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The Seven Feasts of the Lord

Scripture: **Leviticus 23:1-44**

Leviticus is the third book of Moses written as a primer for the moral and ethical instruction of the chosen people of God. It contains civil, sanitary, ceremonial, moral, and religious regulations for the nation of Israel.

All the offerings, ceremonies and laws served to constantly remind Israel that God was eminently holy. God could be approached only by the priests, and then only in strict obedience to the detailed instructions for purification. God required the sacrifice of innocent animals for the covering of man's sin.

These sacrifices were symbolic of the ultimate sacrifice which would take away the sin of the whole world. (**John 1:29**) <

Purpose: They tell of God's redemptive plan for Israel. These Seven Feasts are holidays (holy days) instituted by God. They are discussed throughout the Old and New Testaments.

However, only in one place, **Leviticus 23**, are all seven holidays listed in chronological order. As Christians and a nation, we observe holidays instituted by men, and it is not inappropriate to do so. However, God instituted only seven holidays.

The Hebrew word, **feasts**, means “**appointed times.**” The sequence and timing of these feasts or holidays have been carefully orchestrated by God. Collectively, they tell the story of redemption. These feasts are also called **holy convocations**; that is, they are intended to be times of meeting between God and man for holy purposes.

The seven feasts are: (Leviticus 23:1-44) <

- 1. The Feast of Passover “Pesach” (verse 5) <**
- 2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread “Hag HaMatzot” (verses 6-8) <**
- 3. The Feast of First Fruits “Yom Habikkurim” (verses 10-11) <**
- 4. The Feast of Pentecost “Shavuot” (verses 15-17) <**
- 5. The Feast of Trumpets “Yom Teruah” (verse 24) <**
- 6. The Feast of The Day of Atonement “Yom Kippur” (verse 27) <**
- 7. The Feast of Tabernacles “Sukkot” (Booths) (verses 39-43) <**

The first four feasts **have been fulfilled** in the Lord Jesus Christ in connection with His first coming. They occur in the spring. Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits occur in the Hebrew month of Nisan (March/April). The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) occurs fifty days later in the Hebrew month of Sivan (May/June).

These first four feasts are history, that is, they occurred almost two thousand years ago. Their spiritual benefits continue forward to the present Church Age through the sacrificial work of Christ on the cross.

The final three feasts occur in the fall of the year within the Hebrew month of Tishri (mid September or October). These three events depict events associated with the Lord Jesus Christ’s second coming, our blessed hope. (Titus 2:11-15) <

Important Points:

1. These feasts were given to Israel not the church.
2. They are closely tied to Israel's spring and fall agricultural seasons. When the feasts were instituted, Israel was largely an agricultural nation dependent on God for daily provisions.
3. The timing of these feasts is based on the Jewish lunar (moon) calendar of 354 days/year. It is 11 days shorter than our 365 day solar year. Seven times every nineteen years, the Jewish calendar has a thirteenth month. If this were not the case, after a few years, winter would occur in summer, and summer would occur in the winter. It is for this reason these holidays do not fall on the same day as our Gregorian (solar) calendar each year.
4. The sequence and timing of these feasts are a shadow of the Lord's redemptive plan. ([Colossians 2:16-17](#)) < They commence with Passover, the very day Jesus voluntarily gave Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world and climax with the one thousand year messianic Kingdom. ([Revelation 20:4](#)) <
5. The participation of Gentiles in the blessing associated with the feasts of God appointed for Israel should come as no surprise, ***“and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed”***. ([Genesis 22:18](#)) <
6. All of humanity has been extended an invitation to meet God on His terms. ([John 3:16](#)) + ([1 Timothy 2:3-4](#)) <
7. All Jewish males were required to go to Jerusalem to appear before the Lord for 3 of these feasts;
1. Unleavened Bread. 2. Weeks. 3. Tabernacles. ([Deut.16:16](#)) <

Each major event of the Messiah's first coming literally occurred on the precise date of the appropriate Jewish holiday during His first coming in the spring of that year.

- He was crucified on Passover.
- He was placed in the grave on the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- He was resurrected on the Feast of First fruits. (1Cor.15:20) <
- He ascended to His Father and ten days later sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

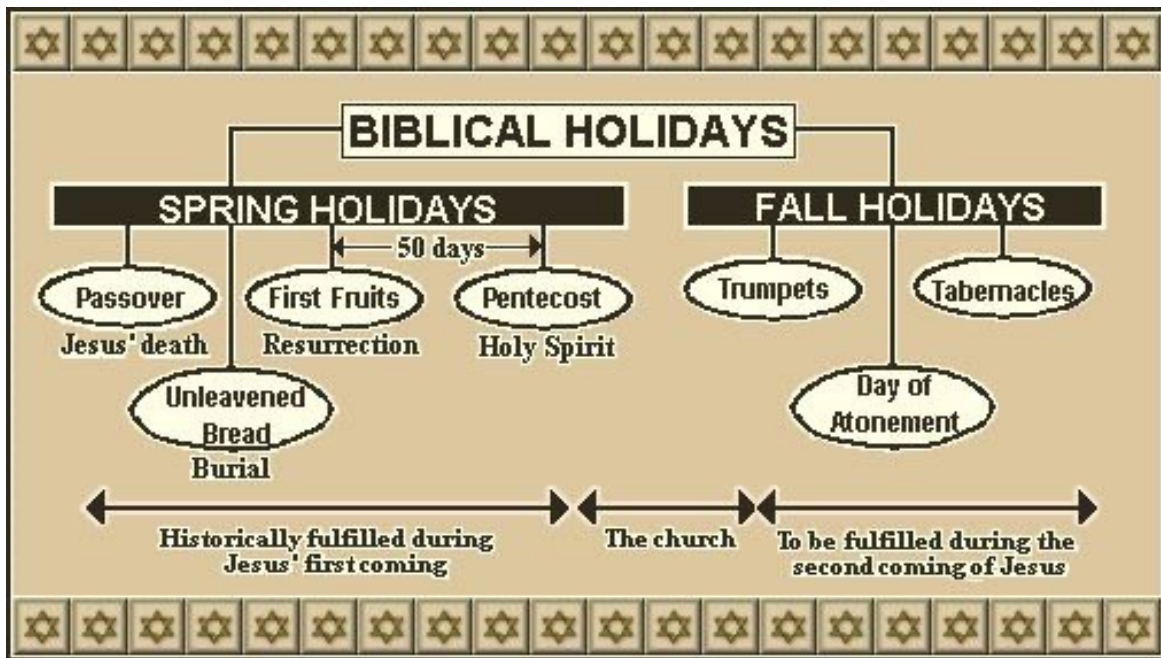
Each of the three major events to be associated with His second coming will, likewise, fall on the appropriate Jewish holiday during the fall of the year.

Those three feasts:

1. **Trumpets:** Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Matt. 24:31) <
2. **Day of Atonement:** Salvation of Israel. (Zechariah 12:10-11, Romans 11:25-27) <
3. **Tabernacles:** Establishment of His Messianic Kingdom. (Zechariah 14:1-9, Rev. 20:1-6) <

In between the spring feasts - which occurred almost two thousand years ago - and the fall feasts - is the Church Age during which we are now living.

As a believer living during the church age, what is your appointed time? See 2 Cori.5:10 <



Leviticus Chapter 23. - ([back](#))

Leviticus Chapter 23 - (NASB)

1. [verse 5](#) In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is the LORD'S Passover. ([back](#))

2. [verses 6-8](#) **6**'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. **7**'On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work. **8**'But for seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work.'" ([back](#))

3. [verses 10-11](#) **10**"Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, '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. **11**'He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD for you to be accepted; on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. ([back](#))

4. [verses 15-17](#) **15**'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. **16**'You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD. **17**'You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to the LORD. ([back](#))

5. [verse 24](#) **24**“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. ([back](#))
6. [verse 27](#) **27**“On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to the LORD. ([back](#))
7. [Verses 39-43](#) **39**‘On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day. **40**‘Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. **41**‘You shall thus celebrate it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It *shall be* a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. **42**‘You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, **43**so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.” ([back](#))

Scriptural References

([used in this study](#))

[John 1:29](#) ([back](#))

NASB

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

KJV

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

[Titus 2:11-15](#) ([back](#))

NASB

11For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **12**instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, **13**looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, **14**who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. **15**These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

KJV

11For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12**Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **13**Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; **14**Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. **15**These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

[Colossians 2:16-17 \(back \)](#)

NASB

16Therefore 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 - **17**things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

KJV

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: **17** Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.

[Revelation 20:4 \(back \)](#)

NASB

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And *I* saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

KJV

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

[Genesis 22:18 \(back \)](#)

NASB

And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

KJV

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

[John 3:16 \(back \)](#)

NASB

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

KJV

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

[1 Timothy 2:3-4 \(back \)](#)

NASB

3This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **4**who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

KJV

3For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; **4**Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

[Deut. 16:16 \(back \)](#)

NASB

“Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths; and they are not to appear before the LORD empty-handed.

KJV

Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

[1Cor. 15:20 \(back \)](#)

NASB

But the fact is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

KJV

But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

[Matt. 24:31 \(back \)](#)

NASB

And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET BLAST, and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

KJV

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

[Zechariah 12:10-11 \(back \)](#)

NASB

10“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. **11**“In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

KJV

10And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn. **11**In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

[Romans 11:25-27 \(back \)](#)

NASB

25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; **26** and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.” **27** “THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.”

KJV

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. **26** And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: **27** For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Rev. 20:1-6 (*back*)

NASB

1Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. **2**And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; **3**and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. **4**Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. **5**The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. **6**Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

KJV

1And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. **2**And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, **3**And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. **4**And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **5**But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. **6**Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

2 Cori.5:10 (*back*)

NASB

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds *done* through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.

KJV

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

Zechariah 14:1-9 (back)

NASB

1 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. 2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. 3 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. 4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. 5 You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! 6 In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. 7 For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. 8 And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. 9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.

KJV

1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. 2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. 5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. 6 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: 7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. 8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. 9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

Scriptural References

(spontaneously added during study discussions)

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