

Leviticus 23:23-44

5-10-01

“3 Feasts!”

1. **Intro:**

1.1. Definitions:

- 1.1.1. **Feasts** = “It meant appointed times”. Nothing to do with eating.
- 1.1.2. **Convocation** = Proclamation, or announcement.

1.2. The 7 Feasts had 2 purposes:

- 1.2.1. [1] To remind the Israelites of their relationship to God.
- 1.2.2. [2] To sketch out a picture of the person & work of J.C.
 - 1.2.2.1. **Christ’s 1st Advent:**
 - 1.2.2.2. **(1) Passover** = substitutionary death of the Lamb of God.
 - 1.2.2.3. **(2) Unleavened Bread** = the holy walk of the believer.
 - 1.2.2.4. **(3) 1st Fruits** = Christ’s Resurrection being the 1st fruits to ours.
 - 1.2.2.5. **(4) Pentecost** = descent of the H.S. after Christ’s Ascension.
 - 1.2.2.6. **Interesting a gap (in the months) between these 2 sets of feast.**
 - 1.2.2.7. **Christ’s 2nd Advent:**
 - 1.2.2.8. **(5) Trumpets** = the future gathering together of God’s people.
 - 1.2.2.9. **(6) Day of Atonement** = the future cleansing of God’s people.
 - 1.2.2.10. **(7) Tabernacles** = the future Joy of God’s people in His Kingdom.

2. **TRUMPETS – GOD IS GATHERING! (23-25)**

- 2.1. The #7 is very important in this calendar & in God’s plan for Israel.
 - 2.1.1. There are 7 feasts. - 3 of them are in the 7th month of the religious calendar, *Tishri*(our Sept./Oct.) { **The Feast of Trumpets** was celebrated on the 1st of this month; the **Day of Atonement** on the 10th of this month; & **Feast of Tab** on the 15th of this month }
 - 2.1.2. (last week)The **Sabbath** is on the 7th day of the week. **Pentecost** is 50 days after 1st fruits(7x7 +1). The Feast of Unleaven Bread & the Feast of Tab both lasted 7 days.
 - 2.1.3. The Hebrew word “**seven**”(sheva) comes form a **root** meaning “to be full, to be satisfied”. It also means “to swear, to make an oath.”
 - 2.1.3.1. “When the Lord “**sevens**” something He’s reminding His people that what He **says & does** is complete & dependable. Nothing can be added to it.”¹

¹ Warren Wiersbe; pg.108

- 2.2. **The Feast of Trumpets was the beginning of their “civil year”.**
- 2.2.1. This is the Jewish New Year! (*Rosh Hashanah*, “the head of the year”)
- 2.2.2. The Scriptures have not expressly declared the reason of its celebration. **But as God gives us “new beginnings” we should not waste them!**
- 2.2.2.1. They used this New Year as, not empty new years resolutions, but as a time for prayer, meditation, & confession.
- 2.2.2.2. They sought to make “a new beginning” with the Lord.
- 2.2.3. **I like challenging those getting baptized** to do this. – **Rededications** accomplish this.
- 2.2.4. Sit back & let this sooth your heart regarding 2nd chances! **“Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD.” Lam.3:22-26**
- 2.3. **A trumpet had 3 meanings to it: [1]** to call the people together **[2]** to announce war **[3]** to announce special times, such as the new moon. (Numb 10:1-10)
- 2.4. **The prophetic message to this feast?**
- 2.4.1. **A trumpet sound for Israel!** - Because of Israel’s unbelief & rejection of Christ, Israel became a **scattered people**, but God will **gather them again** to their land in the last days.
- 2.4.1.1. We saw this process start on May 14, 1948.
- 2.4.1.2. **See - Is.27:12,13 (also Mt.24:29-31)**
- 2.4.2. **A trumpet sound for the Church!** – **1 Cor.15:52** “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the **trumpet** will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and **we shall be changed.**” (also, **1 Thes. 4:13-19**)
- 2.4.2.1. We await to be gathered together!

3. ATONEMENT – GOD IS FORGIVING! (26-32)

- 3.1. It is also known as *Yom Kippur*.
- 3.2. **Atonement** = to make amends, to set things right. (Also to remove by paying a price) - It involves **Substitution & Satisfaction**.
- 3.2.1. **Substitution** – Key phrase “**on behalf of**” (Jesus didn’t die for Himself, but for us)
- 3.2.2. **Satisfaction** – Jesus satisfied God’s holy justice. He received His wrath for us.

- 3.2.2.1. **John Stott**, "We strongly reject, therefore, every explanation of the death of Christ which does not have at its center the principle of '**satisfaction through Substitution**' indeed divine self-satisfaction through divine self-substitution."
- 3.2.2.2. **Vance Havner** said, "We're getting people to say "**Here I am**" before they have ever said, "**Woe is me!**"

- 3.3. It was a time where all work was suspended.
- 3.4. It was a time of affliction of soul(fasting, praying & confessing sin).
- 3.5. It required the people to confess their sin & trust God for cleansing.
- 3.6. This points to **future cleansing** that will take place **Zech.13:1,2** "In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, **for sin and for uncleanness**. "It shall be in that day," says the LORD of hosts, "that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land."
- 3.7. **The forgiveness of God!**
 - 3.7.1. God does not wish us to remember what he is willing to forget.
 - 3.7.2. Our God has a big eraser!

4. **TABERNACLES – GOD IS FAITHFUL! (33-44)**

- 4.1. This is also called, the "Festival of **Sukkot**"(means "booths") so the title, "Festival of Booths". It is also called the "Feast of Ingathering"(as it was at the completion of the Harvest)
 - 4.1.1. This was the most joyful feast of the year! - A festival packed with **Joy & feasting** lasting 1 week!
 - 4.1.2. This came right after the Day of Atonement.
 - 4.1.2.1. **True Joy** comes only when we know we are right w/God !
 - 4.1.2.2. **Ps.7,8,12** "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. - Make me hear **joy and gladness**, That the bones You have broken may rejoice... Restore to me the **joy** of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit."
- 4.2. **How they celebrated this? (42)**
 - 4.2.1. Families would erect flimsy shelters made of branches of trees. All native Israelites would live outdoors this week.
 - 4.2.1.1. We saw this a couple of trips back up in Galilee in the lot next to our hotel.

- 4.3. **Why they celebrated this? (43)**
- 4.3.1. This reminded them of the days in the wilderness w/Moses.
 - 4.3.2. Though they were now in the promise land, living in stone houses, they were never to forget that the covenant people dare not “dig in” in this life!
 - 4.3.3. They were being reminded that they were still pilgrims on the march from birth to death.
 - 4.3.3.1. What great **object lessons** we have here. - **Parents** next camp-out you take your tikes on, spend a night using this as a devotion, as a reminder that we are pilgrims also, just passing through.
 - 4.3.3.2. **See - Col.3:1-7.**
- 4.4. **It is similar to our Thanksgiving Day Celebration:**
- 4.4.1. Our American pilgrims, who originated the Thanksgiving holiday, were deeply religious people. They were expressing their thanks for their survival, and for the harvest, & probably based their holiday in part on Sukkot.
- 4.5. The Feast of Tab. also commemorated the “**Faithfulness of God**”.
- 4.5.1. The Lord showed Himself faithful from the beginning to the end of the wilderness wanderings.
 - 4.5.2. As the **Passover** commemorated the beginning of that experience, so the **Feast of Tabernacles** recalled the experience itself.
 - 4.5.3. **Read 2 Thes.3:3-5!**
- 4.6. **In later years, they added two more rituals/traditions to the climax of the feast.**
- 4.7. **[1] The pouring out of water!**
- 4.7.1. The High Priest, marched down to the pool of Siloam carrying a golden pitcher to scoop up water from the pool. He would then carry it back up to the temple area & pour it on the altar of sacrifice.
 - 4.7.2. This reminded them of God’s provision of water in the desert.
 - 4.7.3. As they did this they would quote **Is. 12:3** “Therefore with **joy** you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” & **Psalms 114:7,8** “Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, At the presence of the God of Jacob, Who turned the rock into a pool of water, The flint into a fountain of waters.”
 - 4.7.4. Now turn to the gospel of **John 7:37-39** & watch this chapter come alive! - It was probably at this dramatic moment that Jesus proclaims...

- 4.8. [2] **The lighting of the large lamps!**
- 4.8.1. After the sun had set **2 great lamps** were lit in the temple court.
 - 4.8.2. They were meant to recall the pillar of fire by night that had accompanied the children of Israel in their wanderings.
 - 4.8.3. Now turn to **John 8:12** & watch this verse come alive! - It was probably because of this that Jesus proclaims...
- 4.9. In **Jn. 6** Jesus was “the manna come down from heaven”!
In **ch.7** Jesus was “the water miraculously provided from the rock”!
In **ch.8** “He is the worlds light.”