



7 FEASTS OF ISRAEL PART 2

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. Weeks (Pentecost) (vs 15 - 22)

- The purpose of this festival was to give thanksgiving to God for the harvest and to dedicate one's life anew to God.
- The Festival of Harvest (Ex.23:16) is sometimes called "The Feast of Weeks" or "The Firstfruits of the Wheat Harvest" (Ex.34:22).
- The festival is also a prophetic symbol of the great harvest of souls that took place when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in the upper room (Acts 2:1).
- It was a joyful occasion celebrating the end of the harvest season and dedicating one's life anew to God.
 - a. Historic observation.
 - i. The people were to give a wave offering of Firstfruits to the LORD, using two fresh loaves of bread (v. 17).
 - ii. In this particular offering, leavened bread (bread with yeast) had to be brought (Lev. 2: 11; 7:13).
 - iii. The people were to approach God for atonement, seeking God's reconciliation and acceptance through the Burnt Offering (v. 18).
 1. Note that they were to sacrifice seven male lambs, one young bull and two rams - all with no defect.
 2. Remember that the number seven symbolizes completion, fulfillment, and perfection.
 3. This was a symbol of Christ, His perfect and sinless sacrifice.

- The people had to approach God through the sacrifice of the Sin Offering and another sacrifice for the Fellowship and Peace Offering (v. 19).
- The people were to have the priest take the animal sacrifices and wave them before the LORD as a wave offering, together with the bread of the Firstfruits.
- Note that these were holy offerings belonging to the priest (v.20).
- The people were to declare a sacred assembly on that day: they were to take a day of rest and gather together for worship (v.21).
- The people were to make this a permanent, lasting law for all generations (v.21).
- The people were to help and to protect the poor.
- How? When they reaped the harvest, they were to leave enough for the poor to enter the fields to gather food for survival (v.22).

a. The Prophetic Application.

- i. Remember, the Festival of Firstfruits symbolized the resurrection of Jesus Christ; now the Festival of Harvest symbolizes the events of the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.
- ii. These two festivals were celebrated fifty days apart. v16
- iii. In God's sovereignty, centuries before Christ ever came, God appointed these festivals to paint the prophetic picture of salvation for men.
- iv. What strong evidence for the sovereignty and the truthfulness of Holy Scripture!
- v. The Festival of Harvest or Pentecost symbolized the great harvest of souls, of people giving their lives to God on the great Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was to come upon men.

b. In looking at the prophetic picture of salvation, this is what we have seen this far:

- i. The Passover symbolized God's salvation, the deliverance and redemption from the world by God.
 - ii. The Festival of Unleavened Bread symbolized the need and urgency of the believer to be freed from the world, freed from the enslavement of sin and death.
 - iii. The Festival of Firstfruits symbolized the great hope for the believer as he marched toward the promised land, the great hope of being raised from the dead by the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- As the believer marches to the promised land, he is to be filled with God's Spirit and bear strong testimony, seeking a great harvest of souls.

3. Feast of Trumpets (vs 23 -25)

- The first four feasts that are given in Leviticus 23 describe for us the past work that God has done.
 - a. The Passover = Christ died for our sins.
 - b. The Feast of Unleavened Bread = Cleansing our lives and beginning our journey with Him.
 - c. The Feast of Firstfruits = the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope of our resurrection.
 - d. The Feast of Pentecost = the empowerment of the Holy Spirit for us to be a part of the great harvest of souls.

- These four feasts picture events of the past.
- We are living between the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of Trumpets.
 - a. There is a three-month gap between the two feasts.
 - b. What were the Jewish people doing during this three-month interval?
 - c. They were working the harvest field.
 - d. This is what you and I need to be doing today.

- A. Historical Observation
 - a. The Israelites had two silver trumpets that were used to call the people together and to signal directions as they journeyed to the Promised Land.
 - b. Trumpeters were apparently stationed at regular intervals to pass the signal through the entire camp.
 - c. Remember, there were two to four million Israelites camped around the Tabernacle.
 - i. Num 10:1-2
 - d. The Feast of Trumpets took place on the first day of the seventh month.
 - e. This is also called Rosh Hashanah: the beginning of the Jewish New Year.
 - f. All the information we are given here is that they were to gather together for a memorial.

- B. Prophetic Application
 - a. For the nation of Israel.
 - i. God established the use of trumpets to communicate with the entire nation.
 - ii. It would seem that this memorial would be to remind the nation that God would call them together and would fulfill all of His covenants with His chosen people.
 - iii. This is prophesied in the Scriptures.
 - 1. Joel 2:1
 - 2. Joel 2:15
 - 3. Mat 24:29

4. Mat 24:31

iv. The nation of Israel is a scattered people and this memorial speaks of a time when the God will gather His people together.

b. For the believers today.

- i. The application for us today is that one day there will be a sound of a trumpet that will gather all believers unto the Lord.
- ii. We refer to this event as the Rapture.
- iii. Paul describes it for us in the N.T.
 1. 1 Th 4:16
 2. 1 Cor 15:52

- We are waiting for the sound of the trumpet to call us out of this world.
- As we work and wait we are to be involved in the harvest.
- Jesus is coming soon!
- Let's be faithful to serve Him now until He comes.
- Read: Leviticus 23:26-32

4. Summary

The price has been paid for us