

"The Gospel Feasts"

Leviticus Chapter 23

The Tabernacle of Testimony



I. THE FEAST OF PASSOVER SPEAKS OF SALVATION (LEVITICUS 23:4-5)

The Passover speaks of our redemption through Jesus Christ. When the Jews were in the land of Egypt, the way God brought them out of bondage was by the Passover.

Exodus 12:5-7, "5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it."

Exodus 12:5 speaks of the Lord Jesus in His perfection. He was a Lamb without spot or blemish.

Exodus 12:6 speaks of the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus. One day Jesus would die for our sins.

Exodus 12:7 speaks of the appropriation of our Lord Jesus.

Outwardly they put the blood on the doorpost of the house; a public, open, unashamed testimony that they belong to Jesus. Inwardly they were to consume the lamb, showing that Christ not only protects us, but he also indwells in us.

"The Blood makes us safe, but the Word makes us sure." – Adrian Rogers

II. THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD SPEAKS OF SEPERATION (23:6)

Leaven is a picture of sin. Leaven is anything that ferments. This feast pictures our fellowship with Christ as we are separated from sin and separated unto him.

I Corinthians 5:7-8, "7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

III. THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS SPEAKS OF SANCTIFICATION (23:9-13)

This feast speaks of our sanctification and Jesus' resurrection.

The feast time was just as the harvest was ripening. The farmer would get a sheaf of wheat back to the priest. The priest would lift it up and wave it from side to side. It showed that the harvest belonged to God.

I Corinthians 15:20, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."

The point of the matter is that we already have our resurrected life in Christ. We now belong to God. Once Jesus rose from the dead, He became the first of many. He was presented before the Father and a wave offering made, and now, because He was the first, the whole harvest, the church, belongs to God.

IV. THE FEAST OF PENTECOST SPEAKS OF THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE (23:15-17)

This feast took place fifty days after the feast of the firstfruits. It parallels the Day of Pentecost, which occurred fifty days after the resurrection of Christ. The day of Pentecost was when the Holy Spirit came. Thus this represents the Spirit-filled life

It no longer refers to individual sheaves, but loaves. The Spirit of God has united us into one loaf. There are two loaves mentioned here, one for Israel and the other for the church. So, why is there leaven in this sacrifice? Because when speaking of the church, we are pictured as sinners.

I John 1:9, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

V. THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS SPEAKS OF THE SECOND COMING (23:23-25)

Trumpets in the Bible were used to alarm or to call to arms or to assemble or to move on.

Numbers 10:2, "Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps."

We see that there were two trumpets. Why?

1. The first was for the journeying of the camp; the rapture of the church.

I Thes. 4:16, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"

2. The second trumpet was for an assembly. This will be the re-gathering of Israel.

Isaiah 18:3 & 7, "3 All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye . . . 7 In that time shall the present be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a people scattered and peeled, and from a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden under foot, whose land the rivers have spoiled, to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion."

Is. 27:13, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem."

