What Every Christian Should Know About the Biblical Feasts

(without needing a theology degree)

AN EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND GUIDE TO GOD'S APPOINTED TIMES—AND WHY THEY STILL MATTER TODAY



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Why Should Christians Study the Feasts of the Lord?

Many believers skip over books like Leviticus, not realizing they're bypassing the prophetic calendar God Himself created. But tucked within Leviticus 23 are seven divine appointments that tell the whole story of God's redemptive plan: past, present, and future.

These Feasts aren't just Jewish traditions, they're *God's* Feasts (Leviticus 23:2). And they all point to Jesus.

As a Christian, understanding these Feasts opens your eyes to the incredible continuity between the Old and New Testaments, deepens your appreciation of Jesus' life and ministry, and sharpens your anticipation for His return.

What Are the Feasts of the Lord?

Leviticus 23 outlines seven sacred appointments God gave to Israel:

1. Sabbath
2. Passover & Unleavened Bread
3. Firstfruits
4. Pentecost
5. Feast of Trumpets
6. Day of Atonement
7. Feast of Tabernacles

These were not random holy days. They were divinely timed *appointments*—in Hebrew *mo'ed*, which means "an appointed time or signal." Think of them as God's calendar reminders of what He was doing and what He still plans to do.

Why Do These Feasts Matter for Christians?

Paul wrote:

> These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. – Colossians 2:17

The Feasts are not just historical; they are **prophetic rehearsals** that point directly to Jesus.

- **Spring Feasts** → Jesus' First Coming
- **Fall Feasts** → Jesus' Second Coming
- **Sabbath** → Our ultimate rest in Him

Every feast teaches something vital about Jesus' work: past, present, and future.



Feasts Overview & Their Prophetic Fulfillment

Feast	Prophetic Significance
Sabbath *Shabbat*	Weekly reminder of God's rest, pointing to eternal rest in Christ
Passover and Unleavened Bread *Pesach*	Jesus, our Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7), with the unleavened bread symbolizing Jesus' sinless life and burial
Firstfruits *Hanafat Ha'omer*	Jesus' resurrection–the "firstfruits of those who've fallen asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20)
Pentecost *Shavuot*	The Holy Spirit poured out (Acts 2)
Trumpets *Yom Teruah*	Return of Christ (1 Thess. 4:16)
Day of Atonement *Yom Kippur*	National repentance of Israel (Zech. 12:10)
Tabernacles *Sukkot*	Jesus' millennial reign: God "tabernacling" with us (Rev. 21:3)

Who Kept the Feasts?

The Feasts weren't optional; they were part of the rhythm of life for the people of Israel. But more than that, **Jesus** kept them. So did **Paul**, and the **early church**.

Scriptures:

- Luke 2:41 – Jesus' family kept Passover
- Luke 22:7–8 – Jesus kept Passover
- John 7:2–14, 37–38 – Jesus observed Feast of Tabernacles

- Acts 2 – Jesus' disciples observed Pentecost
- Acts 20:16 – Paul hurrying to Jerusalem for a feast
- 1 Corinthians 5:7–8 – The early church observed feasts

The early believers saw these days not as legalistic rituals, but as moments of divine significance and prophecy.

The Three Pilgrimage Feasts

Three of these Feasts were called *chag*, or pilgrimage Feasts. All Jewish males were required to travel to Jerusalem for **Passover**, **Pentecost**, and **Tabernacles**.

These weren't just religious obligations; they were national renewals of faith, worship, and identity. Even today, they hold a prophetic invitation for believers around the world to understand God's purposes for Israel and the nations.

How the Feasts Point to Jesus

Each Feast is a living parable of the Messiah:

- **Passover** – Jesus is our Lamb
- **Unleavened Bread** – Jesus' sinless sacrifice
- **Firstfruits** – Jesus' resurrection
- **Pentecost** – The Holy Spirit
- **Trumpets** – Jesus' return
- **Atonement** – Israel's national repentance

- **Tabernacles** – God dwelling with man

Because Jesus fulfilled the Spring Feasts **to the day**, we can confidently trust He will fulfill the Fall Feasts precisely too.

Why You Should Care Today

When you understand God's appointed times, you don't just understand Jewish tradition—you understand **your Savior** more deeply.

These Feasts:

- Unfold the timeline of redemption
- Explain what's coming next
- Highlight God's faithfulness to Israel and the church

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures... –Luke 24:45

Let Him open your mind today.

More Resources

- God's Calendar (Out of Zion podcast)
- The Feasts of the Lord and Their Rich, Biblical Significance
- Feast of Tabernacles 2025

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