

A (Brief) Survey of the Old Testament Feasts

Part 1 – Intro and the Spring Feasts

Text: Leviticus 23

Why It's Important for Christians

- It's in the _____.
 - *Romans 15:4* -

 - *2 Tim. 3:16* -

- They were celebrated by the _____.
 - The Passover – (John 2:13; 5:1; 6:4; 12:1)
 - Tabernacles – (John 7:2)
 - Feast of _____ (Hannukah) – (John 10:22) – This is not a feast in the Old Testament but rather a historical one that the Jews celebrated in which Jesus also was in Jerusalem.
 - Jesus ate the Passover meal which is possibly an early form of the Jewish _____. (Mark 14:12)
- We will also participate in the feasts in the _____ Kingdom.
 - _____ and Unleavened Bread (Ezekiel 45:21-25)
 - _____ (Zechariah 14:16-18)
- They foreshadow the _____ timeline.
 - The feasts are key points of biblical prophecy. _____ have already been fulfilled in the Spring feasts. The remaining Fall feasts will find their ultimate fulfillment after the Tribulation.

Significant Themes in the Feasts:

- Redemption –
 - The story of _____ history is the story of God's redemption plan.
 - Starting with Passover we see the offering of a _____ for redemption. The last feast (tabernacles) focus on the completion of redemption where God and man _____ together.
- Remembrance – Of God's _____ and _____ in their lives.
 - Since man is prone to forget, God wanted the Israelites to put in remembrance His active work in their lives.
 - God provides us an opportunity to remember his Word and Work in our lives through corporate and private worship.
- Reverence –
 - The feasts provide opportunity for man to _____ himself before God and _____ Him.
 - The three pilgrimage feasts gave man an opportunity present himself before God.

- Passover week including Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Firstfruits.
- Pentecost – (Feast of weeks)
- Tabernacles (Feast of Ingathering)
- We are to be a _____ sacrifice. We no longer present an animal for what Christ has done, but we are live a sacrificial life _____ to living out God’s will.
 - Romans 12:1-2 -

The Symbolism of Seven in the Feasts

- The number seven interwoven in the structure of the feasts.
 - The number seven represents _____ and rest. There are seven days that complete a week with the final day being rest (sabbath)
 - On the Sabbath day we are instructed to _____ like God did after creating the world in six days.
 - The seventh week after Passover is Pentecost when harvesters rest from their labor.
 - During the seventh month at the Feast of Trumpets, the nation rests.
 - Every seven years is a sabbatical _____ for the nation.
 - In agricultural work (Leviticus 25:1-7) –
 - Six years of work would yield to a year of faith in the Lord to provide food for man and beast.
 - In Lending (Deut. 15:2-3) -
 - Debts were to be forgiven (released) from citizens. There was an exception for foreigners
 - The goal was to help those in need by generous lending without heavy interest.
 - In Servitude – (Deut. 15:12) –
 - There was to be a release of Hebrew slaves.
 - Sadly, the Israelites failed to keep the sabbatical year. God sent the Assyrians and the Babylonians to remove Israel from the Land.
 - *2 Chronicles 36:21* -

- The year of _____ is the year after the “seventh seven of years” is a national rest and restoration.
 - Much like the sabbatical year, this celebration emphasized the return of possessions. This would help keep the land within the families it was assigned to.

Snapshot of the Feasts¹

Feast	Type Of:	Time of the Year
Passover	Death of Christ (1 Cor. 5:7)	April
Unleavened Bread	Holy walk of Believers (1 Cor. 5:8)	April
Firstfruits	Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:23)	April
Pentecost	Descension of the Spirit (Acts 2:4)	June
Trumpets	Regathering of Israel (Matt. 24:31)	September-October
Atonement	National Cleansing (Rom. 11:23)	September-October
Tabernacles	Messianic Kingdom of Rest (Zech 14:16; Matt. 17:4)	September-October

The Weekly Sabbath (3)

- The Sabbath day was a day of _____ for all people.
- It was vitally important to emphasize the weekly sabbath. Sabbath observation obeys God’s instruction and example during the _____ week.
 - It was a time of rest.
 - It was a _____ time of gathering for worship (holy convocation). This was a separated day apart from the normal routines of labor and life.
 - It could be observed wherever we were dwelling.
- Today, Christians observe this day by gathering on _____ with believes on the day that Jesus was resurrected.
 - Acts 20:7 -

 - 1 Cor. 16:2 -

The Spring Feasts Leviticus 23:5-14; Deut. 16:1-8

- Passover
 - Leviticus 23:5; Deut. 16:1-8
 - Calendar- The _____ month on the Jewish calendar Nisan. It straddles March and April today.
 - Theme: Redemption found in Christ
 - Passover remembers God’s work of _____ through the deliverance from slavery in Egypt.
 - Exodus 12:14a –

 - Exodus 12:26-27 -

 - Its Origin – Exodus 12

¹ A Popular Survey of the Old Testament, Norman Geisler, pg. 68.

- The Hebrews were to kill a firstborn, male, unblemished lamb and then _____ it in the evening. (5-6)
 - Then they were to strike _____ on the upper and side door posts. (7)
 - It was to be eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. None of the food was to remain until the morning. Whatever did remain was to be burned with fire. (8-10)
 - The meal was eaten with bags packed and ready to go at a moments noticed. (11)
 - How it is observed today
 - The Seder – Seder means “_____”. The Sedar meal has morphed over the years even since the time of Jesus.
 - Type – Death of Christ
 - *1 Corinthians 5:7* -

 - Prophetic Timeline – Fulfilled
 - Jesus died during Passover becoming the one _____, spotless lamb to take away the sin of the world.
 - *1 John 3:5* –

- Unleavened Bread (celebrated along with Passover)
 - Leviticus 23:6-8
 - Theme: The _____ and righteousness of Christ
 - It’s origin
 - The exodus of Israel from Egypt. They were prepared to move out _____ before the leavening process could take place (Exodus 12:39)
 - Meaning of the Unleavened
 - Leaven is the yeast that represents the _____ process by fermentation. There is no corruption in Christ. He is pure and holy from sin. As the perfect Lamb he cleansed us from sin so we could live holy and godly lives.
 - Just as Israel had to remove the yeast from their bread, so also do Christians need to _____ the evil and sin from their lives. (1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 5:9)
 - Type – The holy walk of believers
 - *1 Corinthians 5:8* -

 - Prophetic Timeline – Fulfilled
 - Jesus is the _____ of life (John 6:48). The unleavened bread points to the Messiah’s sinless life.
 - Jesus said the bread represented his body which was _____ for us. (Mark 14:22)
- First Fruits (celebrated along with Passover)

- Leviticus 23:9-14
- Meaning -
 - Israel had to bring in a grain offering on the day after the sabbath. This signified the _____ of the harvest.
 - The priest would wave the sheaves of the barley harvest before the Lord as the “first-fruits” thanking Him for what was about to come.
 - Israelites were to acknowledge their dependence on God by remembering that He brought them out of Egypt and had given them the promised land.
- Type – The Resurrection
 - 1 Corinthians 15:20 - _____
 - 1 Corinthians 15:23 - _____
- Prophetic Timeline – Fulfilled at the Resurrection.
- Pentecost – (Feast of Weeks) Shavuot
 - Leviticus 23:15-22; Deut. 16:9-12
 - Calendar – April. Fifty days after the First fruits festival. This marked the _____ of harvest.
 - Meaning –
 - Pentecost means fiftieth. This was the celebration of _____ for the harvest.
 - Israelites would bring their wheat harvest loaves and wave it before the Lord and way of thanksgiving.
 - Prophetic Timeline – Fulfilled with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit fifty days after the Resurrection at Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-4)
 - This was the birthing of the Church and the church age (Luke 24:44).
 - The words “fully come” carry the idea of _____ (Acts 2:1)
 - The fulfillment was in the baptism of the Spirit signified by the miracle of the _____.
 - The Spirit baptism ushered in God’s new ministry composed of both Jew and Gentile. This may be a reason why this feast required bread with _____ in the two loaves waved before the Lord signifying both sinful Jews and Gentile coming together as “one new man”.
 - Paul used the picture of the said the middle wall of _____ that separates the Jews from the Gentiles on the Temple mount as being torn down. We are all one community in the Church. (Ephesians 2:11-18)

Application:

1. Has the blood of the Lamb been applied to you?
2. What areas of Leaven need to be removed from your life?
3. Are you living daily in the Spirit?

