

# The Seven Feasts in Leviticus

<p><b>Spring Feasts</b>   The first three springtime feasts celebrate different aspects of one major event in Jewish history: deliverance from bondage in Egypt. They occur together in an eight-day period, beginning with Passover. Technically, Passover is only the first night of the celebration, but together the three feasts are commonly referred to as “Passover week.” The fourth springtime holiday, the Feast of Weeks, occurs seven weeks later.</p>				
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English/ Hebrew Name	<b>FEAST OF PASSOVER</b> <i>PESACH</i>	<b>FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD</b> <i>MATZOT</i>	<b>FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS</b> <i>BIKKURIM</i>	<b>FEAST OF WEEKS OR PENTECOST</b> <i>SHAVUOT</i>
Jewish/Gregorian Calendar Dates	Fourteenth day of the first month March or April	Fifteenth to twenty-first day of the first month March or April	The day after the Passover Sabbath March or April	Fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits May or June
Theme	Deliverance	Holiness	Resurrection	Revelation of God’s Law
Key Texts	Leviticus 23:5 Exodus 12:1-46	Leviticus 23:6-8 Exodus 23:14-15	Leviticus 23:9-14 Exodus 23:16, 19	Leviticus 23:15-21 Exodus 34:22 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Summary	<p>This feast marks God’s deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage and His preservation of their firstborn through the sacrificial blood of a lamb. That was the defining moment of Israel’s birth as a nation and therefore is the first holiday on their calendar. It is to be commemorated with a meal that is comprised of the same types of foods as the first Passover.</p> <p>Over 1,500 years later, Jesus died on Passover as the Sacrificial Lamb for all mankind. The Jews’ deliverance from Egyptian bondage foreshadowed our greater deliverance from the bondage of sin, which is accomplished through the Blood of Jesus. Thus, the birth of the nation illustrated spiritual birth of believers in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>This feast commemorates the first days of the Israelites’ freedom from bondage. When God brought them out of Egypt, He instructed them to eat only unleavened bread. Before this feast begins each year, the Jews are to purge all leaven from their homes and then abstain from eating it during the entire Passover week.</p> <p>In the New Testament, leaven is commonly symbolic of sin, so unleavened bread is symbolic of a life without sin—in both outward acts and the inner nature. Sin must be eradicated from our hearts through sanctification, which was also made possible through Christ’s sacrificial death (Hebrews 13:12).</p>	<p>This feast commemorates the Jews’ entrance into the Promised Land and the fulfillment of God’s promise to give the land as an inheritance. It is also the first of three feasts that relate to the harvest season. On this day, Jews are to offer the first of the harvest to God, thanking Him in advance for what is yet to come.</p> <p>Jesus rose from the dead on the Feast of Firstfruits and Scripture explains that as the first to be resurrected, He was the firstfruits offering (1 Corinthians 15:20). On Easter (Resurrection Day), we rejoice both in the power that raised us from spiritual death and our promised inheritance awaiting us in Heaven.</p>	<p>Firstfruits marks the beginning harvest of the first spring crop (barley), and this feast marks the beginning harvest of the last spring crop (wheat). This is a day of rest when offerings are to be made, including grain, wine, animal sacrifices, and some quantity of all the later spring crops. Jewish tradition also holds that the Ten Commandments were given to Moses on this day.</p> <p>Following Jesus’ ascension, it was on this feast day that the Holy Spirit was first poured out, which resulted in 3,000 souls being reconciled to God. This fulfilled Jeremiah 31:33, “I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts.” These first converts under the new covenant dispensation marked the birth of the Church.</p>

**Fall Feasts** | The fall feasts all take place in the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. Since the number seven is representative of completion, it seems fitting that these feasts would mark major events of the end times. Christ fulfilled the spring feasts during His first coming and it is anticipated that He will fulfill the fall feasts during His second coming.

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<b>FEAST OF TRUMPETS</b> <i>YOM TERUAH</i>	<b>DAY OF ATONEMENT</b> <i>YOM KIPPUR</i>	<b>FEAST OF TABERNACLES</b> <i>SUKKOT</i>
First day of the seventh month September or October	Tenth day of the seventh month September or October	Fifteenth to twenty-first day of the seventh month September or October
Regathering	Repentance	Millennial Kingdom
Leviticus 23:23-25 Numbers 29:1-6	Leviticus 23:26-32 Leviticus 16:1-34	Leviticus 23:33-43 Deuteronomy 16:13
<p>This feast does not mark an event in Jewish history and Scripture does not state its purpose. It is to be a solemn day of rest that includes sacrifices, offerings, and the blowing of trumpets. It is commonly understood to be a call to prepare for the Day of Atonement.</p> <p>This feast has not yet been fulfilled, but the blowing of trumpets suggests a connection to the Rapture. It is the only feast to occur on the first day of the month, which begins when the new moon first appears. The Jewish people had to wait and watch the sky to know when that would happen, just as we must wait and watch for the return of Jesus.</p>	<p>God gave detailed instructions to carry out this feast, with the focus being a sacrificial ceremony to atone for the sins of the nation. It is a solemn day of fasting, mourning sin, repentance, and abstaining from work and pleasure.</p> <p>This feast has not yet been fulfilled because no major event has taken place on this date. However, Christ's death fulfilled all the steps of atonement. At Passover He was the Sacrificial Lamb, but in the Day of Atonement He is both our High Priest and Atoning Sacrifice (Hebrews 9:11-12). Some suggest this feast will be fulfilled on the future day of mourning at the Battle of Armageddon.</p>	<p>This feast is a time of great jubilation when the people are commanded to rejoice. Falling at the end of harvest season, it is a time to thank God for His provision, protection, and presence over the past year, as well as remember His help during the years of wandering in the wilderness. To do that, the Jewish people were instructed to dwell in booths (simple shelters) outside their homes for seven days.</p> <p>This feast has not yet been fulfilled. Zechariah prophesied that it will be celebrated during Christ's Millennial Reign, so it could mark a key date related to His kingdom.</p>

