

Feast Days

This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word. This tract is not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

As children of God, we must look for truth in what the scriptures teach us about the feast days. Some churches teach that Christians should keep all the feast days, as set forth in the Old Testament. There are three feast days spoken of in the Old Testament, they are: the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Harvest and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Exodus 23:14 - 17

Verse 14 Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year.

Verse 15 Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)

Verse 16 And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, *which is* in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

Verse 17 Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

We will now break these down and see if we as Christians should still observe them today. We will start with the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Exodus 12:14, 17

Verse 14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

Verse 17 And ye shall observe *the feast of unleavened bread*; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.

This is where the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread is first mentioned. We see it is to be a memorial for the Israelites for being brought out of the Land of Egypt. Next, we will look to the Feast of Harvest.

Leviticus 23:10, 11

Verse 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:

Verse 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.

We see that the Feast of Harvest was to be observed when they came to their land and reaped their first harvest. If you continue with Leviticus you get detailed instructions on the Feast of Harvest.

Leviticus 23:12

Verse 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.

Keep in mind the detail given for this feast and note that these were necessary for the observation of the Feast of Harvest. The next feast that was observed in the Old Testament was the Feast of Tabernacles.

Leviticus 23:33, 34, 39, 40

Verse 33 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

We read in these scriptures that the Feast of Tabernacles was a feast for the last harvest, thanking God for the blessing in the season.

We also read in Leviticus about the blowing of trumpets and the day of atonement, although these two observations were not considered feast days at this time.

Leviticus 23:23 - 25

Verse 23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Verse 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.

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

The blowing of the trumpets was one of the annual sabbaths. It was to call attention to the day of atonement.

Leviticus 16:33, 34

Verse 33 And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation.

Verse 34 And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus 23:26, 27, 32

Verse 26 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

The day of atonement was one of the most sacred days in Israel. As we read in Leviticus sixteen, it was a day that the high priest entered into the temple and confessed all his sins and the sins of the people.

Hebrews 9:11, 12, 25, 26

Verse 11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Verse 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Verse 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

Verse 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 10:10 - 12

Verse 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Verse 11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Verse 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Reading all of Hebrews ten shows us that the ceremonies and sacrifices that made up the day of atonement were brought to an end when Jesus made his great sacrifice.

Now we ask, should we be partaking in the feast days today? One thing all these annual feast days had in common were that they are tied very closely to the sacrificial system. In that case they could only be kept at the tabernacle or later called the temple.

Deuteronomy 16:5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 15

Verse 5 Thou mayest not sacrifice the passover within any of thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee:

Verse 6 But at the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

Verse 10 And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give *unto the LORD thy God*, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

Verse 11 And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that *is* within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that *are* among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.

Verse 13 Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine:

Verse 15 Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD shall choose: because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine

hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice.

Joshua 18:1

Verse 1 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.

These scriptures clearly state that God had only one specific place for all of the feasts and the sacrifices, which was the temple.

Matthew 24:1, 2

Verse 1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

Verse 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Jesus states here that there will not be one stone left that will not be thrown down, telling us that the temple will be destroyed. The temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. by Titus.

The only days we are instructed to observe are the weekly Sabbath, laid out in the very beginning and mentioned throughout the entire Bible many times, and the Passover which is to be kept annually in remembrance of Jesus for his great sacrifice for us all.

Genesis 2:2,3

Verse 2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

Verse 3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Exodus 20:9 - 11

Verse 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Verse 10 But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates:

Verse 11 For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Mark 2:27, 28

Verse 27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

Verse 28 Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

I Corinthians 11:23 - 26

Verse 23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread:

Verse 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Verse 25 After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me.

Verse 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Through scripture we have broken down each feast day that was talked about in the Old Testament. The feasts were to remember God's promise to the Israelites for bringing them out of Egypt, delivering them to the promised land and the prosperity they would have for their harvests. All of these feasts came to an end with the coming of Jesus and his sacrifice for us all.

Hebrews 13:10

Verse 10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.