

The Significance Of The Jewish Feasts And Sacred Assemblies

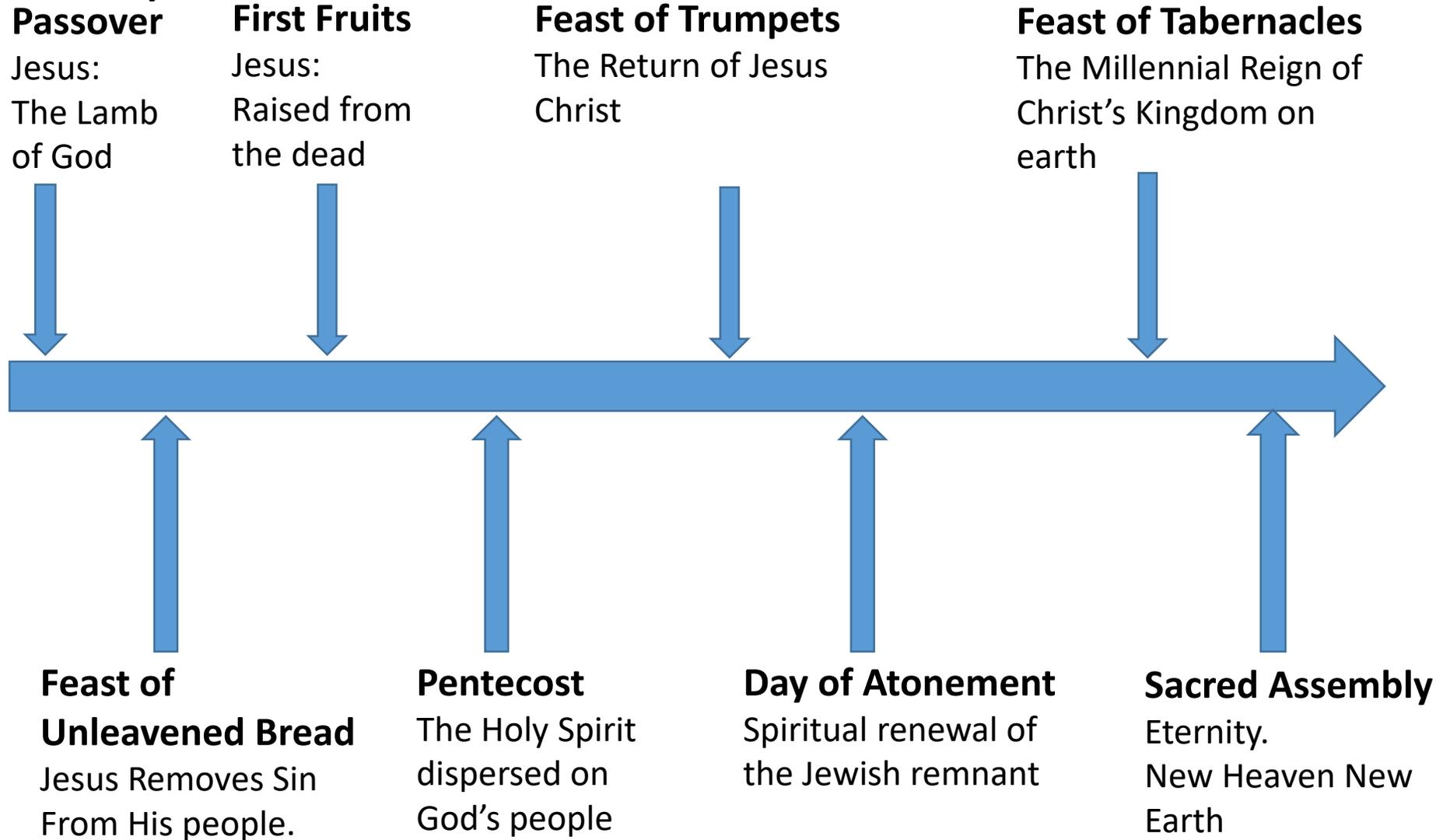
Study 8

Feasts Of The Lord

- Old Testament based: God's directives for carrying out the seven compulsory feasts outlined on the next page make up part of the law.
 - [Exodus 23:14-17](#)
 - [Leviticus 22:1-14](#)
 - [Numbers 28:16](#) [29:40](#)
 - [Deuteronomy 16:1-17](#)
- Appears to prefigure New Testament Events related to God's redemptive plan for man
- Four of the seven sacred feasts (Spring Celebrations) have already been fulfilled in exact fashion while the last three (Fall Celebrations) remain unfulfilled.

Jewish Feast	Date	Significance	Old Testament Purpose	New Testament Fulfillment
Passover (FULFILLED)	1st Month Nisan 14 (March-April)	The Passover speaks of redemption, Messiah, the Passover Lamb, would be sacrificed for us.	Slaying a lamb and eating it with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast commemorated the Israelites deliverance from Egypt	Jesus offered Himself as the Lamb of God whose blood was shed for the forgiveness of sin. He endowed Passover with its true significance. John 1:29 1 Corinthians 5:7b
Feast of Unleavened Bread (FULFILLED)	1st Month Nisan 15-21 (March-April)	Unleavened Bread speaks of sanctification. Messiah's body would not decay in the grave.	Eating Bread without yeast commemorated the Israelites hasty departure from Egypt	Jesus died to take away the sin of the world. Jesus was crucified at 9 a.m. on the first day of the weeklong Feast of Unleavened Bread. His atoning sacrifice removed our sins, which yeast symbolizes 1 Corinthians 5:8
Feast of First-fruits (FULFILLED)	1st Month Day After The Sabbath during Nisan 16	First-fruits speaks of resurrection. Messiah would rise triumphantly from the grave on the third day.	The people waived the first sheaves of barley before the Lord in recognition of His bountiful provision for them.	Christ is the first fruits. Jesus rose from the dead, defeating the power of death. This feast always falls the day after the Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. When Jesus rose from the dead, he conquered death. Hebrews 2:9, 1 Corinthians 15:22-23
Pentecost Feast of Weeks (FULFILLED)	50 days after First-fruits 3rd Month Sivan 6 (May-June)	Pentecost speaks of origination. Messiah would send the Holy Spirit to inaugurate the New Covenant and Church Age	The people acknowledged God's blessings by presenting offerings from the field and flock	Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (another name for the Feast of Weeks) to empower believers. Pentecost always 50 days or 7 Sundays after the Feast of First-fruits. Acts 2:1-4
Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) (UNFULFILLED)	7th Month Tishri 1 (Sept-Oct)	Trumpets points to the future day when the Messiah returns to rescue the righteous (Rapture) and judge the wicked	Israel celebrated a day of rest with trumpet blasts and offerings.	Jesus returns for his Bride and establishes His kingdom. The Feast of Trumpets may prefigure the Parousia (arrival), the second coming of Christ. Notice the prominence of the trumpet call in 1 Thessalonians 4:14, 1 Corinthians 15:52. Matthew 24:30-31
Day of Atonement (Yon Kippur) (UNFULFILLED)	7th Month Tishri 10 (Sept-Oct)	The Day of Atonement points to the future day when Israel repents of her sins and turns to the Messiah for salvation.	The priests and the people presented offerings to atone for their sins.	The Jewish nation is cleansed and restored. The Day of Atonement may prefigure the spiritual renewal of the Jewish remnant. Consider Joel's prophecy regarding restored Israel Joel 4:21 Zechariah 12:10-11, 13:1
Feast of Tabernacles (UNFULFILLED)	7th Month Tishri 15-22 (Sept-Oct)	Tabernacles points to the future day when the Messiah sets up the messianic Kingdom and tabernacles among men.	The Israelites lived in booths for a week and presented offerings to the Lord in thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. A Sacred Assembly is held on the eight and final day of the festival to celebrate the closing of the yearly cycle of feasts.	The Lord tabernacles with his people on earth. The Feast of Tabernacles may prefigure a millennial reign of Christ in which God tabernacles with His people. [Zechariah 14:16-17. See also Peter 3:12-13]

Feast Cycle



Passover

- Passover is the foundational feast upon which the other six feasts are built upon.
- Celebrated annually since the time of Moses.
- Passover occurred only once some 3,500 years ago in Egypt. At that time, a lamb was sacrificed and blood was applied to each doorpost and lintel. When this was done in faith and in obedience to God's command, that home was "passed over," and the life of the firstborn was spared.
- Since this Pass Over event, throughout the centuries, The Jews have been memorializing that one and only first "Passover.
- In precisely the same way, there was only one occasion when the Messiah's flesh was pierced and His blood spilled on the cross of Calvary for the sins of the world. The Lord's Supper Is an ongoing memorial of that one momentous occasion.
- Jesus Christ is the Passover ([1 Corinthians 5:7](#)). Jesus was crucified on the Passover.

Feast of Unleavened Bread

- God Set up another feast which was to begin the next day on the 15th day of Nisan.
- The Feast of Unleavened Bread was to last seven days. On the first and last night there was to a meeting between God and man.
- Leaven symbolized error or evil. It is the agent that causes fermentation. ([Matthew 16:6, 11](#); [Mark 8:15](#))
- The Jewish celebration of this holiday was to meticulously go throughout the house sprinkling bread crumbs (leaven/yeast) at difficult-to-get-at places in every room in the house. Then they would return and meticulously clean the house thoroughly of these leaven crumbs, take them outside and burn them.
- Left undealt with, sin will permeate and effect everything. ([1Cor 5:6](#))
- Jesus body never decayed, in the tomb or elsewhere. ([Acts 2:27](#), [Psalms 16:10](#)). “from the dust of the ground man came and to the dust of the ground he shall return ([Genesis 3:19](#)) This is God’s curse on man until the Redeemer would rescue them.

Feast of First-fruits

- The Feast of First-fruits occurs on the second day of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread.
 - Nisan 14: Passover
 - Nisan 15: Feast of Unleavened Bread
 - Nisan 16: Feast of First-fruits
- The first sheaf of Barley (first-fruits) of the harvest is cut, and, in a carefully prescribed and meticulous ceremony, presented to the Lord
- The acceptance of the first-fruits is an “earnest” or pledge on God’s part of a full harvest
- This concept was used by Paul frequently to fight Gnosticism, which among other things, taught that the physical was evil therefore there was no resurrection as that would produce an evil, eternal body. Denying the resurrection of Jesus Christ would be contrary to truth resulting in hopelessness and despair. ([1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#), [12](#), [14](#), [18-19](#))
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Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)

- This Feast is celebrated exactly 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits. ([Leviticus 23:15-16](#), [Deuteronomy 16:9](#))
- Pentecost means 50th.
- The Son of God was slain on the Passover and arose from the grave on First-fruits.
- Jesus spent 40 days with his disciples, he ascended and ten days later, The Holy Spirit descended on those first century Christians on the day of the Feast of Pentecost
- During The Feast of Weeks, two loaves of leaven bread ((for the believers have not yet been glorified) were brought to the Temple. They represented Jew and Gentile, now one in the Messiah with the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Feast of Trumpets

- The Feast of Trumpets (also called Rosh Hashannah is the first of the fall feasts.
- Rosh Hashannah means “Head of the year”
- This feast is important in Jewish thinking that it stands alongside Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
- Today, we are currently living in the timeframe between the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of Trumpets.
- The Trumpets will signal Messiah’s second coming to rapture the Church and judge the wicked, thereby ending the Church Age.
- Two types of trumpets were in Israel’s rituals. One of silver, the other a ram’s horn (shofar). The shofar is utilized in the elaborate service of the Feasts of Trumpets
- Ancient Israel used the blowing of trumpets for two reasons.
 - Summoning the people to God’s presence.
 - Calling the people to war against Israel’s enemies.
- Two major themes are associated with the Day Of The Lord
 - Deliverance of the righteous
 - Judgement of the wicked.
 - Jesus will call His own to Himself and then go to war against His enemies
 - The blowing of a trumpet will sign each of these events
- In the most basic terms, the Feast of Trumpets depicts the coming of the Messiah to rapture the Church and judge the wicked.

Day Of Atonement

- This day occurs 10 days after the Feast of Trumpets. The 9-day interval are known as the Days of Awe.
- According to Jewish tradition, three books are opened in heaven on the Feast of Trumpets.
 - The Book of Life for the righteous.
 - If a man is deemed righteous, his name is written in the Book of Life for the righteous at the Feast of Trumpets
 - The Book of Life for the unrighteous.
 - If a man is deemed unrighteous, his name is written in the Book of Life for the unrighteous, and he will not survive the year.
 - The Book of Life For those in-between.
 - If a man is deemed in-between, judgment is delayed from the Feast of Trumpets to the Day of Atonement. It is during that period of time that he is given opportunity to repent before the book is closed and his destiny sealed.
- This feast is preparing the world that soon, the Book of Life will be closed and man has but a short time in which to repent and accept the Messiah as Lord & Savior

Feast Of Tabernacles

- Tishri 1: The Feast of Trumpets
- Tishri 10: The Day of Atonement
- Tishri 15-22: 7-Day Feast of Tabernacles
- Tishri 22: The sacred Assembly is held which closes the Feast of Tabernacles
- Celebration
 - Observant Jews erect little huts from bulrushes as a reminder of the temporary housing used during the Exodus wanderings.
 - Samples of the fall crops are hung in each family's booth as an acknowledgement of God's provision.
 - Each day of the festival is filled with important festivities
 - Each day, the high priest leads a great processional of priests and thousands of worshipers from the Temple Mount to the Pool of Siloam where a pitcher of water is filled.
 - Back at the Temple Mount the High Priest pours this pitcher of water onto the altar.
 - This ceremony was to ask God's blessing on the nation so he might provide life-giving water throughout the year.
 - The Sacred Assembly is the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles and closes all festivals for the year. It is like saying, "It is finished."

Fulfillment Of The Feasts

Feast	Theme	Comment
Passover	Redemption	Messiah, the Passover Lamb, has been slain for us
Unleavened Bread	Sanctification	He was set apart. His body would not decay in grave
Firstfruits	Resurrection	The third day, Jesus rose triumphantly from grave
Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)	Origination	Coming of the Holy Spirit inaugurating the New Covenant and Church Age
Trumpets		Yet to be fulfilled
Day of Atonement		Yet to be fulfilled
Tabernacles		Yet to be fulfilled