

Join Us This Shabbat

Saturday in English

Shabbat School - 10:00 AM

Shabbat Service - 11:15 AM

Oneg - Free Meal After Service

Virtual Congregation

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The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed festivals of the Lord that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed festivals."

Leviticus 23:3

God's Appointed Times (Moedim) & High Holidays

In Leviticus 23, God calls the festivals “my appointed times”. The festivals are God’s way to remind His people that He is Lord of the calendar, King of creation, Ruler over time, past, present, and future. He established special times to meet with us in a particular way to commemorate events in His dealings with man. When we celebrate the festivals in the way He ordained we reinforce the relationship He established with us and honor His sovereignty over us.

The timing of the festivals is important...God is very specific on when we are to celebrate these events. The calendar used to calculate the dates, the Jewish calendar, is based on the lunar cycle. (verses the solar cycle used in the Gregorian, or “modern” calendar) Psalm 104:19 says “He made the moon for the seasons; the sun knows the place of its setting.”

Since the calendar is based on the moon cycle, the arrival of the new moon is a crucial event. In ancient times three witnesses were needed to confirm when the first sliver of the moon was visible. At that time a fire was lit on the Mount of Olives to signal others watching to light fires on the surrounding hills until the message was spread throughout Israel that a new month had begun. Month and moon are the same word in Hebrew: “chodesh”. Thus a new moon is called “Rosh Chodesh”, head of the month.

The first festival/appointed time mentioned in the Bible is the Sabbath. We find that God Himself rested after His six days of creation.



YESHUA

Yeshua is the very meaning of the Festivals and High Holy days. He has filled them full significance.

He is our Sabbath Rest

He is our Passover Lamb

He is our sinless Messiah

He is the First Fruits from the dead

He has written the Torah on our hearts

He is our High Priest

He is the faithful Judge

He will Dwell with us forever

Messianic Implications In God's Appointed Times & High Holidays

God's appointed holidays, described in Leviticus chapter 23, accomplish many purposes. Year by year they pace our lives according to the cycle God has designed into creation. They remind us of the great things God has done in Israel's history. We should never forget that Messiah Yeshua, the apostles, and the early Messianic Jewish movement celebrated these festivals. In addition, each holiday is a prophecy which looks forward to what God is going to do in human history.

To reach the goal to which the holidays point, you must start at the beginning of God's calendar. You must cease from your own works and enter into the Sabbath rest that the Messiah alone provides. You must believe that Yeshua is the Passover Lamb who died for your sins, and that He is the unleavened bread that was victorious over sin. You must believe that He is the fulfillment of the Feast of First Fruits, the One who was raised from the dead. You have been promised the Holy Spirit In fulfillment of Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks) which seals you when you become part of the Body of Messiah.

You can look forward to His return, and so partake of the Feast of Trumpets. As part of Yom Kippur, you need to remember that when He returns, judgment will take place. Those who believe in Him will not be condemned, but have already passed out of judgment and into life. Then those that have been reconciled to the God of Israel, through the wonderful Messiah whom He sent, will reign with Him forever and ever, which is the fulfillment of the Feast of Sukkot.



SHABBAT

Any discussion of the Biblical Festivals, or High Holidays should start with Shabbat. It is not only the first mentioned in the chronology of Leviticus 23, but it also comes first in importance. It so important that God saw fit to include it in the Ten Commandments, and set it apart as one of His “appointments”. This appointment is not just once a year, as with the other festivals, but once every week. Looking at scriptures that mention Shabbat will point out the keys to observance of this important appointment with the Lord.

Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a *Sabbath* of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the Lord in all your dwelling places.

Leviticus 23:3

Spring Festivals

Passover (Pesach)

Passover, the first of the spring festivals, is called the “festival of freedom”. It celebrates the Exodus of the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt and memorializes the night when the faithful were protected by the blood of the lamb.

A Passover lamb was to be killed between the evenings (Exodus 12:6). The phrase “between the evening” refers to the period of the day that goes from noon to 6:00 pm, which is exactly 3:00 pm, the ninth hour of the day. Yeshua died at the ninth hour of the day, exactly when the Passover lamb was to be killed.

In both testaments, the blood of the Lamb delivers from slavery. Think about the tenth plague in Exodus 12:5 when Egypt’s first born sons died while the angel of death “passed over” the Jewish homes with the blood of the lamb on their door posts. In the Renewed Covenant, Yeshua serves as the sacrificial lamb. It is no coincidence that our Lord Himself was sacrificed on Passover. In Egypt the Jewish person marked his house with the blood of the lamb. Today we mark our house, our body, with the blood of our Messiah.

As believers in Yeshua the Festival of Passover and the Passover Seder are very symbolic. Passover is about remembering the deliverance of God from the Pharaoh of Egypt as well as the our personal deliverance of the Pharaoh of this age (Satan). Passover represents Salvation!

And with the whole house of Israel we say “NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!”

“Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” 1 Cor 5:8



FALL FESTIVALS

Leviticus 23 describes eight “appointed times” of the Lord. The festivals divide naturally into two groups...

In the second group, all observed during Tishri, the sacred seventh month, we find the:

Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah)

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

Tabernacles/Booths (Sukkot)

You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out fo the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God

Leviticus 23:3

Fall Festival Tabernacles / Booths (Sukkot)

Sukkot is the last of the seven festivals. Seven is the number of completion as seen in Genesis 2:2. When we see that God rested from His work.

We are commanded by God to build for ourselves temporary dwellings and live in them for 7 days.

In the time of the Temple, during the seven days of Sukkot, a sacrificial pouring of water called a “water libation” was performed. When the High Priest would pour out the water, the great crowd of people would wave their lulavot (a combination of a date palm frond, three myrtle branches and a branch of the willow) and sing Psalm 118 which was regarded as a Messianic Psalm:

“Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord” Psalm 118:25,26

During the Festival of Sukkot Yeshua was greeted with shouts of “Hosanna!” and the crowd waving lulavot on what is commonly called the triumphal entry.

Yeshua did come to “sukkah” (tabernacle) with us and we eagerly await His return to establish His Kingdom and “tabernacle with us” again. Indeed all of the nations of the earth that survive the Great Tribulation will come together to worship the Lord in Jerusalem during the Festival of Sukkot (Zech 14:16,17). At that time Yeshua will set up His everlasting Sukkah with us so that we may know, love and abide with Him forever.



SPRING FESTIVALS

Leviticus 23 describes eight “appointed times” of the Lord. The festivals divide naturally into two groups...

In the first group, all related to Passover, we find the:

Passover (Pesach)

Unleavened Bread

First Fruits (Resurrection)

Shavuot (Pentecost)

These are the appointed festivals of the Lord, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the Lord's Passover.

Leviticus 23:4,5

Spring Festival

Unleavened Bread (Chag HaMatzot)

Concurrent with Passover is the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when no leaven (chametz) may be eaten or found in our homes for a full seven days.

Leaven is considered a corrupting influence. Like the influence of a lump of leaven in a batch of dough, “spiritual” leaven functions as an evil impulse within us that corrupts our soul. Chametz (leaven) is considered a metaphor of sin which we are commanded to put away from us. The removal of chametz is a metaphor of our sanctification.

In Leviticus 23 God instructed the Jewish people to eat unleavened bread for seven days. The Festival of Unleavened Bread represents a holy week spent without sin in our lives, a picture of our deliverance from the corrupting influences of the world.

Matzah (unleavened bread used at Passover) represents purity. Chag HaMatzot memorializes Israel’s deliverance from a life of slavery under Pharaoh after the sacrifice of the Passover lamb. It also represents the Christian’s deliverance from a life of sin under Satan after the sacrifice of Yeshua the Mashiach, the “Lamb of God”. The prophetic and symbolic lesson of ridding your life of the leaven of Egypt is that you get rid of sin and replace it with purity and humility. Upon redemption we are to become sanctified, “unleavened people”.

Messiah has been sacrificed as your Passover Lamb, you are a new creation, made “unleavened” by the power of the Holy Spirit.



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Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah)

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
High Holiday

Tabernacles (Sukkot)

High Holiday

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It provides prophetic insight regarding the second coming of Yeshua, the restoration of Israel, and the final judgement of the world.

The Torah states that Yom Kippur was the only time the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies and call upon the name of the Lord to offer blood sacrifice or atonement for the sins of the people.

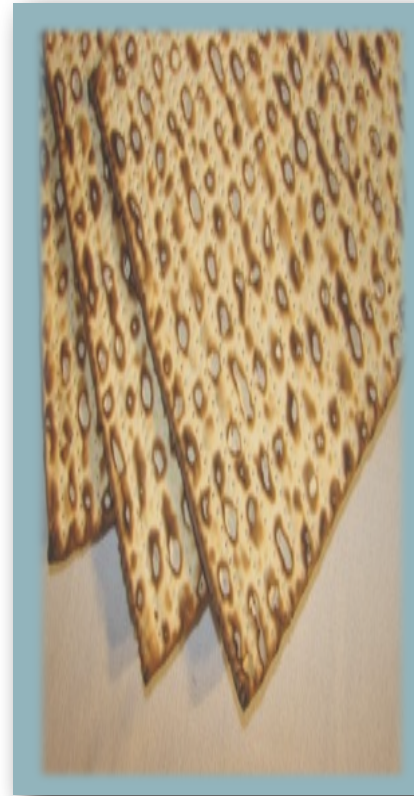
One of the roles of Yeshua is that of Kohen Gadol (High Priest). Yeshua offered true atonement for our sins by offering His own blood in the Holy of Holies made without hands. He is our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek (Heb 5:10)

As believers in Messiah we find that the book of Hebrews:

- Portrays Yeshua as the fulfillment for Yom Kippur
- Portrays Yeshua as the perfect High Priest
- Tells us that Yeshua is to abide forever and hold a permanent priesthood
- Tells us that Yeshua is in the true, heavenly tabernacle continually
- Shows us how to approach Yom Kippur as believers in Messiah

Reciting the Kol Nidre (All Vows) Liturgy is one of the most emotional parts of the Yom Kippur Service. It gives us the opportunity to ask for forgiveness for our words and actions during the past year. We are reminded in Matthew that one day we will give an account at the final Yom Kippur for what we have said.

“I tell you, on the *day of judgement* people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:36,37



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Unleavened Bread

First Fruits (Resurrection)

Shavuot (Pentecost)

In the first month...on the fifteenth day of the same month is the

Unleavened Bread to the Lord;

for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.

Leviticus 23 : 5a & 6

Spring Festival

First Fruits (Reshit Katzir)

The day following the first day of Unleavened Bread is called Reshit Katzir the “beginning of the harvest”. In ancient times, on this day a sheaf (omer) of barley was waved before the Lord. Although not happening coincidentally, the Wave Offering and the Resurrection of Yeshua are linked together prophetically by the Apostle Paul:

“But in fact Messiah has been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. I Cor 15:20

Here the apostle clearly links the firstfruit offering with the resurrection of Yeshua our Messiah. Yeshua’s resurrection was like a “wave offering” presented before the Father as the “firstfruits” of the harvest to come! Moreover, Yeshua presented His firstfruits offering to the Father on this day:

“The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many” Matt 27:52,53

Yeshua offered to the Father the “early crops” of what will be the final harvest at the end of the age.

Yeshua is the first-begotten of the Father (Heb 1:6); the Firstborn of Creation (Col 1:15-16) the first-begotten of the dead (Rev 1:5) and is the Firstfruits of those who are to be resurrected (I Cor 15:20-23). And just as He is our Firstfruits, so “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all He created (James 1:18)



FALL FESTIVALS

Leviticus 23 describes eight “appointed times” of the Lord. The festivals divide naturally into two groups...

In the second group, all observed during Tishri, the sacred seventh month, we find the:

Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah) High Holiday

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

Tabernacles (Sukkot)

Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation.

Leviticus 23 : 23 - 25

High Holiday

Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah)

Rosh hashanah is called the “Day of Remembrance” as we are to remember to blow the shofar to coronate God as the King of the Universe. The blast of the shofar is meant to jolt us from our sleep. We are to remember who we really are, children of the King.

Jewish tradition teaches, on Rosh Hashanah the destiny of the righteous, are written in the Book of Life, and the destiny of the wicked, are written in the Book of Death. It is also taught that most people will not be inscribed in either book, but have ten days, until Yom Kippur, to repent before sealing their fate. Hence the term the “Ten Days of Repentance”. On Yom Kippur, then everyone’s name will be sealed in one of the books.

There is much believers can learn from Rosh Hashana:

- Rosh Hashana is a sanctified reminder to God’s authority in our lives.
- Yeshua is called the Mashiach (Messiah), which denotes His royalty.
- He is the creator and sustainer of all creation (Col 1:16).
- He is coming to rule from Jerusalem and
- We will be judged according to our deeds of service (2 Cor 5:10)

In I Corinthians 15:51 the blowing of the shofar is prophetic of the rapture. A very respected Jewish text (the Talmud) states that on Rosh Hashanah the dead will be raised (Rosh Hashana 16b). This corresponds to the “last trump” mentioned by the apostle Paul.

Let us be grateful that our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life but we mindful that we will give account for the works done in the body.

“Le shanah tovah tikkateivu, ve-tehateinu!”

“May you be inscribed and sealed in the book of life for a good year!”



SPRING FESTIVALS

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Passover (Pesach)

Unleavened Bread

First Fruits (Resurrection)

Shavuot (Pentecost)

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap it’s harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the *firstfruits* of your harvest to the priest”

Leviticus 23 : 9 - 10

Spring Festival Shavuot (Pentecost)

Shavuot means 50 as does the word Pentecost. It was 50 days from the Exodus in Egypt to the giving of the Torah on Mt Sinai. It was also 50 days from the crucifixion to the giving of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

In Leviticus 23 we see that the Lord sets apart a counting of 50 days beginning with the Barley Harvest (also known as the First Fruits waving of the Omer of Barley). At the culmination of the 50 days the Lord says that there is to be a Holy Convocation or Gathering.

We learn from ancient Jewish sources that significant events occurred when the children of Israel received the Torah at Mt. Sinai at Shavuot. They heard a great rushing wind and the 70 known languages and saw flames of fire surrounding the camp.

Yeshua spent 40 days with His disciples before His ascension into Heaven. They were 40 days into the Omer count (the counting of the 50 days). Just before He ascended, He ordered His disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they had received the promise of the Father which was the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:1-5). This was fulfilled ten days later on Shavuot when the disciples were gathered together as commanded by Torah. A rushing wind was heard and flames of fire seen. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them (Acts 2:1-4).

We count the 50 days of the Omer because it is commanded by God in Leviticus 23. We can see as believers in Yeshua that just as we are celebrating the writing of the Torah on tablets of stone we are also celebrating the writing of the Torah on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33).



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In the first group, all related to Passover, we find the:

Passover (Pesach)

Unleavened Bread

First Fruits (Resurrection)

Shavuot (Pentecost)

You shall count *fifty days* to the day after the seventh Sabbath...You shall hold a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a statute forever in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.

Leviticus 23 : 5a & 6