

“Jesus Christ, the Fulfillment of the Feasts of the Lord”
Leviticus 23:1-44

- The First Coming of Christ:
 - *The Passover* (Exodus 12:1-13): The Passover Lamb pointed to the work of Jesus Christ. This Lamb was to be without blemish (1 Peter 1:19; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 10:12-14), the doorposts were to be covered by the blood of the Lamb (1 John 1:7-9; Hebrews 13:12; Ephesians 1:7), and through this work we will escape the wrath of God (John 3:36; Ephesians 2:3; Romans 2:5 & 8; Colossians 3:6). The Lord’s Supper was instituted during the Passover meal (Matthew 26:28).
 - *The Feast of Unleavened Bread* (Exodus 12:14-20): This was a week-long festival that started immediately after Passover. They would eat unleavened bread to celebrate their freedom from Egypt (sin). Yeast, biblically, is often associated with sin (Galatians 5:9; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8). Christ died to give us victory over the power of sin in our lives (Romans 6:10-14).
 - *The Feast of Firstfruits* (Leviticus 23:9-14): This festival took place at the beginning of the harvest. It was a time of celebration for God’s provision and our dependence upon Him for life (Deuteronomy 26:1-11). This festival points to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, that is the evidence of Christ redeeming us from death to life and making us joint-heirs with Christ (Ephesians 2:1-7). Christ’s resurrection is the firstfruit of His labor and points to the harvest of our resurrection, the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23).
 - *The Feast of Weeks/Pentecost* (Leviticus 23:15-22): This feast celebrated the end of the grain harvest and rejoiced again in the goodness of God in provision. Many theologians believe that the two loaves offered point to the time when both the Jew and Gentile would be made one in the Church through the work of Christ (Ephesians 2:14-18). This also pointed to the giving of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17), that is evidence that we have been given new life and someday will have a resurrected body (Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:15-25). It was 50 days from the Passover to Pentecost and 50 days from Jesus’ death (Passover) to the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
- The Second Coming of Christ:
 - *The Feast of Trumpets* (Numbers 29:1-6): This festival commemorates the end of the agricultural and festival year. The prophets linked the blowing of trumpets to the future Day of Judgment: “Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand” (Joel 2:1-2; Zephaniah 1:14-16). In the New Testament, we see that the Lord’s Second Coming (The Rapture) will be accompanied by the sound of a trumpet (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Each of the judgments in Revelation 8-9 is also signaled by a trumpet. These trumpets called the Jewish nation to turn their attention to the Lord and ready themselves for the Day of Atonement, so will the “trump of God” call us to heaven and warn the world of coming judgment.
 - *The Day of Atonement* (Leviticus 23:26-32): This was a time when the people of Israel would fast/afflict themselves to remind themselves of their sin and the work of the High Priest atoning for their sins. Many theologians believe this festival points to God using the Great Tribulation (pouring out His wrath on sin) to turn Israel’s eyes back to God and see Jesus Christ as the atonement for their sins (Romans 11:25-26).

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- *The Feast of Booths* (Leviticus 23:33-44): The Israelites would present offerings to the Lord for seven days and live in huts made of palm branches. Living in these booths reminded them of their Exodus from Egypt and pointed to the time in which their Messiah would come to dwell among them (John 1:14) and return to reign in Jerusalem. The Feast of booths started with a Sabbath Day, pointing to Christ's first coming (Leviticus 23:35) and ended with a Sabbath Day (Leviticus 25:36) pointing to Christ reigning as King of Kings and Lord of Lords in His earthly kingdom where sin is totally abolished (Revelation 21:1-27).