

The Five Feasts in Leviticus 23

THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER —

This feast marked God's deliverance of the people from Egyptian bondage, and His preservation of Israel's firstborn children. Passover was the defining moment in Israel's birth. Therefore, it was important that it become a yearly memorial. This feast began on the fourteenth day of the first month (Early Spring) and concluded with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Feast of Unleavened Bread started on the fifteenth day of the month and lasted seven days, during which time the people ate only unleavened bread. Rest and the offering of sacrifices marked this feast. All Jewish men were required to be present at this feast.

THE FEAST OF HARVEST —

(also known as Pentecost or The Feast of Weeks)

This was a harvest festival. It was held fifty days after the one-day Festival of Firstfruits, when the first crops of the barley harvest were offered to God. It was a time of thanksgiving to the Lord for the bountiful harvest. Certain days during this Feast were days of rest.

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS —

This feast was a declaration at the beginning of the seventh month (civil new year). Its purpose was to awaken Israel to prepare for the most important day of their calendar year, the Day of Atonement. This was also a time of rest and sacrifice.

THE FEAST OF THE DAY OF ATONEMENT —

(Yom Kippur)

This feast came ten days after the Feast of Trumpets. This day was important because it was the day in which sacrifices of atonement were made for the sins of the people and the nation. A celebration of restored fellowship, it was a day that foreshadowed Christ's atoning death on the Cross of Calvary. This holiday is still celebrated by Jews around the world.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES —

This feast occurred five days after the Day of Atonement, and it lasted eight days, with a Sabbath of rest on the first and last days of the Feast. It required the Children of Israel to dwell in makeshift tents (booths) as a re-enactment of their wilderness experience. This feast symbolized Israel's commitment to God and trust in His guidance and protection.