

THE SEVEN SACRED ANNUAL FEASTS OF THE OLD COVENANT:

The Feasts of Remembrance

Yahweh said to Moses, 'Speak to the Israelites and say to them:

'These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of Yahweh, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies' (Lev 23:1-2).

*Then never let anyone criticize you for what you eat or drink, or about observance of annual festivals, [...]. These are only a shadow of what was coming; **the reality is the body of Christ** (Col 2:16-17).*

* = Pilgrim feasts: Exodus 23:14-17; 34:18-23; Deuteronomy 16:1-16; 2 Chr 8:13

Sacred Feast and sacrifice	Scripture reference	Old Testament/modern time	Old Testament remembrance and New Testament application
PASSOVER (<i>Pesach</i>) Sacrifice of unblemished yearling lambs and kids, one for every 10 to 20 people in a group.	Ex 12:1-4; Lev 23:5; Num 9:1-14; 28:16; Dt 16:1-3, 4-7; Mt 26:17; Mk 14:12-26; Jn 2:13; Jn 11:55; 1 Cor 5:7; Heb 11:28	14 th Abib (Nisan) March/April	Old Testament: Signifying Israel's deliverance from death in the tenth plague. N.T.= last legitimate Old Covenant Passover sacrifice; Jesus prepares for His Passion (Lk 22:7-13).
*UNLEVENED BREAD (<i>Hag Hamatzot</i>). Seven day feast from the 15 th -21 st . On the 15 th at sundown eating the meal of the Passover victim with family and friends; mandatory assembly on the 15 th and 21 st ; mandatory sacrifices for 7 days = whole burnt offerings of 2 young bulls, a ram and 7 yearling lambs without blemish with cereal	Ex 12:15-20; 39; 13:3-10; 23:15; 34:18; Lev 23:6-8; Num 28:17-25; Dt 16:3, 4, 8; 2 Chr 30:21-22; Mk 14:1,12; Acts 12:3; 20:6; 1 Cor 5:6-8	15 th -21 st Abib (Nisan) March/April 7 day feast	Old Testament: Signified the sanctification of Israel by eating the Passover sacrifice in a sacred meal with unleavened bread. For seven days eating bread with yeast (the symbol of sin) is forbidden. Remembering how Yahweh redeemed Israel out of slavery. N.T. = The Last Supper/first Eucharistic sacrifice, Passion and Crucifixion (Mt

offerings; a goat for a sin offering. Voluntary communion offerings each day eaten in the camp of God/Jerusalem.			26:19-29; 57; 27:27; Mk 15:25; 33-39).
FIRSTFRUITS (<i>Yom Habikkurim</i>) Presenting the first sheaf of the barley harvest; a burnt offering of a single unblemished male lamb with a grain offering and wine libation.	Ex 23:19; 34:26; Lev 23:9-14; Dt 26:5, 9-10; Mt 28:1, 5-6; Mk 16:1-2; Lk 24:1; Jn 1:20; Rom 8:23; 1 Cor 15:20-23	No date: on the day after the first Sabbath after Passover (Lev. 23:11); always on a Sunday (date later changed)+ Abib (Nisan) March/April	Old Testament: Signified the resurrection of Israel as a free people. Recognizing the redemption of the first-born in Egypt and God's bounty in the Promised Land. N.T. = Resurrection Sunday (Mt 28:1-8).
*WEEKS (<i>Shavuot/Hag ha-Shavuot; Pentecost</i> in Greek = 50 th day; also known as <i>Hag ha-Katzir</i> = Feast of the Harvest). Mandatory assembly and sacrifices: first fruits of the wheat harvest, burnt offering of 2 young bulls, a ram, 7 yearling lambs all with cereal offerings, goat as sin sacrifice, two lambs as communion sacrifices for the priests and the people's individual voluntary/free-will communion offerings.	Ex 23:16; 34:22a; Lev 23:15-21; Num 28:26-31; Dt 16:9-12; Acts 2:1-4; 20:16; 1 Cor 16:8	50 days after Firstfruits (as the ancients counted); always on a Sunday (day later changed)+ Sivan May/June	Old Testament: Signified the origination of Israel as the covenant people. A festival of joy recalling the giving of the Law at Sinai 50 days after leaving Egypt; thankfulness for the Lord's blessings and birth of the O.T. Church. N.T. = birth of New Covenant Church; Acts 2:1-1-4. First four feasts were fulfilled in Jesus' first Advent. The long harvest is the gathering of souls into heaven (Mt 9:37/37-38; Lk 10:2-3; Jn 4:35-38).

THE LONG SUMMER HARVEST			
TRUMPETS <i>(Rosh Hashana)</i> Beginning of the civil year. A sacred assembly and a day of rest with acclamations commemorated with trumpet blasts and mandatory sacrifices: burnt offerings of a young bull, a ram, 7 unblemished yearling lambs with grain offerings and a goat sin sacrifice.	Lev 23:23-25; Num 29:1-6; 2 Sam 6:15; Future fulfillment 1 Cor 15:52; 1 Thes 4-16	1 st Tishri Sept/Oct	Old Testament: Signified the ingathering of the covenant people in preparation for Yahweh's judgment/favor and preparation for the day of national expiation. N.T. = (?) The Second Coming of Christ and the gathering of the nations (Mt 24:30-31; 1 Thes 1:10; 4:16-17).
DAY OF ATONEMENT <i>(Yom Kippur)</i> Sacred assembly with mandatory sacrifices. For the high priest: a young bull sin sacrifice and a ram burnt offering. For the people: burnt offering of a young bull; a ram and 7 unblemished yearling lambs with cereal offerings and 2 goats as a sin sacrifice.	Lev 16:1-34; 23:26-32; Num 29:7-11; Rom 3:24-26; Heb 9:7; 10:3, 30-31; 10:19-22; Acts 27:9; Future fulfillment: 2 Pt 3:7; Rev 17:4; 20:12	10 th Tishri Sept/Oct	Old Testament: Signified calling Israel to judgment in a national day of fasting, repentance and expiation N.T. = (?) The last of the harvest is the Final Judgment (Rev 14:15; 20:11-15).
*TABERNACLES also called FEAST OF SHELTERS OR BOOTHS <i>(Sukkot)</i> First of the fruit harvest (grapes and	Ex 23:16b; 34:22b; Lev 23:33-38; 39-43; Num 29:12-34; Dt 16:13-15; 1 Kng 8:1-13, 65-66; 2 Chr 7:8-10; Zec 14:16-19; Jn 7:2; Jn 7:2	15 th -22 nd Tishri Sept/Oct 8 day feast	Old Testament: Signified God's presence with His Covenant people; looked forward to the coming of the Messiah.

olives); living in booths made of tree boughs; offering daily sacrifices of bulls, rams, and lambs for burnt offerings and a goat for a sin sacrifice; voluntary communion offerings. From the 1 st to 8 th days 70 bulls, 15 rams, 105 lambs and 8 goats sacrificed.	Future fulfillment: 2 Pt 3:7, 10-13; Rev 21:1		Memorializes the giving of the Tabernacle and giving thanks for the productivity of the land. NT = (?) Creation of the new heaven and earth (Rev 21:1-7).
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All feast day sacrifices were offered with the whole burnt offering of the daily *Tamid* communal sacrifice (Num 28:10, 15, 23, 24, 31; 29: 6, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 31, 34, 38; also see Lev 16:28 for the *Tamid* offered at the Feast of Atonement. According to the *Mishnah: Yoma* both the morning and afternoon *Tamid* lambs were offered in sacrifice on the Day of Atonement).

* The 3 pilgrim Feasts: every Israelite male, 13 years or older, must present himself to Yahweh three times a year at the Temple in Jerusalem at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; see Exodus 23:14-17; 34:18-23; Deuteronomy 16:16 & 2 Chronicles 8:13.

The first three feasts: Passover (which begins the liturgical year), the Feast Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Firstfruits all fall in the same month within an 8 day period. The last three feasts: the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles (which ends the liturgical year), also falls within the same month, with the Feast of Tabernacles covering an 8-day period. **If** the 7 Sacred Feasts are a blueprint for God's plan of salvation then we are presently in the period of "the long summer harvest", and the laborers in God's vineyard are gathering souls into God's storehouse of heaven. Colossians 2:16-17: *Then never let anyone criticize you for what you eat or drink, or about observance of annual festivals, New Moons or Sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what was coming: the reality is the body of Christ.*