

ANNUAL NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL FESTIVALS

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

Solemn Feasts Established and Consecrated by God: (Lev 23:1-44)

Lv 23:2 "Behold the solemnities of the LORD, which ye shall celebrate as holy convocations. (worship services) MY SOLEMNITIES are these:

The Sabbath: The Sabbath (fourth of the Ten Commandments)

Passover Feast: Commemorates the sacrifice of Jesus Christ who erases our sins and reconciles us to God. (1 g - 14 Nisan)

Feast of Unleavened Bread: It reminds us of our commitment to push away sin and to walk in newness of life. (7 days - 15 - 21 Nisan)

Feast of Pentecost: It depicts the first fruits called by God, beneficiaries of the gift of the Holy Spirit. (1 g - 6 Sivan)

Feast of Trumpets: It foretells God's judgments on earth. (1 g - 1 Tishri)

Feast of Atonement: It foreshadows the purification of the martyrs during the great tribulation and the removal of satan. (1 g - 10 Tishri)

Festival of Tabernacles: Prophesies the Thousand Year Reign of Jesus Christ and the resurrected saints over all the nations of the earth. (7 days - 15 to 21 Tishri)

Feast of the Last Day: The remnant of the dead will be raised for judgment, eternal life or second death. (1 g - 22 Tishri)

1. **The Feast of the Passover of Jesus Christ (Pesach)** (Ex 12; Lev 23:4-5; Nu 28:16; Deut 16:1-7)

The New Testament reveals that Jesus Christ was killed on the very day of Passover and He is "our Passover, sacrificed for us." (1 Corinthians 11:23-32) In fact, He is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the

world." (Joh 1:29) Through His sacrifice we are by God's grace forgiven of sin and finally spared from the death penalty of sin or second death.

How to observe it? Day 14 of Nisan (Abib) (March - April)

To participate in the holy meeting and the Passover meal, with fear and trembling, cleansed from all sin, remembering that we have been redeemed at a high price through the blood of Jesus Christ. Christians commemorate the annual Passover on the same day to drink the cup of the New Covenant and eat unleavened bread in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. In doing so, we solemnly and gratefully remember the Lord's death until He returns. (1 Corinthians 11:25-26) This holiday marks the beginning of God's plan of redemption and the washing away of our sins by the blood of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Event: Crucifixion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and redemption of His children.

2. Feast of Unleavened Bread (Pesach) (Ex 12:15-19,20; Ex 23:15-16,19; Lev 23:6-14)

Every year, this festival reminds the Israelites of their deliverance from Egypt. Just as God delivered ancient Israel, He delivered us from our sins and weaknesses. It represents our life cleansed from sin through the blood of Christ. Moreover, the days of Unleavened Bread symbolize the work of the risen Christ, Jesus ascended to the throne of God at the very moment when the offering was to be made, presenting himself to be accepted as the "first fruits" (1 Corinthians 15:20-22) of God's spiritual harvest from mankind and as the One who leads us all in the way of salvation. The "bread of life". (Joh 6:48,51)

How to observe it? 7 Days from 15 to 21 Nisan (Abib) (March - April)

Attend the holy assembly only on the first and last day, and during the six days we remain humbly in the presence of God by offering sacrifices of praise, adoration, and thanksgiving, remembering the grace granted for the salvation of our souls.

In deep gratitude for what God has done and is doing for us through Jesus, we must continue to purify ourselves "let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, accomplishing our sanctification in the fear

of God." (2 Corinthians 7:1) We are called to keep ourselves cleansed by keeping leaven, or sin, away from our lives and becoming "unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:8) as the Body of Christ. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is therefore first and foremost a time of personal reflection, we should meditate on our conduct and ask God to help us through the Holy Spirit to lead a holy life. (Rom 6:4) The apostle Paul spoke of this reflection in (2 Corinthians 13:5) when he said to the church in Corinth: "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; Test yourself. Don't you recognize that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless the outcome of the test is negative." He explained the meaning of the phrase "Jesus Christ is in you" in (Galatians 2:20), "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me, and the life I now live in the flesh, I live in faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me." The Apostle Paul knew that life is a battle against "the sin that so easily envelops us." (Hebrews 12:1) We too must do our part in the fight to overcome sin with the help of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Event: The purity, holiness and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our sanctification.

3. **Feast of Pentecost** (Shavuot) (Lev 23:15-22; Deut 16:9-12)

It is also called the "Festival of Weeks or the Harvest" (Harvest) (Ex 23:16; Ex 34:22) during which another offering of "first fruits" of the harvest was presented. This offering of "first fruits" foreshadowed believers who would receive the "first fruits" of God's Spirit (Rom 8:23) and who therefore "are in a way the first fruits of his creatures." (Rom 1:18) It represents the descent of the Holy Spirit upon those who believe and repent, in order to experience true change. (Ac 2:1-4) It is by His Spirit in us that we can put to death the sinful works of the body (Rom 8:13) and walk with God.

How to observe it? **Day 6 of Sivan** (May - June) (50th day after the Feast of Unleavened Bread) Attend the holy gathering, thanking God for the gift of His Holy Spirit and for being witnesses of Christ in the power of the Spirit. (Ac 1:8) Because God's Spirit now resides in Christ's Church, its members can express divine love. "I give you a new commandment, that you

love one another as I have loved you... by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Joh 13:34-35) So we invite those who have not yet received the Holy Spirit to ask for it and to pray with their leaders to receive it. Also pray for those who have already received it so that they do not grieve (Eph 4:30) or turn them away (Ps 51:11).

Event: Descent of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church.

4. Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) (Lev 23:23-25; Nu 29:1-6)

It foretells God's judgment on all mankind after the opening of the seven seals, there will be the judgments of the seven trumpets and then the seven bowls (Rev 8-9-10-11)

How to observe it? Day 1 Tishri (September - October)

To participate in the holy gathering while observing the signs of the times, watching and praying to keep our vocation and faith firm until His coming and for the believers who will go through the great tribulation. (Heb 3:14; Heb 10:23; 2 Tim 4:7-8)

Event: Judgments of God on earth.

5. Feast of Atonement (Yom Kippur) (Lev 16:29-31; Lev 23:26-32; Nu 29:7-11)

The Day of Atonement foreshadows the final time when Satan will be removed and God will provide the opportunity for the whole world to be reconciled to Him through repentance, accepting Christ's atoning sacrifice. (Rev 20:3 - Zech 12:10; 13:1 — Rom 9:25) It is the only holy day in the year when complete fasting is observed. (Zech 7:5; Zech 8:19; Ac 27:9)

How to observe it? Day 10 Tishri (September - October)

We offer this day of fasting and our prayers for all the lost or those who have fallen away from the Lord, who live in the present age and those of the new generations, also for the period during the millennium. Fasting helps us to understand how much we need God, the One who gives us life, as the ancient prophets of God did. (Da 9:3-4)

Event: The conversion of the nations and people of Israel to Jesus the Messiah.

6. Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) (Ex 23:16; Lev 23:33-43; Nu 29:12-34)

This biblical holiday emphasizes that, like booths and temporary dwellings, our lives are transitory. (2 Corinthians 5:1-2,6-9) This festival, also called the Festival of Tabernacles, foretells and represents the "thousand years" of the earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ and the resurrected saints. Jesus himself observed this feast during his ministry and told his disciples to do likewise. (Joh 7:8-14) Scripture also states that this festival will be observed by all the nations of the world during Christ's reign on earth. (Zech 14:9,16-18) The resurrected saints will reign with Christ. (Rev 20:4 —Da 7:27) When Christ returns, true Christians will rule under Him as kings and priests (Rev 5:10; 20:6) leading the rest of the world into God's ways.

How to observe it? 7 Days from 15 to 21 Tishri (September - October) In these six days we thank God for all his blessings, sharing all those who are pleasing to him, the poor, orphans, widows and strangers.

God has called us to train us to serve others today, during and well beyond the "thousand years" of Christ's Kingdom. (1 Peter 2:11-12,16-17)

Event: Messiah's reign over the nations of the earth.

7. Feast of the Last Great Day of Judgment (Sh'mini Atzeret - Simchat Tora) (Lev 23:39; 2 Peter 3:13) It foreshadows the physical resurrection of mankind for the day of judgment, the remnant of the dead will be raised for judgment (Ac 17:30-31; Mt 25:32; Rev 20:11-13), the wedding feast of the Lamb (Rev 19:7), the new heavens and the new earth. (Rev 21:1-2)

How to observe it? Day 22 Tishri (September - October)

Let us pray with the same sentiment as God, as it is written: "God wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth". (1 Tim 2:4) That is the feeling, the will of God toward mankind.

Event: New creation, new heavens, new earth and the Eternal Kingdom of God with his Sons.

ARE GOD'S FEASTS STILL VALID TODAY?

For those who are convinced that the Sabbath, the day of worship of the Lord, and the sacred feasts instituted and established by God are not to be taken into account because, as some say, they belonged only to the Jews, as well as the Ten Commandments, let's see what the Scriptures say and what the apostle Paul teaches and practices after the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The list of Feasts begins as indicated at the beginning of this document, before the Sabbath and after the seven Feasts, as described in (Lev 23:3-44)

Lv 23:1-2 And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto the children of Israel and of them, Behold, the solemnities of the LORD, which ye shall celebrate as holy convocations. MY SOLEMNITIES are these.

Ex 16:29 "Behold, the LORD has given you the Sabbath. That is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Therefore let every man stay where he is, let no one come out of his tent on the seventh day."

Ne 9:14 "YOU HAVE MADE YOUR HOLY SABBATH KNOWN TO THEM, and you have given them commandments, precepts, and a law through Moses your servant."

Is 58:13-14 "If you restrain your foot from violating the Sabbath, doing your if thou hast called the Sabbath a delight, and venerable that which is sacred unto the LORD; if thou hast honoured that day, instead of following thy ways, and doing thy business, and discussing thy causes, then thou shalt find thy delight in the LORD;

Lv 23:4 "These are the solemnities of the LORD, the holy convocations which you shall proclaim at the appointed times.

Lv 23:37 "These are the solemnities of the LORD, which you shall proclaim as holy convocations."

Lev 23:44 And Moses gave the children of Israel the instructions concerning the solemnities of the LORD.

Ex 31:13 "As for you, speak to the children of Israel and of them, 'Take heed to keep MY SABATS, for the Sabbath is a sign between me and you for all your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.

Eze 44:24 ... they will keep my laws and statutes in all MY feasts; they will sanctify MY SABATHS.

In these verses we can clearly read that God does not speak of the solemnities or feasts of my people or of the Jews as some preachers insinuate, but God says MY solemnities or feasts, MY Sabbaths, not those of the people. It should also be noted that God gave the Sabbath even before he included it in the Ten Commandments. (Ex 16:29) How the Passover gave her before she was included in the Levitical priesthood. (Heb 11:28)

FEAST OF EASTER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD

Mt 26:19-20 "And the disciples did as Jesus commanded them, and prepared the Passover. When evening came, he sat down to table with the twelve disciples.

Jn 18:39 "But it is the custom for you that I will set you one for the Passover; then let the king of the Jews deliver you?

Ac 12:1-4 "At that time King Herod began to ill-treat some of the church, and he had James, John's brother, killed by the sword. Seeing that this was pleasing to the Jews, he went on and had Peter arrested as well. Those were the days of Unleavened Bread. After having him arrested, he put him in prison, entrusting him to the custody of four pickets of four soldiers each; because he wanted to make him appear before the people after Easter.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8 Cleanse yourselves of the old leaven, that you may be a new dough, as you are already without leaven. For our Passover, that is, Christ, was also sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Ac 20:6 "When the days of Unleavened Bread were over, we departed from Philippi, and after five days we joined them in Troas, where we stayed seven days.

After the first Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread in which Jesus and his disciples participated, we see that the following year, precisely during the participation in these two festivals, James was killed and Peter was arrested. The apostle Paul, on the other hand, admonishing the Corinthians, invited them to participate in the Feast of the Passover and the Unleavened Bread and explained the way in which to practice them, no longer with unleavened bread, but to be true unleavened bread themselves, that is, cleansed from all sin, and he did the same in his travels. It is also important to note that when the apostle wrote his letter to the Corinthians, inviting them to observe this feast, more than twenty years had already passed since Jesus' death.

FEAST OF PENTECOST

Ac 20:16 Paul had decided to go beyond Ephesus, so as not to lose time in Asia; he was hastening to be in Jerusalem, if he could, on the day of Pentecost.

1 Corinthians 16:7-9 "For this time I do not want to see you in passing; but I hope to stay with you for a while, if the Lord permits." I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost, because here a large door has been opened to me for effective work, and there are many adversaries.

Here too the first time the apostle Paul preferred to participate in the Feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem, instead of stopping to visit his brothers in Ephesus, the second time instead he declared to the Corinthians that first he had to stay in Ephesus until Pentecost to participate in the feast with them.

TRUMPET FESTIVAL

1 Sa 20:5,24-25 David said to Jonathan, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and I should have lunch with the king; Let me go and I'll hide in the countryside

until the third evening. David then hid himself in the field; and when the new moon came, the king sat down to eat.

Eze 46:1 Thus saith God the Lord: The gate of the inner court, which looks towards the east, it will remain closed during the six days of work: but it will be open on the Sabbath; it will also be open on the day of the new moon.

Ps 81:3 Blow the trumpet to the new moon, to the full moon, to the day of the our party.

Is 66:22 "For as the new heavens and the new earth which I am about to create shall remain established before me," says the Lord, "so shall your seed and your name endure. It shall come to pass, that from new moon to new moon, and from sabbath to sabbath, all flesh shall come and worship me, saith the LORD.

Cl 2:16-17 "Let no one judge you therefore as to eating or drinking, or as to feasts, new moons, or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things that were to come; but the body is Christ's.

The Feast of Trumpets falls on the first day of the seventh month, at the appearance of the new moon or new moon, and the apostle Paul encouraged the Colossians not to be led astray by the pagans, with regard to festivals, new moons corresponding to the first day of each lunar month, the Sabbath, and all that God had ordained. Then he said that these things were a shadow of things that were to happen, in the sense that if before they were observed in practice mostly with the sacrifices of animals, according to the Levitical priesthood, now that there has been that one sacrifice of Christ they must be observed according to the priesthood of Melchizedek in the Spirit as worship of God.

FEAST OF ATONEMENT

Zech 8:19 Thus says the Lord of hosts: "The fast of the fourth, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth month, shall become to the house of Judah a joy, a gladness, a feast of exultation; Love therefore truth and peace.

Acts 27:9 "And a great deal of time had passed, and the navigation had become perilous, for the day of fasting had also passed. Paul then admonished them ...

2 Corinthians 11:26-27 "Often on the move, in danger on the rivers, in danger by robbers, in danger by my countrymen, in danger by foreigners, in danger in the cities, in danger in the deserts, in danger by the sea, in danger among false brethren; in labor and pain; often in vigils, in hunger and thirst, often in fasting, in cold and nakedness.

Mt 6:17-18 "But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that let it not appear to men that you are fasting, but to your Father who is in secret; and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.

The day of fasting commanded for the Feast of Atonement (Lev 23:27,32; Zech 8:19) The apostle Paul observed him, although he was a prisoner on the high seas. Although there were other weekly fasts such as in the prayer of the Pharisee and the publican (Luke 18:12)

FEAST OF TABERNACLES AND THE LAST GREAT DAY

Jn 7:2,10,14,37 "Now the feast of the Jews, called of the Tabernacles, was at hand. But when his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he went up too; not overtly, but as if secretly. About halfway through the feast, Jesus went up to the temple and began to teach. And on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

Ac 18:11,21-22 "And he (Paul) stayed there (in Corinth) a year and six months, teaching the Word of God among themselves. ... and after taking leave and saying that, God willing, he would return to them another time, he sailed from Ephesus, and when he arrived at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem; and, bidding farewell to the church, he went down to Antioch.

Zech 14:4,16 "On that day his feet shall rest on the Mount of Olives, which is opposite Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in half from east to west, so that it shall form a great valley; and half of the mountain shall recede to the north, and the other half to the south. All that remain of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go

up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the feast of Tabernacles.

Jesus himself participated in the Feast of Tabernacles and the Feast of the Last Great Day with his brothers. The apostle Paul, after a year and six months away from the twelve apostles, felt obliged to have the next feast in Jerusalem. It should be noted that, after eighteen months of his wanderings, that feast could only be the Feast of Tabernacles! And in Zechariah it is written that in the last times when the Lord returns to reign on earth, even the last remaining of the nations against Jerusalem will celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, which also includes the Feast of the Last Great Day.

Today, unfortunately, no one is willing to celebrate these holidays because convinced that they were given by God only for the Jews through the law of Moses and because animal sacrifices were offered on these feasts for the ceremonial law; but they do not consider that the same feasts can be celebrated in the Spirit since animal sacrifices have been replaced by the sacrifice of Christ, and we can offer on these feast days which are special Saturdays such as the weekly Sabbath worship services to God according to the very meaning of the feast, being also prophetic feasts of the Kingdom of God for the future.

Rom 12:1 "I exhort you, therefore, brethren, by the mercy of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice living, holy, acceptable to God; this is your spiritual worship.

Jn 4:24 God is Spirit; and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.

Hos 9:5 WHAT SHALL YE DO IN THE DAYS OF SOLEMNITY, AND IN THE FEAST DAYS OF THE LORD?

We learn God's plan for the salvation of mankind through His Son Jesus Christ and the right spiritual path to walk with God. Our keeping them proves that our Ruler is God, not man, because they have been instituted and sanctified by Him, for Him and for us. Everyone is free, according to

his or her conscience, to celebrate them in recognition of what Jesus Christ has done and continues to do for us.

N.B. The days indicated vary each year consult this [Jewish Calendar](#) - [Jewish Calendar](#).

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.