

## Leviticus 22-23: Feasts.

### 1. (1-3) The need for ceremonial purity.

The priests prohibited from going to serve with any form of uncleanness indicate a requirement to approach the holy God in holiness.

### 2. (4-9) The unclean don't eat holy food.

Those with leprosy, touched dead bodies, with bodily discharges, touched creeping unclean insects/animals...shall not eat the portion of offerings, they had to be ceremonially clean. Any animal or insect found dead due to natural causes or gored by wild animals were unclean.

3. (10-16) Only the priests and his household could eat of the offerings. Anyone who ate in ignorance had to restore what he ate plus a fifth of it.

### 4. (17-30) Unacceptable sacrifices.

Anyone who brings an offering in fulfilling a vow/peace/freewill/thanksgiving, they have to bring it willingly; a perfect male cattle, sheep or goats not less than seven days old (not both mother and offspring).

### 5. (31-33) Summary.

I *am* the LORD. I *am* the LORD who sanctifies you, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I *am* the LORD."

***Psalm 24:3-5*** – *Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

***Psalm 119:16*** - *I will delight myself in **Your statutes**; I will not forget **Your** word.*

### 6. (1-3) The **Sabbath**.

### 7. (4-5) The feast of **Passover**.

Passover was held on the fourteenth of Nisan each year. Passover was meant to commemorate Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and with the sacrifice of the lamb for each family to eat with bitter herbs, and it's blood smeared on door posts to save them from death.

**1 Corinthians 5:7** - *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our **Passover**, was sacrificed for us*

8. (6-8) The feast of **Unleavened Bread**.

The feast of unleavened bread was a week-long celebration the week immediately following Passover (from Nisan 15 to Nisan 21). This feast showed the purity Israel was to walk in (illustrated by eating only bread without leaven).

9. (9-14) The feast of **Firstfruits**.

The day following Passover's Sabbath was a time to give the firstfruits of the harvest to God. The idea was to dedicate the first ripened grain to God. The feast of Firstfruits relates to the resurrection of Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 15:20** - *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

10. (15-21) The Feast of Pentecost (also called the Feast of Weeks).

Fifty days after the feast of Firstfruits, Israel was to celebrate the feast of Pentecost by bringing a **new grain offering to the LORD**; and by waving two loaves of *unleavened* bread unto the LORD.

The feast of *Pentecost* obviously is connected with the birth of the Church, the "harvest" in Acts 2.

11. (22) Generosity to the poor and stranger.

This was a law to provide a means for the poor and the stranger to eat by working for themselves and gleaning what was left behind.

12. (23-25) The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah).

On the first day of the month (October) Tishri on the Jewish ceremonial calendar, the feast of trumpets was held; trumpets were blown to gather together God's people for a **holy convocation**.

The feast of *Trumpets* speaks of the ultimate assembly of God's people at the sound of a trumpet –

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** - *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

13. (26-32) The **Day of Atonement** (Yom Kippur).

On the tenth of Tishri (October), the people gathered again for a **holy convocation**; but this was not a celebration feast, but a day to **afflict your souls** in humble recognition of one's sin and need for atonement.

14. (33-44) The **Feast of Tabernacles** (Succoth).

On the fifteenth day of the Jewish month Tishri; the Feast of Tabernacles was a time to remember and rejoice in God's deliverance and provision for Israel during the time of wilderness wandering. The Feast of Tabernacles began and ended in rest.

**John 7:37-38** - *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

This feast speaks of the millennial peace and comfort for God's people.

Jesus was actually crucified on the Passover. His body would have been buried, during the Feast of Unleavened Bread following, and He would have risen from the dead on Firstfruits, the day after Passover's Sabbath. Additionally, the church was founded on the actual day of Pentecost.