

Leviticus: The Law of the Nation

While Exodus sets the stage, Leviticus provides the script. It is not merely a book to be read, but a manual to be studied. It outlines the rigorous requirements for fellowship with a holy God—specifically the precepts of His Law and the penalties for violating them.

Crucially, Leviticus also presents the grounds for fellowship: the sacrificial system. These offerings were never the final solution; they were symbolic "shadows," every detail meticulously anticipating the completed work of Jesus Christ on a Roman cross in Judea.

The Sacrificial System

The Levitical offerings fall into two primary categories:

- The "Sweet Savor" Offerings (Voluntary): The Burnt Offering, the Meal Offering, and the Peace Offering.
- The Compulsory Offerings: The Sin Offering and the Trespass Offering—provided for the inevitable failures of man.

The "Catechism of the Calendar"

As Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch noted, *"The Jew's catechism is his calendar."* The Jewish calendar is heptadic (structured around the number seven), serving as a prophetic clock for Israel and the world.

Cycle	Description
The Week	Six days of labor followed by the seventh-day Sabbath.
The Religious Year	A "week of months" running from Nisan to Tishri.
The Week of Years	Six years of farming; the seventh year the land lies fallow.
The Jubilee	Following seven "weeks of years" (49 years), the 50th year is a time of total restitution—debts forgiven, slaves freed, and land returned.

The Seven Feasts: A Prophetic Timeline

The Apostle Paul noted that these feasts are a "shadow of things to come." They are divided into two seasonal clusters, separated by a unique summer feast.

1. The Spring Feasts (The First Coming)

- **Passover:** Commemorating the Lamb. On the 10th of Nisan, while lambs were being inspected, Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Like the Passover lamb, not one of His bones was broken.
- **Unleavened Bread:** Highlighting the removal of sin (leaven). The three matzohs and the four cups of the Seder point to Christ; the third cup ("The Cup of Redemption") ordained the Lord's Supper, while the fourth awaits the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.
- **First Fruits:** Celebrated the "morrow after the Sabbath." As the Temple smoke rose on this feast day, an empty tomb revealed Christ as the "first fruits" of the resurrection.

2. The Summer Interval: Shavuot (Pentecost)

Occurring 50 days after First Fruits, the Feast of Weeks is unique—it is the only feast where leavened bread was ordained. This represents the Church (comprised of "leavened" or sinful people made holy) and its Gentile dimension. Notably, tradition says Enoch was born and translated (raptured) on this day, leading many to wonder if Shavuot marks the "restart" of the Jewish prophetic clock.

3. The Fall Feasts (The Second Coming)

- **Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah):** Marking the civil New Year and the beginning of the "Days of Affliction."
- **Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur):** The most solemn day of national repentance. It featured the "scapegoat," a powerful picture of substitutionary atonement where sins were symbolically transferred and removed.
- **Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot):** A week spent in temporary booths to remember the wilderness. The transition from these booths back to permanent dwellings predicts the climax of the Messianic Kingdom.

Note: When Peter spoke in Acts 3:21 of the "restitution of all things," he was using the specific language of the Jubilee—linking Christ's return to the ultimate fulfillment of the Levitical calendar.