

Bible Basics - Chapter 7

Festivals/ Feasts- God's appointed times

1) Sabbath (Leviticus 23:3)- Day of sacred assembly, day of rest. Jesus is our Sabbath rest (Matthew 11:28)

2) Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread– (Leviticus 23:5, 6) – Jesus Christ is our Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7) whose blood was shed for our sins. As the first passover, delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage, Christ our passover lamb delivers us from bondage to sin. Feast of the Unleavened Bread points to the Messiah's sinless life. Passover is celebrated on the 14th day of the first month of the Jewish religious calendar, the month of Aviv/Nisan (March-April). Feast of the Unleavened Bread begins on 15th day of the first month and lasts for 7 days.

3) First Fruits (Leviticus 23:10) – Points to the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the first fruits of the righteous. In Canaan, when the Israelites reaped their harvest, they were to bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain they harvested.

Nisan- Spring (latter rains) – Barley and flax harvest. Traditional anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve.

4) Weeks or Pentecost (Harvest)(Leviticus 23:16) – Occurred fifty days after the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and points to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the large harvest of souls in the Church age. This feast was celebrated in the month of Sivan (May-June).

Sivan- Wheat harvest.

5) Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24) – The first of the fall/autumn feasts. This points to the Rapture of the Church when Jesus will appear in the clouds. The Rapture is associated in with the blowing of a loud trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:52). This feast was celebrated on the first day of the 7th month (Ethanim/Tishri) (September-October).

Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah) is the Jewish civil New Year. 1st day of the 7th month

Ethanim/Tishri- Autumn (Early rains) – plowing

6) Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) (Sabbath of Sabbaths) (Leviticus 23:27) – This points to the day of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ when He will return to earth. That will be the Day of Atonement for the Jewish remnant. This was celebrated on the 10th day of the seventh month.

7) Tabernacles or Booths (Ingathering) (Sukkot) (Leviticus 23:34) – This feast points to the Lord's promise that He will once again "tabernacle" with His people when He returns to reign over all the world. It begins on the 15th day of the 7th month and lasts for 7 days. 1st and 8th days are both Sabbath rests. Israelites were to live in temporary shelters made of branches from palms and willow trees for 7 days. This was for their descendants to know that the Israelites lived in temporary shelters

when God brought them out of Egypt.

The feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Weeks have already been fulfilled by Jesus Christ in the New Testament. The fall feasts have yet to be fulfilled; they will be fulfilled at the return of Jesus Christ.

Other Jewish feasts/holy days or years

1) Hannukah/Dedication (Festival of Lights) – In the month of Kislev (November-December). It commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire [165 B.C.]. Celebrated for 8 days and nights. Mentioned in John 10:22.

Kislev- Winter rains begin

2) Purim– In the month of Adar (February-March)- It commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, who was planning to kill Mordecai, Esther and all the Jews.

3) Sabbath year (Leviticus 25:1-7) – 7th year- Year of rest; fallow fields

4) Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25:8-55) – 50th year- Debts cancelled, Slaves liberated, Land returned to original family owners.