

"The Introduction to Revelation"

Part 5

Leviticus 23

Introduction: I understand that last week in our study I threw many people a knuckle ball and so people became confused because of what we looked at last week.

So before we look at anything in Leviticus 23 today, we are going to clear the muddy waters. The problem last week was with these verses:

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.

Last week I had told you that these verses do not describe the Rapture of the Church!

I want to take some time this morning and show you with the Bible that this is not and cannot be the Rapture of the Church.

This week I took the time to make a chart, which you have in your hands, and in this chart we can see at the bottom the Feasts of Israel and on the top we see the events which they prophetically picture.

Let me quickly review the chart so we can see where we are in our study.

- I. **The Passover Feast** - It was a shadow of the death of Jesus Christ.
- II. **The Feast of Unleavened Bread** - This was a picture of why Jesus died on the cross, and that was to take away our sin.
- III. **The Feast of Firstfruits** - This was a picture of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- IV. **The Feast of Pentecost** - This was a picture of the beginning of the Church/body of Christ.

These were the SPRING FEASTS and after the Feast of Pentecost there was about a 4-month period until the next feast.

Now after the Feast of Pentecost the fields were left open for the poor and the stranger to come and glean from the fields. This is a picture of the OPEN DOOR of salvation which exists today for all who desire to come to Jesus Christ for forgiveness.

Leviticus 23:22

²² And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

v. **The Feast of Trumpets** - This is a picture of the gathering of the Nation of Israel at the end of the Tribulation.

Last week I told you that many people want to apply this to the Rapture, but that does not work. That would limit the Rapture to happening on one specific day of the year, and it would need to be in the fall. But we know the Rapture is imminent, and it is a sign-less event.

This is not the Rapture, but it is the gathering of Israel.

Notice Matthew 24:27-31

Now we need to notice that the events here happen at the end of the Tribulation. This is when Jesus comes back to the earth to rule and reign.

Notice Matthew 24:36-42

This is the passage which confuses many people, so I want to help you here.

a. **This is after the Tribulation.**

If this was the Rapture, then that would mean we, as the church, would go through the Tribulation because this is at the end. The Bible teaches the opposite.

In Revelation 3 Jesus was speaking to the church of Philedelphia when He spoke these words:

Revelation 3:10

¹⁰ *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

Let me show you what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

² *That ye be not soon **shaken** in mind, or be **troubled**, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

³ *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

These people were CONFUSED and TERRIFIED because they believed they were in the Tribulation. They knew the church was to be Raptured away before the Tribulation otherwise they would not have been CONFUSED and TERRIFIED. Someone had written them a letter and signed Paul's name claiming they missed the Rapture and were in the Tribulation.

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.*

We look for Jesus Christ not the anti-Christ.

- b. **Those taken are taken in judgment and those who are left enter into the Kingdom.**

Notice Matthew 24:36-42 again.

VI. The Day of Atonement

Notice Leviticus 23:26-32

There is much here to consider about the Day of Atonement.

1. The History

The first thing we need to consider is what happened on this Day of Atonement. This was the one day in which the high priest made an offering for the sins of all the people. This was the day in which the payment for all their sin came due. On this day the high priest

would sacrifice a goat, and he would take the blood of the goat into the Holy of Holies and sprinkle it on the Mercy Seat. He would then come back out and he would then take another goat and he would place his hands on this goat and confess the sins of Israel. This goat was known as the scape goat, and he was led into the wilderness and was then pushed over a precipice. In this way the sins of the people were covered for another year. This was done year after year.

But the blood of the bulls and the goats could never take away sin.

Hebrew 10:4

⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

The Picture - Now we need to understand what this Day of Atonement was a picture of. The Feast of Trumpets pictures the gathering together the nation of Israel, and the Day of Atonement picture the salvation of the nation of Israel. There will be a Jewish remnant saved when Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation.

Zechariah 12:10-13:1

¹⁰ And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

¹¹ In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

¹² And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart;

¹³ The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart;

¹⁴ All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.

¹ In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Now let me get you back to Leviticus 23 again.

Notice Leviticus 23:26-32 again.

There are 2 very important points which need to be seen within these verses.

1. **The afflicted soul.** - The soul that was afflicted would see mercy and his or her sins would be covered, but the soul who was not afflicted would be cut off/put to death.

The AFFLICTED person would be the person who would be full of sorrow and repentance because of their sins. You see the person who was not broken and repentant due to their sins could not be forgiven.

Application:

I see here a picture of the need for brokenness and repentance before a man or a woman can be saved. It is only the person who has come to hate their sin which can be saved. Before someone can be saved, they must understand the seriousness of their sin, be broken over the sin, and then repent.

Acts 3:19

¹⁹ **Repent** ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

2 Peter 3:8-9

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**.

Mark 2:17

¹⁷ When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to **repentance**.

2. **The Sabbath.** - Notice Leviticus 23:26-32 again.

There was to be no work done on the Sabbath of the Day of Atonement. Now let us remember that the Sabbath was a picture of the REST which the believer has in Jesus Christ.

The Sabbath here on the Day of Atonement is a picture of how salvation is not accomplished by you or me. We can do nothing to earn of salvation.

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.

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Titus 3:4-6

⁴ But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

⁶ Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

We cannot earn our salvation, so Jesus went to the cross and He did for us what we could not do for ourselves, He paid our sin debt with His sacrifice.

Now here is where the REST comes in. We REST in His finished work upon the cross.

Conclusion:

1. **We must repent.**
2. **We must REST in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin.**