

Supplemental Notes:

The
Feasts
of
Israel

The Feasts of Israel, set by God, are not only commemorative in a historical context, but are also prophetic.

This briefing reveals the rich background of these feasts, with many surprises for the Biblical believer, and yet only scratches the surface. The first session, by Chuck Missler, is an overview of all the feasts; the second session, by Dan Stolebarger, is a detailed study on the Feast of Passover.

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The Feasts of Israel

Session 1: “The Appointed Times”

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 5:17, 18

These are the strongest words on verbal inspiration and infallibility! (Even hidden encryptions depend upon the precise order of the letters!)

Ultimate Commentary

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Romans 15:4

Figures of Speech

- **Simile:** Resemblance (Gen 25:25; Mt 7:24-27).
- **Allegory:** Comparison by representation (Gen 49:9; Gal 4:22, 24).
- **Metaphor:** Representation (Mt 26:26).
- **Hypocatastasis:** an implied resemblance or representation (Mt 7:3-5; 15:13).
- **Type:** A figure or example of something future (Rom 5:14; Gen 22, 24).
- **Analogy:** Resemblance in some particulars between things otherwise unlike.

Cosmic Codes, Appendix A

Types

Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

1 Corinthians 10:11

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| • The Brazen Altar | Rev 11:1 |
| • The Ark of the Covenant | Jer 3:16 |
| • The Mercy Seat | Mt 25:31 |
| • The Water from the Rock (2) | 1 Cor 10:4 |
| • The Manna | Jn 6:35 |
| • The Brazen Serpent | Jn 3:14 |
| • The Passover Lamb | 1 Cor 5:17 |
| • The Camp of Israel | Num 2 |

Manna: Exodus 16

- In need of food, God provided a daily provision of Manna, a miracle bread from heaven.
- It was provided only on 6 days, with a double portion on the 6th, to prevent gathering on the Sabbath.
- Note: This was *before* the Law was given (Ex 20).

The Brazen Serpent: Numbers 21

- In response to murmuring, God sent fiery serpents, which bit the people and they died.
- Moses interceded and was instructed to place a brass serpent on a pole on a high hill; all that would look toward it would be spared. Why this strange remedy?

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:14-16

Waters at Meribah

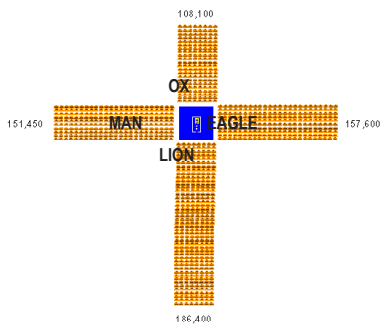
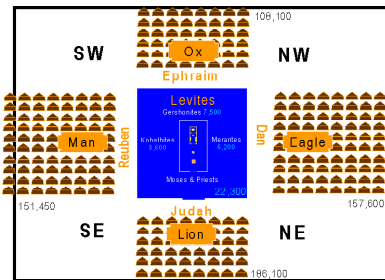
- At Rephidim: water from striking the Rock (Ex 17:6).
- At Meribah: water for the *asking* (Num 20:8f).
- Type: “The Rock was Christ” (1 Cor 10:4).
- *Moses denied entry into the Land!*

The Camp of Israel: Numbers 2

Every detail by *Design*? What might be hidden behind the details of the Camp of Israel? *“The volume of the Book is written of Me”* (Ps 40:7; Heb 10:7).

Rabbinical Precision

- The Camp of Judah: East of Levites.
- The Camp of Reuben: South of Levites.
- Strict obedience denies area *Southeast*.
- Thus, only cardinal directions ordained.
- Only width of Levite’s camp allowed.
- Length proportional to population (see below).



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Hermeneutics

- Greek (Western) Model:
Prophecy = Prediction → Fulfillment
- Hebrew Model:
Prophecy = Pattern (Types, et al.)

Significance of the Feasts

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Colossians 2:16, 17

Each “feast” has an historic, memorial context (not to be a basis of criticism). Each “feast” is also *prophetic!*

The Jew’s catechism is his calendar.

Samson Raphael Hirsch

The Heptadic Calendar

52	sabbaths
+ 7	days of Passover (including its related feast days)
+ 1	<i>Shavout</i> , Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)
+ 1	<i>Yom Teruah</i> , Feast of Trumpets
+ 1	<i>Yom Kippur</i> , Day of Atonement
+ 7	days of <i>Sukkot</i> , Feast of Tabernacles
+ 1	<i>Shimini Atzeret</i> , 8 th Day of Assembly
<u>70</u>	

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

Genesis 1:14

“Seasons”*: המועדים “The Appointed Times”

As an *Equidistant Letter Sequence*, it appears *only once* in Genesis. Statistical expectation: 5 times in the

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78,064 letters of Genesis. It appears only once, at an interval of 70. And, it is centered on Genesis 1:14! The odds against this happening by unaided chance have been estimated at greater than 70,000,000 to one!

The Feasts of Israel

The Spring Feasts (1st Month: Nisan)

- Passover
- Feast of Unleavened Bread
- Feast of First Fruits

— Feast of Weeks

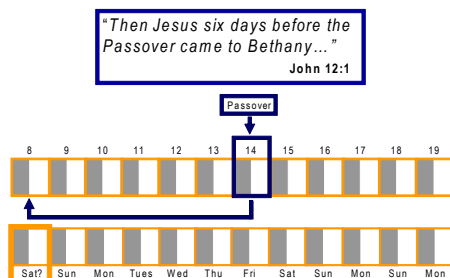
The Fall Feasts (7th Month: Tishri)

- Feast of Trumpets
- Yom Kippur
- Feast of Tabernacles

Passover: 14th of Nisan

Passover is so essential for the Christian that the entire next session will be devoted to it.

The 14th of Nisan



This was longer than a "Sabbath day's journey" permitted; therefore, the 14th could **not** be on a Friday (*erev*, evening + *boker*, morning = day; each Hebrew "day" spans two days on our Roman calendar...)

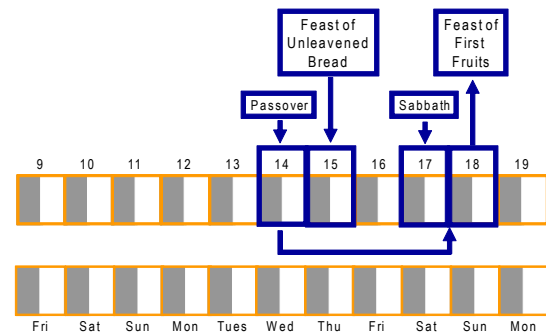
Jesus is our Passover

The Passover lamb was examined on the 10th of Nisan (Mt 21:23-27; 23) and was to be without blemish (1 Pet 1:18-21). Pilate: "I find no fault in him" (Jn 19:4). It was offered "between the evenings" (Ex 12:6) on the 14th of Nisan. "Not a bone to be broken..." (Ex 12:46; Num 9:12; Ps 34:20; Jn 19:31-33, 36). Jesus is our Passover (Jn 1:29, 36; 1 Cor 5:7): He is introduced as "the Lamb" (Jn 1:29, 36). OT details the sacrifice (Isa 53; Ps 22).

Four Cups of Passover (Exodus 6:6,7)

1) The cup of the Bringing Out; 2) The cup of the Delivery; 3) The cup of Redemption or Blessing; and 4) The cup of the Taking Out. It is the third cup, the cup of blessing (1 Cor 10:16) that Jesus uses. This Passover is unfinished—it will be finished at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Feasts of Unleavened Bread and First Fruits



"Three days and three nights" (Mt 12:40). The sign of the Prophet Jonah: Resurrection at sundown Saturday.

"At the End of the Sabbaths..." (Mt 28:1): Sabbath(s) = plural (high sabbath of Feast of Unleavened Bread in-

tervenes). The Feast of First Fruits is on the “morning after the Sabbath after Passover” = thus, always on a Sunday! The Empty Tomb was discovered on Sunday.

Feast of First Fruits

- “The morrow after the sabbath after Passover...” (Lev 23:11).
- The morning of the ultimate “First Fruits” (1 Cor 15:20-23; Mt 27:52-53; Eph 1:6; Rom 11:16; Cf. Job 19:25-26)
- When did the Flood of Noah end? (Gen 8:4). *Our new beginning on the Planet Earth was on the anniversary, in advance, of our new beginning in Christ!*

Quartodecimanism

- “Fourteenism,” derived from Latin. The practice of fixing the celebration of Passover for Christians on the 14th day of Nisan in the Old Testament Calendar (Lev 23:5).
- This was the original method of fixing the date of the Passover, which is to be a “perpetual ordinance” (Ex 12:14).

2nd Century Tensions

- 115-125 A.D.: The Roman church celebrated Passover on a Sunday at least since the time of Bishop Xystus or Sixtus I (Eusebius H.E. 5.24.14).
- 154 A.D.: Polycarp visited Rome to discuss the difference in Paschal calculation with Bishop Anisettes and reached an amicable compromise.
- Polycrates of Ephesus and Irenaeus wrote in support of the Quartodecimans (Eusebius H.E. 5.24.17).

Council of Nicea

- The council unanimously ruled that the Easter festival should be celebrated throughout the Christian world

on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox; and that if the full moon should occur on a Sunday, and thereby coincide with the Passover festival, Easter should be commemorated on the following Sunday.

- As result of the Council of Nicea, and amended by numerous subsequent meetings, the formal church deliberately attempted to design a formula for “Easter” which would *avoid* any possibility of falling on the Jewish Passover, even accidentally!
- *Quartodecimans were excommunicated.*

Calendar Difficulties

- Jewish day starts at sunset.
- Lunar calendar: 11 1/2 days shorter.
- Ancient calendars: 360 days (all change in about 701 B.C.).
- Jewish Intercalary months (leap years of 13 months: 3rd, 6th, 11th, 14th, 17th, 19th = leap years).

Confusion Reigns

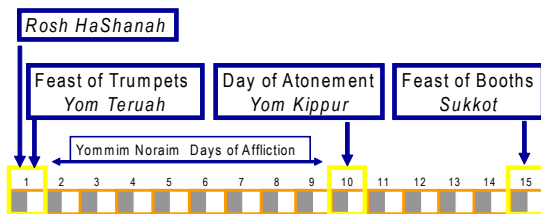
- About 465, the church adopted a system of calculation proposed by the astronomer Victorinus, to reform the calendar and fix the date of Easter (elements of his method are still in use, although significant adjustments to the Easter cycle were made in the 6th century).
- Refusal of the British and Celtic Christian churches to adopt the proposed changes led to a bitter dispute between them and Rome in the 7th century.
- Reform of the Julian calendar in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII, through adoption of the Gregorian calendar, eliminated some of the difficulties in fixing the date of Easter and in arranging the ecclesiastical year.
- Since 1752, when the Gregorian calendar was also adopted in Great Britain and Ireland, Easter has been celebrated on the same day in the Western part of the Christian world.
- The Eastern churches, however, which did not adopt the Gregorian calendar, commemorate Easter on a

Sunday either preceding or following the date observed in the West. Occasionally the dates coincide; the most recent times were in 1865 and 1963.

- In 1928 the British Parliament enacted a measure allowing the Church of England to commemorate Easter on the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April.
- Despite these steps toward a consolidation, Easter continues to be a “movable” feast.

The Fall Feasts (7th Month: Tishri)

The Month of Tishri



Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah)

- Coincident with the civil New Year: *Rosh HaShanah*; Lev 23:23-25. (Torah = 1 day; 2nd day added ~500 B.C.)
- *Teki'ah Gedolah*, “the great blowing”: 3 series of 10 blasts each; final blowing of 10 blasts: Not short blasts (= “alarm”), but long blasts = victory!
- “Last Trump?” vs. “7th Trumpet Judgment?”
- “Trumpet of God” (only 2X in Bible): Giving of the Torah at Sinai (Ex 19:13, 16); the Rapture (1 Thess 4:16).
- Followed by (10) “Days of Affliction” *Yomim Noraim*.
- *Teki'at Shofar*: ram’s horn (not the silver Temple trumpets) Shofar (Isa 58:1; 27:13); *Akedah*: substitutionary ram (Gen 22). Left horn = “first trump”; right horn = “last trump.”

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

- 10th of Tishri (Lev 16:1-19; 23:26-32; Heb 9:1-16).
- Day of national repentance (Isa 53).
- High Priest enters the Holy of Holies: God, who “dwelleth between the cherubim,” looking down on the broken law, is propitiated (*hilasterion*) by the shed blood (of Christ); cf. Heb 9:1-16.
- The Scapegoat: two goats (Lev 16:20-34; Mt 27:33; 2 Cor 5:21; Isa 53:6; 52:15). [*The Lottery box for the Third Temple available for viewing at the Temple Institute in Jerusalem.*]

Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)

- 15th of Tishri: 5 days (grace) after Yom Kippur (Lev 23:33-44); compulsory attendance (Deut 16:16).
- Temporary dwellings: 7 days + special sabbath. Gaps in sides, roof = wilderness wanderings... They then leave their temporary dwellings for their permanent one.
- The Millennial Kingdom? (Hos 5:15-6:3; Zech 14:4, 9). Our permanent habitation? (1 Cor 5:2).
- Transfiguration during Feasts of Booths? Cf. Peter: build 3 “succoths”? (Mt 17:4).

Feast of Weeks (Shavout)

And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days;

Lev 23:15,16

- “Counting the Omer” (49 + 1 days). *Always on a Sunday.*
- One of three compulsory (Deut 16:16).
- Only use of *Leavened Bread!* Two loaves (Jew & Gentile?)

- Prophetic: The Birth of the Church—Feast of Pentecost (Acts 2).

The Mystery of Enoch

- Oldest prophecy uttered by a prophet and it is about *the 2nd Coming of Christ!*
- Three groups of people facing the judgment of the Flood: 1) those that *perished* in the flood; 2) those that were *preserved* through the time of the flood; and, 3) those that were *removed* prior to the flood.
- Was Enoch born on *Shavout*? Was Enoch removed prior to the judgment *on his birthday*?
- The Church was “born” on *Shavout* (Acts 2).
- Will the Church be removed on *its birthday*? *Will the Jewish “clock” restart on the same feast day that it was stopped?*

[Enoch Source: Tosefta Sotah 11. 7-8; Babli 13b; Kiddushim 38a; Seder ‘Olam 10. *q.v.* Louis Ginzberg, *The Legends of the Jews*, 6 vols., Vol5, p.161, Jewish Publication Society of America, 5728-1968, Philadelphia PA.]

Caveats

We should embrace the treasure of our heritage, and the *patterns* that teach us...However, beware the lure of legalism (The Council in Jerusalem; Acts 15). Abraham was saved *before* he was circumcised, and before the Law was given...

Next Session: A Detailed Review of Passover, by Dan Stolebarger.

The Feasts of Israel

Session 2: “The Feast of Passover”

The Sh’ma

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your

heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Getting To Know Him

- Spend time in conversation – Pray.
- Spend time with others who know Him – Community.
- Read all you can about Him – in other words, read His Book—ALL of it!

Caveat

My last name is Stolebarger, not Stolenstein. In other words, to the best of my knowledge I am not Jewish. I am a Christian believer who wants to be part of a worldwide Revolution, and who wants to know GOD. And remember, where you have two Jews you have three opinions!

The Role of Tradition

No two Seders will be the same ... “according to Rabbi etc.” Be sure to review Session 1 of this study. Like the Quartodecimans, my desire is to reconnect Passover with Easter. Finally, remember the danger in placing oneself back under the Law.

The Feasts of Israel

Hebrew *mo’ed*, appointed time, place, sign; *chag*, celebrate, a rehearsal. Remember, there is a past, present and future aspect to all the Feasts and Jesus Christ is center stage!

Hebrew Hermeneutics

- PESHAT – the literal / direct meaning.
- REMEZ – a hint of something deeper.
- DERASH – practical application.
- SOD – hidden meaning.

Views of Prophecy

- Greek – Prophecy is prediction / fulfillment.
- Hebrew – Prophecy is pattern.
- Christ in the Passover (Remez / Sod) cf. Jn 1:29-30.

Is Passover for Christians? (1 Cor 5:7-8)

Some fundamentals: This is intended to be a spiritual and not a physical meal. Always remember ... Passover is personal/ Teach your children well ... “Father, why is this night different from all others?”

Timeline

10th of Nissan: The Presentation and Selection of the Lamb: The way that God challenged us was by requiring each family to take a sheep, an important symbol in the pantheon of pagan belief that characterized ancient Egypt. Each family tied the sheep to their bedposts for four days and then offered it as a sacrifice to God. The day they took the sheep was Shabbat, the 10th of Nissan.

Feast of Unleavened Bread

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is often called Passover because only unleavened bread was eaten during the seven days immediately following Passover.

13th of Nissan. The deadline for removing all leavened (“inflated”) food from one’s house is the evening, one day prior to the Seder.

14th of Nissan – PASSOVER

17th of Nissan – FEAST of FIRST FRUITS

Why Celebrate?

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the

patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus.

Romans 15:4-5

If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.”

Romans 11:17-19

One Book! The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed and the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed.

The Seder Plate

The Seder plate is the focus of the whole Seder service:

- **Zeroth** – a portion of the shank bone of a lamb to represent the paschal offering. Many Messianics do not include this because of Hebrews 10:9-14.
- **Haroseth or Charoses** – A mixture of apples, almonds, raisins and cinnamon mixed with a little wine. This symbolizes the mortar used by the Israelites during the Egyptian bondage.
- **Karpas** – either parsley, celery, lettuce, onion or potato, used to dip in the saltwater, a reminder of both the tears of hardship and slavery as well as the resolve and intense effort of the Jew.
- **Hazereth** – the green top of a bitter herb. Symbolic of both lowly origins, suffering and resolve.

- **Baytzh** – a hard boiled egg which is the token for both grief over the destruction of the Temple and, at the same time, a symbol of the resurrection.

In addition to those mentioned above, more items are essential to the Passover Table: Unleavened Bread, Wine and the Haggadah.

- **Matzo** – The Unleavened Bread. These are flat, bland, cracker-like wafers, which are both striped and pierced. There are three matzos and usually are placed in what is called a Matzo Tash, a square white silk bag that is divided up into three compartments for the three matzo wafers. Why “striped and pierced”? (Isa 53:5; Zech 12:10.)

Why Three Matzos?

- Jewish tradition: The three represent or symbolize unity. Here are some theories:
 - The Unity of the Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - The Unity of Worship: Priests, Levites, and the Congregation.
 - The Unity of the Crowns: The crown of Learning, Priesthood, and Kingship.
- Another Suggestion: The Unity of God The Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Four Cups of Wine

The Four Cups and their meaning are taken from Exodus 6:6-7:

- **Cup 1 – The Cup of Consecration:** “I will take you out of Egypt.” Simply put ... God delivers, He alone intervenes! All the miracles and the plagues were part of the plan of God to deliver Israel from Egypt. In spite of their hardships, He was with them. The same is true today!

Cup 2 – The Cup of Deliverance: “I will take Egypt out of You.” Becoming the people of God takes work! Knowing what the Lord requires and then becoming like Him ... representing Him to the world around us.

Cup 3 – The Cup of Redemption: This is the Cup that Jesus used to memorialize His blood. Without this cup we cannot be completely transformed into His image! (1 Cor 11:24-26).

Cup 4 – I will take you to be My people: Jesus is waiting for the marriage feast before He drinks from this cup (cf. Mishnah – Pesachim 7:13). Passover wine was red and mixed with warm water. Why? It reminded them of the blood of the Passover lamb.

Interesting Comparison

But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

Jn 19:33-35

The Haggadah

Literal meaning is “telling” or “showing forth.” It is the same root used in Exodus 13:8. The Haggadah not only tells us what to do at the Seder, but also when, how, and why. The modern Haggadah is based on ancient writings in the Mishnah and dates back to the second century.

How the Seder begins

The Haggadah book is opened and the Host reads from it (we are including one as a separate pdf file for you on the audio CD/DVD versions). Everyone has a pillow in order to relax and to enjoy the celebration of their being freed from the bondage of slavery. The wife then

gets the honor of lighting the white Passover candles and saying a blessing.

Opening Prayer

Blessed art Thou, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who sanctifies us by Thy commandment and commands us to light the lights of the Passover.

Elijah?

Two cups at the table are usually larger and more elaborate than the others. This night they are silver (remember that silver symbolizes blood and thus redemption). One sits at the head of the table, the other at a prominent spot before an empty chair. It awaits the lips of Elijah. The Prophet is the invited guest to every Seder and who, according to Malachi, is to announce the coming of the Messiah.

The Breaking of the Matzo

Early in the Seder, the Host takes the middle matzo and breaks it in two, leaving one half in the middle and puts the other half under the cloth for the “afikomen.” It is always wrapped in linen and hidden in a dark place.

The Four Sons

The Wise, Wicked, Simple, and Foolish Sons each play a part in the Seder meal by asking questions and getting instruction from the Host.

It's Personal

In every generation each individual is bound to regard himself as if *he* had gone personally forth from Egypt. As it is said, “And you shall relate to your son on that day saying, this is on account of what the Eternal did

for me, when I went forth from Egypt. Thus it was not our ancestors alone, whom the most Holy, blessed be He, then Redeemed, but us also did He redeem with them. As it is said, He brought us forth from thence in order to bring us in, that He might give us the Land He swore to our ancestors.”

Reflection

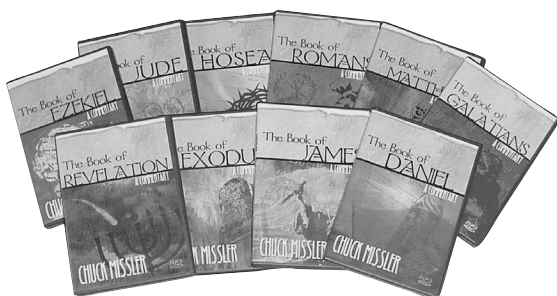
What has God done for you? Remember one of your weapons in witnessing is your testimony—your story! In general people don't want to be preached to but they love to hear stories... “ Let me tell you what Jesus has done for me ...”

Summary

Jesus is: The Lamb of God; The Middle Matzo; The Afikomen; and The 3rd Cup of Wine. The only Greek word in the Haggadah is “*afikomen*” and its literal meaning is HE CAME!

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