

# The Feasts of Israel...

## God's Prophetic Timeline

### A. The **Feast of Passover** (Exodus 12:1-20) (Leviticus 23:4-5)

1. **Date of Feast**— The **evening** of **14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan** (March/April) (Lev. 23:5)
2. **Key Rituals**—
  - a. The **selecting** and “**keeping**” of the **Passover lamb** – from the **10<sup>th</sup>** till the **14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan** (Ex. 12:3-6)
  - b. The **kill**ing of the **Passover lamb**, its **blood** spread upon the **doorposts** on the Hebrews’ homes, **protecting** them from the **plague of death** (Ex. 12:12:5-7, 13)
  - c. The **Seder Feast** – the **Passover lamb**, **unleavened** bread, bitter **herbs** (Ex. 12:8-11) (Matt. 26:17, Mark 14:13-14, Luke 22:11)

### 3. **Prophetic Timeline Events**→

- a. The **selecting** and “**keeping**” of the **Passover lamb**→ **Points** to the “**Triumphal entry**”—The **Presentation** of the **Messianic King**—taking place **5 days** before **Passover**, beginning on **10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan** (John 12:1, 12-15)

**Jesus**, therefore, **six days** before the **Passover**, came to **Bethany** where **Lazarus** was, whom **Jesus** had **raised** from the **dead**...

On the **next day** the **large crowd** who had come to the feast, when they heard that **Jesus** was **coming** to **Jerusalem**, took the **branches** of the palm trees and went out to **meet Him**, and *began* to shout, “**Hosanna!** **BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD**, even the **King of Israel**.”

**Jesus**, finding a **young donkey**, sat on it; as it is written, “**FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY’S COLT.**” (John 12:1, 12-15) (Zech. 9:9)

- b. The **kill**ing of the **Passover lamb**→ **Points** to the **Crucifixion**, the **sacrificial death** of the **Lamb of God** (John 1:29, 36, Isa. 53:7, I Pet. 1:18-19, Rev. 5:6)

"Behold, the **Lamb of God** who **takes away the sin** of the **world!**" (John 1:29)

**Clean out the old leaven...**

For **Messiah our Passover** also has been **sacrificed**. (I Corinthians 5:7)

### B. The **Feast of Unleavened Bread** (Nisan 15-21) (Leviticus 23:6-8)

1. **Date of Feast**—From the **15<sup>th</sup>** to the **21<sup>st</sup> of Nisan** (April) (Exodus 12:15, 18) Both the **first day** (15<sup>th</sup>) and the **seventh day** (21<sup>st</sup>) would be **Sabbath** (rest) days. (Lev. 23:7-8)

2. **Key Ritual**—

The **removal of leaven** (symbolic of **evil**) from **all homes**, and the **eating of only unleavened bread** for **7 days** (Nisan 15-21) (Ex. 12: 19-20)

3. **Prophetic Timeline Event**→ *Points* to the **removal of sin**, and the **consecration** of the **people**

**Clean out** the **old leaven** so that you may be a **new lump**,  
just as you are *in fact* **unleavened**.  
For **Messiah our Passover** also has been **sacrificed**.

Therefore let **us** **celebrate** the **feast**, not with **old leaven**,  
nor with the **leaven** of **malice** and **wickedness**,  
but with the **unleavened bread** of **sincerity** and **truth**.  
(I Corinthians 5:7)

C. The **Feast of Firstfruits** (Leviticus 23:9-14)

1. **Date of Feast**—“on the **day after** the **Sabbath**” (Lev. 23:11)—**2 views**

→ *either* the **day after** the **Sabbath (Sunday)** of **Passover week** (Nisan 15-21)

→ *or* the **day after** the **1<sup>st</sup> day of Passover week** (the **15<sup>th</sup>**, also a **Sabbath**)  
making **Firstfruits**—The **16<sup>th</sup> of Nisan** (this is the view of most of **Judaism**)

2. **Key Ritual**—

The **waving** of a **sheaf** from the **barley harvest** as a **firstfruits offering** before the **Lord**. The **grain** from this **offering** is **ground** into **fine flour** and mixed with **oil**. The **Lord’s acceptance** of the **firstfruits offering** brought about the **consecration** and **acceptance** of the **rest** of the **harvest**. (Lev. 23:14)

3. **Prophetic Timeline Event**→ *Points* to the **Resurrection** of the **Messiah**

But now **Messiah** has been **raised from the dead**,  
the **firstfruits** of those who are **asleep**. (I Corinthians 15:20)

D. The **Feast of Weeks** (**Shavuot - weeks**) (Leviticus 23:15-22)

1. **Date of Feast**—From the **day** of the **Feast of Firstfruits** ((Nisan 16), **Israel** would begin a **50 day count** (7 **weeks** plus a **day**) called “**counting** of the **Omer**.”

The **50<sup>th</sup> day** of this **count** is the **6<sup>th</sup> of Sivan** (June), and is **another firstfruits offering**—the **firstfruits** of the **wheat** harvest. (Lev. 23:15-17, 20)

2. **Key Rituals and Traditions**—

- a. The **waving** of **2 leavened loaves** of **fine flour** before **the Lord** as a **firstfruits offering** of the **wheat** harvest (Lev.23:17, 20). Along with the **firstfruits offering** there were various other **offerings**. (Lev. 23:18-20)

- b. **Shavuot** would be a **Sabbath**, a day of **rest**, and when they **reaped** the **harvest**, they would **not reap** to the very *corners* of their **field** nor **gather gleanings**, but leave them for the **needy** and **alien**. (Lev. 23:21-22)
3. **Prophetic Timeline Event**→ *Points* to the **coming** of the **Holy Spirit**, and the “**spiritual**” **firstfruits harvest** of **3,000 Jewish believers** (Acts 2:41)

When the **day of Pentecost (Shavuot-Weeks)** had come, they (the **disciples**) were all **together** in one place...

And they were all filled with the **Holy Spirit** and began to **speak** with other tongues, as the **Spirit** was giving them utterance...

But **Peter**,...raised his voice and **declared** (*the gospel*) to them...

So then, **those** who had **received** his (**Peter's**) **word** were **baptized**; and **that day** there were added about **three thousand souls**.  
(Acts 2:1, 4, 14a, 41) (James 1:18)

## E. The **Summer “Harvest”**—The “**Interval**” between the **Feast of Weeks** and the **Feast of Trumpets**

1. **Date**—Began with the **coming** of the **Holy Spirit** during **Shavuot (Feast of Weeks)** and is *continuing* at this **present time** (Acts 1:6-8)
2. **Key Purpose**—The **gathering** of a “**spiritual**” **harvest** of “*fruit for life eternal*” (John 4:35-36) (Acts 13:48). The **calling** of both **Jews** and **Gentiles** into “**one body**” of **believers** (the **Church**)—a “*mystery*” now **revealed** (Eph. 3:1-11) (Matt. 16:18) (Col. 1:18) (Eph. 1:22-23)
3. **Prophetic Timeline Event**→ The “**postponement**” of the establishment of **Israel’s Kingdom**, and the **proclamation** of the **gospel** of the **Messiah**—the “**great commission**” (Matt. 28:19-20) (Rom. 11:25)

So when they (the **disciples**) had come together, they were asking **Him (Jesus)**, saying,  
“**Lord**, is it at **this time** You are **restoring** the **kingdom to Israel**?”

**He said** to them, “It is **not** for you to **know times** and **epochs** which the **Father** has **fixed** by **His own authority**; but you... shall be **My witnesses**...even to the **remotest part of the earth**.”(Acts 1:6-8)

## F. The **Feast of Trumpets** (Leviticus 23:23-25)

1. **Date of Feast**—The **1<sup>st</sup> day** of the **seventh month**— **Tishrei** (September) (Lev. 23:24)
2. **Key Rituals**— On this feast day **Israel** was to have a **Sabbath (rest)**, a **holy assembly**—a **gathering together** *before the Lord*, and a “**reminder**” by the **blowing of trumpets**.

3. **Prophetic Timeline Event** → *Points* to Israel's **Regathering** back to their **Land**

And **He (Messiah)** will send forth **His angels** with  
A **GREAT TRUMPET** and THEY WILL **GATHER TOGETHER**  
**His elect** from the **four winds**, from one end of the sky to the other.  
(Matthew 24:31) (Isa. 27:12-13) (Deut.30:1a, 3)

**Note** → Many believe that it will be during the **Feast of Trumpets** that **believers**, both *asleep* and **living**, will hear the “trumpet of God,” and be “**caught up**” (raptured) to **meet the Lord** in the **air** during **His return** (I Thess. 4:16-17)

G. The **Day of Atonement** (Leviticus 23:26-32)

1. **Date**—The **10<sup>th</sup>** day of the **seventh month**—**Tishrei** (September)
2. **Key Rituals**—A **Sabbath (rest)** day, a day for **holy assembly**, a day of **humbling (fasting)**—the day **commanded** for Israel to make **atonement** (receive “**covering**”) for their **sins**, both *nationally* and *individually* (Lev. 23:27-28)
3. **Prophetic Timeline Event** → *Points* to Israel's day of **national repentance** and **cleansing** from **sin** when the **Lord returns** (Zech. 12:10, 13:1)

“I will **pour out** on the **house of David** and on the inhabitants of **Jerusalem**, the **Spirit of grace** and of **supplication**, so that they will **look on Me** whom they **pierced**, and they will **mourn for Him**, as one **mourns** for an **only son**, and they will **weep bitterly** over Him...”

In **that day** a **fountain** will be opened for the **house of David** and for the inhabitants of **Jerusalem**, for **sin** and for **impurity**.  
(Zechariah 12:10, 13:1)

**Note** → As **believers**, we have **received** an **eternal atonement** and **cleansing** for our **sins** through the **priestly work**, and **atonement sacrifice** of **Jesus our Messiah**. (Hebrews 10:10-14, 9:24-28)

H. The **Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot – booths)** (Leviticus 23:33-44)

1. **Date of Feast**—From the **15<sup>th</sup>** to the **22<sup>nd</sup>** of **Tishrei** (Sept./Oct.)
2. **Key Rituals**— The **15<sup>th</sup>** and **22<sup>nd</sup>** days are **Sabbaths (rests)**, a **feast** lasting **8 days** that **celebrates** the final “**ingathering**” of the **fall harvest** of crops
  - a. The **waving** of the **lulav** and the **etrog**, and **rejoicing** before the **Lord** (Lev. 23:40)
  - b. The **building** of “**sukkahs**” (booths) to **live in** for **7 days** (Lev.23:42-43)
3. **Prophetic Timeline Event** → *Points* to Israel's final “**Ingathering**” and **Restoration**—The **establishment** of Israel's promised **Kingdom**

And the LORD will be **king** over all the earth;  
in **that day** the LORD will be *the only one*,  
and **His name** *the only one*...

Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations  
that went against **Jerusalem** will go up from year to year  
to **worship the King**, the **LORD of hosts**,  
and to **celebrate** the **Feast of Booths**. (Zechariah 14:9, 16)