



7 FEASTS OF ISRAEL PART 1

Leviticus 23:1- 44

1. 7 Feasts

1. Passover
2. Unleaven Bread
3. Sheaf of First Fruits
4. Weeks (Pentecost)
5. Blowing of Trumpets
6. Day of Atonement
7. Booths or Tabernacles

2. Passover (vs. 5)

- The Passover celebrated God's great deliverance of His people from Egyptian slavery.
 - a. God had told His people that He was going to execute severe judgment upon the Egyptians.
 - b. He was going to send the angel of death throughout the land and execute the firstborn son of every Egyptian family.
 - c. Then and only then would Pharaoh release God's people from their four hundred years of enslavement.
 - d. But God's people could escape the judgments.
 - e. How? By believing God and trusting the blood of the sacrificial substitute.
 - f. God did just that: Note: Ex. 12:23-27
- The Passover is a symbol of Jesus Christ our Passover who was sacrificed for us.
- Jesus Christ is the perfect fulfillment of the Passover Lamb that was slain in behalf of God's people.
- Through the blood of Jesus Christ, a person escapes the judgment of God. God accepts the blood of the substitute sacrifice as full payment for the sins committed by a person.
- Note that the Passover is His sign or prophetic picture of the coming Savior, of His salvation and redemption.
 - a. Jn.1:29
 - b. 1 Cor.5:7
 - c. Gal.1:4
 - d. Eph.5:2

- e. Tit.2:14
- f. 1 Pt.1:18-19
- g. Is.53:5-7

3. Unleaven Bread (vs. 6-8)

- This festival recalled the need and urgency of God's people to leave Egypt.
 - a. After God's hand of judgment fell, events moved rapidly.
 - b. The Egyptians were desperate for Pharaoh to release the Israelites and get rid of them.
 - c. In fact, the Israelites were forced to leave so quickly that they had no time to adequately prepare.
 - d. They did not even have time to let their dough rise; they had no time to put yeast or leaven in their bread.
 - e. They were forced to take unleavened bread.
 - f. There was the need and the urgency to get out of Egypt immediately.
 - g. This is a symbol of a believer's need and urgency to be freed from the world.
- Note the facts given in this passage concerning the Feast or Festival of Unleavened Bread.
 - a. The festival was to begin on the day after Passover.
 - b. For seven days the people were to eat unleavened bread, bread made without any yeast whatsoever (v.6).
 - c. They were to assemble or gather together on the first day of worship.
 - d. They were to do no regular work on that day (v. 7).
 - e. The people were to approach God for atonement on each of the seven days, for reconciliation and forgiveness of sins (v.8).
 - f. Scripture tells us elsewhere that the offerings were to be a Burnt Offering and a Sin Offering.
 - g. Note: Numbers 28:16-25 h. The people were to assemble on the seventh day for worship.
- The Feast or Festival of Unleavened Bread paints a clear picture for the believer.
 - a. It symbolizes the need and urgency for the believer to be freed from the world and its enslavement to sin and death.
 - b. There is a need - an urgent, desperate need - to be delivered from all the oppressions and pollutions of this world, from all the sin and evil, immorality and lawlessness, corruption and death of this world.
 - c. There is a need and urgency to be set free and liberated to live for God.
 - d. There is a desperate need and urgency to begin the march to the promised land of heaven.
 - e. Note the prophetic picture:

- i. The Passover pictures salvation, deliverance, and redemption.
- ii. The Festival of Unleavened Bread pictures the immediate need and urgency to begin the march to the Promised Land.
- iii. Several Scriptures speak of the urgency for deliverance.
 1. Is 55:6
 2. 2 Cor 6:2
 3. 1 Cor 7:29
 4. Eph 5:15-16
 5. Phil 3:20
 6. 2 Tim 4:8

4. Sheaf of First- Fruits

- This festival was to thank God for the crops, for the harvest of food that gave people life.
- This was a symbol of Christ's resurrection: He is the first of the harvest, the first to arise from the dead.
- Note some specifics concerning this feast.
 - a. This festival could not begin until the people had entered the Promised Land (v. 10).
 - b. They, of course, could not plant crops out in the desert while they were marching to the Promised Land.
 - c. Once they arrived and began planting crops, they were to give the first of their harvest to the LORD during this festival.
 - d. They were to take a sheaf, that is, a stalk, here and there, bundle it together, and bring it to the priest.
 - e. He was then to take the sheaf and wave it as an offering before the LORD.
 - f. This was to be done on the day after the Sabbath, which would be Sunday.
 - g. After giving the wave offering to the LORD, the priest was to approach God for atonement through a special Burnt Offering.
 - h. Note also that a special Grain Offering was to be offered to the LORD, a Grain Offering two times larger than usual.
- The result:
 - a. The aroma of the burning sacrifice and Grain Offering ascended up, symbolizing God's acceptance.
 - b. He was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice, the obedience of the people.
 - c. But, there was one clear prohibition: the people had to put God first.
 - d. They were not to eat any of the harvest until the Firstfruit Offering was given to God.
 - e. This was to be a permanent law for all the generations to come, no matter where the Israelites lived.

- The application for us today.
 - a. The believer is to give God the first of his harvest, the first of his income.
 - b. He is to tithe, for the tithe belongs to the LORD.
 - c. The tithe should be an expression of appreciation and thanksgiving to God, for God is the One who has given us all that we have.
 - d. Our crops and jobs are due to Him; so is our health that enables us to work and earn a living.
 - e. We are to honor God by giving Him the firstfruits to support the local church and the work of God around the world.
 - i. 1 Cor.16:2
 - ii. 2 Cor.9:6 - 7
 - iii. Lev.27:30
 - iv. Dt.16:17
 - v. Mal.3:10

- The Festival of Firstfruits is also a symbol of the LORD's resurrection.
 - a. Christ is the first of the harvest, the first to arise from the dead.
 - b. It is Jesus Christ and His resurrection that give the believer hope of arising from the dead to live eternally with God.
 - c. The prophetic picture of salvation is this:
 - i. The Passover symbolized the believer's deliverance or redemption from the world.
 - ii. The Festival of Unleavened Bread symbolized the urgency of the believer to leave the world to begin his march to the Promised Land.
 - iii. The Festival of Firstfruits symbolizes the glorious hope the believer has as he marches toward the promise land, the hope of being raised from the dead to live eternally with God-all because of the resurrection of Christ.
 1. Acts 26:23
 2. 1 Cor.15:20 - 23
 3. 2 Cor.4:14
 4. 1 Pt.1:3 - 4

5. Summary

The price has been paid for us

FEASTS OF ISRAEL

