

NOTES

~ Feasts & Festivals of the Lord God ~

Introduction: God's signs, feasts, and seasons: Hebrew *moed* for appointed times of the Lord God (**Leviticus 23:4**), who put the stars, planets, and constellations in a particular order and position to mark seasons and times (**Genesis 1:14**). These seasons and festivals were, and are, dress rehearsals for the fulfilling of God's words by Jesus' first coming in the 1st century AD and his second coming to occur near the end of our current age/world (**Colossians 2:16-17**).

There are three seasons and a total of seven feasts ordained by God. The Jews were required to travel to Jerusalem three times per year for each of the seasons. Leviticus Chapter 23 outlines the requirements for each of the seven feasts the three seasons comprise.

- **Season One** (the first month on the Jewish calendar - March/April):
Passover (*Pesach*) – When God's **peace** was received
 - Feasts: Passover, Unleavened Bread, and FirstFruits
- **Season Two** (the third month on the Jewish calendar - May/June):
Pentecost (*Shavuot*) – When God's **power** was received
 - Feast: Pentecost
- **Season Three** (The seventh month on the Jewish calendar - September/October):
Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) – When God's **rest** will be received
 - Feasts: Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah), Atonement, and Tabernacles (Sukkot)

Season One - Passover: Biblical New Year; Celebrated the 'passing over' of the Angel of Death during the exodus from Egypt. Jesus fulfilled by His sacrifice. Exodus 12:2-14 & 21-30; **Leviticus 23:5** and Numbers 28:16; 1Corinthians 5:7

Season One - Unleavened bread: Represents the lack of time to use yeast to raise dough when fleeing Egypt after the Passover of the Angel of Death. Jesus fulfilled by removing sin (leaven) from those who believe and follow. Exodus 12:15-20, 13:3-7, 23:15, and 34:18; **Leviticus 23:6-8**; Numbers 28:17-25; **1Corinthians 5:6-8**

NOTES

Season One - Firstfruits: Celebrated the barley harvest. Jesus fulfilled by presenting Himself to God as the first fruits of the redeemed (Israel first). Exodus 23:16-19; **Leviticus 23:10-14**; Numbers 28:26-31; **1Corinthians 15:20-23**

Season Two – Pentecost: Commemorated the giving of the Law by God on Mt. Sinai and celebrated the wheat harvest. Jesus' first coming to earth and ascension enabled the Spirit of God to bring the *spiritual Law*. Exodus 19:1, 18-20, and 34:22; **Leviticus 23:11 & 15-22**; **Acts 2:41**

Season Three – Trumpets: Marks the beginning of the civil New Year (Rosh Hashanah) and commemorates the period of God's rest. This will be the time of the announcement of the time of the marriage supper in Heaven and the gathering of Jesus' followers both dead and alive. We call this the 'rapture'. **Leviticus 23:24–25**; Numbers 29:1-6; **Matthew 24:30-31**; 1Corinthians 15:51-52; 1Thessalonians 4:16-18

Season Three – Atonement (Yom Kippur): The spilling of blood by the priests for the forgiveness of sin. Fulfillment by Jesus (Past and Future): First, He atoned for us as the 'one sacrifice for all' (Hebrews Chapter 9). Next, the Great Judgment following Jesus' 1,000-year kingdom on earth. All people from all time will appear the judgment seat of our Christ to be rewarded or punished. Those who have followed Him will be rescued from God's impending wrath (hell) by the one who atoned for their sins – our 'high priest' Jesus. **Leviticus** Chapter 16 and **23:27–32**; Numbers 29:7-11; **2Corinthians 5:10**; **Revelation 20:11-15**

Season Three – Sukkot: Also called the Feast of Booths, it was meant to help Israel remember the rest God gave them upon their rescue from Egypt. An example of Jesus attending this celebration can be found in Matthew 17:1-4. This event represents the time when God will dwell with man during a new and combined Heaven and earth (Revelation 21:3). Jesus' coming back to earth at the GREAT TRUMPET will pave the way for God's rest. **Leviticus 23:33–36**; Numbers 12-40; **Matthew 17:1-4**; **Revelation 21:1-4**

Summary: God appointed three periods of a total of seven feasts/festivals as His times to be dress rehearsals for Jesus' eventual fulfillment. So, these are feasts of Jesus, not of the Jews, and they serve a very important purpose: provide promise and confidence as the promise is kept. Jesus fulfilled the Spring Feasts (first four feasts of Passover and Pentecost) during His first trip to earth; He'll fulfill the Fall Feasts (the final three) upon His return near the end of time. Believe and *follow* through obedience out of faith.

~ Feasts & Festivals of the Lord God ~

God's signs and *moed*

Dress rehearsals for fulfillment by Jesus' 1st and 2nd visits to earth

Three seasons; 7 feasts

1. Pesach
2. Shavuot
3. Sukkot

Passover: Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits

Why? Sacrifice

Features:

- Lamb
- 4-day inspection

Introduction: God's signs, feasts, and seasons: Hebrew *moed* for appointed times of the Lord God (**Leviticus 23:4**), who put the stars, planets, and constellations in a particular order and position to mark seasons and times (**Genesis 1:14**). These seasons and festivals were, and are, dress rehearsals for the fulfilling of God's words by Jesus' first coming in the 1st century AD and his second coming to occur near the end of our current age/world (**Colossians 2:16-17**).

There are three seasons and a total of seven feasts ordained by God. The Jews were required to travel to Jerusalem three times per year for each of the seasons. Leviticus Chapter 23 outlines the requirements for each of the seven feasts the three seasons comprise.

- **Season One** (the first month on the Jewish calendar - March/April): Passover (*Pesach*) – When God's **peace** was received
 - Feasts: Passover, Unleavened Bread, and FirstFruits
- **Season Two** (the third month on the Jewish calendar - May/June): Pentecost (*Shavuot*) – When God's **power** was received
 - Feast: Pentecost
- **Season Three** (The seventh month on the Jewish calendar - September/October): Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) – When God's **rest** will be received
 - Feasts: Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah), Atonement, and Tabernacles (Sukkot)

Season One - Passover: Exodus 12:2-14 & 21-30; **Leviticus 23:5** and Numbers 28:16

- **Purpose:** Marks the *biblical* New Year and celebrates the 'passing over' of the angel of death during the last of the great plagues of God against Egypt when He rescued the Israelites.
- **Distinguishing Features:** The sacrificial lamb was to be inspected for four days to ensure it was blemish-free (10-13 Nisan) and then killed on the fourth day by six o'clock in the evening (before the start of the next day).

•

Jesus (dead by 6:00 after 4-day inspection; buried 3 days and nights)

Unleavened Bread

Why?

Features: Yeast/sin

Jesus: took on 'sin' of the world

FirstFruits

Why? Barley harvest

Jesus: Resurrected and presented to God

Pentecost

Why? Law & wheat harvest

- **Fulfillment by Jesus:** He was dead at six o'clock PM after being 'inspected' by the priests for four days. God then raised Him from the dead after being buried for three days and nights. **Matthew 12:39-40** and **27:46-50**; **1Corinthians 5:7**

Season One - Unleavened bread: Exodus 12:15-20, 13:3-7, 23:15, and 34:18; **Leviticus 23:6-8**; Numbers 28:17-25

- **Purpose:** Represents the lack of time to use yeast to raise dough when fleeing Egypt after the Passover of the Angel of Death.
- **Distinguishing Features:** In Scripture, yeast – leaven – represents sin, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread requires the removal of all leaven.
- **Fulfillment by Jesus:** He took on the sin of the world and removed it for those who believe and follow. **1Corinthians 5:6-8**

Season One - Firstfruits: Exodus 23:16-19; **Leviticus 23:10-14**; Numbers 28:26-31

- **Purpose:** Celebrated the barley harvest by waving a small portion of it before God ceremoniously just after the Sabbath (Saturday) in the evening – about 6:00 PM.
- **Fulfillment by Jesus:** Resurrection after the Sabbath evening, presenting Himself to God shortly thereafter during Sunday (between 6:00 PM Saturday and 6:00 PM Sunday). This initial Firstfruits commemoration represents the salvation brought first to Israel by Jesus. **1 Corinthians 15:20-23**

Season Two – Pentecost: Exodus 19:1, 18-20, and 34:22; **Leviticus 23:11 & 15-22**

- **Purpose:** Commemorated the giving of the Law by God on Mt. Sinai in the third month after the exodus (Exodus 19:1 & 18-20) and celebrated the wheat harvest.

Features: 50 days from the Sabbath just before FirstFruits

Jesus: Enabled the coming and infilling of the Holy Spirit

Trumpets

Why? New Year and beginning of God's rest

Features: louder and longer

Jesus: future announcement of the end of betrothal and time for marriage!

Atonement

- **Distinguishing Features:** The Scripture states that the initial Feast of Firstfruits was to be celebrated “the day after the Sabbath” (Leviticus 23:11, 15). Pentecost was then to be celebrated seven weeks – 49 days – from that day and became a ‘second FirstFruits’.
- **Fulfillment by Jesus:** His coming to earth and ascension enabled the Spirit of God to bring the spiritual Law (as opposed to the physical Law) to those who believe and follow. In contrast to the original Firstfruits, this commemorated the wheat harvest and represented salvation brought to the rest of the world – the gentiles. Also, in contrast to the original Pentecost when 3,000 Hebrews died because of disobedience, 3,000 people were *saved* (although the Law through the Spirit was given through fire and noise just as with the original Pentecost. . .). **Acts 2:41**

Season Three – Trumpets: Leviticus 23:24–25; Numbers 29:1-6

- **Purpose:** Marks the beginning of the *civil* New Year (Rosh Hashanah).
- **Distinguishing Features:** Although trumpets were always blown at the beginning of the month, the priests blew them at this time louder and longer to mark the occasion.
- **Fulfillment by Jesus (Future):** This will be the time of the announcement of the time of the marriage supper in Heaven and the gathering of Jesus' followers both dead and alive. We call this the ‘rapture’. This feast points forward to a time when Israel will be gathered back to the land (Isaiah 27:13). **Matthew 24:30-31**; 1Corinthians 15:51-52; 1Thessalonians 4:16-18

Season Three – Atonement (Yom Kippur): Leviticus Chapter 16 and 23:27–32; Numbers 29:7-11

- **Purpose:** The spilling of blood by the priests for the forgiveness of sin.

Features: Spilling of blood; one day in the Holy of Holies; scapegoat; end to 10 days of awe

Jesus: Atoned for us; will pave the way for judgment

Sukkot

Why? Remember God's rest

Features: Booths

Jesus: Will pave the way for new Heaven and earth

Summary

- **Distinguishing Features:** This one day, which ended the 'Ten Days of Awe' when the Jews would do good works to ensure their name would be in God's Book of Life, was the one time of year when the priest would enter the Holy of Holies in the Temple. Another significant element was the 'scapegoat' that would carry the sins of Israel away into the desert (Leviticus 16:20-22). It happened on the 10th day of the 7th month and was the day God set apart to the relationship with His people.
- **Fulfillment by Jesus (Past and Future):** First, He atoned for us as the 'one sacrifice for all' (Hebrews Chapter 9). Next, the Great Judgment following Jesus' 1,000-year kingdom on earth. All people from all time will appear the judgment seat of our Christ to be rewarded or punished. Those who have followed Him will be rescued from God's impending wrath (hell) by the one who atoned for their sins – our 'high priest' Jesus. **2Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15**

Season Three – Sukkot: Leviticus 23:33–36; Numbers 12-40

- **Purpose:** Also called the Feast of Booths, it was meant to help Israel remember the rest God gave them upon their rescue from Egypt.
- **Distinguishing Features:** It was celebrated by living in a dwelling made of branches and leaves – one that enabled them to see the stars at night. An example of Jesus attending this celebration can be found in **Matthew 17:1-4**.
- **Fulfillment by Jesus (Future):** This event represents the time when God will dwell with man during a new and combined Heaven and earth (**Revelation 21:1-4**). Jesus' coming back to earth at the GREAT TRUMPET will pave the way for God's rest.

Summary: God appointed three periods of a total of seven feasts/festivals as His times to be dress rehearsals for Jesus' eventual fulfillment. So, these are feasts of Jesus, not of the Jews, and they serve a very important purpose: provide promise and confidence as the promise is kept. Jesus fulfilled the Spring Feasts (first four feasts of Passover and Pentecost) during His first trip to earth; He'll fulfill the Fall Feasts (the final three) upon His return near the end of time. Believe and *follow* through obedience out of faith.

“These are the appointed times of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them.” —Leviticus 23:4.

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years” —Genesis 1:14.

Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day – things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. —Colossians 2:16-17.

“In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is the LORD'S Passover.” —Leviticus 23:5.

“Then on the fifteenth day of the same month there is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. . . .” —Leviticus 23:6-8.

. . . Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. . . . —1Corinthians 5:6-8.

“ . . . When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD for you to be accepted; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. . . . It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places.’ —Leviticus 23:10-14.

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. . . . in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming —1Corinthians 15:20-23.

“He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD for you to be accepted; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. . . . You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete Sabbaths. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD. . . . It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations. When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field nor gather the gleaning of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the alien. I am the LORD your God.” —Leviticus 23:11 & 15-22.

So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. —Acts 2:41.

“Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘In the seventh month on the first of the month you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD.’” —Leviticus 23:24–25.

“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky . . . And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.” —Matthew 24:30-31.

“On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement . . . for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before the LORD your God. . . . It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. It is to be a Sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall humble your souls; on the ninth of the month at evening, from evening until evening you shall keep your Sabbath.” —Leviticus 23:27–32.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. —2Corinthians 5:10.

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it . . . And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. . . . And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. —Revelation 20:11-15.

“On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to the LORD. On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind. For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to the LORD; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work.” —Leviticus 23:33–36.

Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” —Matthew 17:1-4.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. . . . “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” —Revelation 21:1-4.