

"The Introduction to Revelation"

Part 6

Leviticus 23

Introduction: We have been in the 23rd chapter of Leviticus for the past 5 weeks and in this chapter we are looking at the 7 Feasts which God had given to the Nation 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 are the 7 feasts and in these feasts we have been looking at the prophetic picture. Each of these feasts pointed to a future event, and so in these we can see God's plan for the ages.

- ✓ The Passover Feast points to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ The Feast of Unleavened Bread points to the reason for which Jesus died, and that was to put away sin.
- ✓ The Feast of Firstfruits points to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ The Feast of Pentecost points to the beginning of the church age as seen in the two loaves of bread baked with leaven.

These were the spring feasts and between them there were the long summer months. These long summer months are the age we are in today. Next there are the fall feasts, and these all point to events that are yet future.

- ✓ The Feast of Trumpets points to the gathering of Israel at the end of the Great Tribulation when Jesus Christ returns.

- ✓ The Feast of Atonement points to the salvation of the Nation of Israel when they see the return of their Messiah.

Now we come to the last feast and it is:

I. **The Feast of Tabernacles**

Notice Leviticus 23:33-34, 39-42

Here is the Feast of Tabernacles, and this was the climax of all the feasts. This was a feast of celebration. Israel was to gather fruit, branches, and limbs; and they were to make temporary tents, booths, or places of dwellings. They were then to live in these temporary dwellings for 7 days. But what was the purpose of this?

Notice Leviticus 23:43

This was a time to remember the journey from Egypt to Canaan. But there is much more than just remembering the journey. It was a time to remember how God had provided for them, it was a time to remember how God had protected them, and it was a time to remember how God had dwelt among them.

Exodus 13:21-22

²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

²² He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

Exodus 40:34-38

³⁴ Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁶ And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys:

³⁷ But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.

³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

The prophetic picture:

This Feast of Tabernacles pictures the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. The Millennial Kingdom will be established at the end of the Great Tribulation when Jesus Christ returns with His bride.

Zechariah 14:1-4

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

² *For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

³ *Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.*

⁴ *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

Revelation 11:14-15

¹⁴ *The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.*

¹⁵ *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

Now when Jesus establishes His Kingdom, life on earth will be much different for the Nation of Israel.

1. God will dwell in the midst of them just as He did in the wilderness.
2. God will protect them just as He did in the wilderness.
3. God will provide for them just as He did in the wilderness.

Revelation 20:1-6

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

³ *And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

⁴ *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

⁵ *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

⁶ *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

Zechariah 8:7-8

⁷ *Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country;*

⁸ *And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.*

Let me show you the words of Warren Wiersbe:

"The nation of Israel is not only a scattered people and a sinful people, but they are also a suffering people. No nation in history has suffered as the Jews have suffered, but one day their suffering will be turned into glory and joy... For Israel, the best is yet to come! The scattered people will be gathered; the sinful people will be cleansed; the sorrowing people will rejoice."

The Forerunner Commentary points out a marvelous picture of these Fall Feasts.

The Picture of the Feasts in the life of Joseph:

First of all let me explain that Joseph is often used to picture the Nation of Israel.

Zechariah 10:6

⁶ *And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the **house of Joseph**, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God, and will hear them.*

Now let me show you something interesting.

Psalm 81:3-5

³ *Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.*

⁴ For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob.

⁵ **This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony**, when he went out through the land of Egypt: where I heard a language that I understood not.

According to the Forerunner Commentary Psalm 81 tells us that Joseph was released from prison on the very day of the Feast of Trumpets. Let me show you what Genesis says.

Genesis 41:14

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

This would be a picture of Israel being called together at the coming of Christ and in this release of Joseph we can also see the Day of Atonement for we see the salvation of Joseph in the sense that he was saved from prison. He has been released from the chains and the entrapment.

Matthew 24:31

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.

Then there would be the Feast of Tabernacles, which is a picture of Israel in the Millennial Kingdom. We see that in Joseph's life also.

Genesis 41:41-43

⁴¹ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

⁴² And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

⁴³ And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

This is a picture of how Israel will rule and reign with Jesus Christ. But there is more. Here in these verses Joseph is a type or a picture of Israel. But now the type will change. Joseph becomes a type of Jesus Christ. Joseph interpreted the dream of Pharaoh, and he made it know there would be 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine. So Joseph laid up in store much grain for the 7 years of famine.

Genesis 41:56-57

⁵⁶ *And the famine was over all the face of the earth: and **Joseph opened all the storehouses**, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.*

⁵⁷ *And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.*

Here is a picture of how Jesus will provide for all who enter the Kingdom.

II. Life in the Kingdom

I want to take the remaining part of this message and show you what some of the conditions will be like in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

1. Justice

Isaiah 65:21-23

²¹ *And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.*

²² *They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

²³ *They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.*

Jeremiah 23:5

⁵ *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*

2. Curse removed.

Isaiah 11:6-9

⁶ *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*

⁷ *And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

⁸ *And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.*

⁹ *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

3. Unified language.

Zephaniah 3:9

⁹ For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

4. **Sickness removed.**

Isaiah 33:24

²⁴ And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.

5. **Longevity**

Isaiah 65:20

²⁰ There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

Conclusion: Those of us who are saved today will be in that Kingdom to rule and reign with Jesus Christ.