

The Seven Feasts of the Lord 9-25-22

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The seven Feasts of the Lord, given to Israel were intended, most importantly, to form the full picture of their coming Messiah, the Deliverer Who is their Salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The entire Sacrificial System of the Tabernacle and then the Temple were intended, by God, to picture His plan of Salvation through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

For us, the Church, they form the complete picture of Jesus Christ's sinless Life, His Death, His Resurrection, the Birth of His Body, His Return for us in the Rapture, His Return with us at Armageddon and His 1000 year Kingdom on Earth as we rule and reign with Him.

Many Christians have no clue as to the deep significance of the Feasts; if they think about them at all, they see them as simply some number of celebrations the Jews have during the year.

The first thing to see is that they are not scattered throughout the year. There are 4 Spring Feasts which are bundled together, beginning on a full moon and then, six months later, are the final 3 feasts, also bundled together, but this time, beginning on a new moon. This is how Jews, throughout the Country, could travel to Jerusalem twice a year to celebrate all the Feasts... it would mean 2 trips to Jerusalem, not 7.

The first 4 Feasts of the Lord are at the beginning of the warm season while the final 3 are held at the beginning of the rainy season... the Spring and the Fall.

Every month of the Jewish calendar begins with the new moon; at mid month the moon is full and then, when it wanes to nothing, the next month begins.

We find the Feasts given to Israel in Leviticus 23: The first 4, in Spring, begin the religious calendar; they are: 1. Passover, 2. Unleavened Bread, 3. First Fruits and 4. Weeks (Pentecost):

*'These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. ⁵ In the fourteenth day (the full moon) of the first month (the first month of the religious year) at evening is the LORD's **Passover**... And on the fifteenth day (the next day) of the same month is the **feast of Unleavened Bread** unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread... 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... 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 (49 days) shall be complete: ¹⁶ Even unto the morrow (the next day) after the seventh sabbath shall ye number **fifty days;** (**Pentecost**) and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.'* Lev 23:4

Then, after the 4 Spring Feasts of the Lord, there would be a 4 month gap of time until the final 3 Feasts in the Fall. That gap of time was meant to represent the gap of time during which God would create and build His Church... the gap of time during which we now live which will soon end when the Lord Jesus Christ fulfills the next Feast, the Feast of Trumpets which, incidentally, begins today for 2022.

The final 3 Fall Feasts are: 5. Trumpets, 6. Day of Atonement and 7. Booths/Tabernacles:

*'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.'* (very important: the only Feast to begin on a new moon)... *Blowing trumpets ten days... 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... Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day (full moon) of this seventh month shall be the **feast of tabernacles** for seven days unto the LORD.'* Lev 23:24

The first three Feasts point directly to the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ: His Life, Death & Resurrection.

When God commanded His Feasts, the month of Passover then became, for Israel, their first month of the year: *'And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying, ² This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you...'* Ex 12:1

The yearly Passover was first meant to commemorate when Israel was still in Egypt; God sent His final plague onto Egypt because of Pharaoh's refusal to let God's People go free. God told the Israelites to place the blood of a lamb upon the doorposts and lintel of their homes. God went through all of Egypt and killed every firstborn, including even their cattle. When God saw the blood of the lamb on their door frames, forming, as it were, the shape of a cross, He would pass over that home and not kill anyone or anything. If they failed to put the blood on their door, their firstborn would be killed, just like the Egyptians.

This pictured our Salvation when God sees our lives as being 'under the Blood of Jesus Christ.'

Beginning the next day, after Passover, they were to eat unleavened bread for 7 days; this signified their not taking the sin of Egypt out with them and their rapid departure, taking no leaven and also, removing the sin from the lives.

When they had their first harvest in the promised land, they were to bring a First Fruits offering of a Barley sheaf. The firstfruits of barley looked forward to the greater harvest of wheat.

The Feast of Weeks: 50 days after the firstfruits offering of barley, they were to bring an offering of 2 loaves made from wheat.

The first Fall Feast, The Feast of Trumpets was to be 10 Days of Awe, as they were, to confess, repent and seek God, looking forward to the Day of Atonement when the High Priest would, only once a year enter into the Holy of Holies in order to sprinkle blood upon the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant when the sins of the nation would, once again, be atoned for, for the previous year.

The Feast of Tabernacles was to be observed every year; the people were to make, for themselves and their families, temporary living structures, from branches, to commemorate the 40 years they spent in the wilderness as God led them, protected them and provided for them.

All seven Feasts of the Lord point to the Lord Jesus Christ. In His first coming, He fulfilled, completely, all four of the Spring Feasts... on the very day of each one.

Like the Passover lamb, Jesus was also crucified on Passover. Remember, He had celebrated the Passover supper with His disciples. He was tried throughout that night and crucified the next morning; it was still the day of Passover until sundown. Then, like the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for 3 days, His sinless body was in the grave; leaven is a type for sin. On the third day, He rose from death and the grave. He became the Firstfruits of God's great harvest in the Church and, later, during the Tribulation. 50 days later, on Pentecost, the Church, His Body on Earth, was born.

The final 3 Feasts of the Lord: #5. Trumpets 6. Day of Atonement and 7. Tabernacles, are yet to be fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ, again, on to the very day of each one.

The next Feast to be fulfilled will be Trumpets which actually began today and will last over the next 10 days culminating in the Day of Atonement.

The Feast of Trumpets is expected, by many, to be when the Rapture occurs. Yes, no one knows the day or the hour of His return for us, in the Rapture, but actually, that is the point!

The Feast of Trumpets is the only Feast which begins on a new moon. That is when the tiny sliver of the moon peeks out from the fully darkened moon, having become fully shaded over the previous 14 days. The saying connected with the Feast of Trumpets is, 'No one knows the day or the hour!' Since the Feast of Trumpets does not begin until the official watchmen, earnestly searching the early morning horizon in the West, look for the sunlit surface of the moon to peak around the edge of the fully darkened, morning moon.

The new Moon always rises **near sunrise**. The first quarter Moon always rises near noon. The full Moon always rises near sunset. The last quarter Moon always rises near midnight.

Finally, they see the sliver of light on that early morning or else they must wait for the next morning when they will see it and run back to report it to the High Priest, the first day of the Feast is actually held over 2 days since no one can know the beginning day or the hour and they do not want to celebrate it on the wrong day... therefore, Trumpets is held over 2 days: 'No one knows the day or hour...' This, therefore, does represent the

return of the Lord Jesus Christ for us in the Rapture: it will be invisible and unknown to most of the World; those who are earnestly watching and waiting will not only see it but will be the ones to whom the Lord Jesus Christ will give the Crown of Righteousness: *'Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto **all them also that love his appearing.**'* 2 Tim 4:8

He could come for us today or tomorrow or over the next 10 days or... some other time, soon.

The 2 days of the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah/Head of the Year) begins 10 days of Awe, culminating, finally, in the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur).

It consists of trumpets being blown every day until the 10th day, the Day of Atonement.

The Feast of Trumpets is held over 2 days as it begins 10 days of consecration and repentance and ends with the Day of Atonement followed by the final Feast of the Lord, the Feast of Tabernacles.

10 days: 2 days for Feast of Trumpets... Last day for Day of Atonement with 7 days in between.

The Feast of Trumpets entails 100 trumpet blasts; the final trumpet blast is long and loud and is called...

The Last Trump! *'Behold, I shew 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 trump:** for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.'* 1 Cor 15:51

This is the '*Last Trump*' Paul referred to, not to the blowing of the 7th Trumpet Judgment in Revelation.

Just as the first 4 Spring Feasts were all fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ on the very day, so, too, shall He fulfill the final 3 Fall Feasts on their very day.

The Feast of Trumpets will be fulfilled by Jesus Christ on the very day when He comes for us in the Rapture at the Last Trump. Then... 7 more days of awe signifying the 7 years of the Tribulation followed by the Day of Atonement when the Lord Jesus Christ returns at Armageddon and every Jew left alive from the Tribulation will look on Him in mourning and turn to Him in faith to believe; that will be the Day of Atonement for Israel.

Our Day of Atonement happened when He died and fully atoned for all our sin.

Passover was, for the Jews, to remember when God saved them out of Egypt; a lamb's blood was shed and then it was to be eaten.

Unleavened Bread was the removal of all leaven from their homes, signifying their turning from sin and returning into right relationship with God.

First Fruits was to remind them to always be thankful to God for all His provision.

Weeks/Pentecost was the completion of First Fruits.

Jesus fulfilled Passover as our spotless, perfect sacrificial Lamb.

He fulfilled Unleavened Bread by His sinless and unleavened Life as our perfect, sinless sacrifice.

He fulfilled First Fruits in His Resurrection. He is the First Fruits, resurrected from the dead. We will follow Him into resurrected Eternal Life.

He fulfilled Weeks/Pentecost when He sent to us His Holy Spirit, thus birthing the Church, His Body and Bride.

He will fulfill the Feast of Trumpets when He shouts with the Last Trump blown as He raises us up to meet Him in the Rapture.

He will fulfill the Day of Atonement as our complete Salvation is finally accomplished when He changes us and recreates our mortal bodies into glorified, eternal bodies, like His Own, when we finally realize all He did for us when He made complete atonement for us.

He will fulfill the Feast of Tabernacles when He returns at Armageddon, with us, His Bride, as He establishes His Millennial Kingdom on Earth as God, Himself, lives among His people, as He 'tabernacles' with us for 1000 years and then forever.

