

The Feasts of the Lord

Leviticus 23

Definition

- The Feasts of the Lord are appointed times, set apart by God, and are called “holy convocations” that is they are intended to be times of meeting between God and man for “holy purposes.”
- Set by God for men to come together
- In an appointed time and place
- To be set apart, or separated from the world
- A sacred assembly or gathering unto God

Events in the Life of Christ

- Seven Feasts are pictures of the significant events of the life of Christ
- Began at Calvary – Christ voluntary gave Himself for the sins of man, as the sacrificial lamb – Passover
- Will conclude with His second coming to establish His messianic Kingdom – Feast of Tabernacles

Three Feasts Seasons

- Seasons are made up of seven feasts
- Travel to Jerusalem three times a year
- Seasons are:
- Passover
- Pentecost
- Tabernacles

Three Seasons Represent

- Three seasons represent three aspects of our relationship with God
- Passover represents – Peace
- Pentecost represents – Power
- Tabernacles – Divine Rest

Why Study the Feasts

- Bible is made up of 66 books
- 39 Books in the Old Testament
- 27 Books in the New Testament
- New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament
- Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament
- The purpose of Scripture (the Word) is to reveal who God is
- We study our Bibles (the Word) to know God
- God means as much to you as His Word means to you – just that much, and not more

Study the Feast of the Lord to Gain

- A deeper love and renewed passion for Jesus
- A better understanding of the Bible
- A fuller comprehension of God's plan of redemption
- An understanding of the Jewish roots of Christianity
- Insights into God's prophetic seasons
- An understanding of the biblical Church calendar
- A love for the Jewish people and understanding of the role of Israel in Bible prophecy and current events
- An increased spiritual growth and a deeper love for the church and its members

Study

- Overview
- Passover
- Feast of Unleavened Bread
- Feast of First Fruits
- Feast of Weeks – Pentecost
- Feast of Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- Feast of Tabernacles/Booths
- Comparison and Contrast of the Two Pentecost

Spring Feast

• Feast	Date	Significance
• Passover	Nissan 14	Crucifixion – Redemption
• Unleavened Bread	Nissan 15-21	Body did not decay - Sanctification
• First Fruits	Nissan 16	Christ first to rise from the dead and never die again - Resurrection
• Weeks/Pentecost	Sivan 6	Giving of the Law (OT), Gift of the Holy Spirit (NT) - Origination

Fall Feast

• Feast	Date	Significance
• Trumpets	Tishri 1	Repentance - Rapture
• Day of Atonement	Tishri 10	Sanctification – Israel recognizes Jesus as Lord
• Tabernacles	Tishri 15-21	Rest – 1000 years reign of Christ

Gregorian Calendar

- Spring Feast of Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits occur in the months of March and/or April
- First month of the Jewish Religious Calendar - Nissan
- Feast of Weeks or Pentecost occurs in the month of May or June
- Third month of the Jewish Calendar – Sivan
- Fall Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Tabernacles all occur in the months of September and/or October
- Seventh month of the Jewish Calendar - Tishri

Jewish Time

- Jewish day begins at sundown and continues to the next sundown; see Genesis 1:5
- Two Jewish Calendars – Religious Calendar and the Civil Calendar
- Religious Calendar – First month is Abid (Jewish) Nissan (Babylonian) see Exodus 12:2 and 13:4
- Civil Calendars – First month is Tishri
- Civil Calendar had its origin with the agricultural season after the fall harvest – see Exodus 23:16 and 34:22
- Hebrew months are lunar – based on the appearance of the thin crescent of the new moon

Jewish Time

- New moons occur approximately one every $29 \frac{1}{2}$ days
- Jewish months generally alternate between 29 or 30 days in length
- The Jewish year reflects a compromise between lunar and solar reckoning
- Jewish year has 12 lunar months or about 354 days on the calendar
- God commanded the Feasts were to be kept in their appointed seasons (Numbers 9:2-3)
- Lunar year is 354 days and the solar year is $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days
- Difference of 11 days

Jewish Time

- Difference of approximately 11 days would soon cause the Feasts to be celebrated out of their appointed seasons in violation of God's commands
- Jewish calendar is based upon a 19 year cycle
- The third, sixth, eighth, eleventh, fourteenth, seventeenth and nineteenth years are leap years
- During these leap years one days is added to the month of Adar (12th month) and a thirteenth month (29 days) known as Adar Sheni (Second Adar) is added to the calendar
- In this sense, the Jewish calendar is a lunisolar calendar, a lunar calendar adjusted to the solar seasonal year