

Leviticus 23:1-22**4-26-01****“The Feasts!”****1. Intro: (1,2)**

- 1.1. **New section!** - Chapter 23-25 speaks of the Feasts(7), or the special occasions for worship!
- 1.2. The idea of “**seven**” enters in to all these feasts.
 - 1.2.1. There are 7 feasts(we’ll take 4 this week)!
 - 1.2.2. Also, Weekly, monthly, yearly, the seventh year, the 50th year, all deal with the #7.
- 1.3. **(1,2) Feasts** = Nothing to do with eating. (Day of Atonement was a fast)
 - 1.3.1. **“It meant appointed times”**.
 - 1.3.2. **2 Hebrew words are used for feasts:**
 - 1.3.3. **mo’ed** (set feasts, or appointed feasts)
 - 1.3.3.1. **General term** refers to **all** the sacred feasts.
 - 1.3.4. **hag** (feast)
 - 1.3.4.1. This word for “feast” speaks of **special Joy & festivity**.
 - 1.3.4.2. This word was designated for **3 feasts**: **Unleavened; Pentecost; & Tabernacle**.
 - 1.3.4.3. This was mandatory for all able-bodied men over the age of 20.
- 1.4. **Convocation** = Proclamation, or announcement.
 - 1.4.1. **So, The Lord appointed & announced these events!**
- 1.5. **Let’s talk Calendars!**
 - 1.5.1. The most foolish thing about people setting dates today is that they use **our** calendar & not Gods!
 - 1.5.1.1. God strangely seems to always use the one **He gave!**
 - 1.5.1.2. In the tribulation time he marks the days by the old Jewish 360 day calendar.
 - 1.5.1.2.1. **Rev. 12:6** - 1260 days(360x3 ½ yrs)
 - 1.5.1.2.2. **Dan. 12:11** – 1290 days (after trib. xtra 30 days)
 - 1.5.1.2.3. **Dan. 12:12** – 1335 days (after 30 days, xtra 45 days)
 - 1.5.2. The development of the modern calendar:

- 1.5.2.1. **Julius Caesar** – (cent before Christ came) He sees the calendar is out of step w/nature – orders **Sosigenes** to straighten it out. – He temporarily adds nearly 3 months giving the year 46bc, 445 days!
 - 1.5.2.1.1. Thus the **Julian** calendar.
 - 1.5.2.1.2. July/Julius; August/Augustus.
- 1.5.2.2. **Pope Gregory 13th** – (1502-85) Commissioned the calendar we use today. It's a **revision** of the Julian calendar.
- 1.5.2.3. **Great Britain** – & its colonies adopted the "**Gregorian**" calendar in 1752, Sept. 3rd became Sept. 14 (11 days disappeared from British History!)
 - 1.5.2.3.1. 20 year old **George Washington** found his b-day moved from Feb. 11 to Feb. 22.
- 1.5.2.4. **Today** – we heavily depend on our calendar. (I do!)
- 1.5.2.5. **Yet, the children of Israel didn't!** – They worked from sunrise to sunset; counted months by the moon(lunar); & watched the seasons come & go.
- 1.5.2.6. **Gen.8:22** "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."
- 1.5.3. God gave Israel His own calendar tied to the **rhythm** of the **seasons** & the history of the nation.
 - 1.5.3.1. This calendar summarized what God **had done** for them in there **past!**
 - 1.5.3.2. This calendar also anticipated what God **would do** for them in the **future!**
 - 1.5.3.2.1.(i.e.) **Their Feasts depict** – Salvation work of J.C.; the founding of the church; & the future of the people of Israel.
- 1.6. We will look at 4 feasts, & we will: **Look Back**; **Look Forward**; & **Look Inside!**

2. **THE WEEKLY SABBATH! (3)**

- 2.1. Wasn't an annual feast but it was an important day for the Jewish people!
 - 2.1.1. **Ex.31:13** "Speak also to **the children of Israel**, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign **between Me and you** throughout your generations,'"
 - 2.1.2. To dishonor it meant death.
- 2.2. **LOOKING BACK!**
 - 2.2.1. It was to remind them of the days of creation, & God resting or "ceasing from labor" on the 7th day. It also was re-instituted when they got out of Egypt.
 - 2.2.2. This provided rest & refreshment.

2.3. **LOOKING AHEAD!**

- 2.3.1. This “**rest**”, even as Joshua brought them into the land, was never really realized by occupying the land. It is only to be fully realized in the person & work of Christ.
- 2.3.2. **Heb.4:8-11** “For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a **rest** for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore **be diligent to enter that rest**, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.”

2.4. **LOOKING INSIDE!**

- 2.4.1. **Q:** Have you entered into the rest that Jesus provides?
- 2.4.1.1. The principle in resting one in 7 days is a good one! – But Christian are you resting in Him 24/7?

3. FEAST #1 - PASSOVER! (4-6)

- 3.1. The **Passover & The Feast of Unleavened Bread** are practically one festival, but it was here clearly a “separate” idea.

3.2. **LOOKING BACK!**

- 3.2.1. This celebrated the deliverance from Egypt. Which marked the beg. (the 1st b-day) of the **national life** of the Israelites from Egypt!
- 3.2.2. The innocent lamb died for the 1st born; because the blood of the lamb was applied to the door by faith, the 1st born sons were safe.
- 3.2.2.1. As the death angel “passed-over”!

3.3. **LOOKING AHEAD!**

- 3.3.1. Christ died on the Passover. This pointed to the Substitutionary death of the Lamb of God.
- 3.3.1.1. **Jn.1:29** “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
- 3.3.1.2. **1 Pet.1:19** “with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”
- 3.3.1.3. **1 cor.5:7** “For indeed **Christ, our Passover**, was sacrificed for us.”

3.4. **LOOKING INSIDE!**

- 3.4.1. The 1st born Jews of Israel weren’t saved by **admiring the lamb**, **caring for the lamb**, or **loving the lamb**.
- 3.4.1.1. The **lamb had to be slain**, the **blood applied** to the doorposts of each Jewish house.
- 3.4.2. We aren’t saved by **Christ the Example**, **Christ the Teacher**, **but by Christ the Substitute!**
- 3.4.3. The Christian life of fellowship requires **Separation from Sin & Feeding on Christ**(as they feed on the lamb)

4. FEAST #2 - UNLEAVENED BREAD! (7,8)

4.1. LOOKING BACK!

- 4.1.1. **Not waiting for bread to be leavened**, they prepared, by divine direction, to escape **IN HASTE** (Ex.12)!
- 4.1.2. They also ate **bitter herbs** – to remind them of the oppressions of Egyptian bondage.
- 4.1.3. This feast began the day after Passover & continued for a week.
- 4.1.4. To prepare for this the Israelites would **sweep the house clean** in order that no trace of leaven is found there.(Ex.12:15-20)
 - 4.1.4.1. **Novotel Hotel in Israel** – Explain this trip hitting on this time period.
 - 4.1.4.2. **Leaven loophole!** – Spring cleaning or **Hotel** for the week?
 - 4.1.4.3. **Street Sweeper** – Throw down a piece of bread & watch him go crazy!

4.2. LOOKING AHEAD!

- 4.2.1. This points to the holy walk of the believer! (leaven speaks of sin)
- 4.2.2. **1 Cor.5:6-8** “Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?(one “toxic” Christian in a church body can defile the whole body) **Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast(the Christian life is not a famine or a funeral), not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**”
- 4.2.3. **We are also supposed to put off** “the leaven of malice & wickedness”; “the leaven of hypocrisy”; & “the leaven of false doctrine”.

4.3. LOOKING INSIDE!

- 4.3.1. **Q:** What area in your life can use a **broom**? Or a **street sweeper**?
- 4.3.2. **1 Pet.4:1-5** “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles; when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

5. FEAST #3 - 1ST FRUITS! (9-14)

5.1. LOOKING BACK!

- 5.1.1. In **waving** this sacrifice (holding it out to the altar, & bringing it back again) God was recognized as **the author** of the entire harvest! It was dedicated to Him then it was **received back**(motion sheaves back), representing the harvest had come from him to the worshipper.
 - 5.1.1.1. A portion was burnt on the altar, & the worshipper ate the rest.

- 5.1.2. This was an expression of **gratitude** of God supplying their daily bread.
- 5.1.3. Also, the worshipper couldn't eat the harvest until the 1st fruits were given to the Lord.

5.2. **LOOKING AHEAD!**

- 5.2.1. This points to Christ's resurrection which is the 1st fruits of the resurrection of **all** believers!
- 5.2.2. **1 Cor.15:20-23** "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming."
- 5.2.3. **As God accepted the sheaf for the whole harvest, so as the Father accepted Jesus Christ, we are accepted in Him!!!**
 - 5.2.3.1. **Eph.1:5,6** "having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He has made us accepted in the Beloved.**"
- 5.2.4. **The sheaf is like the harvest!**
 - 5.2.4.1. The priest didn't wave palm branches to represent barley harvest; he waved a sheaf of barley.
 - 5.2.4.2. So we, at the resurrection harvest, shall be like the 1st fruits... "**we shall be like Him!**"

5.3. **LOOKING INSIDE!**

- 5.3.1. **Q:** What do you have to "wave" to Him tonight? - Is there something you'd like to tell the Lord Thank you for?
- 5.3.2. **Q:** How should God's promise... "**we shall be like Him**" change how we live today?
- 5.3.3. **1 Cor.15: 35,38,40,42-44** "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?...God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body...There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another...So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body."

6. **FEAST #4 - WEEKS! (14-22)**

6.1. **LOOKING BACK!**

- 6.1.1. This was called the Feast of Weeks because it was celebrated 7 weeks after 1st fruits(or 50 days after).

- 6.1.2. This was a 1 day feast, which also was on the 1st day of the week(The Lord's Day, our Sunday).
- 6.1.3. They were not to work but rejoice before the Lord w/a **wave** offering along w/a **sacrificial** offering.
- 6.1.4. Instead of waving the **sheaves** of the harvest(the harvest was over now)they were to bring a "corresponding offering" from which God had given them. So they waved **bread** made from the barley harvest!
- 6.1.5. Since this marked the END of Harvest, it makes mention of the need to care for the gleaners!(22)

6.2. LOOKING AHEAD!

- 6.2.1. As it was celebrated on the 1st day of the week(The Lord's Day, our Sunday). Then each "Lord's Day" commemorates **the resurrection of our Lord; the coming of the Holy Spirit; & the birth of the church!**
- 6.2.2. **This is tied to Pentecost!** (Pente/50). The descent of the H.S. after Christ's ascension.
- 6.2.3. **Acts 2:1-4** "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."
- 6.2.4. **God's people can't function properly in this world apart from the ministry of the Holy Spirit!**
 - 6.2.4.1. It is the H.S. who **baptizes** you into the body of Christ. **Empowers** you for **service & witness**. And enables you to endure **persecution & suffering** for the glory of God.
- 6.2.5. **Interesting, there is a 4 month gap in God's calendar until the next feast?**
 - 6.2.5.1. Some see this gap as the **present church age** during which we should be devotedly involved in the harvest. "Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." **Mt.9:37,38**
 - 6.2.5.2. And, eagerly waiting for the sound of the **Trumpet** (next feast!) which is the "gathering together of His people!"

6.3. LOOKING INSIDE!

- 6.3.1. If you are a believer you have been baptized into the body of Christ.
- 6.3.2. **Q:** Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit? (**Read Acts 19:1-6**)