

**they shall
be holy
unto the lord
for the priests**

23:15 – 44 Leviticus

~ There are neither provisions for nor commands to perform fasting found anywhere in the Bible as a directive from God. As such, we make no fasts in our Spiritual Safari. The super-duper fast and fasting saint always seems to have such a long face, and they are CONSTANTLY speaking about fasting on such extremely lofty pious platitudes. I'm not sure God cares much for that. In fact, I happen to know that He hates it! In our last report, we saw the Passover and Christ as the Passover sacrifice for us. We talked about unleavened bread and how we share the things of Christ and have fellowship with Him. We also examined previously the firstfruits of Christ as He is the firstfruit from the dead; and the ONLY firstfruit so far, by the way. We saw the feast of unleavened bread that speaks of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. What we saw in our last report was a logical and chronological sequence in the calendar of God! In this leg of our expedition, we are going to consider the feast of Pentecost....

15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete:

16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

~ Believers should feel obligated to understand Pentecost thoroughly because so much is said about it in Scripture; and what we hear today concerning this feast is almost always completely unscriptural. Pentecost ALWAYS fell on the first day of the week. Seven Sabbath's were projected forward into the future. Then, on day number fifty, falls the first day of the week, friends. The church was born on the first day of the week FOR THAT REASON. If the church is a "new creation" today, then doesn't it seem odd that it would come to observe the law of the old creation? On the first day

of the week the Lord Jesus was resurrected. So, when the church meets today on the first day of the week it is because it's celebrating the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. It also commemorates the birth of the church. This is also called the feast of weeks. There is no doubt in my mind after a careful consideration of ALL Scriptures that this subject is not left to man's speculations....

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place ~

The phrase from the Book of Acts, "...was fully come..." is a direct reference to this passage in Leviticus! It denotes the coming of the Holy Spirit to baptize believers into the body of Christ and to commence the calling out of the church. The feast of firstfruits is fifty days after the resurrection of Christ! The Holy Spirit appeared according to the calendar of God and God always operates according to His calendar! God is always on time, too! The "new" meal offering IS the church! It is critical to understand this symbolism as we depart Leviticus and return forward to the Gospels of Luke, detour back to Numbers, and then return to the Gospel of John in our safari. Christ didn't come to patch up the old garment of law, He came to bring us a new robe of grace and righteousness. The church is to be in Christ; this is the only place that God will recognize us. Let's also note that the Lord Jesus showed Himself alive for forty days after the resurrection. Jesus told the apostles at that time to tarry at Jerusalem until the Spirit came upon them; and, lo and behold, ten days later was the Day of Pentecost....

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

~ Leviticus
Chapter Twenty-Three ~

17 Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.

~ We have established that leaven is a principle of evil in Scripture and it is never to be mixed into in an offering. Well, this is no exception to that rule. Of course, this speaks of the church, also! We have part in the church body of Christ as believers! We are joined to Christ to be raised at the rapture of the church. This is not complicated; it really all just means one thing: there is evil in our church today. I just happen to have a whole lot of experience behind that statement. The church has to leaven the service to make it tasty, or very few people will patronize their organizations. Even the casual observer can see that evil today. Apparently, the Lord knew about it before it even manifested on earth in that organized form of religious spirituality....

18 And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be for a burnt offering unto the LORD, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, even an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto the LORD.

19 Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings.

20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.

~ God commands that all offerings are to be made on the Day of Pentecost. Everything that Christ is and everything that He has done has all been made over to the church today. As believers, we can draw on Christ's help for everything. We come to Christ for salvation first; we ask Him to lead our lives, and we come to Him for mercy, sympathy, comfort and all of the entire range of emotions that we experience in all of the situations of our existence! These Levitical pictures of Christ give us some of the greatest spiritual truths in literary picture form that we can find in the Bible - or anywhere in the world, for that matter - and they aren't presented in philosophical, psychological or theological terms, either....

21 And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

~ The children of Israel were commanded to cease from their own works on this day as a symbol of their rest in God's redemption. That's what you and I are to do when we come to Christ for salvation. Christ is our Sabbath; and we are to rest in Him every second of every minute of every hour of every day of every week of every month of every year of every decade of our lives - according to the epistle to the Hebrews, that is! How are you doing with that command? We are not saved by works of righteousness that we have done, but only according to His mercy He saved us. Only by washing and regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit are we cleansed and sanctified holy! That can only ever happen in the Word of God. Read the third chapter of Titus in connection with this....

22 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

~ Here we are, back in the corners of the field again where we are told to remember the poor and the stranger - again. Quite frankly, this is supposed to be the practical side of the work of the church today, but they are so far from it that they are completely ineffective at reaching the lost. We have been saved by grace so we should attempt to get the Word of God out to others; but we must be educated in the message we are going out with. If we are as ignorant of the Bible as the people we are trying to teach, then we cannot be helpful to them! Frankly, I believe the church has no right to engage in ANY social service outside of supporting the teaching of sound doctrine. Any program in which the Gospel is not presented properly should never be supported; it is a complete waste of God's money and resources. I think we should also note that a man with an empty stomach isn't likely to be concerned with learning the Word of God - or teaching the Word of God! We'll have to work that balance out. James will tell us all about it when we get to his book.

Of God's own will begat He us that we should be a kind of first fruit of His creatures. The church is the first fruits; and the church is definitely facing certain judgment today. Many people like to talk about reapers for the harvest, but that is not the business of the church at all; the business of the church is to sow seed in the world. We're told that angels are sent forth for the reaping part of God's program. He doesn't need our help reaping. See, I'm no angel and neither are you! Neither one of us will ever be an angel, either, by the way. Angels are NOT connected with the rapture and angels are never connected with the church at all in the New Testament. This speaks very definitely of a judgment that is coming. What are you doing to support the Word of God going out into the world today, friends, anything? You'll answer to the Lord one day....

23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

~ The seventh month seems to be a sort of Sabbatic month! As we have a Sabbatic day and a Sabbatic year, it makes sense we have this Sabbatic month! This marks the beginning of a civil year as the Passover marks the beginning of the religious year. There were three holy seasons during this month. A memorial of the blowing of trumpets will be examined in Numbers chapter ten in this connection. The blowing of trumpets will be used in moving the children of Israel through the wilderness. The trumpet was blown seven times to get them marching! There are seven trumpets in Revelation that cover and span the Great Tribulation period. That is also when we will see Israel restored to the land according to fulfillment of prophecy in the kingdom age.

Isaiah 27:13 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem ~

Matthew 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other ~

The church has already left the earth at the time to which these two eschatological verses refer. The elect are saved Gentiles and the nation Israel; and we are talking about the end of the age. When the church leaves the earth, it will be at the sounding of a trumpet. The trumpet, explained in second Thessalonians, is the voice of the Lord Jesus.

Psalm 89:15 Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD. 16 They rejoice in your name all day long; they exult in your righteousness. 17 For you are their glory and strength, and by your favor you exalt our horn. 18 Indeed, our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel ~

Trumpets are also connected with the judgment of the Lord Jesus Christ and immediately after this passage we arrive the Great Day of Atonement! Here, we have the number ten coming up again. Verse twenty-seven is also the only reference ever given to the affliction of their souls as a commandment. We went over this completely in chapter sixteen regarding the Great Day of Atonement. This is a solemn day and not a feast day but fasting is still not commanded. In contrast, the trumpets at Jubilee were sounded every fifty years on the Day of Atonement and denoted joy and rejoicing! Deliverance was only possible because the price was paid for your salvation and mine....

~ Leviticus
Chapter Twenty-Three ~

25 Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

26 And the LORD Spake unto Moses, saying,

27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

29 For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

30 And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

31 Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

32 It shall be unto you a Sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath.

33 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

35 On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.

~ This feast is both a memorial and a prophetic holy season. It follows the Great Day of Atonement by just a few days. As a memorial it spoke to their days of wandering in the wilderness when they dwelt in booths and it

speaks, in the prophetic sense, to the day when God has fully removed their sins and when they will dwell again safely in the Promised Land according to Scriptural prophecy - during the Millennial Kingdom. I would note that to believe the return of Israel to the land today is in fulfillment of prophecy is to be completely ignorant of the Word of God concerning it. The following three verses simply have not been fulfilled....

Zechariah 12: 10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn ~

Zechariah 13:1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness ~

Micah 4:4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it ~

**~ return to
Leviticus ~**

37 These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day:

38 Beside the Sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD.

39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a Sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a Sabbath.

40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

44 And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

~ Our Spiritual Safari ends this Levitical leg of our expedition having seen a special emphasis placed on all of the feasts that reveal what God delights in for His children! This is only given for the hope, joy and overall health benefit for the people. It speaks to my heart in a very special way. I hope it speaks to your heart that way, too. This section of Scripture points to the future; and we are looking forward to a day in the Millennial Age. Read the fourteenth chapter of Zechariah and see how much trouble we can get in by not going to the feasts in that day. This speaks to the final and fulfilling rejoicing of God's earthly people. His Heavenly people will be with Him already in the New Jerusalem. There is a great future ahead for believers.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away ~
