

Books of the Bible – Old Testament

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Week 7 – The Feasts



The Biblical Feasts

- All of the Biblical (Jewish) Feasts were commanded by God in the Law (Torah).
- All of the Biblical feasts were times of teaching
 - Each of these celebrations had a historic significance
 - Each of these celebrations also had a prophetic significance
- Normally, we refer to these as the “Jewish feasts” but this term isn’t correct, because they weren’t just created for the Jews.
 - According to the gospels, Jesus celebrated all of the feasts
 - We will probably be celebrating them in heaven

The Jewish Calendar

- The Jews have two calendars:
 - The “civil” calendar
 - The “religious” calendar
- The two calendars start six months apart in the year
- Both calendars use the same names for the months, in the same order, although they are not at the same time.
- Each of the 12 months in the calendar were 29 or 30 days long, making a 354 day long year.
 - They had a “leap month” 7 times in 19 years to account for the difference between their calendar and ours.

The Jewish Calendar

Name of Month	Our Month	Civil Calendar	Religious
Tishri	Sep-Oct	1	7
Heshvan	Oct-Nov	2	8
Chislev	Nov-Dec	3	9
Tebeth	Dec-Jan	4	10
Shebat	Jan-Feb	5	11
Adar	Feb-Mar	6	12
Nisan	Mar-Apr	7	1
Iyar	Apr-May	8	2
Sivan	May-Jun	9	3
Tammuz	Jun-Jul	10	4
Ab	Jul-Aug	11	5
Elul	Aug-Sep	12	6

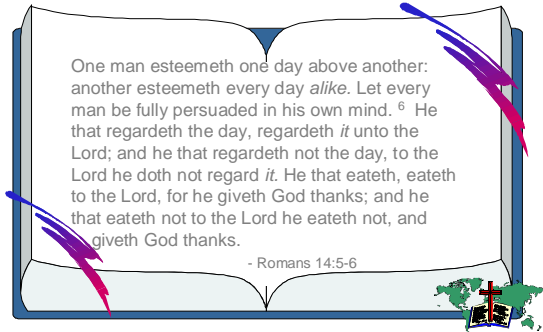
The Biblical Feasts

- Every seventh day is the Shabbat
- Every month there is a New Moon Festival
- The religious calendar starts on the first New Moon Festival in the Spring

The Biblical Feasts

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. ⁶ He that regardeth the day, regardeth *it* unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard *it*. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

- Romans 14:5-6



The Major Feasts

- The Spring Feasts:
 - Passover
 - Feast of Unleavened Bread
 - First Fruits
 - Shavuot Pentecost
 - The Omer
- The Fall Feasts:
 - Rosh Hashanah (Feast of Trumpets)
 - Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
 - Sukkoth (Feast of Tabernacles)
 - Simchat Torá (Celebration of the Law)

Categories of the Feasts

- They are divided into two groups by season
 - The Spring Feasts – which speak prophetically about the first coming of Christ
 - The Fall Feasts – which speak of the second coming of Christ
- The Pilgrimage Festivals – all the people of Israel (at least the men) had to go to Jerusalem
 - Pesach (Passover)
 - Shavuot (Pentecost)
 - Sukkoth (Tabernacles)
- Patriotic Festivals – since the rebirth of Israel

Prophetic Symbolism

- The Spring Feasts:
 - Passover – the death and resurrection of Christ
 - First Fruits – Jesus as the firstborn of many
 - Pentecost – The coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church
- The Fall Feasts:
 - Rosh Hashanah – the rapture
 - Yom Kippur – the wedding of the Lamb
 - Tabernacles – the 7 years we spend in heaven during the tribulation

Passover

- For the Jews, Passover is celebrated in remembrance of the exodus from slavery in Egypt
 - The name "Passover" comes from the last plague that God used to free them from slavery; when the angel of death "passed over" the houses of the Israelites, but killed the firstborn of Egypt
- The Jews killed the Passover lamb in memory of how God brought them out of Egypt
- We have received the celebration of the Lord's Supper from this feast
- Everything in the Passover festival speaks symbolically of the death and resurrection of Christ.
- It is also called the feast of Unleavened Bread
 - They eat unleavened bread for the 7 days of this feast

Jesus in the Passover

- When Jesus celebrated the Last Supper, He was celebrating the Passover.
- Looking for Elijah – The last verses in the Old Testament, in Malachi, say that Elijah would come before the Messiah.
- Washing – Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. Because, when we have been washed in His blood, we are clean. However, contact with the world can cause us to receive spots, and we need to be washed again.
- Karpas (green vegetable) and salt – Our life in Christ. Saltwater is like tears, Jesus said: "My soul is afflicted, even unto death"

Jesus in the Passover

- Unleavened bread (Afikoman)
 - Bread is a symbol of the body. Leavening is a symbol of sin. Unleavened bread is a person without sin, Jesus.
 - There are lines of holes, Jesus “was pierced for our transgressions” (Is 53:5)
 - Between the lines of holes are brown lines. Jesus “was striped for our iniquities” (Is 53:5)
 - The bread is broken – the body of Christ was broken and died for us.
- One part (the Afikoman) is hidden, with a covering of cloth, till the end of the celebration when the children search for it. Whichever of the children discover it receive a prize. – When Jesus died, he was wrapped in cloth and buried. But he didn’t stay in the ground, and resurrected the third day. Whoever discovers Jesus receives the prize of eternal life.

Jesus in the Passover

- They eat the bread – at the Last Supper, Jesus divided the bread and shared it with his disciples.
- Lamb – Jesus is the true lamb of God.
- Cup of wine – Jesus took the third cup, which had His name “salvation” and shared it with His disciples.
- The Maror (bitter herb) and the Charoset – persecution and work for the Lord, even though our work can be bitter at times, it is always sweet as well.

The Omer

- The Omer (literally measure) refers the 50 days waiting for Pentecost
- It is considered to be a time of forgetting about yourself and your selfish desires
- It is also a time to remember the 40 years that the nation of Israel wandered in the wilderness.
- Symbolizes the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness after John baptized Him.
- It also symbolizes the time that the apostles had to wait for the coming of the promised Holy Spirit.

First Fruits

- Historically, this is a reminder of the first fruits, specifically Jericho, that the people of Israel required to give to God when they entered the promised land.
- They brought the first fruits to the temple as a wave offering
 - By this they sanctified their crops and harvest
 - When the plants were growing, they would tie a ribbon around the branch where the first fruits were growing, to identify it as property of the Lord
- There was no exact date for the celebration of first fruits, it could be celebrated at any time during the Omer, when one was ready.
- Jesus was and is the first fruit of God’s kingdom, having become “the firstborn of many brethren.”

Pentecost

- For the Jews, looking back, this day represented the day that Moses received the stone tablets with 10 Commandments
- Prophetically this day speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit
- This celebration marks the end of the harvest
- The Jews read the book of Ruth on this day. In this story, Boaz represents the Lord, Jesus, as our redeemer

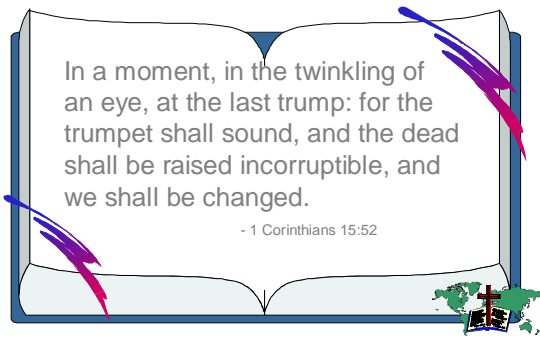
The In-Between Tim

- If we look at the feasts in the prophetic sense, the church age, that in which we live, is between the Spring Festivals and the Fall Festivals.

Rosh Hashanah

- In the historic sense, this feast speaks of the Jews entering into the promised land under the leadership of Joshua.
- On this day, they blow the shofar for 100 blasts.
 - In the Bible, there are two types of trumpets mentioned, the shofar (ram's horn trumpet) and the silver trumpet. Of the two, the shofar is the more common
- This day marks the Jewish New Year
- In the prophetic sense, this festival speaks of the rapture of the church.

The Rapture



In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- 1 Corinthians 15:52

Rosh Hashanah

- The ceremony of stones
 - The people go to the ocean, if of none is available to a river or lake, collecting stones in their pockets along the way.
 - At the water, they take the stones from their pockets, one at a time, and identify each with an area of sin in their lives. Then they throw the stones as far as they can into the water.
 - Some stones are white, others black; some are ugly, while others are pretty; some are large, and others small. But, in the end, all are equal, for they are all stones. Likewise, all sin is equal, it separates us from the love of God.

Yom Kippur

- The day of atonement (atonement for our sins) – the only day of the year where the High Priest was allowed to enter into the Holy of Holies.
- Historically, symbolizes the time when God opened the Red Sea for the nation of Israel to pass through.
- This is the only solemn feast of the year, all the others are joyful celebrations; all the nation fasts on this day.
- The "scapegoat" is sent into the desert on this day.
- Prophetically, this feast speaks of the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.

Sukkot (Tabernacles)

- The Jews stay (or at least eat) in temporary, fragile shelters, or booths for 7 days.
 - These "tabernacles" must be weak – our bodies are temporary weak habitations
 - You must be able to see the stars through the roof, and also see through the walls
 - They decorated these booths as we do the Christmas tree
- Historically, this is a reminder of the 40 years when the nation of Israel lived in tents, wandering in the wilderness
 - Specifically remembering how God provided for them

Sukkot (Tabernacles)

- Prophetically, it speaks of the 7 years of the tribulation, when the church will be in heaven with Christ
- The family would gather under the father's prayer shawl, and he would pray for them – symbolically speaking of God spreading his "wings" over us.
- The birth of Christ was probably in a Sukka (tabernacle), during or immediately after this festival.

Simchat Torah

- Celebrated on the last day of Sukkot
- A celebration of the Torah (law)
- They form a parade, led by the scrolls of the law, in the synagogue