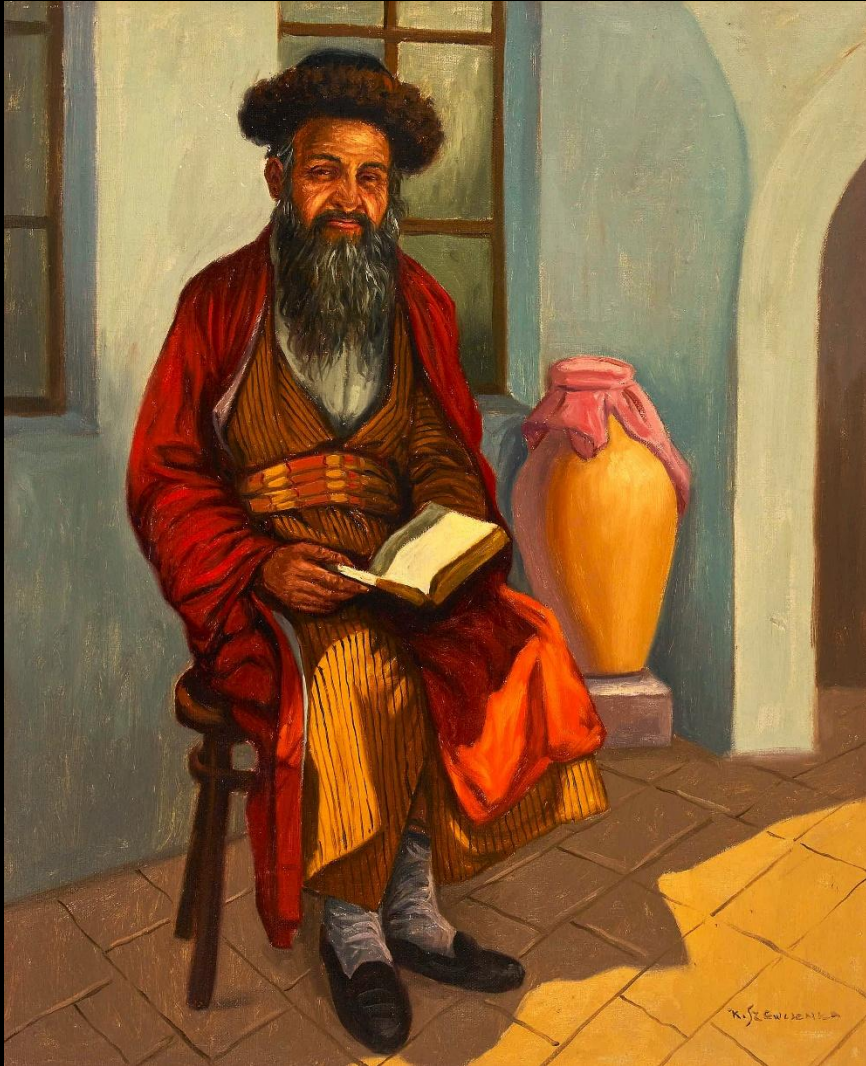


Torah Studies Leviticus: *Vayikrah* – *And He Called*



The Biblical Feasts Leviticus 23

Quiet Prayer – Konstanty Szewczenko

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On Trust in God's Word

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On Trust in God's Word

- Psalm 119:85-88 (NKJV)

85 The proud have dug pits for me,

Which [is] not according to Your law.

86 All Your commandments [are] faithful;

They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!

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On Trust in God's Word

- Psalm 119:85-88 (NKJV)

87 They almost made an end of me on earth,

But I did not forsake Your precepts.

88 Revive me according to Your lovingkindness,

So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Introduction

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Introduction

Previously in **Leviticus**:

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Introduction

Previously in **Leviticus**:

- Recent chapters emphasized holiness for the offerings and the priests, especially the high priest.
- We saw that the closer you draw to God's presence, the higher is the standard of holiness.
- Those who serve Him and the gifts they bring must reflect His perfect character.

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 23**:

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 23**:

- This chapter gives us an overview of Israel's religious calendar.
- The first item mentioned is the Sabbath.
- This is followed by seven distinct feasts—four in the spring and three in the fall.

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 23**:

- The seven feasts were not only a religious calendar.
- They form a prophetic calendar for both Israel and the church.
- The spring feasts deal with the first coming of Christ while the fall feasts point to the second.

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Outline



The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

- I. Intro / The Sabbath 23:1-3
- II. The Spring Feasts 23:4-22
- III. The Fall Feasts 23:23-44

Outline



I. Intro / The Sabbath

23:1-3

I. Intro / The Sabbath

23:1-3

- 23:2 To the people of Israel
- These feasts were originally given to Israel.
- We among the nations can learn from them, but God gave them to Israel, not to us.

I. Intro / The Sabbath

23:1-3

- **23:2** Feasts of the LORD
- Further, these were God's own feasts.
- He gave them to Israel so that their calendar would be punctuated by sacred gatherings.
- They all have meaning and, therefore, acted as an instructional tool for the nation throughout the year.

I. Intro / The Sabbath

23:1-3

- 23:3 The Sabbath
- This was not exactly a feast to begin with, but a weekly day of “solemn rest.”
- Once the nation was scattered, it became a day to gather at the synagogue for prayer and teaching.
- This practice was then adopted by Christians, who have normally met on Sundays since New Testament times.

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Outline

- II. The Spring Feasts 23:4-22
 - A. Passover 23:4-5
 - B. Unleavened Bread 23:6-8
 - C. Firstfruits 23:9-14
 - D. Pentecost (Weeks) 23:15-22



II. A. Passover

23:4-5

II. A. Passover

23:4-5

- The Hebrew name is *Pesach* meaning “passing over,” as in “an exemption.”
- We were introduced to this feast in **Exodus 11 – 13**.
- By marking their doorways with blood, the people of Israel were spared the judgment against the firstborn.

II. A. Passover

23:4-5

- The blood of the sacrificed lamb was the key when the Israelites were about to leave Egypt.
- The blood of the Lamb is still the key today.

II. B. Unleavened Bread

23:6-8

II. B. Unleavened Bread

23:6-8

- The Hebrew name is *Chag HaMatzot* or “The Feast of the Matzahs.”
- For this feast, starting with Passover and going on through the next week, no leavened bread was eaten.
- Leaven—as with a sourdough starter—gives us a picture of sin in the fermenting process.

II. B. Unleavened Bread

23:6-8

- **2 Corinthians 7:1**

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

II. B. Unleavened Bread

23:6-8

- Sin is removed when we put our faith in Christ, our Passover lamb.
- The next week without leaven shows us the ongoing sanctification of the believer.
- The order is important: First Passover, then ongoing sanctification—not sanctification *to prepare for* Christ.

II. C. Firstfruits

23:9-14

II. C. Firstfruits

23:9-14

- The Hebrew name is *Yom HaBikkurim*, or “Day of the Firstfruits.”
- This feast could not be celebrated in the wilderness but was to be started once they arrived in the land (v.10).
- It falls on the day after the weekly Sabbath during the week of Unleavened Bread.

II. C. Firstfruits

23:9-14

- Significantly, Christ rose on the first day of the week, the day after the Sabbath right after Passover.

- **1 Corinthians 15:20-21**

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

II. D. Pentecost (Weeks)

23:15-22

II. D. Pentecost (Weeks)

23:15-22

- In Hebrew this is called *Shavuot*, or *Weeks*.
- It comes precisely seven full weeks or fifty days after the Day of the Firstfruits.
- Our word **Pentecost** means “**Fiftieth**” in Greek, counting fifty days after Firstfruits.

II. D. Pentecost (Weeks)

23:15-22

- This was, of course, the day that the Holy Spirit came upon an eagerly waiting group of believers.
- We may consider it the day that the church was born.

II. D. Pentecost (Weeks)

23:15-22

- **23:17** The grain offering was given as **two loaves of bread baked with leaven**.
- This is a reminder that though we are forgiven, the church is not yet completely pure.
- And yet, the grinding into flour and baking into bread is a nice way to signify the unity of believers.

II. D. Pentecost (Weeks)

23:15-22

- **1 Corinthians 12:13**

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--
Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to
drink of one Spirit.

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Outline

- III. The Fall Feasts **23:23-44**
 - A. Trumpets **23:23-25**
 - B. Day of Atonement **23:26-32**
 - C. Booths (Tabernacles) **23:33-44**



III. A. Trumpets

23:23-25

III. A. Trumpets

23:23-25

- These feasts all have a wonderful future application, both for Israel and for the church.
- The first holiday is called *Rosh Hashanah* or literally, the “Head of the Year.”

III. A. Trumpets

23:23-25

- Sometimes it is called *Yom Teruah*,

Teruah literally means to make a loud noise. This word is used to describe the sound made by the trumpet but can also represent the noise made by a large gathering of people shouting in unison. Interestingly, Yom Teruah is the only commanded feast day that the Lord does not give a specific reason for its celebration, only that it is to be observed as a holy day. –vojisrael.org

III. A. Trumpets

23:23-25

- It is a day celebrated by the blowing of the shofar, a trumpet made from a ram's horn.
- Related to Israel, let's look at a prophecy in **Isaiah** and compare it to the words of Christ in **Matthew**.

III. A. Trumpets

23:23-25

- **Isaiah 27:12-13**

12 In that day from the river Euphrates to the Brook of Egypt the LORD will thresh out the grain, and you will be gleaned one by one, O people of Israel. 13 And in that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.

III. A. Trumpets

23:23-25

- **Matthew 24:29-31**

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, ...

III. A. Trumpets

23:23-25

- **Matthew 24:29-31**

... and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

III. A. Trumpets

23:23-25

- We are also waiting for the sound of the trumpet, when we will be gathered to the Lord in the air.
- Let's read this section found in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**.
- And keep in mind v.18, the last verse of the passage, "Encourage [or *comfort*] one another with these words."

III. B. Day of Atonement

23:26-32

III. B. Day of Atonement

23:26-32

- This is *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement / Covering that we talked about in **Leviticus 16**.
- On this day God says to the Israelites, “You shall afflict yourselves” or “you shall humble your souls.”
- It is a day of mourning or fasting over one’s sins.

III. B. Day of Atonement

23:26-32

- In prophetic terms, in relation to Israel, let's read the prophecy recorded in **Zechariah 12:10 – 13:1**.
- In that day, there will be a wholesale day of repentance and conversion within Israel.

III. B. Day of Atonement

23:26-32

- Paul looked forward to this time when he said,
- **Romans 11:25-26**

25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

III. B. Day of Atonement

23:26-32

- Pertaining to the church, some relate this day to the judgment seat of Christ. (**Rom 14:10, 2 Cor 5:10**)
- That is not a day of judgment pertaining to salvation.
- It is a day when believers will be rewarded according to their works.
- I suppose most Christians will come out better than me, but all of us will be rewarded, not rejected, by Christ.

III. C. Booths (Tabernacles)

23:33-44

III. C. Booths (Tabernacles)

23:33-44

- This feast is known as *Sukkot*, meaning “Booths” or “Tabernacles.”
- It was commemorated the wilderness wanderings when the Israelites dwelt in temporary shelters.
- It has a future meaning too, when Israel is finally restored and they receive their King.
- Let’s read **Zechariah 14:16-21**.

III. C. Booths (Tabernacles)

23:33-44

- Tabernacles was meant to be a joyful feast.
- There will certainly be a lot of rejoicing when Christ rules from Jerusalem in His future millennial reign.
- We can picture all heaven and earth rejoicing in that day—when even Satan will be locked in the abyss.

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Conclusions

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

A Time of Waiting

Conclusions

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Conclusions

A Time of Waiting

- The Jewish calendar left a significant gap between the spring and fall festivals.
- This is symbolic of the gap between the first and second comings of Christ.
- We are awaiting the blessings of the future kingdom when we will reign with Christ as His bride.

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Conclusions



God's people are a scattered people who must be gathered, a sinful people who must be cleansed, and a suffering people who must be given joy. The long period between Pentecost and the Feast of Trumpets...

*– Warren Wiersbe (1929 – 2019),
pastor and Bible teacher*

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Conclusions



... speaks of this present age of the church, when Israel is set aside because she rejected her Messiah.

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The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Conclusions

A Time of Waiting

- Once the church is removed, God will again turn His attention to the people of Israel.
- They will be His instrument to reach out to a lost world, and they will welcome Christ when He comes.
- There is a coming day when “all Israel will be saved.”

The Biblical Feasts

Leviticus 23

Conclusions

Waiting in the Gap

- For now, our priority is be ready.
- We do not know when the trumpet will sound.
- **Philippians 3:20**

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Laws and Regulations Part 6 Leviticus 24 – 25

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