

1. Review: Jesus the Son of Man

- Jesus’ favorite title was “Son of Man.”
- He used that title more than any other, pointing people to Daniel 7.
- Jesus was claiming to be the heavenly Man whom Daniel saw there.
- Jesus avoided calling Himself Messiah to avoid people’s preconceived notions of what the Messiah was going to do.

2. Introduction: Seeing Jesus in the Feasts of Israel

Recall our discussion of “types,” extended symbols that foreshadow things.

- Whatever came before Christ was written for our instruction (Rom. 15:4).
- God gives amazing prophetic teaching through the feasts of Israel (or the feasts of the Lord).
- The Law contained three major feasts that required Jewish men to appear before God in Jerusalem.
- There are seven main feasts, and they are “types” of Christ's salvation.
- In Hebrew, these feasts are called *moedim* – God’s appointed times.
- The primary reference for studying the *moedim* is Leviticus 23.

2A. The Feasts in general

1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying... 4 “These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their seasons.”

2B. Passover & Unleavened Bread

5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at evening is the LORD'S passover. 6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread to the LORD: seven days you must eat unleavened bread. 7 In the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no ordinary work in it. 8 But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall do no ordinary work in it."

2C. Firstfruits

9 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, 'When you have come into the land which I give you, and shall reap the harvest of it, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest: 11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you; on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. 12 And you shall offer that day when you wave the sheaf a he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering to the LORD.

13 And the meat offering of it shall be two tenth-deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD for a sweet fragrance, and the drink offering of it shall be of wine, the fourth part of a hin. 14 And you shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the very same day that you have brought an offering to your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

2D. Weeks (Pentecost / Shavuot)

15 And you shall count for yourself from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete; 16 to the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall you number fifty days; and you shall offer a new meat offering to the LORD.

17 You shall bring out of your dwellings two wave loaves of two tenth-deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits to the LORD. 18 And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bull, and two rams: they shall be for a burnt offering to the LORD, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire, of sweet fragrance to the LORD.

19 Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings. 20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.

21 And you shall proclaim on the very same day, that it may be an holy convocation to you: you shall do no ordinary work in it; it shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations....”

2E. Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)

24 “Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. 25 You shall do no ordinary work in it, but you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD....

2F. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be a holy convocation to you; and you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. 28 And you shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

29 For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. 30 And whatsoever soul it be that does any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. 31 You shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 32 It shall be to you a sabbath of rest, and you shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, shall you celebrate your sabbath....”

2G. Tabernacles (Sukkoth)

34 “Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. 35 On the first day shall be a holy convocation: you shall do no ordinary work in it. 36 Seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD: on the eighth day shall be a holy convocation to you; and you shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly, and you shall do no ordinary work in it.

37 These are the feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon its day: 38 Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD.

39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep a feast to the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. 40 And you shall take for yourself on the first day the boughs of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. 41 And you shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year, a statute forever in your generations: you shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

42 You shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: 43 So that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

44 And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

3. Summary of the Moedim or Feasts

1. Passover
2. Feast of Unleavened Bread
3. Firstfruits
4. Feast of Weeks / Pentecost (Shavuot)
5. Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah / "Jewish New Year")
6. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
7. Tabernacles (Sukkoth / Booths)

These feasts lay out the whole history of Messiah's work of salvation, using the picture of becoming a people and then planting and gathering in a harvest.

- Strikingly, Jesus fulfilled the Spring feasts on the *exact day* they occur on the Jewish calendar.
- In other words, the significance of Passover was fulfilled by Jesus on Passover; the significance of Pentecost was fulfilled on Pentecost, etc.

4. Passover

Passover commemorates how God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

- Jesus was prophetically called the Lamb of God. He was brought in as a lamb a few days before Passover and inspected.
- The lamb was sacrificed at evening, and everyone must eat it.
- No bones are broken.
- His blood must be applied to the “doors of our hearts.”
- He leads us out of the dominion of Pharaoh, and we pass from death to life.
- *Christ our passover is sacrificed for us... (1 Cor. 5:7)*

5. Unleavened Bread

Unleavened Bread begins with Passover, and for seven days no one is allowed to eat anything that has leaven in it.

- This feast symbolizes the holy life of those who follow Jesus.
- Leaven is usually symbolic of sin in Scripture.
- See 1 Cor. 5:7b-8:...*Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

6. Firstfruits

Firstfruits celebrates the beginning of harvest.

- A person had to present the first thing that came out of the ground.
- This feast was celebrated on the first Sunday of Passover.
- Jesus was raised from the dead on firstfruits. He is also called the firstfruits of the resurrection.
- Not only was Jesus raised that morning, but He didn't rise alone. Many recently deceased people were also raised with Him. (Matt. 27:52-53)

7. Pentecost

Pentecost comes seven sabbaths after the Passover. *Pentecost* comes from a Greek word that means 50. That's because it comes seven weeks after Passover.

- Pentecost marks the start of the harvest season, and on the Day of Pentecost seen in Acts chapter 2 the Church's harvest of souls began!
- The offering of Pentecost was unique because it involved bread containing leaven. Two loaves were offered, representing Jew and Gentile.
- For Jewish people, Pentecost celebrates the giving of the Law. The New Covenant began to be announced on Pentecost, too.
- At Sinai, 3,000 people were condemned to death through the Law. In Acts chapter 2, 3000 people received life through grace.
- Fire and trumpets were also connected with Pentecost.

8. A Word About the Calendar and the Fall Feasts

The gap between the spring feasts and the fall feasts reflects the time needed for the harvest to grow up!

- The Jewish calendar is keyed to the growing season in Israel.
- The Jewish calendar works on the moon and the sun, not like ours.
- To harmonize the Jewish calendar with the sun, ***leap months*** are added.

9. Rosh HaShanah / Yom Teruah

There are three main feasts in the Fall; the first is Rosh HaShanah. Jewish people consider Passover to be the beginning of the religious year, and Rosh HaShanah the beginning of the civil or ordinary year.

- There is very little instruction about how to keep this feast.
- Some people see in this holiday a reference to the Rapture because of the blowing of a trumpet, and people being gathered to stand before the Lord.

10. The Day of Atonement / Yom Kippur

The Day of Atonement comes 10 days after Rosh HaShanah.

- This 10-day period is a time of repentance and soul-searching, sometimes called the *ten terrible days* or the *days of awe*.
- On Yom Kippur, the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies and made atonement for the people of Israel.
- Some believe Jesus will return to rescue Israel and send away their sin on a future Day of Atonement.

11. Tabernacles

Five days after Yom Kippur comes the feast of booths or tabernacles, or *Sukkot*. *Sukkot* is the plural of the word *sukkah*, which means a tabernacle or tent.

- The Jewish people follow the command to live in booths and recall all their wanderings. They also rejoice in the rest that God has given them.
- This symbolizes the Millennium, when Jesus will reign here for 1000 years. This is the one feast that Gentiles were called to celebrate with Israel.
- In the Kingdom, the Gentiles will be summoned to come and worship in Jerusalem and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles together. (Zech. 14)

12. Concluding thoughts on the *moedim*

- Jesus may literally fulfill the events of his Second Coming on the precise dates of the fall Feasts.
- Think deeper: the feasts not only speak about Jesus, but Jesus actually *is* that feast to us, in all of its glory.
- Jesus not only died for us on Passover, He *is* our Passover. Christ was not only raised from the dead on Firstfruits, He *is* the firstfruits of the resurrection, etc.

13. But what about Hanukkah?

Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of the oil when the Jewish people were rededicating the Temple after fighting the evil king Antiochus Epiphanes (about 170 B.C.)

- There may be two extra dates in Daniel that point to Hanukkah.
- These dates would come at the very beginning of the Millennium, right after the end of Daniel’s 70th Week.
- In Daniel 12, Daniel asks the angel how long the end-times events will last. The angel says it will be 1260 days, or 3½ years. But the angel doesn’t stop there: there will also significant events at 1290 days and 1335 days.

7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time [3½ years]; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished. 8 Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”

9 And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

11 “And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety [1290] days.

12 Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five [1335] days.

Many people have wondered what that these 75 days might be.

Is there a period of 75 days anywhere in Jewish life that might explain this?



- In my opinion the first set of 30 days is a time of mourning for the loss of Messiah, such as was observed for Moses and Aaron.
- The great mourning over Messiah is prophesied in Zechariah 12.

However, it may also be that some time will be necessary to purify the new Temple of God that will be a centerpiece of the Millennial Kingdom.

- It would be fitting for the new temple to be inaugurated on Hanukkah.
- Interestingly, there are always **75** days from the Day of Atonement to Hanukkah. The extra 75 days of which the angel spoke may correspond to the 75 days on the Jewish calendar between Yom Kippur and Hanukkah.

We have only scratched the surface here in studying the feasts!

In the cycle of planting and growing and harvesting, God decided to paint a wonderful picture of salvation through the Son.

The Feasts of the Lord

Feast	Date	Meaning	Status
Passover (Pesach)	March/April	Redemption Sacrifice/Death of Messiah	Fulfilled
Unleavened Bread	March/April	Sanctification Burial of Messiah/No Decay	Fulfilled
<u>Firstfruits</u> Grain harvest	March/April	Resurrection Resurrection of Messiah	Fulfilled
Weeks (Shavuot)	May/June	Pentecost Holy Spirit Sent by Messiah	Fulfilled
Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)	Sept/Oct	Jewish New Year Messiah returns to Israel	FUTURE
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Sept/Oct	Day of Atonement Messiah saves Israel	FUTURE
Tabernacles/Booths (Sukkot)	Sept/Oct	Wedding Feast/Golden Age Messiah starts Millennium	FUTURE

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