

# Feasts of the Lord Outline

***Leviticus 23:2 Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.***

Appointed feasts of the Lord...they are my appointed feasts.

Feasts is Hebrew word “Moed” – divine appointment – fixed time or season – God’s daytimer recording historically when he interacts with humanity

Holy Convocations is Hebrew word “Micrah” – assembly, dress rehearsal

God cares about dates! For instance, let’s look at the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av:

The 9<sup>th</sup> of Av is a cursed day for the Jews. It was the day the 10 spies gave the bad report of the land in Canaan. God was not pleased with their lack of faith in him.

The First Temple was also destroyed on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av (587 BC).

Six centuries later (in 70 AD), the Second Temple destroyed on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av.

When the Jews rebelled against Roman rule, they believed that their leader, Simon bar Kochba, would fulfill their messianic longings. But their hopes were cruelly dashed in 133 AD as the Jewish rebels were brutally butchered in the final battle at Betar. The date of the massacre? Of course—the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av!

The Jews were expelled from England in 1290 AD on, you guessed it, the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av.

In 1492, the Golden Age of Spain came to a close when Queen Isabella and her husband Ferdinand ordered that the Jews be banished from the land on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av.

What day did World War I begin on 1914, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av.

Before World War II began, Hitler decreed that he would exterminate all the Jews on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av.

In 2005 when Israel was expelled from the Gaza strip, it was on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av.

## Differing Calendars

We are on a solar based calendar (Gregorian Calendar)

Jews work off of a Solar and Lunar based Calendar (Hebrew Calendar)

Jewish Days are different – New day starts at Dusk (approx. 6pm)

## What are the Seven Feasts – How did this work

3 times a year the males had to journey to Jerusalem for the Feasts of the Lord: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles

Spring Feasts – includes Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost

Fall Feasts – includes Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles

### **Feast of Passover**

***Leviticus 23:5 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the LORD's Passover.***

Let's walk through the practice of Passover: Bring in a lamb to examine for the Passover sacrifice on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan.

***Exodus 12:3 Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.***

How did Jesus fulfill this: Palm Sunday – Jesus rides in on the donkey into the Temple the same time the lambs are being brought in to the temple for examination.

***Mat 21:7-9 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"***

Jesus is then examined multiple times before he goes to the cross just as the Passover Lambs are examined: Pharisees, Sadducees, and teachers of the law try to find fault in him and cannot. He is brought in front of the Sanhedrin and they are not able to pin anything on him. Then Pilate and Herod both examined him and found no fault in him.

***1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.***

The Passover Sacrifice is made on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan

***Num 9:2-3 "Let the people of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time. On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at its appointed time; according to all its statutes and all its rules you shall keep it."***

The tradition in Jesus day was to sacrifice 1 lamb for every 10 Jews. Back then there was approximately one million Jews present for the Passover, therefore the priests would need to sacrifice approximately 100,000 lambs that day. This would be a long involved process that would begin around 9am and would be completed by 3pm in order to prepare for the feast of unleavened bread.

Jesus fulfills this exactly: Put on the cross at 9am and dies at 3pm – same timing as Passover sacrifice

***Mar 15:25 And it was the third hour when they crucified him.***

**Mar 15:34** *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

### **Feast of Unleavened Bread**

Preparation for the feast of unleavened bread – getting all the leaven out

**Deu 16:3-4** *Seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, the bread of affliction--for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste--that all the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt. No leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory for seven days,*

Jewish families would clean their homes and would remove all the leaven from their entire house. Then as a ceremonial reminder, the mother in the house would hid a few pieces of leaven and the father and kids would find it and remove it. Taking it out and burning it in a fire.

Jesus fulfilled this when he drove the money changers out of the temple.

**Mat 21:12-13** *And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."*

Seder Meal included this custom: Matzah Tash – 3 pieces of unleavened bread – middle is taken out, broken and hidden away until the third cup of redemption is brought out.

**Luke 22:19** *And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

The final component of Jesus fulfilling this feast was that he was buried and took away our sins for good.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

### **Feast of Firstfruits**

The Jews would offer the first fruits of the barley harvest to the Lord.

**Lev 23:10** *Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest, and he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.*

Jesus fulfilled this in his resurrection from the dead – as the firstfruits of the resurrection that is to come

**1 Corinthians 15:20** *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

### **Feast of Pentecost**

Counting of the Omer – 50 days from the feast of firstfruits

***Lev 23:15-17 "You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the LORD. You shall bring from your dwelling places two loaves of bread to be waved...as firstfruits to the LORD.***

The practices of Pentecost also focused on it as the day that Moses was given the ten commandments on Mt. Sinai.

***Exodus 19:18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire.***

We see a similar picture on the scene at Pentecost right after Jesus had ascended and the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles and believers.

***Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy.***

Also, the promise is fulfilled here where God said he would write the commandments on their hearts.

***Hebrews 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"***

## **Break in the Feasts – Summer harvest season – the Church Age**

### **Feast of Trumpets**

***Leviticus 23:24 Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation.***

The feasts of Trumpets – today called Rosh Hashanah – begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Tishri which starts on the new moon. This day is supposed to be a day of blowing the trumpet or shofar. We see a similar occurrence during the proceedings of the rapture.

***1Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.***

But I thought no one knows when the rapture is coming? Are you setting a date for the rapture?

In order for the feast to commence, two witnesses had to testify before the Sanhedrin that they had indeed seen the new moon. Therefore the feast was known as the feast that no man knew the day nor the hour it began. Where have we heard that before?

***Matthew 24:36 But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.***

In looking at the imminent return of Christ in the event known as the rapture, a common term is used throughout scripture – coming like a thief in the night. However, if you examine more closely you will see that the Bible warns us to be watching so as to not be over taken as a thief at night.

***1Thessalonians 5:1-4 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.***

***Revelation 3:3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.***

What does coming like a thief in the night mean? Where did this terminology come from?

The fire on the altar of the temple was what the priests would watch – if they fell asleep the temple guard would come as a thief in the night to set his garments on fire and to make his shame seen by all.

Luke 12:37 – the story of the faithful vs the unfaithful servant – he comes as a thief upon the unfaithful servant.

Another key event that took place on this day was when Ezra called Israel to repentance when reading the scriptures at the dedication of the new Temple after returning from the Babylonian captivity. I believe this will happen again at the end of the Tribulation right before Jesus comes back in all of his glory.

### **Day of Atonement**

***Leviticus 23:27-28 Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present a food offering to the LORD. And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.***

This is the day that Israel would repent and ask for God's forgiveness. It was a solemn day. The main practice of the day would be the scapegoat.

***Leviticus 16:5-10 And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel. And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering, but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be***

***presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.***

So, in the practice at the temple on the day of atonement, the priest would bring two goats to present to the Lord. They would cast lots to see which was the scapegoat, it would be sent away with a ribbon tied around its horns. It was a red ribbon. They would cut off a portion of the ribbon and attach it to the temple door. If God accepted the scapegoat offering, the ribbon on the temple would turn white as snow. This happened consistently until the final 40 years before the temple was destroyed. If you go back 40 years from 70 AD when the temple was destroyed, it was the time that Jesus went to the cross and rose victorious, creating the new covenant in his blood.

Future fulfillment of this feast day, it is the day that Jesus is accepted as the scapegoat by the remnant of Jewish people that survive the tribulation period. On this day, Jesus will come back to earth to defeat satan and the anti-christ.

### **Feast of Tabernacles**

***Leviticus 23:34-36 Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the LORD. On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. For seven days you shall present food offerings to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work.***

It is a celebration that comes at the end of the harvest season. The ingathering of the grapes, figs, olives, and dates – the fruit harvest. Similarly, this is the end of the great harvest of souls which we are laboring for in the present age in order to bear fruit for the harvest.

The feast of tabernacles will usher in the millennial kingdom and will be observed annually during Christ's reign on the earth.

***Zechariah 14:16-17 Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.***

This is a celebration for the Jews. It is also a reminder that God is going to come and dwell with them. They will be His people, and He will be their God.

***Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.***

### **Resources**

Book: The Feasts of the Lord by Kevin Howard and Marvin Rosenthal

Book: Celebrating Jesus in the Biblical Feasts by Dr. Richard Booker

The Jewish calendar has the following months:

Hebrew	English	Number	Length	Civil Equivalent
ניסן	Nissan	1	30 days	March-April
אייר	Iyar	2	29 days	April-May
סיון	Sivan	3	30 days	May-June
תמוז	Tammuz	4	29 days	June-July
אב	Av	5	30 days	July-August
אלול	Elul	6	29 days	August-September
תשרי	Tishri	7	30 days	September-October
חשוון	Cheshvan	8	29 or 30 days	October-November
כסלו	Kislev	9	30 or 29 days	November-December
טבת	Tevet	10	29 days	December-January
שבט	Shevat	11	30 days	January-February
אדר א'	Adar I (leap years only)	12	30 days	February-March
אדר ב' אדר	Adar (called Adar Beit in leap years)	12 (13 in leap years)	29 days	February-March