

## ISRAEL'S ANNUAL FEASTS – Israel's Historical Observance and God's Spiritual Fulfillment

FEAST OF PASSOVER	
Passover	Exodus 12:1-23, Leviticus 23:4-5, Deuteronomy 16:1-7
Unleavened Bread	Exodus 12:18, Exodus 23:15, Leviticus 23:6-8
First Fruits	Leviticus 23:10-14
FEAST OF PENTECOST	
Pentecost	Exodus 23:16, Leviticus 23:15-21, Deuteronomy 16:9:12
FEAST OF TABERNACLES	
Trumpets	Leviticus 23:24-25
Atonement	Leviticus 16:29-34, Leviticus 23:27-32
Tabernacles	Exodus 23:16, Leviticus 23:34-44, Deuteronomy 16:13-15
8 <sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath	Leviticus 23:36

### ISRAEL'S HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT OF THE THREE ANNUAL FEASTS

	MONTH	DAYS	FEAST	LOOKS BACK TO	LOOKED AHEAD TO
Spring	Nisan/Mar.	14	Passover	Saved from Egypt	Christ's redeeming death
	Nisan	15-22	Unleavened Bread	Separated people for God	Holiness to the LORD
	Nisan	16	First Fruits	Barley sheaf waived	Christ, Old Testament saints raised
	Sivan/May	50	Pentecost	Wheat harvest	God promised Spirit to be poured out
Fall	Tishri/Oct.	1	Trumpets	Remainder of the harvest	Regathering Israel back to their land
	Tishri	10	Atonement	National cleansing of sins	Israel receives Jesus as their Messiah
	Tishri	15-22	Tabernacles	Israel's wilderness journey	Israel's Millennial spiritual harvest
	Tishri	23	8 <sup>th</sup> day sabbath	Annual harvest completed	New Heaven & Earth stars eternity

### ISRAEL CUT OFF – GOD'S ANOINTING TO COMPLETE THE BODY OF CHRIST Ephesians 4:11-16

	FEAST	CHRISTIANS FULFILL THE FEASTS THROUGH JESUS Romans 8:14
1 <sup>st</sup> Coming	<b>Passover</b> Redemption	Jews and Gentiles believing in redemption by the sinless blood of Jesus. John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Hebrews 9:11-15
	<b>Unleavened bread</b> Sanctification	No leaven means cleansing ourselves from sins because the resurrected Jesus is leading us into God's righteous kingdom. Romans 8:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 1 John 1:7-2:1
	<b>First Fruits</b> Resurrection life	Jesus is raised first. Christians become as first fruits via spiritual rebirth. Actual out-translations are shown at the feasts of Trumpets and Tabernacles. James 1:17-18.
	<b>Pentecost</b> Spirit empowered	Jesus pours God's promised Spirit out on believers to harvest people for God with supernatural signs following. Jer. 31:31-33; Joel 2:28, Acts 1:7-8; 2:1-4, 16; 2:33; 2:36-39
2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming	<b>Trumpets</b> Harvest complete Second coming	Jesus returns after He has finished gathering His spiritual harvest from the Church age. Christ (1 <sup>st</sup> fruit), Old Testament saints (1 <sup>st</sup> fruits, plural), then Christain's at His coming. 1 Corinthians 15:22-28, 51-54; Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 20:4-5; (eternal life)
	<b>Atonement</b> (at-one-ment)	Jesus, the head. Those in His image, the Bride, two becoming one, God considers one body. This is the great mystery of Ephesians 5:32. Jesus makes a body for God to dwell. John 17:15-24; 1 Corinthians 13:9-13; 1 John 3:2-3; Revelation 21:22-27
	<b>Tabernacles</b> Abiding with Jesus in God's presence	Saints are taken to heaven in groups at different times. <b>Pretribulation:</b> The <u>manchild</u> of Revelation 12:10-14. The <u>restrainer</u> of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. <b>Tribulation:</b> The <u>two witnesses</u> of Revelation 11:2-12. The <u>tribulation saints</u> of Matthew 24: 29-31; Revelation 12:13-13:9, 20:1-8. The <u>144,000</u> : Revelation 14:1-5. <b>Millennium:</b> Israel becomes the focus of the <u>final 1,000-year harvest</u> . The Great <b>White Throne Judgment:</b> <u>Separates</u> all saints to eternal life and all sinners to eternal torment in hell. Rev. 20:10-15; 22:14-15.
	<b>8<sup>th</sup> day celebrated</b> New beginnings	God makes everything new as He desired. He creates a New Heaven (also the New Jerusalem) and New Earth for redeemed true believers. 2 Peter 3:5-14; Rev. 21:1-7

## GOD'S DESIRE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### INTRODUCTION

In the beginning, when God formed the heavens and the earth, He hid a story inside creation itself—one that every person, farmer or city dweller, could understand. He made seeds. He made soil. He made rain and seasons. In Genesis 8:22 God promised, "As long as the earth remains, seedtime and harvest... shall not cease." Why? Because everything God desired to do in the human heart would follow the same pattern. He begins with a seed—small, hidden, but fully alive. That seed grows through seasons of heat, storms, drought, and tending. With time, it becomes fruit fit for His table. What God embedded in nature, He embedded in Israel's feast cycle so His people would rehearse their dependence every year. Our spiritual understanding leads us to heaven.

Creation became the classroom of the soul. Sunlight pictured revelation, rain pictured the Spirit, and soil pictured the human heart. The progression from seed to fruit is a major blueprint for forming mature sons and daughters in His likeness. This study blends the biblical story with theological commentary to show how each Feast moves believers toward spiritual maturity and toward becoming the One New Man in Christ (Eph. 2:15).

Each Feast pairs an Old Testament practice to a New Testament fulfillment, tracing God's purpose from physical creation to His final spiritual creation. His pattern is: Seed → Growth → Maturity → Harvest → Rest → Glory.

### PASSOVER – REDEEMED BY BLOOD

Passover begins the story of redemption. Israel was trapped in Egypt, helpless under bondage. But God remembered His promise of a land inheritance and planned their redemption—not through power, but through a lamb (Ex. 12:13). That night, blood on the door marked every home that belonged to Him. Death passed over and hope for their promise returned. Passover became the beginning because redemption is always the first work God performs.

For every believer, Passover is the moment Christ's blood marks the heart. Here, the seed of new life is planted (1 Cor. 5:7). Nothing mature is visible yet, but the entire potential of the new nature has been planted. Redemption always begins outside of us—by grace, not effort. Redemption is substitutionary, covenantal, and foundational. Passover establishes believers as a redeemed people, the starting point of God's One New Man, Christ as head with those who overcome sin as the rest of His body.

The Feasts unveil God's strategy for forming a mature Body for His Son. Believers grow from redemption to rest, from seed to glory. The One New Man is God's masterpiece, fulfilling what Adam failed to do: becoming God's image-bearer, representative, and dwelling place forever.

Unleavened Bread followed immediately (Ex. 12:15). Israelites were to search every corner for leaven. God was teaching that freedom from Egypt required removing Egypt's influence within. Not because of ritual, but because of relationships. He was teaching them: "You cannot take the evil ways you learned in Egypt with you into freedom." Leaving Egypt was easy; getting Egypt out of them would take time.

In every Christian, this is the beginning season of our lives spiritually. It is the painful but the necessary season where the God teaches believers to separate themselves from their old way of life. Every believer undergoes the same cleansing. Old habits, wounds, and sinful patterns must be confronted as we "clean out the old leaven" from our hearts (1 Cor. 5:7). The soil of the soul must be prepared for spiritual growth. We are brought face to face with the inner witness of a Holy God which is uncomfortable because we are becoming aware that we might have to pull some weeds out of our life to have a better relationship with Him. We are not yet aware that Sanctification is a blessing not punishment—it is preparing our hearts for a workable relationship with Him and the spiritual formation of the fruits of God's Spirit in us.

## **FIRST FRUITS – SIGNS OF NEW LIFE**

Israel brought the very first sheaf of their harvest to the Lord. It was small, but it was evidence that the soil had accepted the seed. The priest made a wave offering of the first sheaf from the barley harvest (Lev. 23:10–11). God promised if they obeyed him, He would bless them with provision. They were dependent on Him for the rain and the sun without catastrophe. After they planted and saw the first fruit of new life in their plantings, they celebrated. It gave them hope that God was again going to see them through until the harvest of everything was in. Their celebration, of the evidence of new spiritual life showed they were continuing to believe in God made the offering sacred in His sight.

Spiritually, Christ rose as the First fruit as God's a sinless spiritually mature man (1 Cor. 15:20). The Old Testament saints who were also raised as a testimony became the first fruit(s) who ascended with Jesus (Matthew 27:51). Also, every born-again believer who follows Jesus becomes a testimony of that resurrection life when it has taken root within in this life (James 1:17-18). First Fruits shows the believer's identity as a participant in Christ's risen life. This initiation into a new spiritual life for a sinner inspires spiritual transformation and a future hope of a glorified life with Jesus in God's eternal kingdom.

## **FEAST OF PENTECOST – GOD EMPOWERED GROWTH**

Israel celebrated Pentecost fifty days after Jesus was crucified on the Passover. It coincides with Israel's celebration at the time of the wheat harvest. They also remember this as the time God gave them His Law at Sinai and formed them into a nation (Ex. 19). When the Messiah came, God poured out His Spirit on the same day, forming the Church of Jesus Christ.

For the church, Pentecost marks God's empowerment. Although Israel received God's Law through Moses at Sinai, as a nation they did not receive God's promised Spirit through Jesus in Jerusalem. Only believers in what the Messiah had said did. (Joel 2:28 with Acts 2:1–4,15). Pentecost is the rain of God for the seed He is planting through Jesus (Matthew 3:11-12 with Acts 2:33). Pentecost inaugurates the maturing of the Body under Christ the Head. The Spirit teaches, convicts, strengthens, and forms Christ within. It is God Himself tending His garden (Phil. 2:13). Without Pentecost, no believer can grow into spiritual maturity (John 15:5). Here the believer learns to walk by the Spirit rather than self-effort (Gal. 5:16). The Spirit forms the believer into the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29).

## **TRUMPETS – HARVEST OVER**

Trumpets were used call Israel to assemble or travel for distinct reasons. (Num. 10). The sound of trumpets at this feast called the nation to attention for the celebration of their final harvest. Can you imagine how happy a dryland farmer is when the labor of the growth is done and the harvest is mature. It is the time of plenty supplied by the grace of God as he had promised. Now this is a celebration! Ultimately and spiritually a trumpet will sound for the resurrection of believers gathering as God's redeemed (1 Thess. 4:16–17). Don't you just want to be there for that one!

## **ATONEMENT – COMPLETION**

Atonement represents cleansing, healing, and union. In Israel, this was the most solemn day—the day the high priest entered behind the veil. It was a day of forgiveness for sins of the entire nation. The priest entered the Holy of Holies and made atonement for the whole nation in the place God had chosen once a year (Lev. 16). God really desires full atonement with His people, hearts fully united with Him, free from shame, healed from old wounds, restored in love. Christ brings believers into deeper oneness with God. It is more than forgiveness. it is "at-one-ment" with God. Therefore, spiritually, in the fullness of time this pictures the deeper work God does in the believer's soul as He brings everything into the light, washes it clean bringing it back into the union He desired. Prophetically, at the end of the church age when the devil comes in like a flood, God will be the one who raises up his standard against him (Isa. 59:19). Believers will become one with Christ and one with each other, forming the One New Man (Eph. 2:14–18). It will be His holy bride doing the works of God when He blows the trumpet for Christ to come and receive His bride unto Himself for the wedding feast of the Lamb (Rev. 19:6-9).

## **TABERNACLES – DWELLING IN FULNESS**

Historically: Israel dwelt in booths with God among them in their wilderness journey before they entered the land God had promised them (Lev. 23). At the Feast of Tabernacles, Israel celebrated God dwelling with His people, providing for them in miraculous ways. They still practice this tradition of building temporary shelters to remember their wilderness journey. Nevertheless, in God's fullness it still points to something greater—the joy of God dwelling with His true family in eternity, the New Heaven and the New earth of Revelation 21 and 22.

This cycle is where God's trust, rest, and fruitfulness appear. The heart becomes a dwelling place where God is no longer resisted but welcomed. Lessons become life. Trust becomes natural. Joy becomes steady. Obedience and love become mature. The believer becomes a living dwelling place where God's presence rests (John 14:23). The believer becomes a "living tabernacle" of His glory. Christ is formed fully as He prayed in John 17. As He is, so also are we in this world (1 John 4:17) Because we are a kind of first fruits being Spirit led, we are to experience the same leading Christ did on this earth before we are taken to the glories of heaven. Both are true for true believers led by Christ. Greater things you shall do (collectively John 1:50).

## **THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY – NEW BEGINNINGS**

Historically: The conclusion of Israel's annual feasts did not conclude with the Feast of Tabernacles. Tabernacles to Israel is a memorial of dwelling in booths on the way to their promise land. However, their promised land is not the end of God's promise for a new eternal earth. Typologically, the number 8 symbolizes eternity having no end in the shape of the rotation of the number.

So, after seven days of celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles came a single eight-day celebration with significant typological importance (Lev. 23:33-39). It represented a day beyond the 7-day cycle of creation. It pointed to eternity, where God makes all things new. For every believer throughout the seven-thousand-year biblical human history of mankind, this represents the final transformation when mortality is swallowed up by eternal life where followers of God on all the earth will dwell with God forever. This is the final transformation when mortality is swallowed up by eternal life and God becomes "all in all" (1 Cor. 15:28). Each seed inherent with eternal life prepared from good soil becomes the increase of good fruit for God, and all that good spiritual fruit is enjoyed by God and those in His likeness in glory forever.

## **SUMMARY – GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE**

He is using their feasts as a spiritual pattern for developing godly maturity. God takes a redeemed people, cleanses them, teaches them, empowers them, matures them, gathers them, and brings them into eternal fellowship with Himself. The believer's life is not random - it is patterned, guided and intentional. Every season has purpose. Every struggle has timing. Every test produces fruit. And every seed that God plants will reach some kind of harvest. This is the story written not just in Scripture, but in creation, in Israel's history, in the Church, and in the heart of every believer who follows Christ from seed to fruit to glory.

The progression of the Feasts forms the believer into maturity under Christ the Head. Those led by the Spirit become the mature sons God (Rom. 8:14). The Feasts unveil God's strategy for forming a mature Body for His Son. Believers grow from redemption to rest, from seed to glory. The One New Man is God's masterpiece, fulfilling what Adam failed to do: becoming God's image-bearer, representative, and dwelling place forever.

**Note:** This study on the feasts has a divided functional desire. First, that over time you will memorize the pictorial chart. Second, that you will come to get a good theological grasp of the natural and spiritual meanings in your heart. No more writing God's laws on stone, Let Him write them in your heart (Jer. 31:31-33).

*This was prepared as a teaching resource by Roger Anderson, Living the Spirit Filled Life.com. It was compiled from biblical study, historical research, and scriptural analysis using NASB unless noted. It is not intended as a replacement for the Scriptures, but to aid in understanding. You can use this information. Just do not misrepresent how it was intended.*