

Today we begin to examine The Feasts in their original settings; when and where they took place, what happened to whom and it how each fitted in with the other annual Feasts. We shall also look at the future fulfilment of each Feast in relation to Israel.

The Feasts unfolded as the Nation of Israel was delivered from the bondage of Egypt and taken into their promised land so any interpretation of the Feasts must focus on that nation and the earth.

In Leviticus 23 we have a concise presentation of the annual Feasts. The chapter begins however with the weekly Sabbath. If you have lost your chart outlining the Feasts, please email.

The Weekly Sabbath.

Saturday is given Feast status to Israel in Lev.23.

[Lev 23:2](#) Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, The feasts of Jehovah, which you shall proclaim, holy convocations, even these are My appointed feasts.

[Lev 23:3](#) Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day *is* the sabbath of rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work. It *is* a sabbath to Jehovah in all your dwellings.

Sadly there are some who teach today that we should observe the weekly Sabbath (Saturday) and all these Feasts. If that be the case then perhaps we should be observing the 7<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> year as well (Lev.25:4, 10-11). The rightly divided Word of Truth teaches us that in this dispensation of the Grace of God we are not to observe Sabbaths (Col.2:13-23).

The weekly Sabbath was and has always been linked with Israel and is a shadow of things to come for them. The weekly Sabbath was an obligation under the Law (Ex.20:9-11), and it was also a covenant and a sign between God and Israel, never between God and "the church":

[Exo 31:16](#) Therefore the sons of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, *for* an everlasting covenant.

[Exo 31:17](#) It *is* a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever. For in six days Jehovah made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.

The weekly Sabbath looked back to creation when God saw that things were good and rested and refreshed Himself. In the garden people and God dwelt together and all was provided.

Hebrews 4:1-9 tells Israel that the weekly Sabbath also looked forward to another time of rest and great restoration. When Israel is "in their dwellings" (that is, regathered into their land promised) and safely under the rule of their greater Joshua (Hebs.4:8), then the whole world will be at rest as well.

How does the weekly Sabbath fit in with the annual Feasts? It looked on to Paradise restored. The Earth will be at rest when Israel is at rest, see Ps.2:8 and Rev.11:15. The Annual Feasts showed in stages how Israel would be brought towards that goal. Every week Israel was reminded of the day when all the promises the Lord had made to them would be fulfilled.

Passover.

Please read Exodus 12.

At Passover the Lord struck decisively at the heart of Israel's enemies and executed judgment against all their gods. Because of Passover, deliverance was immediate and complete for Israel. They had to eat quickly and fully dressed for travel, see Ex.12:11.

[Lev 23:5](#) In the fourteenth *day* of the first month, between the evenings, is Jehovah's Passover

[Exo 12:12](#) For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt. I *am* Jehovah.

[Exo 12:51](#) And it happened the very same day, *that* Jehovah brought the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

There must have been many lambs slaughtered that night but they all pointed to the One Lamb of God;

[Exo 12:6](#) And you shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month. And the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

The Lord Christ died as Israel's Passover Lamb and this brought about glorious deliverances for them. Remember, we are not talking about ourselves or the church which is His body at this time. Many of the following things may be true of us today, but let us never forget that God's purposes for Israel on the earth will be accomplished in and through Christ who in all things has the pre-eminence.

There was deliverance from the bondage of sin and death, see Romans 5. Deliverance for those in the grave see Matt.27:50-53, 1 Cor.15: 22-23, 2 Cor.1:9-10, and Rev.1:18. Deliverance from Gentile dominion when Christ crushes the feet and toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image, see Lk.21:24 and Roms.11:25-26. There was deliverance for the natural creation as well; Israel's crops will be bountiful, see Romans 8:18-23. And as in Egypt, there will be deliverance from the wrath to come, see 1 Thess.1:10. The gods of Egypt were judged and the enemy was judged when the true Passover was offered, see John 16:11.

Where does Passover fit in relation to the other Feasts? It was the beginning for Israel. Liberty to begin the journey into that place God had appointed. Passover is the first step in a glorious change from bondage to liberty in the righteous Kingdom of God.

#### The Feast of Unleavened Bread.

[Lev 23:6](#) and on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened *Bread* to Jehovah. You must eat unleavened *bread* seven days.

[Exo 12:15](#) You shall eat unleavened *bread* seven days; even the first day you shall put away leaven out of your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

[Exo 12:17](#) And you shall keep the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*. For in this same day I have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall keep this day in your generations by a law forever.

From the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>, Israel was to remove leaven and eat unleavened bread for 7 days. This showed in type that the Passover brought separation. Separation for Israel from the power & bondage of the enemy and from the rest of the world (Ex.33:16). Israel was separated by God and to God for service and God's glory. When Israel arrived in their land there was to be a first fruit offered during Unleavened Bread;

[Lev 23:10](#) Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, When you have come into the land which I give to you, and shall reap the harvest of it, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.

This first fruit is unleavened (sinless) and anticipates Christ's resurrection; He is the first fruits from the dead and alone has immortality, see 1Cor.15:20-23 and 1 Tim.6:16. The harvest will be those that are Christ's at His coming which will be realised when the Feast of Trumpets is fulfilled. Death and the grave will not prevent God's purposes for Israel coming to pass. Abraham and many other OT saints will be resurrected to enjoy the land promised to them.

Israel were to learn from Unleavened Bread that they were separated and were to separate themselves from sin and the world. Paul brings this out in 1 Cor.5. The basis of Paul's great doctrines of forgiveness of sins and justification by grace through faith are all the result of Unleavened Bread being fulfilled; a glorious separation from the penalty of sin and death and into the presence of God in every sphere.

#### The Feast of Weeks.

[Lev 23:15](#) And you shall count to you from the next day after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete.

[Lev 23:16](#) To the next day after the seventh sabbath you shall number fifty days. And you shall offer a new food offering to Jehovah.

[Lev 23:17](#) You shall bring out of your homes two wave loaves of two-tenth parts. They shall be of fine flour. They shall be baked with leaven, firstfruits to Jehovah

Pentecost was a Feast with a first fruit as well and therefore anticipated something; it looked forward to a greater harvest. The First Pentecost or Weeks was at Mt. Sinai and was a time of promise, preparation and anticipation. Israel was being prepared for their Kingdom, the joy of serving God in their land. God would dwell among them, provide for and protect them; this is the harvest Pentecost anticipated.

Passover and Unleavened Bread brought deliverance and separation for Israel; they were set free to serve God in that place He had prepared for them but Israel was a rough group of slaves who had to learn of God's holiness and their own sinful nature. At Mt. Sinai, Israel's first Pentecost, preparations were made for service and education inside the land God had promised them. Pentecost prepared Israel for, and was a foretaste of, the Kingdom of God.

Once those preparations were complete Israel could have entered into their inheritance immediately instead of wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. See Deut.1:1-2, 19-26.

Here are some of the things we shall be looking at next lesson as we more deeply examine this Feast remembering Pentecost anticipated or was a first fruit of the Kingdom of God.

We shall see that the Lord descended in the sight of His people, there were trumpets and clouds and angels. We shall see that Israel were gathered together unto the Lord, that Moses went up to meet Him, that the Law was given on tables of stone, that certain individuals were given gifts to help in the construction of the tabernacle, that other individuals who failed to obey the Lord were struck dead, others were separated for service, and we shall also see Moses earnestly desiring that all Israel would be prophets.

We shall also see The Lord working among His people for provision, protection and enlightenment.

In preparation for next lesson, we should read Exodus 19.