

The Lord's Feasts

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Introduction

Every nation and culture on earth has special days for commemoration or celebration. In China, they celebrate the New Year with joy. In Central and South America, people honor the day of the dead. In America, we observe days such as the fourth of July.

Did you know that there are certain days of celebration for the Kingdom of God? God instituted these celebrations for us to enjoy time with Him. They were set apart by Him to honor His mighty work in our lives—past, present, and future.

These days were honored by our Savior Jesus Christ and celebrated by the first believers. They will fill you with satisfaction and joy that no other celebration on earth could provide!

I invite you to learn more about these uplifting celebrations. In this booklet, you will learn about the Festivals instituted by God. They are the most wonderful and joyous times of the year. They will truly change your life!

Chapter 1

The Lord's Feasts

“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ‘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’” (Lev 23:1-2).

We begin our journey of understanding these special days by looking at Leviticus chapter 23. This chapter is an overview of God’s festivals. For a number of years, people have incorrectly called these days the “Feasts of Israel.” Notice that they are called “the Feasts of the LORD” and “my feasts” by God Himself! The fact that God talks about these days means that they have value in His heart. As Jesus said, “For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34b).

In Leviticus 23:1-2 (above), these days are called holy. The word holy means that they are set apart from all other days of the year. They are also called convocations, which means they are days that believers gather together.

If you read all of Leviticus chapter 23, there are nine feasts specifically named and set apart as convocations:

Weekly Sabbath (from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset) — Leviticus 23:4

Passover—Leviticus 23:5

1st day of Unleavened Bread—Leviticus 23:6-7

7th day of Unleavened Bread—Leviticus 23:8

Pentecost—Leviticus 23:15-21

Trumpets—Leviticus 23:23-25

Atonement—Leviticus 23:26-32

1st Day of Tabernacles—23:33-35

8th Day of Tabernacles—23:36

When you read the verses in Leviticus about these feasts, God explains that eight of the nine feasts are days in which “no work

is to be done.” These days are called Sabbaths. This means that they are days in which we should not do any regular work such as our jobs or routine household chores. The only feast day that is not a Sabbath is Passover.

Each of these days has a past, present, and future meaning. When it comes to the past meanings of the feasts, they are annual reminders of how God set the Israelite people apart from the other nations of the world. These were days when God’s mighty power was displayed to save His people.

In this chapter, we will briefly review each feast. The first feast is the weekly **Sabbath**. God used manna in the desert to show the Israelites which day was the Sabbath when they came out of Egypt (Exodus chapter 16). It is also a reminder that God rested on the seventh-day after completing creation (Gen 2:1-3).

The next three feast days are called the early Spring feasts. They are: Passover, the First Day of Unleavened Bread, and the Seventh Day of Unleavened Bread. **Passover** is the time when God slew the first born of Egypt to release the Israelites from slavery (Exodus chapters 5-12). They were “passed-over” through the blood of lambs. The **First Day of Unleavened Bread** is when they left Egypt (Ex. 12:42, Num. 33:3). The **Seventh Day of Unleavened Bread** is celebrated as the day when the Israelites were finally freed from Egyptian captivity and control. They were finally free at the Red Sea crossing (Exodus chapter 14).

Pentecost is the only late Spring Feast. On this day, God came down upon the mountain with clouds and thunderstorms in Exodus chapters 19-24. In Exodus chapter 20, He gave the Ten Commandments. He also gave the book of the Law in Exodus chapters 21-23. These were God’s instructions to guide His people in holy and righteous living. It was the standard that would set them apart from other nations.

There are four fall Holy Days: Trumpets, Atonement, the First Day of Tabernacles, and the Eighth Day of Tabernacles. **Trum-**

pets is a reminder of God's deliverance of His people through the use of the ram's horn, also a trumpet. The sins of the nation of Israel were covered on the **Day of Atonement** (Leviticus chapter 16). Tabernacles is a seven-day celebration. It is a reminder of the temporary booths the Israelites lived in while they traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land (Lev. 23:37-44). The **First Day** is the opening celebration while the **Eighth Day** is an assembly to close the ceremonial year and thank God for the harvest (Lev. 23:39).

What many Christians do not realize is that these feast days have meaning in Christ. In Colossians 2:16-17, Paul wrote, "16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating, or in drinking, or your share in the Levitical feasts, new moon or Sabbath, 17 which are a shadow of the things to come; but the body is Christ's."

In the second half of verse 16, Paul said to let no one judge you for your share in "Levitical feasts, new moon or Sabbath." The Feast Days, New Moon Celebrations, and the Sabbath are often mentioned together in the Bible (see I Chron. 23:31, Neh. 10:32-33, Ez. 45:17). They are the most joyous times of celebration. Paul told the Colossians to not let anyone judge us for keeping these days. Why is this?

He said that these festivals "are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ." Christ is the body of each one. Each of these Feasts has a meaning in the past (a shadow), which we have reviewed. The real meaning of these days is in Christ.

For instance, Christ is called our Passover Lamb (I Corinthians 5:6-8). His blood frees us from sin and the wrath of God (Romans 5:9-10). On Pentecost, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was poured out (Acts 2:1-4). Trumpets is when Christ publically returns (Matthew 24:30-31). Jesus' blood is our Atonement sacrifice (Romans 5:11). He tabernacle with us during His earthly life (John 1:1-14). He is coming back to Tabernacle with us for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4-6). In this booklet, we will explore each Holy Day in depth with its meaning in Christ.

There is a chart after this chapter giving an overview of the annual Feast Days. Feel free to go back and review it as you read this booklet. There is a chart in the back of this booklet giving the dates of the annual feast days.

The Feast Days are living testimonies to the power of God. There is power available in them today! By practicing them, that same power is imparted to us so that we may overcome sin and see the abundance of God in our lives.

In Leviticus chapter 23, the Hebrew word translated as **feast** means a fixed, determined, or appointed time. They are fixed and determined by God. They are not determined by us. Literally, these are times when we have an appointment with the Savior of all mankind! They are days where we as believers gather together to celebrate the power of Christ in our lives.

New Testament References to the Feasts and weekly Sabbath:
Passover and Unleavened Bread: Matthew 26:1-35, Mark 14:1-31, Luke 2:41-42; 22:1-38, John 2:13-24; 6:4; chapters 12-18; Acts 12:3-4, Acts 20:6, I Cor. 5:6-8, I Cor. 11:23-39, Hebrews 11:28

Pentecost: Acts 2:1-41; 20:16, I Cor. 16:8, I Thess. 4:13-17

Trumpets: Matthew 24:30-31

Atonement: Acts 27:9, Romans 3:25, Hebrews chapters 6-10, Rev. 20:1-3

Tabernacles: John 1:1-14, 7:1-14, Rev. 20:4-6

Last Great Day: John 7:37-44, Rev. 20:11-5

General References: Acts 18:21, Colossians 2:16

References to the weekly Sabbath:

Matt. 12:1-12, Matt. 24:20, Matthew 28:1, (Mark 1:21,32), Mark 2:24-28, Mark 3:1-4, Mark 15:42, Mark 16:1, (Luke 4:16,31), Luke 4:40, Luke 6:1-9, Luke 13:10-16, Luke 14:1-5, Luke 23:54-56, (John 5:9-10,16-18), John 7:22-23, John 9:14-16, Acts 1:12, (Acts 13:14,27,42,44), Acts 15:21, Acts 16:13, Acts 17:2, Acts 18:4, Colossians 2:16, Hebrews 4:1-11

Chart of the Feasts of the Lord

<p>Names of the 9 Feasts of the Lord and Dates in which they occur on the Hebrew Calendar (as found in Leviticus 23)</p>	<p>3 Annual Pilgrimage Festivals (<i>chag</i> in Hebrew)</p>
<p>1) Weekly Sabbath – Friday Sunset to Saturday Sunset</p>	
<p>2) Passover – 14th day of Nissan, the 1st month on the Hebrew Calendar (also called <i>Pesach</i>)</p> <p>3) 1st of Unleavened Bread – 15th day of Nissan</p> <p>4) 7th of Unleavened Bread – 21st day of Nissan</p>	<p>1) These days are collectively called the Passover or Unleavened Bread (Ex. 23:15, 34:18, Deut. 16:1-8, Luke 22:1).</p>
<p>5) Pentecost (50 days after the weekly Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is always in the 3rd month, called Sivan.) It occurs on a different day of the Hebrew Calendar most years (also called <i>Shavuot</i>).</p>	<p>2) Also called the Feast of Weeks, Firstfruits of the Wheat Harvest, or Harvest (Exodus 23:16a, 34:22a, Deut. 16:9-12).</p>
<p>6) Trumpets – 1st day of Tishri, the 7th month (also called <i>Yom Teruah</i> or <i>Rosh Hoshannah</i>)</p> <p>7) Atonement – 10th day of Tishri (also called <i>Yom Kippur</i>)</p> <p>8) 1st of Tabernacles – 15th day of Tishri (also called <i>Sukkot</i>)</p> <p>9) 8th of Tabernacles – 22nd day of Tishri (also called the Last Great Day)</p>	<p>3) Ingathering (Exodus 23:16b, 34:22b, Deut. 16:13-15). In some places, only Tabernacles is mentioned. Some people came up to Jerusalem to celebrate all of the Fall Feasts, whereas others only came for Tabernacles.</p>

Chapter 2

Weekly Sabbath

We will begin our examination of these days with the Sabbath. It is the very first feast day in Leviticus chapter 23 and is celebrated every week from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. Why sunset?

In the Bible, sunset is the marker for when days begin and end. Genesis 1:5b reads, "...And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day" (see also Deut 24:14-15, 2 Sam. 3:35). Night time is the beginning portion of a day and day time is the concluding portion.

The Sabbath is a time to rest from our job. It is also a time where we rest from the rigors of our routine household chores. Instead, it is an amazing opportunity to spend personal time with our Savior, natural family, and spiritual family. God wove His presence into this 24-hour space of time. This presence is still available for us today.

The Sabbath teaches us about salvation. Before we come to know Jesus, we all try to earn our salvation. We are saved when we repent; this means we decide to stop working to earn God's forgiveness. We put our trust in the Lord. In the same way, we work six days and rest on the seventh day. The Sabbath reminds us of God's grace. **How we honor the weekly Sabbath is also a template for how we honor the annual Sabbaths.**

If you would like to learn more about the Sabbath, download the booklet "God's Holy Sabbath" from our website (www.hungryheartsministry.com). We also have practical ways to honor the Sabbath in our booklet "The Book of Practice." You can download it or ask for a physical copy in one of our local congregations.

In the next two chapters we will review the Spring and Fall Feasts.

Chapter 3

Spring Feasts Passover and Unleavened Bread

The first three annual Feasts are Passover, the First Day of Unleavened Bread, and the Seventh Day of Unleavened Bread. We will begin this chapter by reviewing their meaning for ancient Israel. We will then transition to their meaning for Christians.

These three feasts occur in the Early Spring during the first Hebrew month, which is called *Abib* or *Nissan*. On our calendar, they fall during the months of March or April. **Passover** is an annual Feast Day, but it is not a Sabbath day. It occurs on the fourteenth day of the first month. **The First Day of Unleavened Bread** is on the 15th day of Nissan. **The Seventh Day of Unleavened Bread** is on the 21st day of Nissan. They are both annual Sabbaths (recall that there is a Calendar in the back giving the dates on our calendar for each day). Collectively, this eight-day period is sometimes called Unleavened Bread or the Passover (see Ex. 23:15, Deut. 16:1-8, Luke 22:1, John 2:23).

To understand these awesome days, we have to give some background information. At the end of the book of Genesis, we learn how God used Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob, to save the land of Egypt. In return for this, the ruler of Egypt, called Pharaoh, invited the entire clan of Jacob down to Egypt to live in the best of the land. Jacob, his sons, and their families moved to this land and prospered greatly.

After some time passed, a Pharaoh came to power that did not remember Joseph or his kindness to Egypt. This Pharaoh badly mistreated the Israelites and put them into slavery. The Israelites cried out to God, and He sent them a deliverer named Moses. He and his brother, Aaron, were sent by God to deliver a special message to Pharaoh. This message was: “Let my people go!”

Pharaoh scoffed at this and refused to free them. As a result, God

brought upon Egypt nine terrible plagues (Exodus chapters 2-12). Each plague only hardened Pharaoh's heart. God sent a tenth plague, which would have a different result. God was going to send a death angel that would slay the firstborn of every person and animal in the land of Egypt. Before this plague came, God gave the Israelites a series of instructions to protect them from it.

The Israelites were instructed to kill a one-year old male lamb and place its blood on the tops and sides of the doorposts of their homes. They would then eat the lamb with special instructions in their homes. Everyone who did this would be “passed over” when the death angel came through the land. God gave the Israelites specific instructions in Exodus chapter 12 on how to prepare this lamb. They did this on the 14th day of Nissan in the evening. Recall from the last chapter that evening is the beginning of a day.

When the death angel came through the land, he killed the firstborn. This included the firstborn of Pharaoh. Because God’s people obeyed, they were protected. This event finally loosened the heart of the Egyptian ruler and he let God’s people leave. On the 15th day of Nissan, at night, the Israelites left Egypt in celebration (Exodus 12:42, Num. 33:3).

Not long after they left, Pharaoh changed his mind. He decided that he wanted the Israelites back as slaves. He rallied his army and pursued them. After days of fleeing the Egyptian army, the Israelites reached the shore of the Red Sea.

Pharaoh’s army was closing in behind them and the Red Sea was in front of them. In this seemingly hopeless situation, God manifested His great power. He spoke to Moses and told him to raise his staff over the Red Sea. When he did this, God parted the waters with a wind from Heaven. The Israelites safely crossed to the other side on dry ground. Pharaoh and his forces followed them, but God caused the waters to close up. This drowned Pharaoh’s army. God gave His people a great victory! In their time of need, He did things for them they could not do for themselves. He protected them, guided them, and freed them (Exodus Chapters 13

and 14 describe these events).

In Christ, the meaning of these events is truly magnified. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he proclaimed “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). This statement has a very specific meaning!

When John said this, He was announcing that Jesus Christ was the LAMB of God who would take away the sin of the world! The Lamb in Exodus 12 died so that the nation of Israel could be free to leave Egypt. Jesus came as the Lamb to free the entire world. Christ was slain for our sins and His blood is applied to us so that we are “passed-over” from God’s wrath (Rom. 5:9-11).

For believers in Jesus, we honor Passover on the 14th of Nissan as a commemoration of what He did. We worship God with songs that honor His sacrifice. We read special verses pertaining to the price He paid. We pattern our celebration after His last Passover on earth (Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13-17).

The 15th of Nissan is when the Israelites left Egypt. He calls this night a night to be observed (Exodus 12:42). Egypt represents sin in the Bible (Hos. 8:13). On this night, we celebrate leaving a life of sin (Rom. 6:18, Hebrews 9:14). Without Christ’s sacrifice, we cannot escape a sinful life. On this night, we read verses about our new life in Christ. We worship with songs celebrating freedom in Him. During the day portion of the 15th of Nissan, we have a regular church service to give God thanks once again.

Egypt was a place of pain and suffering for the Israelites. Sin is a place of bitterness and suffering. Christ brings us out of this terrible life into a life full of meaning and purpose. We have much to celebrate!

On the Seventh Day of Unleavened Bread, we celebrate the Israelites being finally freed from Egypt. While they left Egypt on the 15th of Nissan, Pharaoh and his forces still pursued them for several more days. At the Red Sea crossing, the army of Egypt was

defeated. Israel was totally free from their captors. Some even believe they crossed the Red Sea on this Holy Day! The walls of Jericho fell on this day. It is a day of victory and overcoming. It reminds us that we have no more condemnation when we forsake the sinful nature (Romans 8:1). Though satan pursues us, we are more than conquerors. While the Israelites fled the Egyptian army, they had to trust God and keep moving where He directed them. This teaches us a valuable lesson. We are free in Christ when we receive Him. To gain total victory in our lives, we must continue to surrender to God. We must continue to trust Him and let Him lead us even when the obstacles seem overwhelming.

The seven days of Unleavened Bread have more meaning for believers. During this time, God instructed the Israelites to remove the yeast from their dwellings. They were also asked to eat Unleavened Bread for seven days (Exodus 12:15-20).

During Passover, yeast is a symbol for sin (I Cor. 5:6-8). Just before the Passover Season arrives, we spend time getting the yeast out of our homes. We read the labels and look for items that have yeast in them. At the same time, the Lord wants us to get the sin out of our hearts. As you are going through your cupboard and sweeping out your house, God is actually going to reveal sins in your life. It is important we pay attention to the Lord.

The other part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is eating bread without yeast. We learn in I Cor. 5:6-8 that Christ is the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. At His last Passover on earth, He told us that His body is represented by the unleavened bread (Matthew 26:26-28). There is a supernatural blessing of God's power that comes from eating unleavened bread during these seven days.

For the entire Seven Days of Unleavened Bread, we are not to eat anything with yeast in it. We are asked to eat unleavened bread. It is a two-step process. This shows us that we must address sin in our lives, but we cannot fail to take more of HIM in!

As you practice this Feast Season, this will have even more meaning for your life. The Passover Season is a special time of the year. Many great God encounters in the Bible occurred during this time. They are available for us today if we will simply return to Him and celebrate them.

If you want to learn more about the Passover Season and how to celebrate it, download our free booklet “Passover Preparation” from our website www.hungryheartsmintistry.com on the “Free Resources” page.

*One last item is important to note. Some people teach that the first fruits of the barley harvest is a feast day. Unfortunately, there is no scriptural evidence for this. They based this teaching on Leviticus 23:9-14. If you read these verses, you will notice that there is no reference to a holy convocation or feast day. The first fruits of the barley harvest was a ceremony conducted during the seven days of Unleavened Bread. It is significant in that it foreshadows the resurrection of Christ, who is called the first fruits of the resurrected dead (I Cor. 15:20-24).

Pentecost

Pentecost is the only late Spring Feast. In Leviticus 23:15-21, God told the Israelites to count seven Sabbaths from the weekly Sabbath that falls during the seven days of Unleavened Bread. The day after this seventh Sabbath was called the Feast of Weeks or *Shavuot* in Hebrew. It is called the Feast of Weeks because it is seven weeks or a week of weeks from the weekly Sabbath during Unleavened Bread. Later, this day became known as Pentecost, which means ‘count fifty.’

Since this day is fifty days from the weekly Sabbath that falls during Unleavened Bread, it always falls on the first day of the week. This also means that Pentecost could occur on a different day of the Hebrew Calendar every single year. In 2014, it was on Sivan 10 (June 8th, 2014). In 2015, it was on Sivan 6 (May 24th, 2015). Like the First and Seventh days of Unleavened Bread, it is an an-

nual Sabbath. We are not to work, and a holy convocation is held.

After bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, God brought them to Mount Sinai (which is in Saudi Arabia). He did so to form a covenant between He and Israel. God came down on the mountain with fire, smoke, lightning, and thunder in Exodus chapters 19-20. This was an awesome display of God's power. It was so tremendous that even Moses trembled with fear (Deut. 5:5).

With the sound of the ram's horn, the Lord called Israel up to Himself to establish this covenant. He wanted to make Israel His Bride. The people of Israel refused to go up on the mountain to meet with the Lord because they were afraid. Moses went up on this day and received the Ten Words (also called the Ten Commandments) as well as the book of the Law (Exodus chapters 21-23). This was the first Pentecost.

In Acts 2:1-4, we find the early believers gathered together in worship and prayer on the day of Pentecost. Why? Pentecost was a celebration honored every year. It was on this special day that God poured out the BAPTISM of the Holy Spirit!

The fire of God came down on the mountain in Exodus. The fire was outside the people. In Acts 2:1-4, God put the fire in His people! In Exodus, the Law was given outwardly. It is the written standard that God established for our lives. It shows us the narrow way. In Acts, the people received the power to live by God's standard. His Law becomes written on our hearts! It gives us the Spiritual passion we need to serve a Spiritual God.

Because God is putting His power within us, He is expecting more out of us. Jesus told the disciples that they would "...receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). When we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we become living testimonies. God's word should be quick and active inside of us because He is overflowing outside of us in a brand new way. We should desire to be witnesses of

Him locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. It takes the fire of God inside of us to do this. This fire brings about a radical change in our character where our Passion for Him becomes evident to everyone. It cannot be contained!

We learn other important lessons from the Feast of Pentecost. We should not be like the Israelites and shrink away from encountering God. Did the Lord descend on the mountain in Exodus in vain? Did He just do it for show? Absolutely not! He wanted to meet with His people. It was His desire.

He desires you. Our feelings are our greatest enemy. They are often in conflict with God's plan. We are His chosen people; a royal priesthood. The blood of Jesus was shed on Passover so we could leave Egypt during Unleavened Bread and come up onto the mountain on Pentecost. We were bought at a price. Of course the Lord wants to meet with you! When the Feast Days approach, we should be in eager expectation at what God is doing. We often have feelings of unworthiness when God's presence is near. We have to put away our feelings with our faith. We must believe we are forgiven. We must step forward to meet with Him if we really want to be His Bride. It takes His fire to be His Bride.

Interestingly enough, Pentecost is the only Feast Day that can be a different day on the Calendar every single year. It is no coincidence that Christ said, "No man knows the day or the hour..." of His return. In Acts 1, Jesus told the disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until the Baptism of the Holy Spirit would be poured out. He did not tell them the day or the hour in which this would happen. These are types to show us that the Feast of the Rescue is Pentecost. He married a physical people in Exodus 19; He is looking for a spiritually on-fire people today. That fire comes on Pentecost.

If you would like to learn more about Pentecost , download our free booklet "The Feast of Pentecost: Past, Present, and Future." You can find it at www.hungryheartsmistry.com on the "Free Resources " page.

Chapter 4

Fall Feasts

The Fall Feast days all occur in the seventh month on the Hebrew Calendar, which is called *Tishri*. The fall Feasts occur during September or October on our calendar. There is a calendar in the back of this booklet that lists these dates. To understand the Fall Holy Days, it is important to understand the time period that comes just before them.

Teshuvah

The sixth month on the Hebrew calendar is called Elul. The Jewish people call this time *Teshuvah*. *Teshuvah* means to turn or return back to where you came from. It can also mean to be restored or to repent. It is a month-long period before the Fall Feasts when a person is supposed to return to God. It is a preparation period for the Fall Feasts.

At Hungry Hearts, we have a four-week program to prepare you for the Fall Feasts. It is based upon Haggai chapter 1, which was a prophetic word spoken in the sixth month. In the first week, we spend time with the Lord examining ourselves. We write down our sins on a sheet of paper. This is not to share with anyone else. We will burn these on the weekly Sabbath before Atonement. During the second week, we pray for friends and family members to come to know the Lord and the fullness of His Ways. During the third week, we spend time going through our finances. We make a budget and a net worth statement (assets minus debts). We also make goals for the upcoming year and form plans to see those goals come to pass. During the fourth week, we spend alone time with the Lord seeking His face. As you do this year after year, you will see God do amazing things in your life. You will be fully prepared for the Fall Feast Days. Prophetically, these days represent when the two houses of Israel, Israel and Judah, will return back from captivity just before the public return of Jesus (Jer. 50:4-6).

To learn more about our practice of *Teshuvah*, download the booklet “The Book of Practice.”

Trumpets

The first fall celebration day is **Trumpets**. The Feast of Trumpets begins on the first day of the seventh month on the Hebrew Calendar. On our calendar, the Feast of Trumpets is in September or October.

The Bible supports two calendars (see Ex. 12:1-6, Lev 23:5-6, Ex 34:22, Lev. 25:8-10). While Passover is considered the beginning of the festival calendar, Trumpets is considered to be the beginning of the civil year. For this reason, it is sometimes called the Head of the Year (*Rosh Hoshanna* in Hebrew) or the New Year. In Leviticus 23:24, the Bible says that the Feast of Trumpets is a “commemoration of the trumpet blasts.” The Hebrew phrase used here is *zikron teruah*. *Zikron* means a memorial and *Teruah* is a specific trumpet blast used mostly during a time of war. It means a memorial of the trumpet blasts.

The type of trumpet they used was a ram’s horn, called a *shofar* in Hebrew. This feast is a commemoration of when the Lord went to war for Ancient Israel. Many of their battles were won at the blowing of the ram’s horn, such as in the days of Joshua and Gideon.

This day also has rich prophetic meaning! In the future, a seven-year period called the 70th week of Daniel will take place. It will commence the most chaotic time ever known on planet earth. There will be wars between many nations, famine will be rife, pestilence will spread like never before, and humanity will be in total desperation. God’s wrath will be poured out. Billions of people will perish in the process. As we approach the end of this seven-year period, the remnants of the nations will march on Jerusalem to destroy God’s people. This is recorded in Rev. 16:13-6 and Zech. 14:1-16.

These nations are gathering to fight for control of the world. They also want to stamp out what remains of Israel. Just when it seems to be a hopeless situation, Jesus Christ will intervene on their behalf! He will blow the trumpet and return to save His people!

“The LORD will be seen over them; and his arrow will go flash like lightning; and the Lord The LORD will blow the trumpet (*shofar*), and will go with whirlwinds of the south” (Zec 9:14).

In Revelation 17:14 and 19:11-20, we learn that Christ will return with his called, chosen, and faithful. That is the Body of Christ! We will be with Christ and defeat the armies gathered together at Armageddon. Prophetically, Trumpets represents when the Lord will go to war for His people once again at His public return! We gather on this day to celebrate these awesome events, both past and future! Consider also how God can bring sudden, swift victory in your life when it seems that all odds are against you!

The theme for the Day of Trumpets is judgment. The Jewish people believe that God sets the course for a person’s entire year on this day. They also believe that every person’s name will be written in the book of life or the book of death. Interestingly enough, this concept is derived from certain Bible verses. There are different kind of books mentioned in the Bible (see Ps. 69:28, 139:16, Rev. 3:5, Mal. 3:16). When Jesus returns, which is represented by Trumpets, books will be opened (Dan. 7:9-11).

God is examining our lives during *Teshuvah* to see if we really returned to Him with all of our heart. God is also determining on Trumpets the general course of our lives—how well we will be blessed this upcoming year or if we will not be blessed at all! The measure of our returning will be the measure of our outpouring. We have to stay the course during the rest of the year.

Days of Awe

The Feast of Trumpets begins the first of the Ten Days of Awe,

also called the Ten Awesome Days. These days end on the Feast of Atonement. During this time, a person who did not repent during *Teshuvah* has the opportunity to return to God. According to Jewish thought, these are ten days of grace to have your name changed from the book of death into the book of life if you did not properly repent during *Teshuvah*. Jewish tradition says that when the door to the Temple closed after the Feast of Atonement, a person's future was sealed for the upcoming year.

God will show His awesome provision in your life during these ten days. The Days of Awe are a picture of your upcoming year. I have found this to be 100% accurate over the years. If you experience car trouble during the Days of Awe, then make sure you take special care of your car. If you have a breakthrough at work, then you can expect good things to happen at work. Even if something negative happens during the Days of Awe, it gives us an opportunity to guard ourselves from unnecessary trouble. Consider the example of the car that had problems. Having this trouble during the Days of Awe gives you the warning to take special care of your car in the upcoming year. This again shows God's awesome power and grace - that He would reveal events before they happen! In some instances, God is showing us the attacks Satan will use against us this upcoming year! It would be wise to write down the things that happen to you during the Days of Awe.

Prophetically, this time period looks forward to when the nations who survive the wrath of God turn to God wholeheartedly in true repentance (Isaiah 11:10, 35:4-6, 49:22, 60:1-5, 66:12-21 Ezekiel 20:36-38, Daniel 7:9-11).

Atonement

The **Day of Atonement**, also known as *Yom Kippur*, falls on the 10th day of *Tishri*. *Yom Kippur* is Hebrew for "Day of the Covering." It is the tenth day in the ten days of awe. When the temple doors closed on the Day of Atonement, Jewish tradition says that God has already determined the outcome of your upcoming year.

This Feast day is much different from the other Feasts. On the other Feasts, you eat the choicest foods possible and rejoice. This day is different in that it is a day of fasting, repentance, and reflection. The fast is from sunset to sunset and is abstaining from both drink and food. In Acts 27:9, it is referred to as “The Fast.” It is on this day in Ancient Israel that atonement was made for the sins of the people. For this reason, the Day of Atonement is called *Shabbat Shabbaton* or the Sabbath of Sabbaths. It is the holiest day of the year on the Hebrew Calendar because of its significance. A holy convocation or church service is to be held on this day. Through a special ceremony on this day, the people were going to be made one again with their God.

Leviticus chapter 16 gives us the ceremony for this Holy Day. The High Priest would first wash with water and put on his sacred linen garments. He then offered a bull for his own sins and the sins of his household. This shows us that before the high priest could make atonement for others he had to make atonement for his household. (This is why we examine ourselves during the first week of *Teshuvah*. Before we can pray for others to repent, we must get right with God ourselves!) Next, he took the bull’s blood into the Most Holy Place and sprinkle it on the east side of the Ark of the Covenant seven times and sprinkle it once in front of the Ark. He then took the blood and put it on the four horns of the altar of incense and sprinkled it seven times.

Next, two goats were chosen. Lots were cast between them. One goat was chosen as a sin offering and the other goat was chosen as the scapegoat (also called the *azazel* goat). The goat chosen for the sin offering was brought to the High Priest. The High Priest would then slaughter the goat and apply its blood just like he did with the bull. This goat was sacrificed for the sins and uncleanness of the Israelite nation.

When this sacrifice was completed, the priests would bring forward the goat chosen as the scapegoat. He would confess over it all the sins of the people. This goat was chased by a chosen man out into the desert. In later times, it was chased over a cliff.

This day has a special significance for Christians. We learn in Hebrews 8:5 that the earthly temple is a picture and type of the Heavenly Temple. The ritual of Atonement in Leviticus chapter 16 reveals to us how Christ atoned for the sins of the world in the Heavenly Temple. He placed His blood on the Temple furniture in Heaven to make atonement for our sins so we could stand before God and be declared innocent. You can read about this in Hebrews chapters 6-10.

The ceremony of Atonement also reveals to us future events that have yet to take place! The second goat offered on Atonement represents Satan the devil. In Revelation 20:1-3, Satan and his minions will be bound with a chain by a chosen angel and cast into the Abyss. Once the devil and his angels are removed from earth, the Millennial reign of Christ can commence. On Atonement, we spend most of the day worshipping in the presence of God.

First Day of Tabernacles (Inauguration Day)

The Feast of Tabernacles, also known as the Feast of *Sukkot*, is celebrated from the 15th through the 22nd day of the month of Tishri. The **First Day of Tabernacles** is an Annual Sabbath when no work is to be done. A holy convocation is to be held on this day. In Ancient Israel, people from the entire nation would gather in Jerusalem to celebrate and keep this Festival. This eight-day feast marks the end of the ceremonial year.

In Ancient Israel, this celebration was the time to thank God for the year's harvest. During the eight days of the Feast, we will be filled with joy and exuberance in God's presence because of the natural and spiritual harvest He has brought into our lives. It is a time for us to gather together to hear anointed preaching and enjoy the fellowship of the brethren.

This Festival is also called the Feast of *Sukkot*. While the Israel-

ites were in the wilderness in route to the Promised Land, they lived in temporary dwellings called *sukkot*. It was also to remind them that a more permanent home in the Promised Land was awaiting them. Native-born Israelites were supposed to dwell in *sukkot* during the first seven days of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:42-43).

Christ came down in a tabernacle and dwelt with us! In John 1:1-2, 14, John records that, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning... The Word became flesh and made his **dwelling** among us”. The Greek word translated as “dwelling” is *skenoo*, and it refers to the temporary booths that the Israelites built in the wilderness. Christ came down and dwelt among us in a fleshly body like ours. This was a temporary dwelling! One reason that we celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles is to celebrate Christ coming down to earth to live like us! Each of us lives in a *sukkah* or temporary dwelling. One day we will receive a glorified body like His (Phil. 3:21).

Tabernacles also has much prophetic meaning! Our Savior is coming again to dwell with us for a temporary 1,000 year reign. The first seven days of the Feast is a gathering of believers to celebrate this 1,000 year reign of righteousness! . This will be a time of peace, joy, and unparalleled prosperity because God’s Government will be ruling the entire world.

The First Day of Tabernacles represents the inaugural celebration of Christ as King and Lord over all the earth! This will be the day when resurrected believers will be given thrones and allotments of land. We will be introduced to the nation(s) or group of people we will rule over during the Millennium. This First Day of Tabernacles will be a public gathering to acknowledge Christ and His resurrected Saints as rulers and priests of God Most High (see Rev. 20:4-6).

The Eighth Day of Tabernacles (Also Known as the Last Great Day)

The **Eighth Day of Tabernacles**, known as the Last Great Day, is celebrated on the 22nd day of the seventh month of *Tishri*. This day marks the end of the ceremonial year. No work is to be done on this day and a public gathering of believers is to be held. It is referred to as the Last and Greatest Day of the Feast in John 7:37-38. The first Seven days are the pilgrimage portion of the feast and the last day is the closing assembly (Lev. 23:34-36). This day was the last day for the Israelites to show God their appreciation for the entire year's harvest.

The first seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles prophetically represents the 1,000 year reign of Christ. The Last Great Day celebrates when the rest of the dead will be resurrected at the Great White Throne Judgment. As Revelation 20:5a reads "(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.)" After the Millennial reign of Christ, every person who has ever lived will be resurrected. These events are described in Revelation 20:11-15. During this judgment, those whose names are not found written in the Lamb's book of life are thrown into the Lake of Fire, which is the second death.

After this, God will renew the earth and heavens with fire. The new Heavens and the New Earth will then commence. The Father will come down to earth to rule and we will be together forever.

As a side note, you might be familiar with the verse "the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8:10). Most people don't know that this verse was written in the midst of celebrating the fall feasts!

To learn more about the Fall Festivals and how to celebrate them, please download our free booklet: *Ingathering*. You can find it at www.hungryheartsministry.com on the Free Resources page.

Chapter 5

Celebrating the Feast Days

In this booklet, we have reviewed the meaning of the Feasts and some tips on how to celebrate them. However, there are some final details to cover.

Offerings are mentioned throughout the Bible. There is actually a specific offering that is supposed to be received during the Feast Days. In Deuteronomy 16:16-17, the Lord mentions this offering: “16 Three times in a year all of your males shall appear before The LORD your God in the place which he chooses: in the feast of unleavened bread, in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of booths. They shall not appear before The LORD empty. 17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to The LORD your God’s blessing which he has given you.”

There is neither male nor female in Christ (Galatians 3:28). The Lord asks us to bring an offering three times a year on these Festival seasons in proportion to how God has blessed us. If the Lord has blessed us greatly this past year, then we should give a bigger offering. If we have had a down year financially, then we should give a smaller offering. This is where keeping up with your finances during *Teshuvah* becomes important. As you celebrate the Holy Day cycle every year, you can go back and compare the blessing of God in your life from previous years.

As you read this booklet, you may have asked yourself – “How am I going to afford to keep God’s Feast Days?” There is a second tithe taught in the Bible. This second tithe is described in Deut. 14:22-27. We are to save up this tithe and spend it to celebrate the Feast Days. You spend this money on what makes you and your family happy. You buy clothes, shoes, eat at the nicest restaurants, etc. so that you celebrate with the maximum amount of joy! We are then to send some of it to brothers and sisters in the church that had a bad year or help our brethren overseas (Neh. 8:10). If you need help celebrating these days, never hesitate to

ask someone else in the congregation. We are all happy to help you.

Let's face it: you know what you like. The world wants you to go into debt to buy something for someone that they won't like. God is brilliant. He knows that we should save up and then buy what we like. This gives you a holy income to keep His Holy Days. You will be filled with joy because you will enjoy things that you like in His presence (which gives you fullness of joy—Psalms 16:11). We will not have to accumulate debt to purchase them. Everyone will be happy and we will all have a great time.

Buying nice gifts for the feast days creates an imprint of God's presence on your life. Every time you look at the clothes or other items you bought you will be reminded of this special time with God. You will be reminded of the outpouring of God's Spirit. You will be refreshed throughout the year.

The presence of God is poured out the strongest during these days. As you celebrate them, they will have progressively greater meaning for your life. You will experience God's presence on a more intense level as you go through this process of repentance and celebration. You will learn God's sacred rhythm.

I have been keeping the Feasts since 2007 and I have never had a bad Feast celebration. I have grown more spiritually during this time than at any other time in my life. I have had tremendous experiences with God that I would not trade for anything. They have a deep endearment in my heart. God is not a respecter of persons. If I have had these amazing results, then so will you.

To learn more about Second Tithe and Holy Day Offerings, download our free booklet "Tithing and Giving." To learn more about celebrating these days, please download our free booklet "The Book of Practice."

They are available for free download from www.hungryheartsministry.com: "Free Resources."

Chart #1A: Holy Day Calendar*

Year	Passover**	Unleavened Bread	Pentecost
2018	March 30 (Fri)	March 31-April 6 (Sat-Fri)	May 20 (Sun)
2019	April 19 (Fri)	April 20-26 (Sat- Fri)	June 9 (Sun)
2020	April 8 (Wed)	April 9-15 (Thurs- Wed)	May 31 (Sun)
2021	March 27 (Sat)	March 28-April 3 (Sun-Sat)	May 16 (Sun)
2022	April 15 (Fri)	April 16-22 (Sat- Fri)	June 5 (Sun)
2023	April 5 (Wed)	April 6-12 (Thurs- Wed)	May 28 (Sun)
2024	April 22 (Mon)	April 23-29 (Tues- Mon)	June 16 (Sun)
2025	April 12 (Sat)	April 13-19 (Sun- Sat)	June 1 (Sun)
2026	April 1 (Wed)	April 2-8 (Thurs- Wed)	May 24 (Sun)

**Passover is always observed on the night before. In fact, all of the Feasts of the Lord begin at sunset of the previous day. For instance, in 2018, Passover begins on Thursday, March 29 at sunset. The First Day of Unleavened Bread began on Friday, March 30th at sunset. Every feast day ends at sunset on the date given above.

*This calendar is derived from the Hebrew Calendar.

Chart #1B: Holy Day Calendar*

Year	Trumpets	Atonement	Tabernacles	Last Great Day
2018	Sept 10 (Mon)	Sept 19 (Wed)	Sept 24-30 (Mon-Sun)	Oct 1 (Mon)
2019	Sept 30 (Mon)	Oct 9 (Wed)	Oct 14-20 (Mon -Sun)	Oct 21 (Mon)
2020	Sept 19 (Sat)	Sept 28 (Mon)	Oct 3-9 (Sat- Fri)	Oct 10 (Sat)
2021	Sept 7 (Tues)	Sept 16 (Thurs)	Sept 21-27 (Tues-Mon)	Sept 28 (Tues)
2022	Sept 26 (Mon)	Oct 5 (Wed)	Oct 10-16 (Mon-Sun)	Oct 17 (Mon)
2023	Sept 16 (Sat)	Sept 25 (Mon)	Sept 30-Oct 6 (Sat-Fri)	Oct 7 (Sat)
2024	Oct 3 (Thurs)	Oct 12 (Sat)	Oct 17-23 (Thurs-Wed)	Oct 24 (Thurs)
2025	Sept 23 (Tues)	Oct 2 (Thurs)	Oct 7-13 (Tues- Mon)	Oct 14 (Tues)
2026	Sept 12 (Sat)	Sept 21 (Mon)	Sept 26-Oct 2 (Sat-Fri)	Oct 3 (Sat)

*This calendar is derived from the Hebrew Calendar. All feast days start the prior day at sunset.

The Feasts of the Lord are described in Leviticus 23. They are special times to honor His work in our lives: past, present, and future. These celebrations will add an amazing level of depth and understanding in our walk with God. Jesus and the early believers celebrated them. The Lord eagerly anticipates to celebrate them with us today.



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www.hungryheartsmintistry.com