

THE FEASTS OF LEVITICUS 23

Picture of Israel and Messiah in Prophecy

The feasts of Leviticus 23 are for Israel. Not the Church.

- 1 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*
- 2 **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.**
- 3 *Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.*
- 4 *These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.*
Bold emphasis added

These feasts are for Israel, if we are going to be consistent with Biblical revelation, then when we look at these feasts **PROPHETICALLY**, we need to understand these feasts as pertaining to Israel, not the Church. This demands that we put the **PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT** in a context that relates to Israel and the Jewish people.

"The seven appointed times were given as a typical presentation of the commitments made to Israel in the Abrahamic Covenant and those which amplified it. As these can be fulfilled only by Israel, so the typology of the feasts can relate only to that nation."

Terry Hulbert, "The Eschatological Significance of Israel's Annual Feasts," 1965 Doctoral dissertation at DTS

There is a **MESSIANIC** element to these feasts as well based on Colossians 2:16-17:

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." **Bold emphasis added**

Thus, there is a **MESSIANIC** element to the feasts as well based on Col. 2:16-17 (not based on Lev. 23).

So, I believe when we look at these feasts **PROPHETICALLY**, it MUST speak of something concerning Israel. When we look at these verses **MESSIANICALLY**, it speaks of Messiah. But, to be consistent, it should speak of Israel and Messiah, not the church and Messiah

Never, does the Bible say the feasts are shadows of the church.

Because God uses the culture of the Jews to communicate truth to Christians (the Bible **is** a Jewish book), i.e., "Even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us," does not allow us to superimpose things pertaining to the church on the feasts of Leviticus 23.

FEASTS, in the Hebrew, have the meaning of keeping an appointment.

מועד mo-ade' - properly, an appointment, i.e. a fixed time or season; also a signal (as appointed beforehand)

In the first 4 feasts Jesus provided everything Israel needed to enter into the kingdom Terry Hulbert wrote:

"When God fulfilled the first four feasts He had provided everything necessary for Israel to enter into literal kingdom blessing--redemption, separation, resurrection, and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Israel's rejection of these, however, made necessary a national change of heart before the Kingdom could be established. Foreknowing this, God included the Feasts of Trumpets and Day of Atonement in the annual cycle. Thus, the Feast of Trumpets predicted God's alerting of the nation for the impending event which would bring about repentance. The Feast of the Day of Atonement predicted, not the death of Christ which had already been typified in the Passover, but the new reaction of Israel to the Redeemer's death. This change will take place when the believing Remnant repents during the Tribulation period. The event which fulfills this sixth feast is identified as God's intervention to save Israel from destruction as Gentile armies attack Jerusalem."

Terry Hulbert, "The Eschatological Significance of Israel's Annual Feasts," 1965 Doctoral dissertation at DTS

1. PASSOVER (Israel's Messiah provides redemption) Leviticus 23:5

"In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover."

Exodus 12 Vs. 3-5 "a - the - your" lamb
Vs. 2,3, 6 "first month, 10th day, 14th day"
Palm Sunday was 10th of Nisan - First night of Passover was 14th of Nisan
Vs. 21 "The lamb is the Passover"

PROPHETIC: It speaks of Israel's Messiah paying the penalty for the sins of the nation - Isaiah 53.

MESSIANIC: It speaks of Jesus death as the Lamb of God, John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7

2. UNLEAVENED BREAD (Sanctification) Leviticus 23:6-8

6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

Exodus 12:15-20 Eating unleavened bread is placed in the midst of this Passover chapter.

Unleavened bread and Passover are seen as one and the same in New Testament days

Luke 22:1 "Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover."

1 Corinthians 5:8 "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

PROPHETIC: It speaks of separation. God required Israel to be a "holy nation," Exodus 13:1-9; 19:1-6.

MESSIANIC: It speaks of the sanctification process in the life of a believer, 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

3. FIRSTFRUITS (Resurrection) Leviticus 23:9-14

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: {sheaf: or, handful: Heb. omer}

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.

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.

13 And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.

14 And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

PROPHETIC: It speaks of the promise of resurrection for the righteous of Israel and (ultimately) dwelling in the land as God's covenant people and enjoying its fruits, Joshua 5:1-12, Deuteronomy 30:1-10, Ezekiel 37.

MESSIANIC: It speaks of Jesus as the "down payment" for all resurrections to come - 1 Cor. 15:19-23.

"But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.."

- 1) First Century Jesus - "Christ the firstfruits"
- 2) Before the Tribulation Period Resurrected Church-Age Saints (Rapture) - 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18
- 3) End of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 20:6)
 - Resurrected Old Testament Saints - Daniel 12:2,13
 - Resurrected martyred Tribulation Saints - Revelation 20:4
- 4) During the Millennium or after the Millennium??? Millennium saints
- 5) End of the Millennium - Revelation 20:5, 11-15 The unsaved are resurrected.

4. PENTECOST (Outpouring of the Holy Spirit)

Leviticus 23:15-22

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

PROPHETIC: Pentecost was the ratification of God's covenant with Israel and speaks of the promise that Israel will one day receive the Spirit of God and dwell in His kingdom.

Ezekiel 39:29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

Joel 2:28-29 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:
And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."

Acts 2:12-21 The main idea that Peter is teaching by quoting the Joel passage is that what is happening is the pouring out of the Holy Spirit by God. None of the other accompanying signs of the Joel passage happened at this time, only the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. The context of Joel is the end of the Tribulation period for Israel. The Acts 2 occurrence is NOT the fulfillment of Joel 2 passage, but the answer to those questioning what was this all about, Acts 2:12-13.
Meaning: They are not drunk, they have been filled with the Holy Spirit.

MESSIANIC: it speaks of Jew and Gentile being united together in Jesus (the church)

5. TRUMPETS (Return of the Jews back to the land of Israel)

Leviticus 23:23-25

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

PROPHETIC: it speaks of Israel being re-gathered back to the land in preparation for judgment and receiving their Messiah. The Abrahamic covenant must be fulfilled before the final re-gathering of all Jews to the land.

The representation of the Feast of Trumpets is the blowing of trumpets for the gathering of the people back to the land as a nation where God will save them from their enemies.

In the following passages trumpets are blown to warn Israel of danger from their enemies and the need to return to the land to worship God.

Numbers 10:9 "And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresses you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies."

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."

The rapture is a prophetic event for the church, not Israel, and thus, not the prophetic picture of this feast.

MESSIANIC: it speaks of the Lamb of God, Revelation 6, pouring out the judgments of Revelation to prepare Israel for their day of repentance and salvation, Revelation 5:9, Jeremiah 30:11.

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;"

"For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished."

Messianically it could speak of the rapture, but not prophetically.

6. DAY OF ATONEMENT (Israel saved)

Leviticus 23:26-32

- 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.

Leviticus 16 (Leviticus 17:11 - the principle of a blood sacrifice of Leviticus 16 is established for ever)

PROPHETIC: it speaks of the salvation of the nation of Israel - Romans 11:25-26; Isaiah 66:7-9

MESSIANIC: it speaks of Jesus being accepted by the Jewish people (Israel), Zechariah 12:10.

7. TABERNACLES (Jesus reigning in Jerusalem over Israel)

Leviticus 23:33-36, 39-43

- 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.
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.

PROPHETIC: it speaks of Jesus tabernacling with us on earth, Ezekiel 37:26-28.

- 26 *Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.*
27 *My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*
28 *And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.*

MESSIANIC: it speaks of Jesus being in Jerusalem reigning over Israel and the world.

The feasts are a picture of Israel and their **PROPHETIC** destiny in relation to **MESSIAH**. Israel rejected redemption (Passover), being sanctified as the head of all nations (Unleavened Bread), their resurrection (Firstfruits), and the Holy Spirit indwelling all Jewish people (Shavuot). In the Tribulation period (the church is removed PRIOR), God is again dealing with Israel, in announcing judgment and re-gathering back to the land (Trumpets), Israel as a nation being saved at the end of the Tribulation period (Day of Atonement), and Israel being the head of all nations with the kingdom centered in Jerusalem, Israel (Tabernacles).