

## Session #23: “THE FALL CELEBRATIONS - FESTIVALS” — Leviticus 23:23-44

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--bottom of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - [philtwente@att.net](mailto:philtwente@att.net)  
For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Leviticus by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and Jon Courson.

### Questions:

- How many times is “holy convocations” mentioned in Chapter 23? How many “special” Sabbaths?
- Are there any reasons why Christians today should celebrate the Feasts?
- Could it be that the leaven in the loaves at Shavuot/Pentecost indicate that it is reasonable to expect impurity in the Church?
- Can you see any similarity between John the Baptist and the blowing of the shofar?
- Could Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles); Feast of Ingathering be behind our celebration of Thanksgiving Day?
- What do we read in the Book of Revelation about the Feast of Tabernacles?

Four celebrations in the spring and **three festivals in the fall** that speak of our Messiah and His work in bringing salvation and hope to both Jew and Gentile.

These celebrations are called “***feasts of***” (“ordained by” and “consecrated to” or “honoring”) ***the LORD***” in **verse 2**, and are proclaimed as “***holy convocations***” and the LORD says “***these are My feasts.***” They are to be regarded as the ***Shabat*** - “no work” is to be done - **v. 3**

1A. PASSOVER - **REDEMPTION** THROUGH MESSIAH’S BLOOD - 23:5

Hebrew name - Chag Hapesach -Time of celebration - **Nisan 14**

2A. UNLEAVENED BREAD - **REMOVAL** OF ALL SIN - 6-8

Hebrew name - Chag Hamatzot -Time of celebration - **Nisan 15-21**

3A. FIRSTFRUITS - **RESURRECTION** OF THE MESSIAH - ***1 Cor. 15:10-23***

Hebrew name - Chag Habikurint -Time of celebration -**first day of week after Passover**

4A. PENTECOST - **RECONCILIATION** OF JEW & GENTILE

Hebrew name - Chag Hashavuot -Time of celebration - **50 days after Firstfruits** - Consider God’s purposes – Foreshadowing of the Church; The ingathering of the Firstfruits – 3,000 coming to the LORD on the Day of Pentecost

**Colossians 2:16-17; 22b**

Changes in the celebration of these festivals changed during the reign of Constantine. Early churches were celebrating these festivals even after the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70. Ash Wednesday and Lent were substitutions for these festivals. Pagan temples were turned into churches. The Roman Senate and all of their robes became the College of Cardinals. The title of all the Early Roman Empires leaders from Augustus to Damesis, when Rome fell in 476 AD, were all called Pontifex Maximus-Supreme Pontiff. The pastor of the church in Rome suddenly decided to take the title of Supreme Pontiff. No Peter was not the first Pope! The whole idea of Pontifex Maximus was a Pagan idea. No, Caesar is not the supreme leader. That is Jesus Christ!!

In Acts 12:4, the translators **translated Passover into “Easter”**! King James in 1611.

The fall festivals occur in the **7th month**; the ***Shabat*** occurs on the 7th day of the week, the sabbatical year is the 7th year; the year of Jubilee is celebrated after **seven** sabbatical years; Shavuot or Pentecost comes **seven** weeks after Firstfruits; Sukkot or Tabernacles continues for **seven** days as does the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The number “**seven**” is a highly significant and religious number, **emphasizing the celebration of God’s character and the worship of Him alone!**

Lev 23:22 "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger; I am the LORD your God." A fitting reminder to care for the poor at we have been discussing the feasts involving harvests. Grapes not mentioned—Spring Feasts were much earlier than the grape harvest. This is God's welfare program! Notice it's not a "give away" program! A wonderful provision!

### The Feast of Trumpets

Lev 23:23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 23:24 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: "In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.

Lev 23:25 You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD."

**RETURN OF THE MESSIAH** - Hebrew name - **Rosh Hashanah** or Yom HaKippurim -Time of celebration - **Tishri 1** - cf. **Leviticus 23:23-25; Num. 29:1-6; Ex. 19:8; Psalms 81:1, 3; 89:15-16.**

The basic themes of the day called **Yom T'ruah**, the day of blowing, includes the sovereignty of God (**Psa. 47:5**) and the faithfulness of God, as in the case of Abraham offering Isaac (**Gen. 22**) - it is also referred to as **Yom Ha Din** - the day of judgment. It is also called **Yom Ha Zikaron**, the day of remembrance, after the word in **Lev. 23:24** - "memorial".

The **SHOFAR** is blown - a curved ram's horn - not a cow's horn - to avoid any connection with the worship of the golden calf. It must be carved, but not painted which would be inappropriate to use in calling us to repentance. It must be bent or curved - reminder of our need of brokenness, humility, and contrition of heart.

The 10 days between **Rosh HaShanah** and Yom Kippur are called the "high holy days" - people dress in white a sign of humility and the need for cleansing - **Isa. 1:18** is read.

The MESSAGE that is announced by the blowing of the **SHOFAR**:

It announces the coming judgment of God - Cf. **Jer. 6:1** (שֹׁפָר סָאֵל פִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל); **Ezek. 33:1-6; Amos 3:6; Zeph. 1:14-18** (סָאֵל פִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְסָאֵל פִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל).

It announces that God will cleanse us from our sins - Tashlich - "cast off" - cf. **Micah 7:18-20.**

It announces the resurrection of the dead - cf. **1 Cor. 15:51-52!!** (σῶμα λείπει); **1 Thess. 4:16!!** (σῶμα λείπει);

It announces the coming of Messiah and His kingdom - **Isaiah 27:12-13; Zech. 9:14; 1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 11:15**

### The Day of Atonement (The Fast)

Lev 23:26 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Lev 23:27 "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. Cf. **Is. 58:3**

Lev 23:28 And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.

Lev 23:29 For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people.

Lev 23:30 And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people.

Lev 23:31 You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

Lev 23:32 It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."

**RESTORATION OF ISRAEL** - Hebrew name - Yom Kippur Time of celebration - **Tishri 10** cf.

**Leviticus 23:26-32; Num 29:7-11; Zech. 12:10; Rom. 11:25-26.** Luke refers to it in **Acts 27:9** as “the FAST” Leviticus 16 - details

It **PORTRAYS the need of repentance** - “afflict your souls” - cf. **Isa. 58:3-9** - the FAST - cf. **Zech. 12:10ff** - “mourning”; repentance (Shabat Shuvah).

It **PICTURES the removal of our sin** - azazel or “scapegoat” - cf. **Psalms 103:12; John 1:29**

It **PROPITIATES** (appeases) **the wrath of God against sin** – “bringing blood to the mercy-seat” - **1 John 2:2** What a wonderful thing! God is not mad at you!

It **POINTS to the need of a high priest** - **Heb. 2:17; 3:1; 4:14; 7:23-28; 8:1; 9:7, 11-12; 10:11-14, 21**

### **The Feast of Tabernacles**

Lev 23:33 *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,*

Lev 23:34 *"Speak to the children of Israel, saying: "The **fifteenth day of this seventh month** shall be the Feast of Tabernacles **for seven days** to the LORD.*

Lev 23:35 *On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it.*

Lev 23:36 *For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and **you shall do no customary work** on it.*

Lev 23:37 *"These are the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day--*

Lev 23:38 *besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD.*

Lev 23:39 *"Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest.*

Lev 23:40 *And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and **you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.***

Lev 23:41 *You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. **It shall be a statute forever in your generations.** You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.*

Lev 23:42 **You shall dwell in booths for seven days.** *All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,*

Lev 23:43 **that your generations may know** *that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: **I am the LORD your God.**"*

Lev 23:44 *So **Moses declared to the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.***

Celebrates the **REIGN OF THE MESSIAH** - Hebrew name - **Sukkot** - **Time of lively celebration** -

**Tishri 15-22** - cf. **Ex. 23:16; 34:22; Leviticus 23:33-44; Num. 29:12-38; Zech. 14:16; Rev. 11:15; 21:3**

Also called “the **Feast of Ingathering**” - or “the **Season of our Rejoicing**”

The root word of the word for “feast” - Chag – means “to dance” or “be joyous” - Cf. **Deut. 16:15**

**More sacrifices than any other feast** - expresses **our thanksgiving to God.** – **Num. 29:12-38**

It is a feast of **REJOICING** - **Lev. 23:40; Neh. 8:10, 17**

It is a feast of **REMEMBRANCE** - **Lev. 23:43** - cf. **Deut. 8:7-18; Psalm 27:5-6** Remembering the days in the wilderness by spending these feast days in booths

It is a feast of **REFRESHING** - **John 7:2, 37-39; Acts 3:19** - 7th day - **Hoshana Rabbah** - “**the great Hosanna**” circled the altar seven times, and repeated this cry seven times

It is a feast of **RESTORATION** - **Zech. 14:16; Rev. 21:3**