

**"The Introduction to Revelation"**

**Part 2**

**Leviticus 23**

**Introduction:** Last week in our introduction to the book of Revelation we were in Leviticus 23. It is in this chapter that we find 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

It is in a study of these feasts that we shall see God's plan for the ages. These feasts were actual feasts which Israel observed, while at the same time they are prophet pictures of God's calendar.

There were two points we considered last week that we must keep in our minds as we work our way through this chapter.

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

**Hebrews 10:7**

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

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

**Colossians 2:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *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:*

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

**In our study last week we looked at 2 points.**

I. **The Sabbath**

**Notice Leviticus 23:1-3**

The Sabbath was a shadow of something better to come. The Sabbath was a picture of the rest which we have in Jesus Christ. We do not rest in a day, but we rest in a man. This is the secret to the Christian life. The rest which God offers to His people today is only entered into by faith.

I want to take a little more time on this thought because it is so important for each of us to understand and enter into God's rest.

Last week I had made mention that the land of Canaan was a type of God's rest for His people. When Moses sent out the 12 spies and they came back with the report, Israel refused to enter in because they were afraid of the inhabitants.

**Hebrews 4:1-2, 6**

*Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*

<sup>2</sup> *For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*

<sup>6</sup> *Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:*

It is by faith that we enter into the rest which God has for us. We place our faith in the POWER, PROVISIONS, and the PROMISES of our Lord Jesus Christ. We rest completely in Him.

II. **The Passover Feast**

This was a picture of the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. We looked at this very event in Exodus 12 and how Israel was protected by the blood of the Lamb from the judgment of God. We are protected from the judgment of God by the blood of THE LAMB of God, Jesus Christ.

Now we come to the next feast.

III. **The Feast of Unleavened Bread**

**Notice Leviticus 23:4-8**

During this feast Israel was to eat only unleavened bread. This feast came on the after the Passover.

Leaven was normally placed into the bread dough in order to make it rise. The leaven is a picture of sin. We can see a clear picture of the meaning in 1 Corinthians.

### 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

<sup>6</sup> *Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?*

<sup>7</sup> *Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:*

<sup>8</sup> *Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

Here we see that the leaven is a picture of sin and in verse 7 we see that we are UNLEAVENED.

Let me now show you the picture in this Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Passover Feast was a shadow of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ so that we could be protected from the judgment of God. But that was not the only reason He died on the cross. He died so as to take away sin from the believer's life. That is the meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is a shadow of how Jesus Christ died to take away sin in our lives.

### 1 John 3:5

<sup>5</sup> *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

This is a reference to the believer's sanctification. The word sanctification means "to be set apart". Now we must understand that our sanctification is in 3 tenses:

1. **Past tense - We were sanctified POSITIONALLY.**

### Ephesians 1:6

<sup>6</sup> *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

### Colossians 2:10

<sup>10</sup> *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

2. **Future tense - We will one day be completely separated from sin.**

**1 John 3:2**

<sup>2</sup> *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

**3. Present tense - We are being separated from sin.**

This means that from the time we were saved until we leave this world God is at work in our lives separating us from sin.

**Philippians 1:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

This means that a person who is TRULY saved will see a change in their lives.

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

<sup>17</sup> *Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

The person who is TRULY saved will see the PRACTICE of sin broken in their lives.

**1 John 3:5-9**

<sup>5</sup> *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

<sup>6</sup> *Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.*

<sup>7</sup> *Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*

<sup>8</sup> *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

<sup>9</sup> *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

The broken pattern of sin and the separation from sin is evidence that a person is TRULY saved. The person who says they are saved and continues to live in sin was NEVER saved.

**Matthew 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

<sup>22</sup> *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

<sup>23</sup> *And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you**: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

IV. **The Feast of Firstfruits**

**Notice Leviticus 23:9-14**

We will not cover this entire feast today, so we shall get back to it next week because there is much here for us to see.

This feast took place the DAY AFTER THE SABBATH.

**Notice Leviticus 23:11 again.**

This feast took place on the FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK.

Before the barley was harvested in the spring, the firstfruits were gathered and they were then offered to God. No one was to partake of the harvest until the FIRSTFRUITS were offered to God.

This feast was a shadow of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:20**

<sup>20</sup> *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and **become the firstfruits** of them that slept.*

Let us also remember that this feast was to take place AFTER the SABBATH, which placed it on the first day of the week.

**Matthew 28:1-6**

*In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward **the first day of the week**, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.*

<sup>2</sup> *And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.*

<sup>3</sup> *His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:*

<sup>4</sup> *And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.*

<sup>5</sup> *And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.*

<sup>6</sup> *He is not here: **for he is risen**, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

The Feast of Firstfruits foretold the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But there is more to this.

When the firstfruits were harvested and offered to God, they were a sign that there was a larger harvest coming. The same can be said about the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-22**

<sup>20</sup> *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and **become the firstfruits** of them that slept.*

<sup>21</sup> *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.*

<sup>22</sup> *For as in Adam all die, **even so in Christ shall all be made alive.***

This Feast of Firstfruits pointed to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope of every believer. Our hope is that Jesus is coming back, and when He does, we will be changed in a moment.

### **1 Corinthians 15:51-54**

<sup>51</sup> *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

<sup>52</sup> *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

<sup>53</sup> *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

<sup>54</sup> *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

### **Conclusion:**

There are so many ways to close this out but let me just point to one thing. THE ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE!

Leviticus 23 was written about 1500 years before Jesus was born!