

"The Introduction to Revelation"

Part 1

Leviticus 23

Introduction: Today we are going to begin to lay a foundation for our study in the book of Revelation. We will begin this to build this foundation based upon the Truth, which we will find in the 23rd chapter of Leviticus.

Now I know that to many this seems like such an odd place to begin. This is a book of the Law written by Moses so what does this have to do with the book of Revelation? Let me explain why we are starting in Leviticus and what it is that we shall learn here.

We are going to study this entire chapter, and what we shall see in this chapter are the 7 FEASTS of Israel.

1. The Passover Feast
2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread
3. The Feast of Firstfruits
4. The Feast of Pentecost
5. The Feast of Trumpets
6. The Day of Atonement
7. The Feast of Tabernacles

What we need to understand is that in these feasts we shall see God's calendar for the ages. These feasts contain a prophetic picture of the plan of God and so I believe it will help us considerably to see this picture before we shall start into the book of Revelation.

Now before we get into this chapter, there are a few points we need to understand that will also help us to understand what we are about to look at.

1. **Jesus Christ is the CENTRAL focus of the entire Bible.**

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ *Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:*

⁶ *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.*

⁷ *Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me.) to do thy will, O God.*

⁸ *Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;*

⁹ *Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.*

¹⁰ *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

There is so much in these verses, but what I want you to see is that Jesus Himself said that in the VOLUME of the Book it was written of Him. We are also told here that Jesus took away the FIRST Covenant and He established a SECOND Covenant.

Let me explain what is being said here. The Old Testament Feasts, which we shall study in Leviticus 23, all point to Jesus Christ. He is the CENTRAL FOCUS of the Bible, and, therefore, He is the CENTRAL focus of the Feasts.

2. The Feasts were shadows of something better in the future.

Hebrews 10:1

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Here we see that the Law was filled with SHADOWS of good things to come. A shadow has no substance, but it is only a silhouette of the REAL THING.

Colossians 2:16-17

¹⁶ *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:*

¹⁷ *Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*

So let us now get into the chapter. I was going to try to get through this chapter in one message, but there is far too much to cover. When we get to the end, we will pull it all together so as to see the entire picture.

I. The Sabbath

Notice Leviticus 23:1-3

This chapter opens with God instructing Israel concerning the Sabbath. My question is, "Why are the instructions concerning the Sabbath connected to the Feasts?"

In order to get the answer to this, we need to take some time to look at the Sabbath.

When we understand the Sabbath, then we will have grasp on to the SECRET of the Christian life. The Sabbath was not Sunday as many people believe. The Sabbath was the 7th day of the week, which was Saturday. This started at Creation.

Genesis 2:2-3

² *And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.*

³ *And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*

When God gave the Law to Israel, He commanded them to keep the Sabbath.

Exodus 20:8-11

⁸ *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

⁹ *Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:*

¹⁰ *But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:*

¹¹ *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Many today have taken this and applied it to Sunday, and there are some who believe we are to rest on Saturday. Both of these applications are incorrect. Let me show you again what Paul wrote in Colossians.

Colossians 2:16-17

¹⁶ *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:*

¹⁷ *Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*

The Sabbath was a shadow of something that was to come later. **The observance of the Sabbath DAY ended with the coming of Jesus Christ.** We need to remember that Jesus Christ is the Central focus in the Bible, so that means the Sabbath

was a DAY that was pointing to Jesus Christ. But the question is, "How does this apply to you and me?"

We do not rest in a DAY – today we rest in a person and the person is Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:10

¹⁰ For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

The secret to the Christian life is to REST in Jesus Christ. We REST in His finished work on the cross for our salvation and then we REST in His promises, His power and His provisions for this NEW LIFE that we have in Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:32

² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

We are not to function out of worry, stress and fear. We are to REST completely in Jesus Christ. This is what the Sabbath pointed to. It was a shadow of better things to come and that was the REST which Jesus Christ offers to those who come to Him by Faith.

For someone to teach that we are to rest in a DAY is to place you and me under the Law.

Romans 10:4

⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Now let me get you back to Leviticus again. The Holy Spirit has placed the Sabbath before each of these Feasts because as we see the meaning of each of these Feasts we are to REST in Jesus Christ for each one. This we shall see as we work our way through this chapter.

II. The Passover

Notice Leviticus 23:4-5

This Feast took place in the spring of the year on the 14th day of the first month. This was a Feast to remember how God had provided deliverance for Israel when they were held captive by the Egyptians.

Pharaoh had refused to let Israel go and so God had brought 9 plagues upon Egypt. The 10th plague would be the most severe. This plague would take the life of the first born in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 12:1-7, 12-13

And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying,

² This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

³ Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

⁴ And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

⁶ And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

⁷ And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

¹³ And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

The Passover Feast was to remember this time of deliverance by God for the nation of Israel. They were protected by the blood of the Passover Lamb. The blood was placed on the door posts and the door lintels, and when God came into Egypt to carry out the judgment, he would Passover the families who were protected by the blood. This was to teach all of mankind through Israel that salvation comes through the sacrifice of a Substitute. The lamb died in their place that night.

The Picture:

This was fulfilled when Jesus died upon the cross. Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples in the upper room, and then He went to the cross and He died as our Passover

Lamb. This was all a picture of Jesus Christ and His death on the cross to pay for the sins of the world. The blood on the door posts and the door lintels pictured the cross. The blood of the lamb was a picture of the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed for us on the cross of Calvary.

Now let me explain where the REST comes in. That night in Egypt the people of Israel had to apply the blood and then REST in the blood of the lamb as their Substitute.

In the same way when we come to God for the forgiveness of sin. we must rest completely in the blood of Jesus Christ as the payment for our sins.

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: