

Leviticus 23

God's Appointed Feasts, Sacred Assemblies

*I am the Lord.
Do not profane my name.
Acknowledge me as holy.
Keep my commands.*

The Sabbath

Work six days, but rest on the seventh day; it is a **Sabbath to the Lord**... “For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is... wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it” (Exodus 20:8–11).

The seventh day of the creation week is a day of rest for the great Creator and those who acknowledge Him as their Sovereign Lord. Christ too, kept the Sabbath. “For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath” (Matthew 12:8) and He confirmed that “the Sabbath was made for man” (Mark 2:27). The Sabbath is not a day of rest for the Jews, but a day of rest for **everyone**. Carefully, keep the commandments of God and keep the Sabbath holy (the 4th Commandment) by resting on that day.



“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the **seventh day** God ended his work which he had made... And **God blessed the seventh day**, and **sanctified it**: because that in it **he had rested from all his work** which God created and made” (Genesis 2:1–3).

So precious is this day to our Lord that it will be **celebrated FOREVER!** “For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, said the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from **one Sabbath to another**, shall all flesh come to worship before me, said the Lord” (Isaiah 66:22, 23).

Our love for our God is so sensitive that whatever is precious to Him is precious to us. Whatever is holy to Him is holy to us. Whatever He values; we value. Whatever He celebrates; we celebrate. Whatever He sanctifies; we sanctify. Whatever He commands; WE WILL DO because we LOVE Him.

WARNING: “Whosoever therefore shall **break one of these least commandments** and shall **teach men so**, he shall be called the **least in the Kingdom of Heaven**; but whosoever shall do and **teach** them, the same shall be called **great in the Kingdom of Heaven**” (Matthew 5:19).

The Passover and Unleavened Bread

The Passover begins at sunset on the 14th day of the first month. On the 15th day of that month the Lord’s Feast of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. On the first day and seventh day hold a sacred assembly and no no regular work (Leviticus 23:7).



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Remember the exodus when the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob performed wonders and miracles to release His people from slavery. **Remember** the night their first-born children were passed over by the death angel because they put blood on their door posts. Israel’s God saved His first-born children, but the first-born children of Egypt ruled by the god of Re were killed and the nation suffered heavy losses when the army of Pharaoh drowned in the Red Sea.

Remember the following night. The night of haste. There was no time to allow the bread to rise; no yeast was added. In the dark of night, the Israelites left taking with them those Egyptians who too worshipped the God of Israel and all of their possessions and animals. While the Egyptians slept, the Israelites marched out, a nation of over two million people simply walked out.



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By morning, Pharaoh changed his mind after listening to his god, Re who was determined to keep God’s people enslaved in Egypt, under his rule. The battle of God against the gods erupted again.

“Trapped!” shouted the Egyptians.

Then suddenly their faces dropped, their anger flared. The God of Israel displayed a touch of His power. Moses led the people in awe. “Who among the gods is like you, O God? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them” (Exodus 15:11).

The power behind this wonder moved the Israelites to repentance. The leaven of sin in their lives became visible; they turned towards their God and began to worship Him, changing how they lived in Egypt and returning to the customs of their forefathers.

But, if you think that exodus was incredible, wait for the **second exodus**. “Therefore, behold, the days come, said the Lord, that it shall no more be said, the Lord lives, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, the Lord lives, that **brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers**” (Jeremiah 16:14-15, 23:8).

A second exodus is soon to come!

Feast of First-fruits

Out of Egypt, the Israelites celebrated this day when they arrived in the Promised Land. It was celebrated on the Sunday after Passover. This was the first harvest celebration of the year, a harvest of the first-fruits. Christ died on the Passover before sunset around 3 p.m. (Wednesday, Nisan 14) and rose three days and three nights later shortly after sunset on Saturday—very, very early into Sunday is the Day of First-fruits. Christ was the first to rise from the dead—the first of the first-fruit harvest.

This is a great celebration for all of us who long for our spiritual resurrection to be with Him.



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Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

Count 50 days, exactly 50 days—that is seven full weeks from the Feast of First-fruits and the following day, celebrate the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost. That special day in history was the day that Moses brought down the stone tablets of the Law of God. On that day, the **nation of Israel** entered into a covenant with their God of Israel at Mt. Sinai.

But, they struggled throughout their history to remain loyal to their God. They could not even keep peace among each other. They fought bitterly until their kingdom split into two: the **house of Judah** and the **house of Israel**.

Pentecost is the celebratory day of the receiving of the Holy Spirit. The church of people filled with God’s Holy Spirit began on the Day of Pentecost. This group of people began with 3,000 Jews and has grown into a countless number of Judo-Christians who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Pentecost marks an event where God’s people, Israel and the whole world can now access God through Christ. The ancient Israelites continued to live carnally for many hundreds of years

before their Savior could provide their return to God. The battles between the two houses of Israel fueled anger and the focus of these carnal people turned into battles against each other, instead of turning to God and behaving righteously. God, in turn, continues to work with all of them. The house of Israel became jealous of their brother who was awarded the sceptre. They turned away from the great God of



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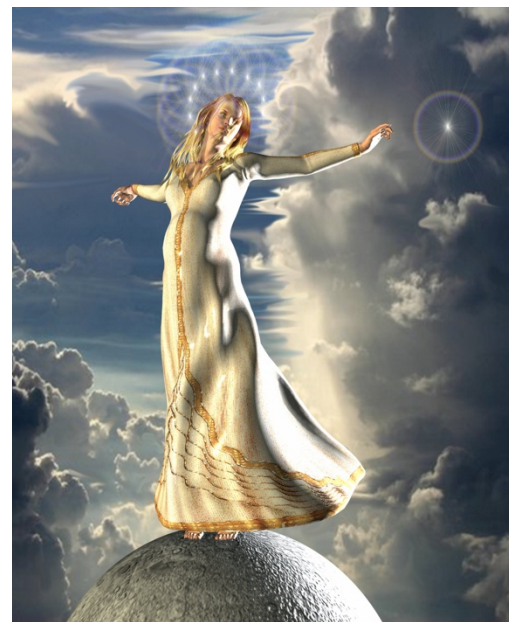
Israel to worship the gods of the nations. Into captivity their God sentenced them. Out of His land, He banished them. Refusing to repent, He divorced them and stripped them of their name, Israel. Still refusing to return to God, they fulfilled the prophecy spoken by their forefather, Jacob who said that Ephraim (the leader of the 10 tribes) would become the “melo ha’ goyim” (the fullness of the nations). The ten tribes led by Ephraim filled the nations and as they wandered west, they became just like the Gentiles.

The **house of Judah** remained loyal for a time, but eventually they followed their brothers into sin. “I gave **faithless Israel** her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I see that you, **unfaithful Judah** had no fear; you also went out and committed adultery” (Jeremiah 3:8).

So is the history of God’s people. But, our God is gracious and enduring. He has not given up on a rebellious and stiff-necked people. He sent His Son, His only begotten Son who willingly paid the penalty for their sins and the sins of all mankind. On that day, fifty days after Christ’s resurrection, the Holy Spirit was given to the first gathering of Christians. Now, the formula was complete.

The Old Covenant + the Holy Spirit = the New Covenant.

All that Moses taught + the Holy Spirit that strengthens us = the New Covenant. Now... “all things are possible through Christ who lives in us” (Philippians 4:13). We can now keep the commandments carefully and willingly; they are not burdensome and when we fall, grace will cover us. We will get



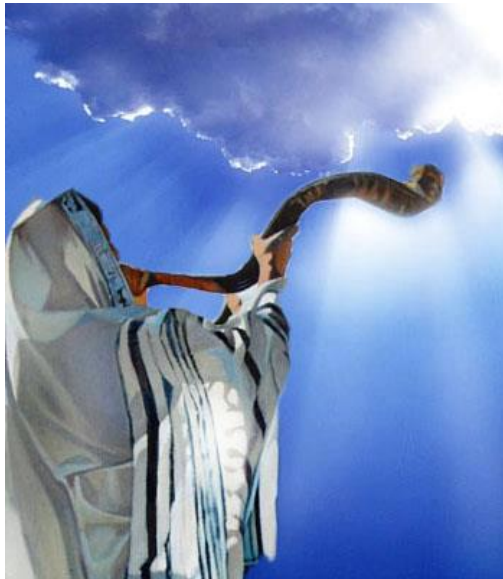
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back up again and follow our God because we love Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. God never gave up on the ancient house of Israel.

Pentecost is the celebratory day of the receiving of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the church—a group of repentant, God-fearing and God-serving people who have God's Holy Spirit and now can obey God's spiritual law properly.

Rosh Hashanah/ Feast of Trumpets

"On the first day of the seventh month is a day of rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with trumpet blasts. Do no regular work" (Leviticus 23:23-24).



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The first of the remaining three **UNFULFILLED** feasts of the Lord. The trumpet blasts will precede a time of great distress. The **house of Israel** will fall into trouble, Jacob's prophesied trouble. They will cry out to their God for help and He will rescue the repentant and believing people. Christ's return is on the near horizon. You won't miss that day because they will cry out, "Look, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him" (Revelation 1:7).

The five wise virgins were watching but more importantly, they were growing in grace and knowledge longing for His return. "Repent now!" God urges His people in the seven churches to AWAKEN. Make yourself ready without those offensive spots

(misinformation), deep ugly wrinkles (traditions of men), and foul smelling blemishes (false truths). Be ready! "...for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice" (John 5:28). "In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:52). The "first resurrection" is fulfilled at the return of Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17), which is the better resurrection (Revelation 20:6).

Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur

It is a day that is considered to be the holiest of all days. It pictures the day when God will acknowledge the atonement of the sins of mankind. Two goats are selected for a sacrifice. One represents Christ who died for mankind and the other goat is laden with the sins of God's people and mankind and sent into the wilderness that place void of any righteousness and there it will die. It will be the day when all of mankind on earth can come close to God Almighty. It takes place on the 10th day of the seventh month. It is a celebration usually in September or October—ten days after the Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah.

Feast of Tabernacles/Feast of Sukkot

This period of seven days is a time of GREAT rejoicing on the fifteenth day of the seventh month. The first day is a holy convocation where there will be no work. A time celebrating the Millennial period of peace and abundance. It will be a time of learning and growing rapidly into the grace of God.



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Satan is bound

“Then I [the apostle John] saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a **thousand years**; 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” (Revelation 20:1-3).

Saints rule with Christ

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them [the saints of God]. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a **thousand years**” (Revelation 20:4).

The Last Great Day

On the eighth day after the seven days of tabernacles is the Last Great Day which is the **final harvest** and **second resurrection**. It is a holy day where no work is done. It brings closure to God’s plan for mankind before the new heavens and earth are created.

All, both good and bad will stand as the books are opened. “I watched till thrones were put in place, and the **Ancient of Days** was seated. ... The **court was seated, and the books were opened**” (Daniel 7:9-10).



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“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and **books** were opened. **Another book was opened, which is the book of life**. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds” (Revelation 20:12-13).

“Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7).

Through the appointed days, God reveals His plan for ALL of mankind. He gave these days to the Kingdom of Israel over three thousand years ago.

Keep the Sabbath: it acknowledges your desire to obey the God of Israel as your Sovereign God.

Passover and Unleavened Bread: Christ fulfilled the Passover and we live to remove sin in our lives by accepting Christ’s sacrifice and receive His Holy Spirit.

Feast of First-fruits: Christ was first to rise from the dead. This resurrection gives us hope that we too, will be resurrected.

Pentecost/Feast of Weeks: The Holy Spirit was first received on Pentecost. We now all have direct access to the Holy Spirit allowing us to have Christ live in us and become one with Him.

APPOINTED DAYS NOT YET FULFILLED:

Rosh Hashanah/Feast of Trumpets: Christ’s return and the first resurrection.

Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement: Satan bound and removed.

Sukkot/Feast of Tabernacles: Millennial 1,000 years of Christ and the Saint’s rule.

Last Great Day: Final Great White Throne Judgement of mankind.

We have been given God’s plan—the plan for ALL of mankind neatly presented in the appointed days given thousands of years ago. Tainted by the pagan celebrations of the gods of the nations, the **house of Israel** mixed and blended the ways of the gods with God.



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Today, is a good time to unravel the traditions of men and cast them out. Cleanse yourself from all of the practices of the gods and hold fast onto the ways of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He only is the one true God, the Almighty, the Sovereign Lord, the Architect of our world, the Engineer of everything in existence, the Great Creator—our Father.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich.