

Jesus The Messiah: Session 9 - Jesus In The Feasts Of Israel

1. Review: The Cross, the “sign spoken against.”

2. Introduction: Seeing Christ in the Feasts of Israel.

In Hebrew they are the *moedim* – the appointed times of the Lord. The primary Scripture reference for studying the *moedim* is Leviticus 23.

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.

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.”

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.

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....”

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....

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....”

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. The Feasts

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

4. Passover.

Passover of course is the most well-known national holiday of Israel. It commemorates how God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Jesus was prophetically called the Lamb of God, and as the one who would bear away our sin, He fulfilled the elements of the Passover. *Christ our passover is sacrificed for us... (1 Cor. 5:7)*

5. Unleavened Bread.

This feast is symbolic of the holiness of Christ in his church, symbolic of your walk with the Lord in general, walking united with Christ. The seven speaks of spiritual perfection

and so the seven days of unleavened bread symbolize your whole life. Leaven is usually symbolic of sin and Paul tells us in 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

This feast speaks of new life and the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Jesus was raised from the dead on firstfruits. He is also called the firstfruits of the resurrection.

7. Pentecost

Pentecost marked the beginning of the harvest season, and of course on the Day of Pentecost and Acts Chapter 2 the harvest of souls of both Jews and Gentiles began.

The offering of Pentecost was unique because it involved bread which contained leaven. There were two loaves that were presented, waved before the Lord. What do they mean, and why bread with leaven?

For Jewish people Pentecost also marked the celebration of the giving of the Law, the giving of the Torah. And just as the First Covenant was announced on the Feast of Weeks, the New Covenant began to be announced on the Day of Pentecost also.

8. A Word About The Calendar And The Fall Feasts.

Now those are the spring feasts. And there is a gap between the spring feasts and the fall feasts. This reflects the time necessary for the harvest to grow up! The calendar is keyed to the realities of growing crops in the climate of the Land of Israel.

The Jewish calendar works on the moon and the sun, not like the Calendar of most Gentiles, which at least in Western civilization runs on the motion of the Earth around the Sun. The Jewish year is about 11 days shorter than our year of 365 days.

The way that the calendar is rectified for the difference is by adding leap months. We have a leap year in which we add a day, but Jews have a certain number of **leap months** in the calendar. They add 7 additional months in 19 years.

9. Rosh Hashanah / Yom Teruah.

There are three main feasts in the Fall. The first one is Rosh Hashanah, which more biblically we could call the Feast of Trumpets, or sometimes Yom Teruah. Rosh Hashanah is often referred to as the Jewish New Year. Some people see in this holiday in reference to the rapture. There is the blowing of a trumpet, and then people are gathered to stand before the Lord.

10. The Day of Atonement.

The second of the fall feasts is the Day of Atonement which you of course have also heard referred to as Yom Kippur. This day comes 10 days after Rosh HaShanah. The 10-day period between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur is a time of repentance and soul-searching, sometimes referred to as the ten terrible days or the days of awe. Some have suggested that Christ will literally return and rescue Israel and send away the sin of Israel on a future Day of Atonement. The ten days in between symbolize the last chance at repentance following the Rapture and before His return.

11. Tabernacles.

Five days after the Day of Atonement begins the feast of booths or tabernacles, which the Jewish people call Sukkot. That word just the plural of the Hebrew word *sukkah* which means a tabernacle, booth or tent. This feast is symbolic of the millennium, the millennial kingdom when Christ will reign on the earth for 1000 years. It's the one that Gentiles were called to celebrate. In the Kingdom of Messiah, the Gentiles are once again summoned to come and worship in Jerusalem and celebrate the feast of Tabernacle's together. It will be a wonderful celebration, symbolizing that all of the struggle of the harvest is over, and then the people of God enter into their rest.

12. Concluding thoughts on the *moedim*.

The feasts not only speak of Christ, but Christ actually **is to us** that feast in all of its glory. For example, Christ not only died for us on Passover, he **is** our Passover. He is the lamb who took away the sin of the world. Christ was not only raised from the dead on the feast of firstfruits, he is the firstfruits of the resurrection. Just as the Torah was presented to the people on the Day of Pentecost as the basis for the contract or a covenant, in the same way Jesus Christ was presented to the people as the basis of the new covenant on Pentecost. Jesus is the holy bread from heaven, unleavened bread, and we draw life from him, living in his Holy Spirit power, so that we also can live unleavened lives of holiness.

13. What about Hanukkah?

Hanukkah celebrates the miracle that the oil of the temple was miraculously allowed to last for eight days when the Jewish people were rededicating the Temple after fighting against the evil king Antiochus Epiphanes. Is Hanukkah and its significance prophesied in the Old Testament at all?

(12:5) Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood another two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river.

(6) And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

(7) And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that lives for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half [1260 days]; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

(8) And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?

(9) And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

(10) Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; 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 shall be taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety [1290] days.

(12) Blessed is he that waits, and comes to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty [1335] days.



Daniel's 70th Week: 1260 Days + 1260 Days = 7 Years
After Christ's return come an additional 30+45 Days

FEASTS OF ISRAEL

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 (<u>Sukkot</u>)	Sept/Oct	Wedding Feast/Golden Age Messiah starts Millennium	FUTURE

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