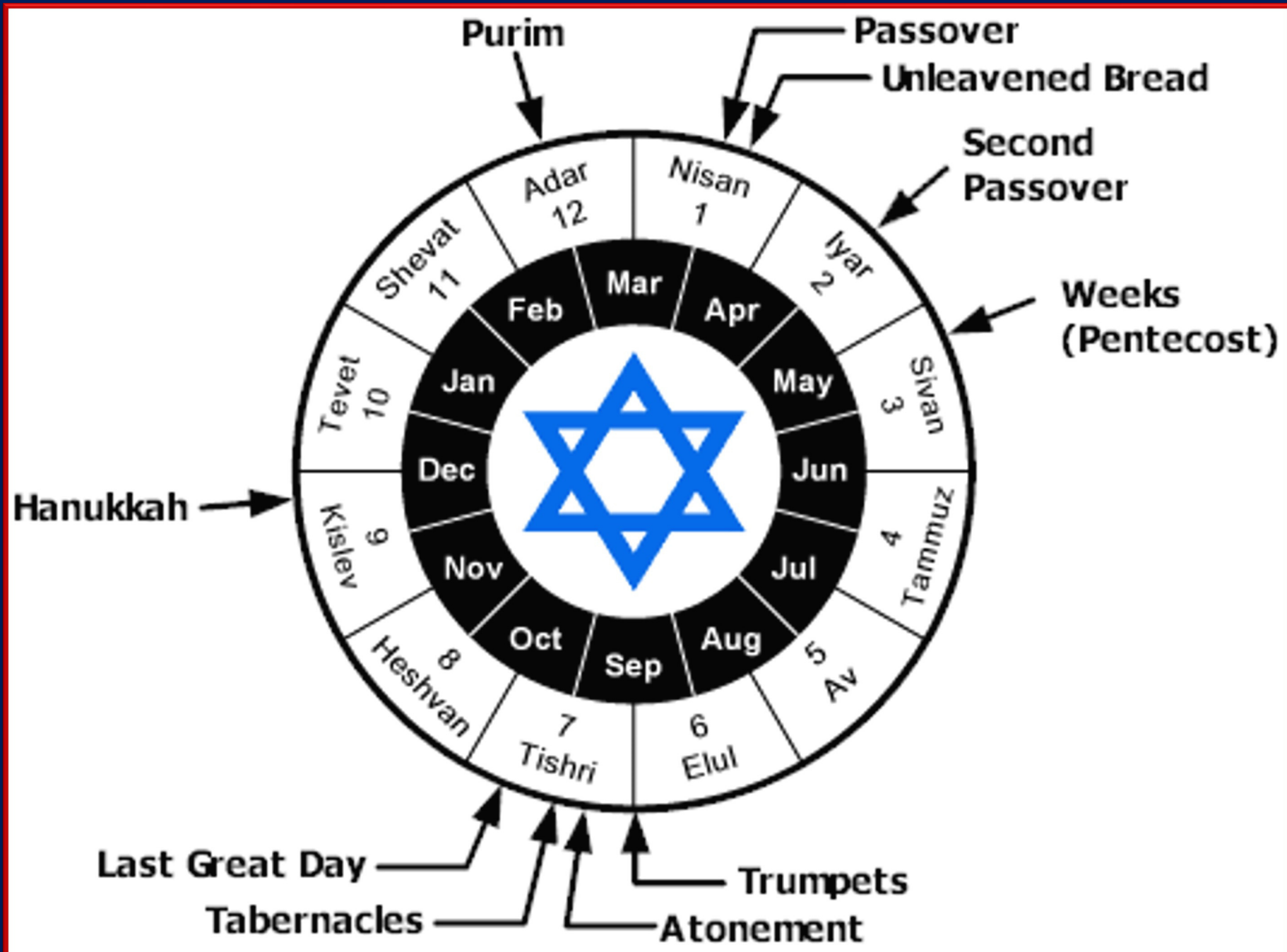


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HANUKKAH

- Persecution under Antiochus IV
- The Maccabean revolt
- December 25th 164 BC: the temple is liberated and rededicated
- 1 & 2 Maccabees
- The miracle of the lamp oil
- Hanukkah “Feast of Dedication” (festival of lights).
- Christmas / Jewish Holiday
- John 10:22-24





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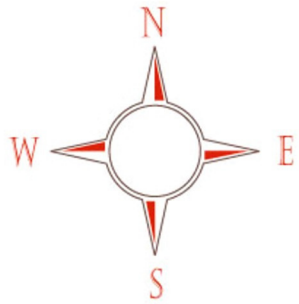


Micah 5:2

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”



EZEKIEL'S PROPHECIES
AGAINST THE
NATIONS



• EGYPT

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

• TYRE

• AMMON

• JERUSALEM

• MOAB

• EDOM

• ASSYRIA

• SYRIA

BABYLON

• ARABIA

RED SEA

Conclusion

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²⁴ The LORD bless you, and keep you; ²⁵ The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26 (NASB95)