

## bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest

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*23:1 – 14 Leviticus*

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God comes before the Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas Eve, 2020, rejoicing - and with thanksgiving and singing in our hearts. We're not weeping and fasting, friends! We have traveled some rough terrain so far in this Levitical leg of our expedition - and we're not finished - but we're growing in the grace and knowledge of our Savior, God's Son, our Holy High Priest, Intercessor, Propitiation and Blessed Hope of this lost and dying world; studying to show ourselves approved. The previous chapters have been extremely difficult; but in this report we have feasting and holy days. Interestingly, God never gave fasting as a command – only feasting. God doesn't want His people to come before Him weeping and hurting! God wants us to rejoice, and again I say, rejoice! We will examine Gods calendar of joy for all of time and eternity today.

Dr. Lang defines these feast days as 'fixed appointed times.' It has also been translated as "set times." I believe 'Holy Seasons' is the closest and most appropriate translation for the term 'feast days.' Most of these feasts, but not all, are given elsewhere in Scripture in detail but here they are given in a very orderly and purposeful manner. There are seven feasts in this chapter. The Sabbath is not included, but it's brought up because the Sabbath is the yardstick for measuring time. God uses the Sabbath to mark the beginnings and endings of all feasts. This is prominent as a dimension of time and will also be prominent in Revelation. The Sabbath is the seventh day, and we have seven feasts.

Pentecost is the feast of the seventh week and seventh moon; with the Day of Atonement following. The feast of tabernacles is the feast of the seventh month. We will consider the Sabbatic year in chapter twenty-five. We will also consider the year of Jubilee in that chapter; all of these are adjusted to the number seven; and we examined the meaning of the number seven

completely in our first Spiritual Safari. Keep reading, we'll get there again. There are seven days of unleavened bread. Seven days of dwelling in tabernacles in the feast of tabernacles. So, we have the number seven featured prominently throughout Scripture. It's certainly significant; most people just aren't really sure how.

Of course, a holy convocation was called. The feasts were decided later to be held in Jerusalem. This has a practical purpose and a prophetic purpose. On the practical plane these people came together in a commercial, as well as social, way for these feasts. For example, the feasts brought all twelve tribes together for worship after they were divided in the land; and even later, as they are scattered throughout the Roman Empire, these feasts hold them together as a nation. All males were required to travel to Jerusalem on the feasts of Pentecost, Passover and Tabernacles. This tended to unite the nation and knit the tribes closer together as they socialized and exchanged ideas and viewpoints. The omission of these feasts will play a significant role in the dividing of the nation into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah later in their history! Commercially, their gathering for the feast days led to bartering and trade. This design was given to the nation by God - because it was good for them.

Most of the feasts are geared into the agricultural life of the land in that nation, also - and in that day. It's very important to remember this! It is heavily slanted towards the harvesting of crops, particularly the feasts of Pentecost and Tabernacles. This brought the worship of Jehovah down to the grain fields, into the vineyard and the throughout the orchard! Praise to God was untied within the work of His people! Even the sweat of their brow became sacred to God Almighty! The purpose of these feast days is to give an all-time prophetic picture of the future. Each feast has found, or will find, fulfillment in the world in some great event! The common consensus amongst most credible fundamental conservative theologians is that most Scriptural prophecies have been fulfilled.

We really need to understand the feasts in order to understand critical nuances throughout the Bible. The Passover sets forth the crucifixion of Christ. Unleavened bread speaks to the fellowship we have with Christ as

our High Priest because of His death; and first fruits speaks to His resurrection. Pentecost is the beginning of the church body of Christ, and trumpets speaks of Israel's return to the land in fulfillment of prophecy in that day. Then, the feast of atonement speaks of the work of Christ on the cross and the feast of tabernacles speaks of them being back in the land. Combine this with what we have already learned in the first five chapters of Leviticus concerning the five sacrifices found in this book of the Bible, and we have an incredible picture laid out before us in a marvelous calendar as we move towards the end of Leviticus....

***1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,***

***2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.***

~ Once again, Moses is given directions from God that he is to convey directly to the people. Not all of the details are given for each feast at this time because the complete prophetic dealing of all time IS given! The weekly Sabbath cannot properly be labeled a feast day; it is pre-Mosaic to begin with; going all the way back to original creation. It will be repeated later with additional reasons for its mandatory observation. The Sabbath is also representative of their deliverance from the slavery of Egypt! They worked every single day down there and now they are to set aside one day that speaks to their deliverance by God out of that slavery, among other things.

The reason I believe we should observe the first day of the week, which is Sunday, is because that is the day the Lord Jesus was resurrected. The early church observed it this way and for this reason. This is the day that full deliverance is given to us. Christ was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification; and now we honor Christ by setting aside the first day of the week to worship Him! I only mention that here because there are so many people who want to mandate the Sabbath observance on a particular day of the week. Well, God says we belong to the new creation.

Hebrews 4:9 *There remaineth therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10 For he that is entered into his rest hath himself also rested from his works, as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore give diligence to enter into that rest, that no man fall after the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart ~*

We have rest in our lives today only because of Christ's redemptive work on the cross for our sins. That's why He came to this world. That's what Christmas is all about. The peace and rest that a child of God experiences in Christ Jesus is that our sins are forgiven. Jesus says, "come unto me all that are heavy laden....and I will give you rest." The rest is redemption. Rest and redemption are the two main points of the Sabbath Day. Christ is our Sabbath, and we are to rest in Him and have peace in Him. This is the only way to genuine peace, by the way. There is no other way....

***3 Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.***

***4 These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.***

***5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S Passover.***

~ So, here is the feast of Passover. It was given back in Exodus - but here it is again; number one on the calendar of God this time. This marks the beginning of the year for Israel. The details for the observance of the Passover are in Exodus chapter twelve. I suggest you read it again now. This holy season represents the sacrificial value of Christ and the value of His blood.

*1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, even as ye are unleavened. For Christ our Passover also hath been sacrificed, for us ~*

The Passover originated in a historical event that speaks of the death of Christ on the cross. That historical event was the last plague in Egypt. Very specific instructions were given to follow if the death angel were to pass by their house and spare their lives. We will see Israel observe the Passover at Mount Sinai when we get to Numbers chapter nine. The Passover was also brought to its fulfillment on the night of the arrest of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ instituted a new feast on the dying embers of the old when He observed the first Lord's Supper in the Upper Room with the apostles. Personally, I feel the Passover will be observed again in the Kingdom.

*Luke 22:16 for I say unto you, I shall not eat it, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God ~*

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**~ Leviticus chapter  
Twenty-three ~**

***6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.***

***7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.***

***8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.***

~ We should note that the feast of unleavened bread is a feast that is separate from the Passover; although it is identified with it very closely and observed consecutively. Matthew and Mark do seem to consider them as one. The historical origin of the feast of unleavened bread is in direct connection with the Passover. We have taken great pains to search out the meaning of and denote that leaven is a symbol of evil on this Spiritual Safari. Unleavened bread speaks of our fellowship with God through redemption and that fellowship is maintained by the walk of the believer. The daily occupations of these participants are noted by God and God tells

them to cease from all of it on this day. The value of the blood of Christ continues for the believer after he is saved and throughout eternity! If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship, one with another; and the blood of Christ continually cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Unleavened bread speaks to the fact that we maintain our relationship to God on the basis that Christ died for us. We must confess our sins as we go along. Jesus said to Simon Peter, "if I wash you not then you have no part with Me!" ~

***9 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,***

***10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:***

~ Naturally, when they were in the wilderness, this section would not be applicable; but when they entered the land, they were to bring the first and best of the field to God! They brought it and the priest offered it by waving it, in this offering. We are told this was to be done on the first day of the week. This speaks to the fact that Christ is the firstfruits of them that sleep. Matthew addresses this and we are not left to guess about it. So far, as I sit here writing, Christ is the only One that has come back – He is the first fruit – and the ONLY fruit right now. Christ is the only One Who has returned in a glorified body. We are told every man is raised after his own order when Christ returns to rapture the church. Except a kernel fall and die it groweth not. We are going to have a highly abundant harvest....

***11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.***

***12 And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.***

***13 And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.***

***14 And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.***

~ The accompanying offerings of the celebrations of the day are quite interesting. There is no sin offering now! The sin question has been settled in the death of Christ. These feasts are indicative that, because He lives, we shall live also! A new crop of grain could never be enjoyed until these offerings were made. The death and resurrection of Christ brings new relationships and new people of blessing into the lives of believers. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation! Old things are passed away and all things have become new! This doesn't mean just breaking a few habits or reforming something. This means more than that. We are removed from the old Adam and joined to the Lord Jesus Christ where we have a new purpose, new joy, new hope, a new goal and a new meaning in our life. It should all be new to us again! Let's end this Christmas leg of our Spiritual Safari with renewed minds ~

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