

THE 7 FEASTS OF ISRAEL: A BIBLICAL TIMELINE



THE 7 FEASTS OF ISRAEL

- Passover (14 Nisan)
- Feast of Unleavened Bread (15–21 Nisan)
- Firstfruits (17 Nisan)
- Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (6 Sivan)
- Feast of Trumpets (1 Tishri)
- Day of Atonement (10 Tishri)
- Feast of Booths or Tabernacles (15–21 Tishri)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Passover (14 Nisan) – Jesus crucified
- Unleavened Bread (15 Nisan) – Jesus buried
- Firstfruits (17 Nisan) – Jesus raised
- Weeks or Pentecost (6 Sivan) – Church born
- Trumpets – Rapture of Church (future)
- Atonement – Israel accepts Messiah (future)
- Tabernacles – Christ's kingdom (future)

DATE OF CRUCIFIXION (31 A.D.)

- Wednesday (14 Nisan/April 25) – Jesus crucified
- Thursday (15 Nisan/April 26) – Unleavened Bread (Sabbath)
- Saturday (17 Nisan/April 28) – Firstfruits (Sabbath) – Jesus raised
- Sunday (18 Nisan/April 29) – Tomb discovered empty

WHY 31 A.D.?

- 30 and 33 A. D. are the mistakenly recognized years of Jesus' crucifixion because Passover occurred on a Friday
- The gospels account approx. 3.5 years of Jesus' earthly ministry which likely began during Jubilee
- 27 A. D. was the last Year of Jubilee celebrated in Jerusalem (77 A. D. would have been the next, but Rome destroyed city in 70 A. D.)

LUKE 4:16-17

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

LUKE 4:18-19

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

LUKE 4:20-21

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

PASSOVER (14 NISAN)

- Celebrated the passing over of the death angel in Egypt (escaping judgment)
- First year spotless lamb selected by families 4 days before for inspection
- Lambs slaughtered by the nation at twilight
- Blood applied to lintel and doorposts

EXODUS 12:3,6

3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

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.

EXODUS 12:7, 10

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.

10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

JOHN 12:12-13

12 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13 Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

MATTHEW 27:45-46

45 Now from the sixth hour there was
darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with
a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama
sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God,
why hast thou forsaken me?

MATTHEW 27:57-58

57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

HEBREWS 10:19,22

19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

PASSOVER (14 NISAN)

- Jesus dies and assumes punishment for sin (escaping judgment)
- Jesus, as the Lamb of God, enters Jerusalem publicly for “inspection”
- Sky darkens while Jesus suffers on cross
- Blood applied to our hearts

UNLEAVENED BREAD (15 NISAN)

- Israel leaves Egypt quickly (no time for bread to rise)
- Leaven almost always represents sin
- A Jewish family searches the home to remove every speck of leaven before baking (removal of sin)
- Passover = escape from judgment
Unleavened Bread = removal of sin

EXODUS 12:17,19

17 And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.

19 Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:6-7

6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

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:

UNLEAVENED BREAD (15 NISAN)

- Jesus was completely sinless
- Even though the Jewish family observes the removal of leaven (sin), it is impossible to completely rid the entire home of any trace
- Not only does the cross pay the penalty of sin, but Jesus removed the bondage of sin from the life of the believer

FIRSTFRUITS (17 NISAN)

- Day 1 of Unleavened Bread (preparation)
- Day 3 of Unleavened Bread (celebration of firstfruits of barley harvest)
- Unleavened barley bread offered as a wave offering before the Lord by the priest

LEVITICUS 23:10-11

10 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:

11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

JOHN 20:1-2

1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

JOHN 20:3-5

3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

LEVITICUS 16:23

23 And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall put off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there:

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-21

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:22-23

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

FIRSTFRUITS (17 NISAN)

- Jesus rises on the day celebrating firstfruits of the harvest
- Jesus, as sinless (unleavened) waved (raised up) before the Lord

WEEKS OR PENTECOST (6 SIVAN)

- Weeks or 7 sabbaths plus 1 day or 50 days after the celebration of firstfruits
- Celebrated with offering of 2 leavened breads
- Coincides with the date of God giving Moses the law

LEVITICUS 23:15-16

15 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 shall be complete:

16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

LEVITICUS 23:17

17 Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baken with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.

ACTS 2:1,5

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

ACTS 2:37-38

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

ACTS 2:41

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

WEEKS OR PENTECOST (6 SIVAN)

- Birth of church at Pentecost (50 days after resurrection)
- Leavened breads represent Jew and Gentile sinners
- Grace given on same day as Law was delivered

FEAST OF TRUMPETS (1 TISHRI)

- Signified celebration of the fruit harvest (last harvest)
- Shofar blown calling the assembly to the temple (not silver trumpets used in worship, but a ram's horn)
- Believers who hear would abandon their duties and be called together

LEVITICUS 23:24-25

24 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.

25 Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye
shall offer an offering made by fire unto the
LORD.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:14-15

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17

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:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

MATTHEW 24:39-40

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

MATTHEW 24:41-42

41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill;
the one shall be taken, and the other left.

42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what
hour your Lord doth come.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:13-14

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest:
for the day shall declare it, because it shall be
revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every
man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built
thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:15

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

HEBREWS 4:8-9

8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

HEBREWS 4:10-11

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

FEAST OF TRUMPETS (1 TISHRI)

- A future occurrence where all believers will be called up to enter their rest
- The final harvest of the church
- Non-believers will be left (not hearing) the trumpet call

DAY OF ATONEMENT (10 TISHRI)

- High Priest would enter the Most Holy Place and offer for himself and the sins of the nation
- Blood sprinkled on the Mercy Seat
- Nation would gather on the tenth day to afflict themselves and mourn for their sins
- After this affliction, the nation was made right with God

LEVITICUS 16:15-16

15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:

16 And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

LEVITICUS 16:18-19

18 And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about.

19 And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. .

LEVITICUS 16:20-21

20 And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat:

21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness:

LEVITICUS 16:22-23

22 And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

23 And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall put off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there:

LEVITICUS 16:30-31

30 For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

31 It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.

ZECHARIAH 12:10-11

10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

ZECHARIAH 12:12-14

- 12 And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart;
- 13 The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart;
- 14 All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.

ROMANS 11:25-27

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

DAY OF ATONEMENT (10 TISHRI)

- Jesus has already entered the temple not made with hands and the sacrifice has been accepted
- As our High Priest, He did not have to offer for sacrifice for Himself
- The nation of Israel as a whole has not yet afflicted themselves and realized Christ as their Messiah
- This will occur near the end of Tribulation

FEAST OF TABERNACLES (15 TISHRI)

- A time of rejoicing in God's deliverance from Egypt and His provision during the wilderness wanderings
- Celebration began and ended with rest

LEVITICUS 23:34-35

34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying,
The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall
be the feast of tabernacles for seven days
unto the LORD.

35 On the first day shall be an holy
convocation: ye shall do no servile work
therein.

LEVITICUS 23:36

36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.

LEVITICUS 23:40-41

40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

LEVITICUS 23:42-43

42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

ZECHARIAH 14:16

16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

REVELATION 21:1-2

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

REVELATION 21:3-4

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

REVELATION 21:5-6

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

REVELATION 21:9-10

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

REVELATION 21:22-23

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

REVELATION 21:24-25

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

REVELATION 21:26-27

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES (15 TISHRI)

- In the future kingdom of God, His people will enter eternal rest
- This kingdom will center around the deliverance and provision made by God for His people

BIBLICAL TIMELINE

- In the Jewish calendar year, the first 4 and last 3 feasts are grouped together
- In the biblical timeline, the central themes of redemption are also grouped
- The first 4 are accomplished and 3 remain
- There was a significant gap between the 2 groups, just as we are now living in the period between the first and second advents of Christ

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CONCLUSION

- All feasts consisted in some measure of rest from man's duties
- All the fulfillments of the feasts were a work of God
- Still today, the work belongs to the Lord