

“The Pentateuch”
Leviticus 23
Wednesday May 5, 2010

Leviticus 18-27 Holy Land: How to Live: Sanctification and Holiness:

Leviticus 21-22 Holiness In Our Priestly Service:

Lev 23 God changes the direction of holiness from the priests to the entire nation, as He introduces the religious calendar to the nation of Israel.

The Jewish religious calendar

1. Some dates were used to commemorate great events in the national history of Israel.
2. At specific dates, offerings were to be made unto the Lord.
3. There are 7 feasts or holy convocations detailed. Speaks of redemption and prophetically.

Feasts – “appointed times, set seasons, festival” “feasts” nine times

“holy convocations” ten times. The term convocations - “proclamation” or “announcement.” Calling, a public meeting, reading.

1. Verses 1-3 – The Weekly Sabbath

2. Verses 4-44 – The 7 Feasts Of Israel

1. Verses 1-3 – The Weekly Sabbath:

but on the seventh day there is a Sabbath of complete rest, (“Sabbath” comes from a Hebrew word that means “to rest, to cease from labor.”)

Num. 15: 32-36

The Lord also ordained Sabbath years and the Year of Jubilee (The 49th year after 7 cycles of 7.)

Psalm 147:19-20

2. Verses 4-44 – The 7 Feasts Of Israel:

Israel’s 7 Feasts: Prophecies of Jesus Christ

Prophecies of Jesus Christ: the first 4 feasts that are celebrated in spring and early summer, represent His 1st coming and have already been fulfilled – to the day.

1st Feast – Verses 4-5 – The Passover: Jesus The Lamb Died For Our Sins

Exodus 12

Passover was the beginning of the Jewish religious year; and when sinners trust Christ, it marks for them a new beginning in a new life (2 Cor. 5:21)

1. Israel was not only delivered from judgment:
2. The nation was also delivered from Egypt:
3. Israel was set free to go to their promised inheritance.

2nd Feast – Verses 6-8 – Unleavened Bread: The Christian Life of Fellowship and Separation from Sin.

Leaven – depicts sin.

The people weren't saved from death and bondage by getting rid of leaven but by applying the blood of the lamb by faith.

Lev 23:8

3rd Feast – Verses 9-14 – First Fruits: Jesus Raised From The Dead; Our Future Resurrection.

Matthew 6:33.

Lev 23:12

The burnt offering – spoke of the nation's dedication to God.

Lev 23:11

Jesus Christ is "the firstfruits of them that slept" (1 Cor. 15:20)

Lev 23:14

The fact that this ritual took place on the first day of the week, the Lord's Day; for Jesus Christ arose from the dead on the first day of the week.

4th Feast - Verses – 15-21 Pentecost: The Coming of The Holy Spirit, The Birth of The Church.

Pentecost – was also called “the Feast of Weeks” because it was celebrated seven weeks after First Fruits.

Lev 23: 16

The word “Pentecost” means “fiftieth,” and since the feast was held seven weeks after First Fruits

Lev 23: 17

two loaves of bread for a wave offering; In Acts 2 when fifty days after Christ’s resurrection, the Holy Spirit came and united the believers into the church, symbolized here by the two loaves (Jews and Gentiles).

Lev 23: 18-20

God’s people can’t function properly in this world apart from the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Lev 23: 21-22 Following the Feast of Pentecost, there’s a four-month gap on God’s calendar before the next feast. This gap could represent the age we’re now in, the age of the church, during which we should be devotedly and eagerly waiting for the sound of the trumpet (1 Cor. 15: 51-58; 1 Thess. 4: 13-18).

These final 3 feasts, which are yet to be fulfilled, all take place in the fall and are associated with His 2nd coming

5th Feast – Verses 23-25 – Trumpets: The Gathering Together Of God’s people.

The Hebrew word for “seven” comes from a root word that means “to be full, to be satisfied.” It’s also related to the word meaning “to swear, to make an oath.” Whenever the Lord “sevens” something, He’s reminding His people that what He says and does is complete and dependable. Nothing can be added to it.

Numbers 10: 1-10, the priests blew the silver trumpets for three occasions:

1. To call the people together:
2. To announce war:
3. To announce special times, such as the new moon:

Lev 23: 25

Some of the saints are in heaven and some are on earth, and those on earth are scattered in many tribes and nations. But all of us should be waiting expectantly for the sound of the trumpet and our “gathering together unto Him” (2 Thess. 2:1)

6th Feast – Verses 26-32 – The Day of Atonement: The Future Cleansing of God’s People.

Leviticus 16.

Lev 23:28-32

Note here the emphasis on the people humbling their souls (fasting, praying, confessing sin) and abstaining from all work. Titus 3:5

Zech. 12:10-13:1

7th Feast – Verses 33-44 – Tabernacles: The Joy Of The Lord, Future Joy of God’s People in His Kingdom.

Lev 23:33-34

Feast of Booths also called “Feast of Tabernacles”; This feast was also called “the Feast of Ingathering” because it corresponded to the completion of the harvest (v. 39).

Lev 23:35-43

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures the future kingdom God has prepared for Israel when their Messiah returns and they receive Him

Applications:

Each year, the grown males of the nation had to appear before God to celebrate three specific feasts: Passover and Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, and Tabernacles (Ex. 23:14-19).

Passover and Unleavened Bread – Remind us of the death of Christ.

Firstfruits – the resurrection of Christ.

Tabernacles – The return of Christ to establish His kingdom.