

"The Introduction to Revelation"

Part 4

Leviticus 23

Introduction: We have been looking at Leviticus 23 for 3 weeks and today will make the 4th study in this chapter. Within this chapter 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.

These were literal historic feasts which Israel was to observe. But there is more here for us to see. These feasts contain a prophetic picture of God's plan for the ages.

Each of these feasts was a picture/shadow of something better that was to come.

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.*

Now in the previous 4 messages we had looked at how Jesus Christ is the Central Focus of the entire Bible and therefore we can be sure that each of these feasts point to Him.

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.*

Now we have looked at 4 of these feasts so far and we have been able to see how each of them points to Jesus Christ. I want to review them quickly before we move on in our study today.

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.

1 John 3:5

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

IV. The Feast of Firstfruits

Notice Leviticus 23:10-11

1 Corinthians 15:20

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

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.

These 2 loaves are a picture of the church which started on the Day of Pentecost. The 2 loaves picture the 2 groups of people who make up the church. They are Jews and 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 used to bake the loaves is a picture of the sin in the believer.

Now let me pull these first 4 spring feasts together. The Passover is a picture of the sacrifice of Jesus. The Unleavened Bread is a picture of Jesus' finished work on the cross. The Firstfruits are a picture of the resurrection of Jesus. The Feast of Pentecost is a picture of the beginning of the church. These were the spring feasts and between the spring feasts and the fall feast was about a 4 month period of summer. This period is a picture of the age we are in today which is the church age.

Now there is something else here which we need to see which we touched on briefly last week.

Notice Leviticus 23:22

After Pentecost the fields were left open for the poor and the stranger. This was the Gentiles. This is a picture of the age we live in today and how salvation is available to all who desire to come. Let me show you some verses.

John 3:16-17

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

¹⁷ *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Revelation 22:17

¹⁷ *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

Now some people struggle with what Paul wrote in Ephesians 1.

Ephesians 1:4-5

⁴ *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

⁵ *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

The words "chosen" and "predestinated" cause many to think that it is only those who are chosen who are saved. Let me help you understand this.

God has CHOSEN and PREDESTINATED that there would be a bride for His Son. Now the invitation is open for all to enter in.

2 Peter 3:7-9

⁷ *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

⁸ *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Here we see that it is God's will that all be saved. If it were God who chose who would be saved and it was not open to everyone person then we would need to declare that God could not even carry out His own will.

Now back to Leviticus. The open fields are a picture of how the way of salvation is open to all.

VI. The Feast of Trumpets

Notice Leviticus 23:23-25

This feast is the first of the fall feasts which took place about 4 months after the feast of Pentecost. This was a feast in which there was the blowing of trumpets. The feast signaled the start of the Jewish New Year.

The prophetic picture here is very interesting. Many believe this is a prophetic picture of the Rapture of the church. Let me show you why this is taught.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

¹³ *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

¹⁴ *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

¹⁵ *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

¹⁶ *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and **with the trump of God**: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

¹⁷ *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Here we see in the account of the Rapture that the TRUMP OF GOD will sound. We are told the same in 1 Corinthians 15.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

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

⁵² *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.*

Based upon these verses many believe the Feast of Trumpets is fulfilled in the Rapture. But there are several problems with this application.

1. **If this were true then that means the Rapture could only happen on the 1st day of the 7th month of the Jewish calendar.**

Each of the previous feasts were fulfilled on the exact day of the feasts. So we can assume this is no different so if this is a picture of the Rapture then that means the Rapture could only happen on this 1 day of the year.

We know that this is not the case because the Rapture is imminent which means it can happen at any time.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

¹⁰ *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

The word "wait" here is in the present tense. It means to be constantly looking for and living in anticipation of His coming. If the Rapture could only happen on 1st day of the 7th month then this verse would not be accurate.

Let me tell explain the 2nd problem with this teaching.

2. **These feasts are Jewish in nature. This means they pertain to the Jews and not to the church.**

So this feast must find its fulfillment as it pertains to the nation of Israel and not the church. So let me show you what this feasts points to.

Matthew 24:29-31

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The "elect" here refers to the Jews and not to the church. So many people want to place the church in this text because of what follows.

Matthew 24:37-41

³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴¹ Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

This is not the Rapture. Those who are taken are taken in judgment and those who are left are saved who enter the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

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AM Service

Now before the world gets to the Tribulation the church will be raptured away. We do not know when the Rapture will be but we can surely see the signs of the Tribulation. The world is becoming more and more anti-God and so each day we are one day closer to the Rapture.

God's prophet feasts are accurate to the very day which tells us that God's Word will all be fulfilled to the very letter.

Are you ready?