

"The Introduction to Revelation"

Part 3

Leviticus 23

Introduction: Three weeks ago we started into an introduction for our study of the book of Revelation. We started our introduction in the book of Leviticus 23. Now many people would ask why we started here because this chapter lists the 7 feasts of Israel. This seems to be an odd place to start but when we learn a little more about this chapter we can see how it will connect with the book of Revelation. It is in this chapter that we can see God's calendar for the ages.

There are 7 feasts listed in this chapter.

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.

These were literal feasts which Israel was commanded to observe. Each of these feasts points to a significant event in God's calendar. Now 4 of these prophetic pictures have been fulfilled and there are 3 remaining to be fulfilled.

Now I had reminded you the past 2 weeks of 2 thoughts we must keep in mind as we look at these feasts.

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

Hebrews 10:7

⁷ 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

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 far we have looked at several points.

I. **The Sabbath**

Notice Leviticus 23:1-3

This is the secret to the Christian life. The Sabbath is a picture of the REST which we have in Jesus Christ. We REST in a MAN not in a day. Remember that Jesus is the Central focus of the entire Bible.

II. **The Passover Feast**

Notice Leviticus 23:4-5

This is a picture of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the cross.

III. **The Feast of Unleavened Bread**

Notice Leviticus 23:4-8

Leaven is a picture of sin in the Bible and this is a picture of how Jesus Christ died to take away our sin.

IV. **The Feast of Firstfruits**

Notice Leviticus 23:10-11

Here was a feast that was to take place the day after the Sabbath which meant it took place on the first day of the week. The first fruits of the harvest were to be brought to the priest and he was to offer them to God. No other harvest was to take place until the first fruits were offered. These first fruits were a sign that there was a larger harvest coming.

This was a picture of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the resurrection that is yet to come of all believers. Jesus Christ was resurrected on the first day of the week just as this feast took place on the first day of the week.

1 Corinthians 15:20

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

This is a picture of the believer's hope. Someday we will be resurrected with new glorified bodies.

Now there is something else here that I need to quickly point out to you.

Notice Leviticus 23:12

What is the significance of the lamb that was sacrificed at this feast? This is a reminder that the believer's hope is only possible because of the sacrifice and the death of a SUBSTITUTE. But there is so much more.

Notice Leviticus 23:13

This verse is full of spiritual Truth! The word "meat" here refers to GRAIN. This was a GRAIN offering and it was to be ground to a fine flour and mixed with oil.

Let me just say that this all points to our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The Fine Flour.

In order to get the grain in the form of fine flour it had to be beaten and ground. This speaks of the beatings, the scourging and the suffering which our Lord went through on our behalf.

Hebrews 2:9-10

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

¹⁰ *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect **through sufferings.***

Jesus Christ was made PERFECT through His sufferings which means through the suffering He came to know what it was like for us to live in the midst of this sin filled world and through His sufferings he has now become the Great High Priest who can identify with all we go through.

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

2. The Oil.

In the Bible the OIL speaks of the Holy Spirit. The oil here speaks of our Lord being filled and controlled by the Spirit of God.

3. The Fire

The sacrificed lamb was to be consumed by fire. In the Bible FIRE speaks of judgment. This sacrifice being consumed by fire was a picturing of the suffering of Jesus Christ on the cross under the judgment of God. Jesus Christ took the judgment of God that was intended for you and me.

Romans 6:23a

²³ *For the wages of sin is death;*

Matthew 27:46

⁴⁶ *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

Let us now move on to the next feast.

V. The Feast of Pentecost

Notice Leviticus 23:15-16

The word PENTECOST means "FIFTIETH". This feast took place 50 days after the Feast of First Fruits.

Notice Leviticus 23:17

Here we see that they were to bake 2 loaves of bread WITH fine flour and leaven.

What does this feast picture? Let me take you to the book of Acts and we shall see the picture.

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

² *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

³ *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

⁴ *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Acts 2:46-47

⁴⁶ *And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,*

⁴⁷ *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

It was on the Day of Pentecost that we find the beginning of the church. The 2 loaves which were to be baked for the Feast of Pentecost picture the 2 groups of people who make up the church: the Jews and the Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 12:13

¹³ *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

The leaven that was placed in each loaf pictures the sin that still exists in each of us as members of the body of Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:8

⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

Now there is still so much more here. I had planned in the start of this study to do this chapter in one message but there is far too much here to skip over. Let me show you another beautiful picture here.

This Feast of Pentecost could not take place until the Firstfruits offering was accepted by God.

Notice Leviticus 23:11

Once this was accepted by God then the Feast of Pentecost could take place.

This is a picture of how the sacrifice of Jesus Christ had to be accepted by the Father and it is also a picture of how Jesus had to ascend to the Father before the church could ever exist.

Let me show you how this applies to our lives.

God the Father accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the payment for our sins. Therefore we can hold tightly to what the writer of Hebrews had recorded.

Hebrews 10:10-14

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

¹¹ *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:*

¹² *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

¹³ *From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

We have been perfected FOREVER by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This speaks of our POSITION in Christ.

Now our PRACTICE is not equal to our POSITION. In POSITION we are PERFECT but in PRACTICE we sin. Remember that the 2 loaves were baked with LEAVEN. So this brings us to why the Feast of Firstfruits is before the Feast of Pentecost.

After the resurrection of Jesus Christ Jesus ascended back to the Father and it is there in His present ministry as our High Priest that He intercedes for us.

Hebrews 7:23-25

²³ *And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:*

²⁴ *But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.*

²⁵ *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

Romans 5:10

¹⁰ *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

Conclusion:

Let me close this out with 1 verse that is amazing.

John 11:25-26a

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AM Service

²⁵ *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

²⁶ *And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die...*

Reception of Members:

Dean and Kathy Wagner