

Today we'll learn about the ***seven feasts of the Lord***, given to the Israelites in Leviticus.... after they'd been led ***out of Egypt by Moses***.

Sabbath 7 feasts 4 spring 3fall tabernacles

To reveal His plans and purposes... concerning man and the coming Messiah... God gave the Israelites **seven special feasts** they were to observe throughout all their generations

God used these seven **feasts**... to **teach** the Israelites... **but**, as we know... His teaching is not always right out in the open... but rather... **hidden from the spiritually blind**... As Jesus Said... 'Let him who has **ears to hear**... hear... he who has a heart to understand and search for God with all His heart... God said, **"I will be found of you when you search for me with all your heart"** ...

Jesus taught using **Parables**... so the spiritually blind **could not** understand... but He always reveals His truth to those who seek Him...**seek and you shall find**

That's one of the most important truths we could **ever know**... if we want to know God... personally... intimately... we must want **Him**... we must **search for Him** and find Him **in His Word**.

It's not enough to sit and listen on Sunday mornings... we **must**... **each of us**... want **Him** above... **all else**... if we really want **Him**... He will reveal Himself.

We see the ***Feasts of the Lord***... **first** in Lev. 23...

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, these *are* My feasts.

first... The Sabbath

³ ***'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.***

Then the first Feasts... **Passover and Unleavened Bread**

⁴ ‘These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. ⁵ On the fourteenth day of the first month... at twilight is the LORD’s Passover. ⁶ And on the fifteenth day of the same month... the next day... is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. ⁷ On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. ⁸ But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.’”

The Feast of Firstfruits

⁹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁰ “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. ... ¹⁴ You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God

The Feast of Weeks

¹⁵ ‘And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering... that was Firstfruits... seven Sabbaths shall be completed... that is 49 days plus one... He says... Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. ... And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

These are the first four Feasts of the Lord... in the Spring... Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits and Feast of Weeks ... or Pentecost

These first four Feasts happen in the Spring, beginning on the 14th day of the first month... Nissan... none of these are necessarily on a Sabbath.

Then, in the fall... we see the final three... verse 23

first... ***The Feast of Trumpets... Rosh Hashanah***

²³ **Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴ “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a Sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.’” and this goes on for another nine days... then...**

The Day of Atonement... Yom Kippur

²⁶ **And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²⁷ “Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. ²⁸ And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.**

and finally...

The Feast of Tabernacles... Sukkoth

³³ **Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ³⁴ “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. ³⁵**

³⁹ **‘Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a Sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a Sabbath-rest. ⁴⁰ And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, **branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees,** and willows of the brook; **and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.** ⁴¹ You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. **And you shall dwell in booths/tents/tabernacles... for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, ⁴³ that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.’”****

⁴⁴ So Moses declared to the children of Israel **the feasts of the LORD.**

None of these either are necessarily on a Sabbath...

These seven feasts or festivals of the Lord were given to be observed yearly as a *rehearsal of understanding concerning the coming of Messiah and God's plan for the redemption of man through the Messiah.*

All of them point to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The first four, Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits and Weeks, or Pentecost are **all in the Spring**, beginning on the 14th day of the first month of the Jewish Calendar... Nissan

This was so that they would **remember of what God had done** and also... they to **look forward to the coming of Messiah** and what He *would do*.

The first and most important was, of course, Passover. This was for remembering God's miraculous deliverance of Israel... from 400 years of slavery in Egypt... Remember... the Angel of the Lord had gone through all of Egypt killing every first born... man and beast... to finally force Pharaoh to 'let my people go' The only ones who were spared... were those who... **by faith**... believed and obeyed God... **by dabbing blood of a lamb**... over their doors... top and both sides in the shape of a cross... foreshadowing the death and sacrifice of the **perfect sacrificial lamb** of God, Jesus Christ... on the Cross. Those **homes with the blood on the doors**... **those families** were passed over... no judgment... no death of the firstborn. For us... we who have placed our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and in **His shed blood**... have passed over... from **death unto life**... eternal life.

The feast of Passover looked back to that night of deliverance in Egypt, but more importantly... it looked forward... to the Sacrificial Lamb of God... to the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The 2nd feast... Unleavened Bread... looked backward to their flight from Egypt... leaving quickly... God told them to leave their leaven... not even to let their bread rise... they were leaving the leaven of Egypt,,, they were leaving the sin of Egypt. Then it also looked forward to the sacrifice of the Unleavened Savior. Throughout the Bible... Leaven is a type for sin... they clean out all leaven from their homes in

preparation of Passover... Unleavened bread is the type for the sinless life of Jesus Christ... the spotless Lamb of God sacrificed for our cleansing and forgiveness.

Then, the Festival of Firstfruits... looks backward to their entrance into the Promised Land... but more importantly it looked **forward to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**...

Paul writes in 1 Cor 15:20... But now is Christ *risen from the dead*, and become... the *firstfruits*... of them that slept.

And of us...

James writes... Of his own will... He brought forth... with the word of truth, that **we...** should be... a kind of... **firstfruits of his creatures**.

Then... the last of the spring feasts is the Feast of Weeks, or... Pentecost... because... fifty days after Firstfruits... from the Greek Pente prefix... meaning 50... 50 days... Pentecost... 50 days after the Sabbath after Firstfruits... looking backward to the giving of the Law on Mt Sinai, but more importantly... looking forward to Jesus Christ's ascension and His sending the Holy Spirit in the upper room...on Pentecost ... the birth of His body... Us... the Church.

The first Pentecost was at Mt Sinai at the giving of the Law to Moses.

The giving of the Law on Mt Sinai was the body of the covenant God initiated with Israel to be in force during the time between the giving of the Law and the complete fulfillment of the Law by and through the Lord Jesus Christ...the time between God's promises to Israel (Jacob) and Jesus' death on the Cross... about 2000 years.

The last Pentecost... the coming of the Holy Spirit... God's 'down payment, His 'Earnest Money' to us... to prove the certainty of His promise to complete His full redemption of the purchased 'product'... you and me... the Church, The Body of Jesus Christ!... and the period of time God has been building the Body of Christ, US, the Church... about 2000 years... And at the **end** of this time... His dispensing of the **New Covenant**... at the end of the time of the Church... when we are removed

in the Rapture... God will once again resume... and complete... His work... in the redemption of His special possession... Israel.... and also His judgment poured out on this unbelieving World.

God is almost done with **this** portion of His dealing with Man... the building of the Body of Christ... the Church... and the **time** of the Church, the time of **God's unlimited grace... poured out on the Church...** is about to end... as He brings us home to Himself in the Rapture.

So... what we have is... the first four... the **spring** feasts... Passover... Unleavened Bread... Firstfruits... and the Feast of Weeks... or... Pentecost... they were **all fulfilled...** by the Lord Jesus Christ at His **first** coming... and they were all **fulfilled exactly...** on the exact day!

He came to fulfill the Law... Remember, Jesus Said, **“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**

He fulfilled the Law... and He fulfilled the first four Feasts... **exactly...** to the **day!**

So... What does that tell us about... **the fall feasts**... those 3 yet to be fulfilled... ... that we would **most likely** be **correct** in thinking that Jesus Christ will **also fulfill** each of the fall feasts... also... on the **exact day of the feast.**

The first three feasts... Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits... are one right after the other... beginning on the 14th day of the first month... right together... with the fourth one, Weeks... or Pentecost... happening just 50 days later. All four were **fulfilled to the letter, to the day**, with the first coming of Jesus Christ. Then, an entire season passes... 6 months... until the three fall feasts begin... on the first day of the seventh month...

They are... **Trumpets... Day of Atonement... and Tabernacles...** or... **Rosh Hashanah.... Yom Kippur.... and Sukkoth...** which are **yet to be fulfilled** so they are **still prophetic...** for us, the Church... **the Feast of Trumpets the first of the fall feasts... is especially significant.**

The fall feasts, which picture the second coming of Jesus Christ... begin with the new moon, the first day... of the seventh month...

The Jewish calendar is a combination of Solar/Lunar and very important when it comes to time spans in Prophecy.

We will learn more about this later... when we study that great prophecy...

The 70 weeks of Daniel...

Our calendar today is based on the Solar cycle... 365 1/4 days... the time it takes the Earth to make a complete revolution around the Sun... beginning and ending at exactly the same point astronomically every year.

The Muslim calendar is based on the Lunar cycle... the time it takes the Moon to make a complete revolution around the Earth... about 29 1/2 days times 12 months or... 354 1/3 days... the Muslim calendar drifts 11 to 12 days each year and it takes about 33 years for it to come back to it's original time and place astronomically speaking.

Both the Solar and Lunar calendars originated with peoples observing and worshipping the Sun or the Moon.

Suffice to say... God's plan for Israel was to be ***different...*** than the surrounding nations... worshipping only God... not idols... and not the Sun or the Moon...

Their Jewish calendar also drifts to a point, but is brought back in alignment with added days or weeks.

The first day of the month in the Jewish calendar is on the new moon... when the first tiny sliver of light is seen on the edge of the moon from it's dark phase.

Now... I say that because... remember... the Spring Feasts begin on the 14th day of the 1st month... halfway through the moon's cycle... the first fall feast...

Trumpets... begins on the first day of the seventh month... Tishri.... it is the only feast which begins with the new moon and... get this... the exact sighting of the new moon cannot be predicted with certainty... so... that first day... the day of Rosh Hashanah... it actually covers two days... 48 hours... It's like one 48 hour day... the reason being... 'no one knows the exact day or hour that Rosh Hashanah,

the Feast of Trumpets begins... because no one knows the exact day or time of the first official sighting of the New Moon...

... No one knows the day or the hour... Where have we heard ***that phrase*** before...

That's right... Jesus Said... Of that day or hour... no one knows except My Father in Heaven... of His return for us in the air... no one knows exactly when... we are to be watching and waiting... Walking in a manner pleasing to Him in all things...

Now to the final three... the fall Feasts.... these are the **high holy days**

1st...**Rosh Hashanah, the feast of Trumpets**... points to the ***Rapture of the Church***.

Right after... is ***Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement*** which points to His Return at the Battle of Armageddon... and finally... ***Sukkoth, the Feast of Tabernacles*** points to His reign on Earth for 1000 years... the Millennium.

Here are a few reasons why the **Feast of Trumpets** points to the **soon return of Jesus Christ in the clouds to Rapture us**...

Again... all four of the Spring Feasts were fulfilled at the first coming of Jesus Christ... on the very day of the feast...

All three of the Fall Feasts are a prophetic picture of the His 2nd coming... with the first... the **Feast of Trumpets** pointing to the Rapture.

The Feast of Trumpets features the '***Last Trump***' which Paul describes in **1Cor 15:51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet**. ***For the trumpet will sound***, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and **we shall be changed**.

Last week we learned of the relationship of the ***Jewish Wedding*** to ***our relationship to Jesus Christ*** and our looking for ***His return for us***...

The **Feast of Trumpets** is also known as '***the Wedding of the Messiah***' and... the ***Rapture*** is when we will be caught up together to meet Him in the air... ***to be wed with Him forever***.

The **Feast of Trumpets** begins with the ***new moon***... and since the new moon is 29.5 days after the previous one, the feast could begin on the ***29th or 30th day after the previous new moon***... no one knows exactly... ***"Of that day or hour, no man knows"*** is what Jesus said in regard to His return for us at the Rapture.

Last week we talked about the Jewish Wedding... ***"Of that day or hour no man knows, but my Father only"*** is what a **Jewish groom says** when asked... when his wedding will be... this is because he has left his bride at **her parents'** house and has **returned to his father's house** to prepare the bridal chamber... his father is the one who will tell him when the preparations are complete and **it is time to go back and seize his bride and return with her for the seven days of the 'Bridal Week'**. This is the picture of the Rapture followed by the **seven years of the Tribulation**.

The several **references to an open door** point to the Feast of Trumpets... in the **parable of the 10 virgins**... after the 5 wise virgins **enter into the wedding feast**... **a door which is shut**... **withholding** the 5 foolish virgins.

In **Rev 3** where Jesus says ***the Church at Philadelphia***...Us... 'behold, I have set before you **an open door** which **no man can shut**... until the time **when Jesus Christ shuts it at the Rapture**...

In **Rev 4:1**... John says, 'I saw a **door open in Heaven** and a voice said, "**Come up here!**" These all point to the **Feast of Trumpets**... how... you ask...

in Ezekiel 46 God says... 'The **gate of the inner court** that faces East shall be shut on the six working days; but **on the Sabbath day it shall be open** and **on the day of the new moon**... **it shall be opened**." Remember, the Feast of Trumpets is the only Feast beginning on the new moon.

Paul tells us in Col 2:17 that ... 'regarding a **festival** or a **new moon** or **Sabbaths**,¹⁷ which are a **shadow of things to come**, but the **substance is of Christ**... and... the **only festival which falls on a 'new moon'** is **Trumpets**... **Rosh Hashanah**.

No one knows the day or hour...

Between the Feast of Trumpets, which pictures the Rapture, and the Day of Atonement which pictures Jesus Christ second coming to Earth at the Battle of Armageddon... are seven days... and they are called, the 'seven days of awe' which picture the seven years of the Tribulation.

In addition to 'being referred to as the **wedding of the Messiah**, the Feast of Trumpets is also called ***'the Coronation of the Messiah....***

When He brings us back to His Father's house, In **addition to His wedding us**, He will ***also be crowned as King of Kings and Lord of Lords*** to ***begin His eternal reign with us at His side***... first... for seven years in Heaven while the Tribulation is taking place on Earth...and then for 1000 years on Earth during the Millennium... and then for all Eternity, reigning over a new Heaven and New Earth... with us... at His side... as His bride... ruling and reigning ***with Him...*** forever.

Through this yearly **cycle of seven feasts**... which God prescribed for Israel to **follow and observe**... He laid out a visible blueprint of ***His complete plan for mankind throughout all time***... time, which He apparently intended to be seven thousand years... **What we see in these feasts covers that seven thousand years... a week of millenniums...**

The first feast is Passover... when a lamb is sacrificed as a sin offering...

Paul refers to Jesus Christ, the *lamb of God crucified from the foundation of the world*... This was God's plan and purpose from the beginning of time... *Crucified* for us... *from the beginning of time*... and then all the other Feasts... covering all the span of time... all of the ministry and work of the Lord Jesus Christ... until the last Feast... the feast of Tabernacles... picturing *The Millennium and Eternity*... when *God Himself... Tabernacles*** with us... ***when He lives in and among us...*** Ruling as ***King of Kings and Lord of Lords forever, with us... His Bride at His side, ruling and reigning together with Him forever.*****

These seven Feasts of the Lord... show us the full scope and import of **all** that the Lord Jesus Christ has done... and **accomplished for us**... the **Born again... Blood bought**... eternal... **Children of God**.

Joel wrote: "Blow the trumpet [shophar] in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming... it is near" (Joel 2:1).

If this stuff doesn't get you revved up... check your pulse... you might... in fact... not really... be alive.