

God's Holy Days

1) Summary

- a) Should non-Israelite Christians keep God's Biblical feast days? Yes, because these laws were given as applicable to all who joined with God's people Israel. Many believe that we are no longer to keep God's laws, but Jesus never abolished the law, and he encouraged his disciples to practice and teach them with their righteousness surpassing the religious leaders of their time. We must walk as Jesus did, and he kept the feasts. The nations will be expected to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in the last days, and the law will go out from Zion (Jerusalem). (Exodus 12:48-49, Leviticus 16:29, 17:12, Numbers 9:13-14, 15:14-16, 27-29, Isaiah 56:3-8, Ezekiel 14:7-11, Zechariah 14:16-19, **Matthew 5:17-20**)

Holy Days Table

Event	When	Commemoration	How to Observe It?
<u>Day</u> Genesis 1:1-5, Leviticus 23:26-32, Mark 14:30	- Begins at dawn (sunrise) - Ends at the next dawn (sunrise)	Not applicable	Consider when the day starts and ends when observing feast days
<u>Sabbath (Weekly)</u> Exodus 16:25-30, 20:8-11 31:12-15, 35:2, Leviticus 23:3	- Weekly on the 7th day (Saturday) - From sunrise to sunrise	- God's creation complete - God's Holy day - Last day of the week	- Rest (no work) - Don't put others to work - Sacred assembly - Give to God - Worship God
<u>New Moon (Monthly)</u> Numbers 10:10, 28:11-15, Joshua 19:18, 1 Samuel 20:5-24, 18, 24, 1 Chron. 23:31, 2 Chronicles 2:4, 8:13, 2 Kings 4:8, 23, Ezra 3:5, Nehemiah 10:33, Psalm 81:3-4 KJV, Isaiah 1:13-14, 66:23, Ezekiel 45:17, 46:1-7, Hosea 2:11, 5:7, Amos 8:5	At the Sighting of the New (Renewed) Moon	- New/Next Month - In the future, New Moon will be an appointed time for mankind to come and bow down before God (Isaiah 66:23)	- Recognizing the new moon appearance - blowing the trumpet over our offering(s) and giving - worship God - feast - rejoice
<u>God's New Year</u> Exodus 12:1-2, 18, Deuteronomy 16:1	At the sighting of the New (Renewed) Moon after observance of Aviv /Abib (green ears on barely) in March – April timeframe	New (or next) Year established by God	- We are to guard (observe) the month of the Aviv or Abib - Convocation not required
<u>Passover</u>	Begins twilight (evening - when	The Israelites anniversary	Not required outside of Israel Recommendations

Exodus 12:1-14, 21-27, 31-49, 15:22, Leviticus 23:1-2, 5, Numbers 9:2-14, 28:16, Deuteronomy 16:1-8, 2 Chronicles 30:1-27, 35:1-19, Ezra 6:19-22, Matthew 26:36-46, Luke 2:41, 22:5-20, John 13:1-17, 19:31-36, 1 Corinthians 5:7-8	sun goes down) on 14th day (end) of the first month of the year (Abib or Nisan is in March – April timeframe)	departure from Egypt and the Lord passing over his people while bringing death (judgment) throughout Egypt for all their gods. • Jesus is the Passover Lamb of God	• Reflect on the Exodus story • Recognize the blood of Jesus as our Passover Lamb covering over our sins with communion • Wash disciples' feet (or serve them) • Keep vigil all night, praying as Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane on the night he ate the Passover
Event	When	Commemoration	How to Observe It?
<u>Unleavened Bread</u> Exodus 12:14-20, 39, 43-48, 13:3-10, 8-9, 23:15, 34:18-20, Leviticus 23:1-17, Numbers 10:10, 28:17-24, 33:3-4, Deuteronomy 16:3-17, 2 Chronicles 30:1-27, 35:1-19, Ezra 6:19-22, 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 Others: Deuteronomy 4:32-40, Matthew 16:6-12, Luke 12:1,	• Begins the 15th day of the 1st month (beginning with Passover at twilight of 14th day) and completes evening of the 21st day (Month of Abib / Nisan in March-April timeframe) • Happens around Easter time. We should celebrate this instead of calling it Easter	• God's mighty acts to save Israel out of Egypt, to show the world that he is the one true God and there is no other. • Jesus's resurrection has been added to this time period to acknowledge as well, as this happened during this feast.	• Rest (no work) - 1st & 7th days • Proclaim & hold sacred assembly & feasting on 1st & 7th days • Give to God (in proportion to how he has blessed you) • Blow the trumpet over offerings • Repentance, eliminating the leaven (bad teachings and sin and sinful influences out of our lives) • Remove all leaven (yeast) from home • Eating unleavened bread (pure word of God & bread of affliction) Passover evening to 7th festival day evening • Celebrating God joyfully
<u>Firstfruits</u> Exodus 23:16, 19, Leviticus 23:9-14, Numbers 28:9-10, 26, Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Joshua 5:10-11	• Always on the Sunday after the 1st Sabbath that Israelites entered the land (originally the 10th day of 1st month) (Month of Abib in March-April timeframe).	• Celebrate the 1st grain sheaf harvest upon entering the land of Israel. The priest would wave the sheaf and the people sacrifice a lamb with grain, flour, & wine. They couldn't eat the harvest until the offering was made.	• Honour God with the first-fruits of all your increase before consuming it • rejoicing before God
<u>Pentecost / Feast of Weeks (Harvest) / Shavuot</u>	• Always on the Sunday after 7 full weeks (49	• Celebrates the harvest, 50 days after the 1st	• Rest (no work) • Sacred assembly

Exodus 23:16, 21, 34:22-26, Leviticus 23:9-22, Numbers 10:10, 28:26-31, Deuteronomy 16:9-12, 16-17, Acts 2:1-41, 2 Chronicles 7:8-10	days) from Firstfruits (the day after the 1st Sabbath after the 10th day of the 1st month) in the month of Sivan (May-June timeframe)	Sabbath that the Israelites entered the Land (Pentecost means 50 th) Also now commemorates the day God poured out his spirit	• Celebration & feasting with rejoicing • Honouring God for all your increase (harvest), • Giving God your firstfruits (in proportion to how he has blessed you), Also Recommended: • Remembering Jesus sacrifice (take communion) • Read God's word • Evangelize to gain a harvest of souls for God • Pray for an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit
Event	When	Commemoration	How to Observe It?
<u>Day of Trumpets / Rosh Hashanah (Jews)</u> Leviticus 23:23-25, Numbers 29:1-6 Trumpets: Exodus 19:13, 16, 19, Numbers 10:1-10, Joshua 6:4, Judges 3:27-30, 7:22, 2 Chronicles 13:12-18, Ezekiel 33:3-6, 1 Corinthians 15:52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Amos 3:6, Zechariah 9:14, Revelation 8:11	• 1st day of the 7th month (Tishri, September-October timeframe)	• It's a day for you to sound the trumpets • Trumpets were blown in the Bible for: gathering people, going to war, offerings, warning of judgment or danger, music praising God, rejoicing, anointing kings, and on new moons & feast days. • Jesus will send his angels with a trumpet call • God's voice sounds like a trumpet	• Rest (no work) • Sacred assembly • Blow trumpets • Give offerings to God
<u>Day of Atonement / Yom Kippur</u> Leviticus 16:6-34, 23:1-2, 27-31, 32, 26-32, Numbers 10:10, 29:7-11, Acts 27:9	• Starts the evening of the 9th day of the 7th month (Tishri, September-October timeframe) until	• Atonement made for you to cleanse you from all your sins	• Fasting (24 hours) • Resting (no work) • Repentance • Sacred assembly • Give offerings to God (blow trumpet) Also Recommended:

	the following evening.		Recognize the blood of Jesus atoning for our sins with taking communion (at the end of fast).
Event	When	Commemoration	How to Observe It?
<u>Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles / Booths) / Sukkot</u> Exodus 23:16, 34:22-24, Leviticus 23:33, 39, Numbers 10:10, 29:12-39, Leviticus 23:33-43, Numbers 10:10, 29:12-39, Deuteronomy 16:13-17, 31:10-13, 1 Kings 8:2, 10-11, 65, *Nehemiah 8:1-10:39, Zechariah 14:16-19	- Begins on the 15th day of the 7th month (Tishri, September-October timeframe) - Lasts 7 days - It happens at the turn of the year after crops are gathered in from the field.	The gathering of the harvest coming out of the year, at the turn of the year	Resting (no work) - 1st & 8th days - Sacred assemblies - 1st & 8th days - Giving special offering(s) to the Lord (in proportion to how he has blessed you) - Blow the trumpet - Celebrate & rejoice with luxuriant tree branches & feasting for 7 days, - Read God's Law (found in Deut. 4:1-31:13) during assemblies - Recognize God's bringing us out of bondage of sin (symbolically Egypt). - Native-born Israelites live in booths for 7 days

2) General Notes for Sacred Days

a) **Feast Definition**

- i) a large meal, typically one in celebration of something
- ii) eat and drink sumptuously
 - (1) Sumptuous
 - (a) splendid and expensive-looking
 - (b) Similar: lavish, luxurious, deluxe, opulent
- iii) an elaborate and usually abundant meal often accompanied by a ceremony or entertainment: banquet
- iv) something that gives unusual or abundant enjoyment.
- v) a periodic religious observance commemorating an event or honoring a deity, person, or thing

b) **Festival Definition**

- i) a day or period of celebration, typically a religious commemoration.
- ii) Similar: fete, fair, gala, carnival, fiesta, jamboree, celebrations, holiday, holy day, anniversary, commemoration, rite, ritual, ceremony
- iii) a time of celebration marked by special observances.
- iv) feast sense
- v) an often periodic celebration or program of events or entertainment having a specified focus.

c) **Feast Days are Applicable to All**

i) Jesus said in Matthew 5:17-20

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:17-20)

ii) The same law was to apply to the foreigners

- (1) For the generations to come, whenever a foreigner or anyone else living among you presents a food offering as an aroma pleasing to the Lord, they must do exactly as you do. The community is to have the same rules for you and for the foreigner residing among you; this is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. **You and the foreigner shall be the same before the Lord:** 16 The same laws and regulations will apply both to you and to the foreigner residing among you." (Numbers 15:14-16)
 - (a) Hebrew text says "throughout your generations forever" in Numbers 15:15
- (2) 27 "But if just one person sins unintentionally, that person must bring a year-old female goat for a sin offering. 28 The priest is to make atonement before the Lord for the one who erred by sinning unintentionally, and when atonement has been made, that person will be forgiven. 29 One and the same law applies to everyone who sins unintentionally, whether a native-born Israelite or a foreigner residing among you. (Numbers 15:27-29)
- (3) "A foreigner residing among you who wants to celebrate the Lord's Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat it. **The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you.**" (Exodus 12:48-49)
 - (a) "A foreigner residing among you is also to celebrate the Lord's Passover in accordance with its rules and regulations. You must have the same regulations for both the foreigner and the native-born." (Numbers 9:14)
- (4) "Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and so that the slave born in your household and the foreigner living among you may be refreshed. (Exodus 23:12)
- (5) "This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves[c] and not do any work—whether native-born or a foreigner residing among you (Leviticus 16:29)
- (6) Therefore I say to the Israelites, "None of you may eat blood, nor may any foreigner residing among you eat blood." (Leviticus 17:12)
 - (a) The Apostles also wrote to the Gentiles to abstain from meat with blood in it (Acts 15:20)
- (7) "Anyone, whether native-born or foreigner, who eats anything found dead or torn by wild animals must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be ceremonially unclean till evening; then they will be clean (Leviticus 17:15)
 - (a) The original Hebrew text does not specify the word "ceremonially"
- (8) But you must keep my decrees and my laws. The native-born and the foreigners residing among you must not do any of these detestable things (Leviticus 18:26)

- (9) “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19:33-34)
- iii) Even before Christ came, foreigners (of all nations) who bound themselves to the Lord (loving and worshipping him) were not excluded by God from his people, but were given joy in God’s house of prayer with their offerings and sacrifices accepted (Isaiah 56:3-8)
- iv) God judges the foreigners the same
- (1) Ezekiel 14:7-11
- 7** “When any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing in Israel separate themselves from me and set up idols in their hearts and put a wicked stumbling block before their faces and then go to a prophet to inquire of me, I the Lord will answer them myself. 8 I will set my face against them and make them an example and a byword. I will remove them from my people. Then you will know that I am the Lord.
- v) Ezekiel 47:21-23 (Concerning future Israel)
- 21** “You are to distribute this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. 22 You are to allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the foreigners residing among you and who have children. You are to consider them as native-born Israelites; along with you they are to be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. 23 In whatever tribe a foreigner resides, there you are to give them their inheritance,” declares the Sovereign Lord.
- vi) When the Israelites entered into covenant with God, the covenant was not only made with them, but also with those (generations) not there that day (Deuteronomy 29:14-15)
- vii) The Israelites were instructed to not learn the ways of the nations around them.
- (1) “Speak to the Israelites and tell them: I am the LORD your God. You must not follow the practices of the land of Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not follow the practices of the land of Canaan, into which I am bringing you. You must not walk in their customs. You are to practice My judgments and keep My statutes by walking in them. I am the LORD your God. Keep My statutes and My judgments, **for the man who does these things will live by them.** I am the LORD. (Leviticus 18:2-5)
- viii) Even after Jesus’s ascension to heaven, we see that both God & his disciples still continued to recognize or observe God’s holy feast days and Sabbaths
- (1) Acts 2:1-4
- (a) When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.
- (2) Acts 20:6 NIV
- (a) But we sailed from Philippi after the Festival of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days.
- (3) Acts 20:16 NIV
- (a) Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.
- (4) Jesus & his disciples observed (rested on) the Sabbath. (Matthew 28:1, Mark 6:2, 16:1, Luke 4:16, 23:56*)
- (a) John said that whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did (1 John 2:5). Jesus kept the Sabbath.

- (5) Jesus taught on the Sabbath. (Mark 6:2, Luke 4:16, 31, 13:10)
- (6) Jesus' disciples / apostles observed and taught on the Sabbath, even after Jesus' ascension to heaven. (Acts 1:12, 13:14, 27, 42-44, 16:13, 17:2, 18:4)
 - (a) Paul ministered on the Sabbaths in Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:13-45)
 - (b) Believers went outside the city looking for a place of prayer on the Sabbath (Acts 16:13)
 - (c) Paul's custom was to go to the synagogues and reason from the scriptures on the Sabbath (Acts 17:2, 18:4)
 - (i) The Thessalonian believers waited until the Sabbath was over (as soon as it was night) before sending Paul away to avoid persecution (Acts 17:10)
- ix) **Prophecies concerning the future prove that God's Old Testament laws will still be followed.**
 - (1) Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain. 18 If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The Lord will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. (Zechariah 14:16-19)
 - (2) **In the last days** the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. (Micah 4:1-3)
- d) **Failure to observe the Passover was considered by God to be sin (Numbers 9:13-14).**

Therefore, the other feast days were likely the same.

 - i) Numbers 9:13-14

13 But if anyone who is ceremonially clean and not on a journey fails to celebrate the Passover, they must be cut off from their people for not presenting the Lord's offering at the appointed time. They will bear the consequences of their sin.

14 "A foreigner residing among you is also to celebrate the Lord's Passover in accordance with its rules and regulations. You must have the same regulations for both the foreigner and the native-born."
- e) **Honoring God with holy days means nothing to him if you don't obey the weightier commands.**
 - i) ISAIAH 1:11-20

11 "The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?" says the Lord. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

12 When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?

13 **Stop bringing meaningless offerings!**

Your incense is detestable to me.

New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—

I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.

14 **Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals**

I hate with all my being.

They have become a burden to me;

I am weary of bearing them.

15 When you spread out your hands in prayer,

I hide my eyes from you;

even when you offer many prayers,

I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

16 Wash and make yourselves clean.

Take your evil deeds out of my sight;

stop doing wrong.

17 **Learn to do right; seek justice.**

Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless;

plead the case of the widow.

18 “Come now, let us settle the matter,”
says the Lord.

“Though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow;

though they are red as crimson,

they shall be like wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient,

you will eat the good things of the land;

20 but if you resist and rebel,

you will be devoured by the sword.”

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

- f) **Priests were to blow the silver trumpets over all appointed feasts and New Moon festivals (Numbers 10:1-10)**
 - i) *For more information on the significance of trumpets, see the below section 8.6.1 on “Day of Trumpets.”*
- g) 3 times a year, all of the men were to go up to Jerusalem to appear & celebrate a festival before the Lord. (Exodus 23:14-17, 34:23-24)
 - i) See Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Harvest, and Feast of Ingathering below.
 - ii) They were to bring gifts in proportion to how God has blessed them. (Deuteronomy 16:16-17)
- h) God’s people are to make offerings “in addition to” regular offerings (Leviticus 23:37-38, Numbers 29:39) during the feasts
- i) God’s taking-away of His feast days is actually punishment from Him, not a relief of burden
 - i) Hosea 2:11-13

And I will put an end to all her mirth,
her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths,
and all her appointed feasts.

12 And I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees,
of which she said,
'These are my wages,
which my lovers have given me.'
I will make them a forest,
and the beasts of the field shall devour them.

13 And I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals
when she burned offerings to them
and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry,

3) Day – When it Starts and Ends

a) This topic is important to address because today most Sabbath observers pattern their observance after the Jews, who begin their Sabbaths in the evening before the Sabbath day. This is not consistent with how the Bible describes a day.

i) The reason the Jews and others begin their sabbath days in the evenings is because of Leviticus 23:26-32, but this was only to apply to one holy day, the Day of Atonement, which was the time to begin the fast, not necessarily applicable to all sabbaths.

(1) Leviticus 23:26-32

26 The Lord said to Moses, **27** "The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present a food offering to the Lord. **28** Do not do any work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the Lord your God. **29** Those who do not deny themselves on that day must be cut off from their people. **30** I will destroy from among their people anyone who does any work on that day. **31** You shall do no work at all. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live. **32** It is a day of sabbath rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your sabbath."

b) **The creation story of Genesis shows the pattern that a full day starts in the morning & ends the following morning (Genesis 1:1-5, 14-19)**

i) Each creation day follows the same sequence: God created during the day, then there was evening, and morning – the 1st day... The same pattern happened for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th day. Then God rested on the 7th day.

c) **God associates the evening with the day that it's on, not as the start of a new day.**

i) Leviticus 23:5 - The Lord's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month.

ii) **Deuteronomy 16:4** - 4No leaven is to be found in all your land for seven days, and none of the meat you sacrifice **in the evening of the first day** shall remain until morning

iii) Mark 14:30 - "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice[e] you yourself will disown me three times."

d) **A day ends with the next morning or day**

i) Leviticus 22:30 – It must be eaten that same day. Do not leave any of it until morning. I am the LORD.

- 4) **New Moon Festivals** (Numbers 10:10, 28:11-15, Joshua 19:18, 1 Samuel 20:5-24, 18, 24, 1 Chron. 23:31, 2 Chronicles 2:4, 8:13, 2 Kings 4:8, 23, Ezra 3:5, Nehemiah 10:33, Psalm 81:3-4 KJV, Isaiah 1:13-14, 66:23, Ezekiel 45:17, 46:1-7, Hosea 2:11, 5:7, Amos 8:5)
- a) Summary: Occurs monthly when burnt offerings & sacrifices were made, feasting, rejoicing, worshipping the Lord, and the ram's horn was sounded .
 - b) **We can observe this by recognizing the new moon appearance, blowing the trumpet over our offering(s) and giving, worshipping, feasting, and rejoicing.**
 - i) Numbers 10:10
 - (1) Also at your times of rejoicing—your appointed festivals and New Moon feasts—you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God. I am the Lord your God.”
 - ii) Monthly offerings were given at new moon
 - (1) 11 “On the first of every month, present to the Lord a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram and seven male lambs a year old, all without defect. 12 With each bull there is to be a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah[d] of the finest flour mixed with oil; with the ram, a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with oil; 13 and with each lamb, a grain offering of a tenth of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with oil. This is for a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma, a food offering presented to the Lord. 14 With each bull there is to be a drink offering of half a hin[e] of wine; with the ram, a third of a hin[f]; and with each lamb, a quarter of a hin. This is the monthly burnt offering to be made at each new moon during the year. 15 Besides the regular burnt offering with its drink offering, one male goat is to be presented to the Lord as a sin offering.[g] (Numbers 28:11-15)
 - (2) Levites were to present burnt offerings to the Lord on the Sabbaths, at the New Moon feasts and at the appointed festivals. (1 Chronicles 23:31)
 - (3) The priest Joshua and Zerubbabel re-established the new moon sacrifices (Ezra 3:5)
 - (4) The Lord said to Judah "Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. 14 Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. (Isaiah 1:13-14)
 - (a) Hosea prophesied concerning Israel, "I will stop all her celebrations: her yearly festivals, her New Moons, her Sabbath days—all her appointed festivals. (Hosea 2:11)
 - (b) They are unfaithful to the Lord; they give birth to illegitimate children. When they celebrate their New Moon feasts, he will devour their fields. (Hosea 5:7)
 - (5) Ezekiel said it would be the prince's duty to provide burnt offerings, grain offerings and drink offerings at the festivals, the New Moons and the Sabbaths—at all the appointed festivals of Israel (Ezekiel 45:17). This was concerning the restoration of Israel.0],I
 - iii) New Moons are called Feasts (1 Chronicles 23:31, 2 Chronicles 2:4, 8:13, Nehemiah 10:33)
 - (1) David and others feasted on the new moon (1 Samuel 20:5, 18, 24)
 - (a) **Probably able to tell because of no moon or there is not more than 29 days in the month**
 - iv) It was obviously customary in the time of Elisha and the Shunammite woman for people to go to the man of God on the new moon or the sabbath, as the Shunammite woman's husband asked her:
 - (1) “Why go to him today?” he asked. “It’s not the New Moon or the Sabbath” (2 Kings 4:23).

- (2) Shunem was a territory given to the Issachar tribe of Israel (Joshua 19:18, 2 Kings 4:8), so she was likely an Israelite.
- v) **Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon, and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival;** this is a decree for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob. (Psalm 81:3-4)
- (1) **Other Translation:**
- (a) Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. (Psalms 81:3-4 KJV))
 - (i) This may be referring to Passover, 1st day of Unleavened or Tabernacles that began on the 14th or 15th day of the month
 - (b) "And when the moon is full, on the day of our festival" could be referring to Passover that happens on the 14th day of the month (mid-month) when the moon is full.
- vi) The gate of the inner court was to be opened on the Sabbath day and on the day of New Moon (Ezekiel 46:1)
- vii) On the Sabbaths and New Moons the people of the land are to worship in the presence of the Lord at the entrance of that gateway. (Ezekiel 46:3)
- viii) **Was this ever a day of rest or no business? (Amos 8:5)**
- (1) **5 Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? (Amos 8:5 KJV)**
- c) **In the future, New Moon will be an appointed time for mankind to come and bow down before God (Isaiah 66:23)**
- i) The Lord says 22 "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the Lord, "so will your name and descendants endure. 23 From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the Lord. 24 "And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind." (Isaiah 66:22-24)
 - ii) **We wonder how this time of new moons will coincide with the new earth, since the sun & moon will no longer be needed (Revelation 21:23, 22:5) .**
 - (1) Ezekiel 46:3-7 (Concerning the time of the future temple)
 - i. **3 On the Sabbaths and New Moons the people of the land are to worship in the presence of the Lord at the entrance of that gateway. 4 The burnt offering the prince brings to the Lord on the Sabbath day is to be six male lambs and a ram, all without defect. 5 The grain offering given with the ram is to be an ephah, [a] and the grain offering with the lambs is to be as much as he pleases, along with a hin [b] of olive oil for each ephah. 6 On the day of the New Moon he is to offer a young bull, six lambs and a ram, all without defect. 7 He is to provide as a grain offering one ephah with the bull, one ephah with the ram, and with the lambs as much as he wants to give, along with a hin of oil for each ephah.**
- d) **When does the New Moon actually start? Is it at the 1st sighting of the moon, or when it stops being sighted?**

- i) Some may use the following verse to say that since they knew before the day happened then it had to be before the moon went dark. However, it's more likely that they saw the moon that night, so were planning the feast the following day.
 - (1) 5 So David said, "Look, tomorrow is the New Moon feast, and I am supposed to dine with the king; (1 Samuel 20:5)
- ii) We believe the term "new moon" actually refers to them seeing the moon re-appear, not the absence of the moon. A dark moon isn't most logical, knowing that the moon can be dark for days at a time. How would they know which day is the new moon in such cases? And why call it a "new moon" if there's no moon in sight?
- e) David said the Lord made the moon to mark the seasons (Psalm 104:19)
- f) Paul said "Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day." (Colossians 2:16)

5) God's New Year Start

- a) God's new year starts in the spring time
- b) Observe the month of Aviv (Abib) (Deuteronomy 16:1)
- c) It is a New Moon Festival which is celebrated monthly (see New Moon Festival section above).
- d) It actually marks the date to begin the counting to the selection of the Passover lamb.
- e) Exodus 12:1-2 - The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year."
 - i) This is the month God brought the Israelites out of Egypt.
- f) Exodus 13:4 - Today in the month of Aviv, you are leaving
 - i) Aviv or Abib is usually in March - April timeframe
 - ii) The Hebrew word is Abib, meaning fresh or young ears, referring to ears of barley or grain or green ears of corn. It is the month of ear-forming or of growing green.
 - (1) Abib is also the Canaanite name for the first month of the Jewish calendar
 - iii) The month God brought the Israelites out of Egypt.
 - (1) After the 11th month, many do not consider the next new moon as the beginning of the year if there is no abib happening at this time

6) Passover (Exodus 12:1-14, 31-49, Leviticus 23:1-2, Numbers 9:2-14, 28:16, Deuteronomy 16:1-8)

- a) It commemorates the Israelites anniversary departure from Egypt and the Lord passing over his people while bringing death (judgment) throughout Egypt for all their gods. (Exodus 12:12-14, 31-42, Deuteronomy 16:1, 6)
- b) After Jesus's death, we should now also do this in remembrance of Him (Luke 22:19)
- c) **Summary:** Celebration by aliens living among the Israelites seemed optional as they wanted to, per Exodus 12:48. We can celebrate this by reflecting on the Exodus story, recognizing the blood of Jesus as our Passover Lamb covering over our sins with communion, washing disciples' feet (or serving them), and keeping vigil all night praying as Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane on the night he ate the Passover (Matthew 26:36-46).
- d) Proclaim this as a sacred assembly at the appointed time. (Leviticus 23:1-2)
- e) Begins twilight (evening - when sun goes down) on 14th day (end) of the first month of their year (Abib or Nisan is in March – April timeframe) (Deuteronomy 16:6, Exodus 12:6, Numbers 9:3, 28:16)

- i) If anyone could not celebrate the Passover at the appointed time due to being unclean or away on a journey, they could celebrate on the 14th day of the 2nd month instead. (Numbers 9:6-11)
- f) Those who were able to and failed to observe the Lord's Passover were cutoff from their people for not presenting the Lord's offering at the appointed time. (Numbers 9:13)
 - i) *This offering is likely referring to the Feast of Unleavened Bread offerings, since it begins the next day and there was really no offering prescribed for Passover*
 - ii) **God said "they will bear the consequences of their sin" (Numbers 9:13).**
- g) Celebrate the Passover (Deuteronomy 16:1, other scriptures)
 - i) The whole community of Israel must celebrate it. (Exodus 12:47)
 - (1) The same law applies both to the native-born and foreigner living among them. (Exodus 12:49)
- h) A 1 year old male lamb (from sheep or goat) without defect (used the 1st time per Exodus 12:1-11) was selected on the 10th day (Exodus 12:3-5).
 - i) Later in Deuteronomy 16:2 NIV says "sacrifice an animal" (not necessarily a lamb), but the Hebrew text says "sacrifice the passover" (which could likely still be referring to the lamb specified originally).
- i) The lamb was to be taken care of until the 14th day and slaughtered at twilight (Exodus 12:6)
 - i) On the original Passover they killed it at twilight (Exodus 12:6)
 - ii) Celebrate it at twilight (Numbers 9:3), which would require them to kill it before
 - iii) Deuteronomy 16:5-6 says to kill it in the evening when (or as) the sun goes down.
- j) The lamb's blood was applied to the doorpost (sides and top) on the original Passover (Exodus 12:7, 22)
 - i) *When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. (Exodus 12:23)*
- k) Eat the meat (fire-roasted) with bitter herbs & unleavened bread (bread made without yeast, the bread of affliction) from the dough received from the Egyptians because they left Egypt in haste (no time to prepare food). (Exodus 12:8, Numbers 9:11)
 - i) Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water. (Exodus 12:9)
 - ii) None of the meat was to be left until morning - leftovers to be burned. (Exodus 12:10, Numbers 9:12)
 - iii) Eat it with your cloak tucked into your belt, sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand (Exodus 12:11)
 - iv) Originally God said "It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside" (Exodus 12:46), but later God said the sacrifice was to be made and eaten at the place God chose as a dwelling for his name and that you must not sacrifice it in any town, but only at that place (Deuteronomy 16:2, 7).
 - (1) The temple did not begin to be built until the 480th year after the Israelites came out of Egypt (1 Kings 6:1). The glory of the Lord filled this temple (1 Kings 8:10-11) - this was right before / during the Feast of Tabernacles (1 Kings 8:2, 65). However, they did have the tabernacle prior to this where Moses met with God.
 - (2) The sacrifice, roasting, and eating of it was not to happen in any town the Lord gave the Israelites, but only at the place God chose as a dwelling for his name (tent of meetings and Jerusalem temple), and they were to return to their tents in the morning (Deuteronomy 16:5-8). However, the initial Passover was eaten in their homes and the sacrifices blood spread on their door posts (Exodus 12:46, 21-23).

- (a) It doesn't seem that everyone ate their Passover at the temple. Was this feasible for so many to do in one place? Also note that it is not apparent that Jesus and his disciples ate it at the temple.
 - (i) Note that "Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the **Passover**." (Luke 2:41)
- (3) It was eaten at Gilgal in the plains of Jericho during the time of Israelite camps, then manna stopped the very next day after they ate the unleavened bread of Canaan (Joshua 5:10-12)
- v) Do not break any of the bones. (Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12)
 - (1) Jesus also did not have any of his bones broken (John 19:31-36)
- vi) Eat it in haste. (Exodus 12:11)
- vii) **No foreigner (not living among them) was to eat of it (Exodus 12:43), but slaves and aliens (foreigners) living among the Israelites who have been circumcised are permitted (and required) to observe Passover in accordance with its rules and regulations (Exodus 12:43-49, Numbers 9:14).**
- l) **Israelites are to keep vigil on this night, and return to their tents or home in the morning,** because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt. (Exodus 12:42, Deuteronomy 16:7)
 - i) On the original Passover, no one was to go out of the door of their house until morning. (Exodus 15:22)
 - ii) Is this why Jesus spent that night praying to God in the Garden of Gethsemane? (Matthew 26:36-46) <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2026&version=NIV>
- m) Jesus hints that he will eat Passover in the future (after his death) in the kingdom of God (Luke 22:15-16)
 - i) *And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."* (Luke 22:15-16)
- n) Jesus was eating the Passover with his disciples when he told them to "do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19)
 - i) Only the gospel of Luke says this
 - ii) Luke 22:14-20

14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. 18 For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.
- o) Jesus also washed his disciples' feet during the Passover meal (John 13:1-17)
- p) Passover observance wasn't always consistent for the Israelites
 - i) **The Israelites had stopped observing this after Joshua died between the days of the judges and king Josiah (2 Kings 23:21-24).**

- ii) King Hezekiah observed Passover with the people, not exactly as prescribed, but God still healed them (2 Chronicles 30:1-27).
 - iii) Josiah later observed it correctly (2 Chronicles 35:1-19).
 - iv) Also Ezra observed it later (Ezra 6:19-22).
 - q) “Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. (Exodus 12:24-25)
 - r) And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” (Exodus 12:26-27)
 - s) ⁷ Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)
- 7) **Feast of Unleavened Bread** (Exodus 12:15-19, 39, 13:3-10, 8-9, 23:15, 34:18-20, Leviticus 23:1-8, Numbers 28:17-24, Numbers 33:3-4, Deuteronomy 16:3-17)
- a) **Commemoration:**
 - i) Feast of Unleavened Bread is really about remembering God’s mighty acts to save Israel out of Egypt, to show the world that he is the one true God and there is no other. And now, Jesus’s act of death on the cross and resurrection has been added to this time period to acknowledge as well.
 - (1) Deuteronomy 4:32-40

32 Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created human beings on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? 33 Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? 34 Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

35 You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides him there is no other. 36 From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. 37 Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, 38 to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today.

39 Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. 40 Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time.
 - ii) “Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt (Exodus 12:17, 23:15, 34:18).
 - iii) Commemorate this day (Exodus 13:3).

- iv) This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that **this law of the Lord** is to be on your lips. (Exodus 13:9)
 - (1) On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.' (Exodus 13:8)
- v) 3 The Israelites set out from Rameses on the fifteenth day of the first month, the day after the Passover. They marched out defiantly in full view of all the Egyptians, 4 who were burying all their firstborn, whom the Lord had struck down among them; for the Lord had brought judgment on their gods. (Numbers 33:3-4)
- b) **Summary of How to Observe:** We can celebrate this by proclaiming & holding a sacred assembly and feasting with rest on the 1st & 7th days, giving to God (in proportion to how he has blessed you and blowing the trumpet over offerings), repentance, eliminating the leaven (bad teachings and sin and sinful influences out of our lives) and eating unleavened bread (pure word of God) during this festival while celebrating God joyfully.
- c) This festival begins the 15th day of the 1st month (beginning with Passover at twilight of 14th day) and completes evening of the 21st day (Abib; Nisan = March-April timeframe) (Leviticus 23:5, Numbers 28:17)
- d) **Proclaim** this as a sacred assembly at the appointed time. (Leviticus 23:1-2)
- e) **Do no regular work on the first and seventh days (Leviticus 23:7-8, Numbers 28:18)**
 - i) Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do. (Exodus 12:16)
- f) **Remove the yeast from your house on the first day (Exodus 12:15)**
 - i) No yeast was to be found in their possession in all the land for (or in houses) 7 days. (Exodus 12:16, 19, Deuteronomy 16:4)
 - ii) Anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. (Exodus 12:19)
- g) **On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day.** (Exodus 12:16, Leviticus 23:7-8, Deuteronomy 16:8, Numbers 28:18)
 - i) **It is to be celebrated as a festival on the 1st and 7th days.** (Exodus 12:17, 23:15, 34:18, Leviticus 23:6, Numbers 28:17, Deuteronomy 16:16)
 - (1) On the 7th day hold a festival (Exodus 13:6)
- h) **Eat unleavened bread for 7 days** (Exodus 12:15, 13:6-7, Deuteronomy 16:3)
 - i) Wherever you live you must eat unleavened bread. (Exodus 12:20)
 - ii) Eat nothing containing yeast (Exodus 13:3, Deuteronomy 16:3)
 - iii) **The dough was made without yeast because they were driven out of Egypt with no time to prepare food. (Exodus 12:39)**
 - iv) Unleavened bread is the "bread of affliction." (Deuteronomy 16:3)
 - v) You are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. (Exodus 12:17)
 - (1) This is really 7 days and 7 evenings, starting on Passover night, when you do the math.
 - (2) Deuteronomy 16:8 says eat it for 6 days, but 7 is implied from the other scriptures.
- i) **No one was to appear before the Lord empty-handed (Exodus 23:15, 34:20, Deuteronomy 16:16)**
 - i) Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you. (Deuteronomy 16:17)
 - ii) Priests are to blow the trumpet over offering(s) during appointed festivals. (Numbers 10:10)
 - iii) For seven days present a food offering to the Lord. (Leviticus 23:8)
 - (1) This may not have been for every individual / family to appear each day, but that collective offerings were made daily during this time

- (2) Food offering consisting of a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram and seven male lambs a year old, all without defect. 20 With each bull offer a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with oil; with the ram, two-tenths; 21 and with each of the seven lambs, one-tenth. 22 Include one male goat as a sin offering to make atonement for you. 23 Offer these in addition to the regular morning burnt offering. 24 In this way present the food offering every day for seven days as an aroma pleasing to the Lord; it is to be offered in addition to the regular burnt offering and its drink offering. (Numbers 28:19-24)
- j) Passover / Feast of Unleavened Bread observance wasn't always consistent for the Israelites
- i) The Israelites had stopped observing this after Joshua died between the days of the judges and king Josiah (2 Kings 23:21-24).
 - ii) **King Hezekiah observed Passover with the people, not exactly as prescribed, but God still healed them and heard their prayers from the temple (2 Chronicles 30:1-27).**
 - (1) **Interestingly, of all the kings who were considered righteous, this had not been celebrated like this since the days of Solomon.**
 - (a) 2 Chronicles 30:26 NIV
 - (i) There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.
 - (b) 2 Chronicles 30:1-27 NIV
 - (i) [1] Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the Lord, the God of Israel. [2] The king and his officials and the whole assembly in Jerusalem decided to celebrate the Passover in the second month. [3] They had not been able to celebrate it at the regular time because not enough priests had consecrated themselves and the people had not assembled in Jerusalem. [4] The plan seemed right both to the king and to the whole assembly. [5] They decided to send a proclamation throughout Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, calling the people to come to Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the Lord, the God of Israel. It had not been celebrated in large numbers according to what was written. [6] At the king's command, couriers went throughout Israel and Judah with letters from the king and from his officials, which read: "People of Israel, return to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, that he may return to you who are left, who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. [7] Do not be like your parents and your fellow Israelites, who were unfaithful to the Lord, the God of their ancestors, so that he made them an object of horror, as you see. [8] Do not be stiff-necked, as your ancestors were; submit to the Lord. Come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever. Serve the Lord your God, so that his fierce anger will turn away from you. [9] If you return to the Lord, then your fellow Israelites and your children will be shown compassion by their captors and will return to this land, for the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him." [10] The couriers went from town to town in Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun, but people scorned and ridiculed them. [11] Nevertheless, some from Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem. [12] Also in Judah the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the Lord. [13] A very large crowd of people assembled in Jerusalem to celebrate the

Festival of Unleavened Bread in the **second month**. [14] They removed the altars in Jerusalem and cleared away the incense altars and threw them into the Kidron Valley. [15] They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were **ashamed** and consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the temple of the Lord. [16] Then they took up their regular positions as prescribed in the **Law of Moses** the man of God. The priests splashed against the altar the blood handed to them by the Levites. [17] **Since many in the crowd had not consecrated themselves, the Levites had to kill the Passover lambs for all those who were not ceremonially clean** and could not consecrate their lambs to the Lord. [18] **Although most of the many people who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover, contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, “May the Lord, who is good, pardon everyone [19] who sets their heart on seeking God—the Lord, the God of their ancestors—even if they are not clean according to the rules of the sanctuary.”** [20] **And the Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people.** [21] The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with **great rejoicing**, while the **Levites and priests praised the Lord every day with resounding instruments dedicated to the Lord.** [22] Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites, who showed good understanding of the service of the Lord. For the seven days they ate their **assigned portion** and offered fellowship offerings and praised the Lord, the God of their ancestors. [23] **The whole assembly then agreed to celebrate the festival seven more days; so for another seven days they celebrated joyfully.** [24] Hezekiah king of Judah provided a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep and goats for the assembly, and the officials provided them with a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep and goats. A great number of priests consecrated themselves. [25] The entire assembly of Judah rejoiced, along with the priests and Levites and all who had assembled from Israel, **including the foreigners who had come from Israel and also those who resided in Judah.** [26] **There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.** [27] **The priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, his holy dwelling place.**

<https://bible.com/bible/111/2ch.30.1-27.NIV>

- iii) King Josiah later observed it correctly with the people (2 Chronicles 35:1-19).
- iv) Also Ezra observed it later (Ezra 6:19-22).
- k) Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. (Exodus 12:17)
 - i) You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year. (Exodus 13:10)
- l) Leaven (yeast) represents bad teaching, hypocrisy, and sin**
 - i) ⁶“Be careful,” Jesus said to them. “Be on your guard against the **yeast** of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”¹² Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the **yeast** used in bread, but against **the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees** (Matthew 16:6-12)
 - ii)Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be^{1a)} on your guard against the **yeast** of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy** (Luke 12:1)
 - iii) ⁷ Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For **Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.** ⁸ Therefore **let us keep the Festival, not with**

the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

8) Firstfruits

- a) Firstfruits occurs the **day after the 1st Sabbath that Israelites entered the land (originally entered the 10th day of 1st month)** (Abib, March-April timeframe) to celebrate the 1st grain sheaf harvest upon entering the land of Israel. The priest would wave the sheaf and the people sacrifice a lamb with grain, flour, & wine. They couldn't eat the harvest until the offering was made. (Exodus 23:16, Leviticus 23:9-14, Numbers 28:26, Deuteronomy 26:1-11)
- b) The Israelites entered the land on the **10th day of the 1st month** (Joshua 4:19). They celebrated Passover, and the day after, they ate the produce of the land and the next day the manna stopped (Joshua 5:10-11). **This day is always on a Sunday.**
 - i) ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, ¹⁰ "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest. ¹¹ He is to wave the sheaf before the LORD so it will be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath.' (Leviticus 23:9-11)
 - (1) Note that this feast could not have been celebrated until they entered the land of Israel and is therefore tied to the land. The same goes for Pentecost, since it's timing is counted from Firstfruits.
 - (2) **Firstfruits is always on a Sunday** and always puts Pentecost on Sunday's as well since it is 49 days later.
- c) **Firstfruits is not necessarily it's own feast day, but is part of the 3 festivals**
 - i) **Though it is referred to as a "day of firstfruits" in Numbers 28:26, it is really referring to the 1st day (Sabbath) of the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost).**
- d) **This can be celebrated by honouring God with the first-fruits of all your increase before consuming it and rejoicing before God.** Note that although this offering is made after the Sabbath, there was still an offering made regularly during Sabbaths (Numbers 28:9-10).
 - i) Bring the best of the firstfruits. (Exodus 23:19)
 - ii) You shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household. (Deuteronomy 26:11)
 - iii)
- e) Bringing your first fruits to the Lord should be a ceremony with rejoicing
 - i) Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 - (a) When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, 2 take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name 3 and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." 4 The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God. 5 Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: "**My father was a wandering Aramean,** and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. 6 But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. 7 Then we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. 8 So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty

hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. 9 He brought us to this place and gave us **this land**, a land flowing with milk and honey; 10 and now I bring the **firstfruits** of the soil that you, Lord, have given me.” Place the basket before the Lord your God and **bow down** before him. 11 Then you and the Levites and the **foreigners residing among you** shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household.

9) **Feast of Weeks / Harvest (Pentecost)**

a) **Main Scriptures – Exodus 34:22-24, Leviticus 23:15-22, Numbers 28:26-31, Deuteronomy 16:9-12, 16-17, Acts 2:1-41**

i) Other Scriptures - Exodus 23:16, 34:26

b) **SUMMARY:**

- i) Occurs 50 days after the 1st sabbath after the Israelites entered the land (always on a Sunday)
 - (1) Pentecost means 50
 - (2) Occurs 49 days (7 weeks) after Firstfruits
- ii) **Purpose / Commemoration:** Celebrate firstfruits of harvest
- iii) **We should observe this holy day by:**
 - (1) **Required:**
 - (a) Doing no work
 - (b) Celebration & feasting with rejoicing
 - (c) Meeting with others to worship (sacred assembly)
 - (d) Honouring God for all your increase (harvest),
 - (i) Giving God the firstfruits of our harvest (giving to the poor – to God in proportion to how he has blessed you),
 - (2) **Also Recommended:**
 - (a) Remembering Jesus sacrifice (take communion)
 - (b) Read God's word
 - (c) Evangelize to gain a harvest of souls for God
 - (i) Pray for an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit

c) Follow carefully these decrees. (Deuteronomy 16:12)

d) **The law is believed to have been given at or around this time**

- i) The third month (Exodus 19:1)
- ii) On the third day (Exodus 19:11, 15-16)
- iii) 16 days (after Passover remaining 1st month) + 30 days (2nd month) + 3 days (third day) = **49 days** (very close)

e) **Timing**

- i) Sivan 6, May-June timeframe
- ii) **Count 7 full weeks (49 days) from Firstfruits (the day after the 1st Sabbath after the 10th day of the 1st month). (Leviticus 23:15)**
 - (1) That's 50 days up to the day after the 7th Sabbath. (Leviticus 23:16)
 - (2) The Israelites entered the land on the 10th day of the 1st month (Joshua 4:19) and ate the grain on the day after Passover (Joshua 5:10-12)
 - (3) Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. (Deuteronomy 16:9)

f) **Proclaim a sacred assembly. (Leviticus 23:21, Numbers 28:26)**

g) **Do no regular work. (Leviticus 23:21, Numbers 28:26)**

h) **Celebrate**

- i) Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. (Exodus 23:16)
 - (1) Celebrate the Festival of Weeks with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the Festival of Ingathering at the turn of the year. (Exodus 34:22)

- ii) Celebrate the Festival of Weeks (Deuteronomy 16:10)
- iii) Rejoice before the Lord your God at the place (Deuteronomy 16:11)
- i) **Who's included?**
 - i) you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites in your towns, and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows living among you (Israelites). (Deuteronomy 16:11)
 - ii) This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live. (Leviticus 23:21)
- j) **The Place**
 - i) At the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name (Deuteronomy 16:11)
 - (1) This place was the Jerusalem temple that God has allowed to be destroyed.
 - ii) Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the **Festival of Weeks** and the Festival of Tabernacles. (Deuteronomy 16:16)
- k) **Offerings**
 - i) Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God. (Exodus 34:26)
 - (1) Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you. (Deuteronomy 16:17)
 - (a) Give a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. (Deuteronomy 16:10)
 - (b) No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed: (Deuteronomy 16:16)
 - (c) Priests are to blow the trumpet over offering(s) during appointed festivals. (Numbers 10:10)
 - ii) **Give to the poor and foreigners**
 - (1) When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 23:22)
 - iii) **Prescribed Offerings (not currently applicable due to no temple)**
 - (1) New grain. (Leviticus 23:16)
 - (2) Wave offering - two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the Lord. (Leviticus 23:17)
 - (a) Numbers 28:27 says
 - (3) Burnt offering
 - (a) offerings are in addition to the regular burnt offering and its grain offering (Numbers 28:31)
 - (b) Animals without defect. (Numbers 28:31)
 - (c) seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect (Leviticus 23:18)
 - (i) Offer lambs with grain offering of one-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with oil (Numbers 28:29)
 - (d) one young bull (Leviticus 23:18)
 - (i) Offer bull with grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with oil (Numbers 28:28)
 - (e) two rams (Leviticus 23:18)
 - (i) Offer ram with grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with oil (Numbers 28:28)
 - (f) Numbers 28:27 says two young bulls, one ram and seven male lambs a year old (This seems to contradict Leviticus 23's number of bulls and rams)
 - (4) Drink offerings (Leviticus 23:18)
 - (5) Sin offering - sacrifice one male goat (Leviticus 23:19)
 - (a) This male goat is to make atonement (Numbers 28:30)
 - (6) Fellowship offering - two lambs, each a year old (Leviticus 23:19)
 - l) **Evangelism**
 - i) The day of Pentecost was a day of great harvest of souls in Acts 2:1-41.
 - (1) Pentecost was the next or 1st holy feast day after Jesus's death and resurrection.

10) Day of Trumpets (Jews call this Rosh Hashana) (Leviticus 23:23-25, Numbers 29:1-6)

- a) Occurs 1st day of the 7th month (Tishri, September-October timeframe)
- b) **Proclaim this as a sacred assembly** at the appointed time. (Leviticus 23:1-2)
- c) **It's a sabbath** day of rest (Leviticus 23:24)
- d) Do no regular work (Leviticus 23:25, Numbers 29:1)
- e) **Hold a sacred assembly** commemorated with trumpet blasts (Leviticus 23:24, Numbers 29:1)
- f) **It's a day for you to sound the trumpets (purpose of this day)** (Numbers 29:1)

i) Purposes or uses of the trumpets in the Bible

(1) Gathering the people together

- (a) Rams horn sounded long blast for Israelites to approach the mountain (Exodus 19:13)
- (b) At mount Sinai, a trumpet blast came from the mountain that made the people, and the sound grew louder and louder (Exodus 19:16, 19)
- (c) **Silver trumpets** for calling the community together and for having the camps to set out (Numbers 10:1-7)

(i) The priests were to blow the trumpet (Numbers 10:8-10)

(2) Going to battle with an enemy (Numbers 10:9)

- (a) 7 priests carried 7 rams horns and blew them around the walls of Jericho (Joshua 6:4)
- (b) Ehud blew the trumpet to gather the people to go and battle the Moabites. (Judges 3:27-30)
- (c) When Gideon's 300 men blew trumpets, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords (Judges 7:22)
- (d) Judah used trumpets as a battle cry to God against the Israelites and God helped them defeat the Israelites (2 Chronicles 13:12-18)

(3) Offerings

- (a) They were to sound trumpets at the beginning of each month over their burnt offering as a reminder for them before the Lord (Numbers 10:10)

(4) Warning of judgement or danger

- (a) **The watchman is to blow the trumpet to warn people of the sword coming against the land (Ezekiel 33:3-6)**
 - (i) **If the people fail to heed the warning, their blood will be on their own head, but if the watchman fails to warn the people, the persons life will be taken because of their sin, but God will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.**
- (b) Paul mentions trumpet at the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:52)
 - (i) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
- (c) When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city, has not the Lord caused it? (Amos 3:6)
- (d) The Lord will sound a trumpet before going to payback judgement on Israel's enemies. (Zechariah 9:14)
- (e) 7 angels with 7 trumpets each will bring judgements on earth. (Revelation 8-11)

(5) Music

- (a) In music from Levite musicians to praise the Lord (2 Chronicles 5:12-13)
- (b) Used in music when the Israelites brought up the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:28)

(6) Rejoicing (2 Kings 11:14, 2 Chronicles 23:13)

- (7) **Anointing new kings** (1 Kings 1:34)
- (8) **New moons and on feast days** (Psalm 81:3)
 - (a) Blown at the start of a Jubilee year (Leviticus 25:9)
- (9) **Gathering the dispersed of Israel** (Isaiah 27:13)
- (10) **Jesus sending his angels to gather his elect** (Matthew 24:31)
- (11) **John heard the Lord's voice sounding loud like a trumpet** (Revelation 1:10, 4:1)
- g) **Offerings were made**, including sin offerings, in addition to the monthly and daily offerings (including a sin offering to make atonement). (Leviticus 23:25, Numbers 29:2-6)
- h) **This is the beginning of a new season of Fall (or Autumn) season for us.**

11) Day of Atonement (Jews call this Yom Kippur) (Leviticus 16:6-34, 23:26-32, Numbers 29:7-11)

- a) It's a day of atonement, a sabbath of rest from work, sacred assembly, fasting, and offerings.
 - i) Occurs on the 10th day of the 7th month (Tishri, September-October timeframe) (Leviticus 16:29, 23:26-27, Numbers 29:7)
 - (1) **It (sabbath) starts the evening of the 9th day until the following evening. (Leviticus 23:32)**
 - ii) Proclaim this as a sacred assembly at the appointed time. (Leviticus 23:1-2)
 - iii) You must deny yourselves (Leviticus 16:29, 32, 23:29, 32, Numbers 29:7)
 - (1) **Deny yourselves refers to fasting.**
 - (a) **See Isaiah 58 for more proof of this.**
 - (2) Anyone who fails to deny themselves must be cut off from his people and destroyed among his people. (Leviticus 23:29-30)
 - (3) Paul and Acts believers may have observed this, it is referred to as the Fast (Acts 27:9)
 - iv) It's a day of Sabbath rest (Leviticus 16:31, 23:32)
 - (1) Don't do any work (native-born or foreigner) (Leviticus 16:29, 23:28, Numbers 29:7)
 - (a) God would destroy from among their people anyone who does work on that day (Leviticus 23:30)
 - (b) You shall do no work at all (Leviticus 23:31)
 - v) Hold a sacred assembly (Leviticus 23:27, Numbers 29:7)
 - vi) Give offerings
 - (1) They were to present food offerings to the Lord (Leviticus 23:27)
 - (2) Burnt offerings of a bull, ram, and 7 male lambs a year old without defect, along with food (grain & oil) (Numbers 29:8-10)
 - (a) Also a male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the sin offering for atonement and regular burnt offering with its grain and drink offerings (Numbers 29:11)
 - (3) **Priests are to blow the trumpet over offering(s) during appointed festivals. (Numbers 10:10)**
 - vii) PURPOSE: On this day, atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you, from all your sins (Leviticus 16:30-31, 23:28)
 - (1) Atonement was to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites (Leviticus 16:29)
 - (2) The son of the high priest was to make atonement for the Most Holy Place, tent of meeting, altar, priests, & community (Leviticus 16:32-33)
 - viii) This is a lasting ordinance, for the generations to come, wherever you live (Leviticus 16:29, 34, 23:31)
 - ix) The Lord commanded this to Moses (Leviticus 16:34)
- b) **We should observe this day by fasting, resting, repentance, sacred assembly, offerings (give to the poor), & recognizing the blood of Jesus atoning for our sins with communion (at the end of fast).**
 - i) **Reference Isaiah 58:1-14 for true fasting**

(1) What to do:

- (a) Declare to my people their rebellion and their sins. (v. 1)
- (b) Stop doing evil (v. 2-3)
- (c) Stop fighting each other (v. 4)
 - (i) Stop pointing fingers (v. 9)
- (d) Loose the chains of injustice (really wickedness in original translations) (v. 6)
 - (i) Stop malicious talk (v. 9)
 - 1. malice = ill will
- (e) Set the oppressed free (v. 6)
 - (i) Satisfy their needs (v. 10)
 - (ii) Oppressed = keep (someone) in subservience and hardship, especially by the unjust exercise of authority.
- (f) Share food with the hungry (v. 6, 10)
- (g) Provide the poor with shelter (v. 6)
- (h) Clothe the naked (v. 7)
- (i) Don't break the Sabbath (v. 13)
 - (i) Don't do as you please
 - (ii) Call it a delight
 - (iii) Call it honorable
 - (iv) Don't speak idol words

(2) Benefits to doing the above:

- (a) Your light will break forth like dawn & rise in darkness (v. 8, 10)
- (b) Your healing will quickly appear (v. 8)
- (c) Your righteousness will go before you (v. 8)
- (d) The Glory of the Lord will be your rear guard (v. 8)
- (e) The Lord will answer you (v. 9)
- (f) The Lord will guide you always (v. 11)
- (g) He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land (v. 11)
- (h) Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and raise up the age-old foundations (v. 12)
 - (i) He will strengthen your frame (v. 11)
- (i) You will find your joy in the Lord (v. 14)
- (j) I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land (v. 14)

12) Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25:8-31)

- a) Occurs on the Day of Atonement of every 50th year with no sowing or reaping when everyone returns to their own property (in Israel) and redeem it.
 - i) This may not apply to all, since it is for those living in the land of Israel.

13) Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles / Booths) – Exodus 23:16, 34:22-24, Leviticus 23:33-43, Numbers 29:12-39, Deuteronomy 16:13-17, 31:10-13, 1 Kings 8:2, 10-11, 65, 2 Chronicles 7:8-10, *Nehemiah 8:1 – 10:39, Zechariah 14:16-19

- a) This festival begins on the **15th day of the 7th month** (Tishri, September-October timeframe) (Leviticus 23:33, 39, Numbers 29:12)
 - i) It lasts 7 days (Leviticus 23:34, 39, Deuteronomy 16:13)
 - ii) **It happens at the turn of the year after crops are gathered in from the field.** (Exodus 23:16, 34:22, Leviticus 23:39, Deuteronomy 16:13)

- (1) Though the NIV, KJV, and Interlinear all say "end of the year" for this verse, we know that this is not the end of the year, and the word used in Hebrew is yatsa which means "to go or come out". Therefore the more likely interpretation that this refers to the ingathering of the harvest" coming out of the year." Additionally, Exodus 34:22 says "at the turn of the year."
- b) It commemorates the gathering of the harvest coming out of the year, at the turn of the year.
- c) **We can honour God's holy festival by resting (no work) on the 1st & 8th days with sacred assemblies on those days, giving special offering(s) to the Lord (in proportion to how he has blessed us), celebrating rejoicing with luxuriant tree branches & feasting for 7 days, reading God's Law (found in Deut. 4:1-31:13) during assemblies, and recognizing God's bringing us out of bondage of sin (symbolically Egypt).**
- i) **Benefits to observing:**
- (1) I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your territory (Exodus 34:24)
- (2) For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete (Deuteronomy 16:15)
- ii) It includes you (Israelites), your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows (the poor) who live in your towns (Deuteronomy 16:14)
- iii) Do no regular work on the 1st and 8th days; these are Sabbath rests. (Leviticus 23:35-36, 39, Numbers 29:12).
- iv) **On the 1st day, take palm or willow or other leafy luxuriant tree branches and rejoice before the Lord for 7 days. (Leviticus 23:40)**
- v) **Be joyful at your Feast. (Deuteronomy 16:14)**
- vi) **Hold a sacred assembly on the 1st day and a sacred (closing special) assembly on the 8th day (Leviticus 23:35-36, Numbers 29:12)**
- (1) These sacred assemblies were for bringing the offerings (Leviticus 23:37)
- (2) **Every 7 years the law was to be read during the Feast of Tabernacles to the Israelites and aliens in their towns. (Deuteronomy 31:10-13)**
- (a) This included foreigners & children also. (Deuteronomy 31:12)
- (b) **Ezra read the Book of the Law to the people from daybreak to noon and they listened attentively (Nehemiah 8:3).**
- vii) **Present offerings to the Lord for 7 days (Leviticus 23:36)**
- (1) **We don't believe everyone brought an offering on every day, but that over the course of the 7 days people brought their offerings at different times and the priests offered them every day (Nehemiah 10:34-39)**
- (2) These offerings are "in addition to" regular offerings (Leviticus 23:38)
- (3) Numbers 29:13-39 lists the prescribed food offerings for each day including the 8th day and sin offerings for each day
- (4) **No one was to appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each was to bring a gift in proportion to how God has blessed them. (Deuteronomy 16:16-17)**
- (5) **Priests are to blow the trumpet over offering(s) during appointed festivals. (Numbers 10:10)**
- viii) **Celebrate a festival to the Lord for 7 days (Leviticus 23:39, Numbers 29:12, Deuteronomy 16:13, 15)**
- (1) *Festival = a day or period of celebration*
- (2) **This feast was also to happen at the place God chose (Jerusalem temple), including aliens living in Israelite towns. (Deuteronomy 16:14-15)**

- (a) The temple did not begin to be built until the 480th year after the Israelites came out of Egypt (1 Kings 6:1). The glory of the Lord filled this temple (1 Kings 8:10-11) - this was right before / during the Feast of Tabernacles (1 Kings 8:2, 65)
 - ix) All native-born Israelites (only) are to live in booths for 7 days, so their descendants would know that God had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when He brought them out of Egypt. (Leviticus 23:42-43)
 - (1) When celebrated in Nehemiah 8:15-17, these weren't just tents, but actually built out of wood - on their own roofs, in their courtyards, at the temple courts, and in the (public) squares by the gates
 - x) **This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. (Leviticus 23:41)**
 - xi) **This feast will be celebrated by all nations when God establishes his future kingdom in Jerusalem. Any nation who will not go to celebrate it will receive drought & plague (Zechariah 14:16-19)**
 - xii) King Solomon celebrated this festival when they dedicated the temple that God and he led them to build (2 Chronicles 7:8-10).
- d) REFERENCE SCRIPTURES
- i) **Exodus 23:16** - "Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. "Celebrate the Festival of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field."
 - (1) Though the NIV, KJV, and Interlinear all say "end of the year" for this verse, we know that this is not the end of the year, and the word used in Hebrew is yatsa which means "to go or come out". Therefore the more likely interpretation that this refers to the ingathering of the harvest" coming out of the year." Additionally, Exodus 34:22 says "at the turn of the year."
 - ii) **Exodus 34:22-24** - 22 "Celebrate the Festival of Weeks with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the Festival of Ingathering at the turn of the year. 23 Three times a year all your men are to appear before the Sovereign Lord, the God of Israel. 24 I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your territory, and no one will covet your land when you go up three times each year to appear before the Lord your God.
 - iii) **Leviticus 23:33-43** - 33 The Lord said to Moses, 34 "Say to the Israelites: 'On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the Lord's Festival of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days. 35 The first day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work. 36 For seven days present food offerings to the Lord, and on the eighth day hold a sacred assembly and present a food offering to the Lord. It is the closing special assembly; do no regular work. 37 ("These are the Lord's appointed festivals, which you are to proclaim as **sacred assemblies for bringing food offerings to the Lord**—the burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings required for each day. 38 These offerings are in addition to those for the Lord's Sabbaths and in addition to your gifts and whatever you have vowed and all the freewill offerings you give to the Lord.) 39 "So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the Lord for seven days; the first day is a day of sabbath rest, and the eighth day also is a day of sabbath rest. 40 On the first day you are to take branches from luxuriant trees—from palms, willows and other leafy trees—and rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. 41 **Celebrate this as a festival to the Lord for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month.** 42 Live in temporary shelters for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in such shelters 43 so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God."

- iv) **Numbers 29:12-40** - 12 “On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. Celebrate a festival to the Lord for seven days. 13 Present as an aroma pleasing to the Lord a food offering consisting of a burnt offering of thirteen young bulls, two rams and fourteen male lambs a year old, all without defect. 14 With each of the thirteen bulls offer a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with oil; with each of the two rams, two-tenths; 15 and with each of the fourteen lambs, one-tenth. 16 Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. 17 “On the second day offer twelve young bulls, two rams and fourteen male lambs a year old, all without defect. 18 With the bulls, rams and lambs, offer their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the number specified. 19 Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings. 20 “On the third day offer eleven bulls, two rams and fourteen male lambs a year old, all without defect. 21 With the bulls, rams and lambs, offer their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the number specified. 22 Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. 23 “On the fourth day offer ten bulls, two rams and fourteen male lambs a year old, all without defect. 24 With the bulls, rams and lambs, offer their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the number specified. 25 Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. 26 “On the fifth day offer nine bulls, two rams and fourteen male lambs a year old, all without defect. 27 With the bulls, rams and lambs, offer their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the number specified. 28 Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. 29 “On the sixth day offer eight bulls, two rams and fourteen male lambs a year old, all without defect. 30 With the bulls, rams and lambs, offer their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the number specified. 31 Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. 32 “On the seventh day offer seven bulls, two rams and fourteen male lambs a year old, all without defect. 33 With the bulls, rams and lambs, offer their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the number specified. 34 Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. 35 “On the eighth day hold a closing special assembly and do no regular work. 36 Present as an aroma pleasing to the Lord a food offering consisting of a burnt offering of one bull, one ram and seven male lambs a year old, all without defect. 37 With the bull, the ram and the lambs, offer their grain offerings and drink offerings according to the number specified. 38 Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. 39 “In addition to what you vow and your freewill offerings, offer these to the Lord at your appointed festivals: your burnt offerings, grain offerings, drink offerings and fellowship offerings.” 40 Moses told the Israelites all that the Lord commanded him.
- v) **Deuteronomy 16:13-17** - 13 Celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress. 14 **Be joyful at your festival—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns.** 15 For seven days celebrate the festival to the Lord your God at the place the Lord will choose. For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete. 16 **Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and**

the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed: 17 Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.

- vi) **Deuteronomy 31:10-13** - 9 So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the Levitical priests, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel. 10 Then Moses commanded them: "At the end of every seven years, in the year for canceling debts, during the Festival of Tabernacles, 11 when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose, **you shall read this law before them in their hearing.** 12 Assemble the people—men, women and **children**, and the **foreigners** residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to **fear** the Lord your God and **follow carefully all the words of this law.** 13 **Their children**, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to **fear the Lord your God** as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."
- vii) **1 Kings 8:1-2, 8:65-66** - [1] Then King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from Zion, the City of David. [2] All the Israelites came together to King Solomon at the time of the festival in the **month of Ethanim, the seventh month**.....[65] So Solomon observed **the festival** at that time, and all Israel with him—a vast assembly, people from Lebo Hamath to the Wadi of Egypt. They celebrated it before the Lord our God **for seven days and seven days more, fourteen days in all.** [66] On the following day he sent the people away. They blessed the king and then **went home, joyful and glad in heart** for all the good things the Lord had done for his servant David and his people Israel.
- viii) ***Nehemiah 8:1-10:39** -
- (1) **Chapter 8** - 1 all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. 2 So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. 3 He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. 4 Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishaël, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam. 5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. 6 Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. 7 The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. 8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. 9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. 10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." 11 The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve." 12 Then all the people went away

to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them. 13 On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along with the priests and the Levites, gathered around Ezra the teacher to give attention to the words of the Law. 14 They found written in the Law, which the Lord had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to live in temporary shelters during the festival of the seventh month 15 and that they should proclaim this word and spread it throughout their towns and in Jerusalem: “Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make temporary shelters”—as it is written. 16 So the people went out and brought back branches and built themselves temporary shelters on their own roofs, in their courtyards, in the courts of the house of God and in the square by the Water Gate and the one by the Gate of Ephraim. 17 The whole company that had returned from exile built temporary shelters and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great. 18 Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the festival for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.

- (2) **Chapter 9** - On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and putting dust on their heads. 2 Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors. 3 They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshipping the Lord their God. 4 Standing on the stairs of the Levites were Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani and Kenani. They cried out with loud voices to the Lord their God. 5 And the Levites—Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah—said: “Stand up and praise the Lord your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting.” “Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. 6 You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you. 7 “You are the Lord God, who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him Abraham. 8 You found his heart faithful to you, and you made a covenant with him to give to his descendants the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites and Girgashites. You have kept your promise because you are righteous. 9 “You saw the suffering of our ancestors in Egypt; you heard their cry at the Red Sea. 10 You sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day. 11 You divided the sea before them, so that they passed through it on dry ground, but you hurled their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters. 12 By day you led them with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire to give them light on the way they were to take. 13 “You came down on Mount Sinai; you spoke to them from heaven. You gave them regulations and laws that are just and right, and decrees and commands that are good. 14 You made known to them your holy Sabbath and gave them commands, decrees and laws through your servant Moses. 15 In their hunger you gave them bread from heaven and in their thirst you brought them water from the rock; you told them to go in and take possession of the land you had sworn with uplifted hand to give them. 16 “But they, our ancestors,

became arrogant and stiff-necked, and they did not obey your commands. 17 They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them, 18 even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, 'This is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt,' or when they committed awful blasphemies. 19 "Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the wilderness. By day the pillar of cloud did not fail to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. 20 You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. 21 For forty years you sustained them in the wilderness; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen. 22 "You gave them kingdoms and nations, allotting to them even the remotest frontiers. They took over the country of Sihon king of Heshbon and the country of Og king of Bashan. 23 You made their children as numerous as the stars in the sky, and you brought them into the land that you told their parents to enter and possess. 24 Their children went in and took possession of the land. You subdued before them the Canaanites, who lived in the land; you gave the Canaanites into their hands, along with their kings and the peoples of the land, to deal with them as they pleased. 25 They captured fortified cities and fertile land; they took possession of houses filled with all kinds of good things, wells already dug, vineyards, olive groves and fruit trees in abundance. They ate to the full and were well-nourished; they reveled in your great goodness. 26 "But they were disobedient and rebelled against you; they turned their backs on your law. They killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you; they committed awful blasphemies. 27 So you delivered them into the hands of their enemies, who oppressed them. But when they were oppressed they cried out to you. From heaven you heard them, and in your great compassion you gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies. 28 "But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what was evil in your sight. Then you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies so that they ruled over them. And when they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven, and in your compassion you delivered them time after time. 29 "You warned them in order to turn them back to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, of which you said, 'The person who obeys them will live by them.' Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked and refused to listen. 30 For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you warned them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you gave them into the hands of the neighboring peoples. 31 But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God. 32 "Now therefore, our God, the great God, mighty and awesome, who keeps his covenant of love, do not let all this hardship seem trifling in your eyes—the hardship that has come on us, on our kings and leaders, on our priests and prophets, on our ancestors and all your people, from the days of the kings of Assyria until today. 33 In all that has happened to us, you have remained righteous; you have acted faithfully, while we acted wickedly. 34 Our kings, our leaders, our priests and our ancestors did not follow your law; they did not pay attention to your commands or the statutes you warned them to keep. 35 Even while they were in their kingdom, enjoying your great goodness to them in the spacious and fertile land you gave them, they did not serve you or turn from their evil ways. 36 "But

see, we are slaves today, slaves in the land you gave our ancestors so they could eat its fruit and the other good things it produces. 37 Because of our sins, its abundant harvest goes to the kings you have placed over us. They rule over our bodies and our cattle as they please. We are in great distress.

The Agreement of the People

38 “In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it.”

- (3) **Chapter 10** - Those who sealed it were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hakaliah. Zedekiah, 2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, 3 Pashhur, Amariah, Malkijah, 4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluk, 5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, 6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, 7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, 8 Maaziah, Bilgai and Shemaiah. These were the priests. 9 The Levites: Jeshua son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel, 10 and their associates: Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, 11 Mika, Rehob, Hashabiah, 12 Zakkur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, 13 Hodiah, Bani and Beninu. 14 The leaders of the people: Parosh, Pahath-Moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, 15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, 16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, 17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, 18 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai, 19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, 20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, 21 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, 22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah, 23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, 24 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek, 25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, 26 Ahiah, Hanan, Anan, 27 Malluk, Harim and Baanah. 28 “The rest of the people—priests, Levites, gatekeepers, musicians, temple servants and all who separated themselves from the neighboring peoples for the sake of the Law of God, together with their wives and all their sons and daughters who are able to understand— 29 all these now join their fellow Israelites the nobles, and bind themselves with a curse and an oath to follow the Law of God given through Moses the servant of God and to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the Lord our Lord. 30 “We promise not to give our daughters in marriage to the peoples around us or take their daughters for our sons. 31 “When the neighboring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on the Sabbath, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on any holy day. Every seventh year we will forgo working the land and will cancel all debts. 32 “We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to give a third of a shekel each year for the service of the house of our God: 33 for the bread set out on the table; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, at the New Moon feasts and at the appointed festivals; for the holy offerings; for sin offerings to make atonement for Israel; and for all the duties of the house of our God. 34 “We—the priests, the Levites and the people—have cast lots to determine when each of our families is to bring to the house of our God at set times each year a contribution of wood to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the Law. 35 “We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the Lord each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree. 36 “As it is also written in the Law, we will bring the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, of our herds and of our flocks to the house of our God, to the priests ministering there. 37 “Moreover, we will bring to the storerooms of the house of our God, to the priests, the first of our ground meal, of our grain offerings, of the fruit of all our trees and of our new wine and olive oil. And we will bring a tithe of our crops to the Levites, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all the towns where we work. 38 A priest descended from Aaron is to accompany the Levites when they receive the tithes, and the Levites are to bring a tenth of the tithes up to the house of our God, to the storerooms of the treasury. 39 The people of Israel, including the Levites, are to bring their contributions of grain, new wine and olive oil to

the storerooms, where the articles for the sanctuary and for the ministering **priests**, the **gatekeepers** and the **musicians** are also kept. "We will not neglect the house of our God."

- (4) **Zechariah 14:16-19** - 16 Then **the survivors** from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and **to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles**. 17 If **any of the peoples of the earth** do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, **they will have no rain**. 18 If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The Lord will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. 19 This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.
- (5) **John 7:37-39** - **37**On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and called out in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. **38**Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said: 'Streams of living water will flow from within him.'" **39**He was speaking about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. For the Spirit had not yet been given, e because Jesus had not yet been glorified.