

## Leviticus 23: God's Appointed Feasts and Why They Matter

Leviticus 23 lays out the feast days for Israel—basically God’s calendar for His people. These were holy days (holidays) packed with meaning, reminding the Israelites of who God is, what He’s done, and what He promises for the future. Each feast had a purpose, and all of them point to Jesus in some way.

Let’s break it down for today and find ways to apply it to your life.

### The Sabbath: Rest is Sacred

Before talking about the feasts, God emphasizes the Sabbath (verses 1-3). It was a weekly reset—a day to rest and refocus on God.

#### For us:

When was the last time you took a real break and spent intentional time with God? Life moves fast, but God calls us to slow down and make space for Him. Use one day each week to unplug, rest, and refresh your connection with Him.

### Passover & Unleavened Bread: Remember the Rescue

- **Passover (14th day of the first month):** This feast remembered how God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt.
- **Unleavened Bread (15th day for 7 days):** No leaven (yeast) meant removing sin and starting fresh.

#### For us:

Jesus is our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7)—He’s the ultimate rescue. Take time to reflect on how He’s freed you from sin and what “cleaning out the leaven” might mean in your life. Are there habits or distractions you need to let go of?

### Firstfruits: Give God Your Best

This feast celebrated the first part of the harvest, which belonged to God.

#### For us:

Are you giving God your “firstfruits” or just what’s leftover? Whether it’s your time, energy, or resources, start by giving God the best of what you have, trusting Him to take care of the rest.

### Pentecost (Feast of Weeks): The Church's Birthday

Fifty days after Passover, this feast celebrated the full harvest. Interestingly, the bread for this feast included leaven, symbolizing imperfection.

#### For us:

Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit empowered the early church (Acts 2). It’s a reminder that God uses

imperfect people (like us!) to do His work. Are you open to letting God work through you, even with your flaws?

### **Feast of Trumpets: Sound the Alarm**

On the first day of the seventh month, trumpets were blown to signal the start of the holiest month.

#### **For us:**

This points to a future time when Jesus will return (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Are you living in a way that's ready for Him to come back?

### **Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur): Forgiveness and Renewal**

This was the one day each year the high priest entered the Holy of Holies to atone for the nation's sins.

#### **For us:**

Jesus is our ultimate High Priest (Hebrews 9:12), and His sacrifice means we can be forgiven once and for all. Take some time to confess anything weighing on your heart and embrace the freedom He offers.

### **Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot): God's Faithfulness**

For eight days, the Israelites lived in temporary booths (tent-like structures) to remember how God took care of them during their wilderness journey.

#### **For us:**

This feast reminds us that this world is not our final home. Are you trusting God to guide and provide for you, even when life feels uncertain?

### **God's Welfare Program: Care for the Poor**

God told His people not to harvest every corner of their fields so the poor could glean food for themselves (verse 22).

#### **For us:**

How can you leave "corners" in your life to help others? Maybe it's donating time, money, or resources—or simply being there for someone who's struggling.

### **Personal Application**

1. **Find Rest in the Chaos:** Set aside time each week to rest and reconnect with God. Use it to reflect on His faithfulness.
2. **Celebrate Jesus:** Each of these feasts points to Him—take time to thank Him for being your Passover Lamb, your provider, and your guide.
3. **Be Generous:** Look for ways to share your "harvest" with others. What can you do this week to bless someone in need?

4. **Live Ready:** The Feast of Trumpets reminds us that Jesus is coming back. Are you living with that in mind?

### Final Thought

Leviticus 23 isn't just about old-school holidays—it's a reminder of how God is faithful, holy, and generous. As you reflect on these feasts, think about how they show who God is and what He's done in your life. Make it personal, and let these truths shape how you live, give, and trust Him every day.