



A Study of the Jewish Feasts

“These are the appointed feasts of the Lord that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.” (Leviticus 23:2)

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This belongs to: _____

Class Schedule

Class	Topic	Date	Teacher
Classes 1-3	Foundations		
Class 1	Introduction	Sunday, February 23	Erik
Class 2	Overview of Feasts	Wednesday, February 26	Erik
Class 3	Sabbath	Sunday, March 1	Erik
Classes 4-10	Mosaic Festivals & Sacred Times		
Class 4	Passover, Pt. 1	Wednesday, March 4	Erik
Class 5	Passover, Pt. 2	Sunday, March 8	Daniel
Class 6	Unleavened Bread	Wednesday, March 11	Erik
Class 7	Firstfruits	Sunday, March 15	Erik
Class 8	Pentecost	Wednesday, March 2 18	Erik
Class 9	Trumpets	Sunday, March 22	Erik
Class 10	Day of Atonement	Wednesday, March 25	Erik
Class 11	Booths	Sunday, March 29	Erik
Lessons 12-13	Post-Mosaic Festivals		
Class 12	Purim	Wednesday, April 1	Daniel
Class 13	Hanukkah	Sunday, April 5	Daniel

Lesson 1 – Introduction to Jewish Feasts

1. Challenges of Studying This Topic
 - a. Danger of Reading Too Much into Type/Antitype Parallels
 - b. Questions About Relevancy for Christians Today
 - c. Details About Feasts Can Be Hard to Understand
 - d. Sorting Jewish Tradition from Scripture

2. Old Testament Prophecies About New Covenant People
 - a. Look at the Following Prophecies About the New Covenant Answer the Questions
 - i. What day does Isaiah 56:2-6, 58:13, and 66:23 say new covenant people will keep?

 - ii. What festival does Ezekiel 45:17-21 say new covenant people will keep?

 - iii. What festival does Zechariah 14:16-21 say new covenant people will keep?
 - b. Look at the Following New Testament Passages and Answer the Questions
 - i. What does Colossians 2:16-17 say about the Old Testament feasts? (cf. Romans 14:5-6)

 - ii. What does Hebrews 8:5 and 10:1 say about the Old Testament Law?
 - c. How do you resolve the tension between these Old and New Testament Passages?

3. The Purposes of the Feasts
 - a. Remember God's Acts (cf. Exodus 13:3, Numbers 10:10, Deuteronomy 16:3)
 - i. What is implied in Leviticus 23:2 when God calls the feasts, "my appointed feasts"?

 - ii. Define the term, "holy convocation"? How does this relate to "remembering"?

 - iii. Why is it Important for us to Remember What God Has Done?
 - b. Promote National Unity
 - i. How would the feasts cultivate unity amongst God's people? (cf. 1 Kings 12:25-33)

 - ii. What unites New Testament Christians today?
 - c. To Foreshadow Christ (Colossians 2:16-17)
 - i. Why are Old Testament shadows of Jesus valuable to study today?

 - ii. In what way are you hoping to deepen your understanding of Jesus in these classes?

Lesson 2 – Jewish Calendar & Feasts

Introduction: There five passages in the books of Law that give overviews of the feasts (Exodus 23:14-17, 34:18-24; Leviticus 23; Numbers 28-29; Deuteronomy 16:1-17). The most comprehensive of these passages are Leviticus 23 and Numbers 28-29. In this lesson, we will understand the Jewish calendar and provide an overview of the feasts. This will prepare us to look at each festival individually.

1. Jewish Calendar (“A Jew’s catechism is his calendar” – Rabbi Hirsch)

	Month	Festivals	Farm Season
1	Nisan (March-April) Hebrew: Abib (Ex. 13:4)	Passover (14 th Day) Unleavened Bread (15 th -22 nd) Firstfruits (16 th Day)	Barley
2	Iyyar (April-May) Hebrew: Ziv (1 Kings 6:1)	Second Passover (14 th Day) Numbers 9:10-11	Barley
3	Sivan (May-June)	Feast of Weeks (50 th Day) Pentecost/Firstfruits	Wheat
4	Tammuz (June-July)		Grape
5	Ab (July-August)		Olive
6	Elul (August-September)		Dates/Figs
7	Tishri (September-October) Hebrew: Ethanim (1 Ki. 8:2)	Feast of Trumpets (1 st Day) Day of Atonement (10 th Day) Feast of Booths (15 th -22 nd)	Early Rains
8	Heshvan (October-November) Hebrew: Bul (1 Ki. 6:38)		Plowing
9	Kislev (November-December)	Hanakkuh (25 th -2 nd)	Wheat/Barley Planting
10	Tabeth (December-January)		Winter Rains
11	Shebat (January-February)		Almond Bloom
12	Adar (February-March)	Purim (14 th -15 th)	Citrus

- a. Jewish people follow a lunar calendar. How is this different from a solar calendar?
- b. How does Genesis 1:14 look forward to these festivals?
- c. What happened at the beginning of every new month? (Numbers 10:10, 29:6; Psalm 81:3)
- d. Where do we read about Hanukah and Purim in the Bible?

2. Overview of Feasts

The Seven Mosaic Feasts						
The Spring Feasts				The Autumn Feasts		
Passover Pesach	Unleavened Bread Hag HaMatzot	Firstfruits Reishit	Pentecost Shavuot	Trumpets Rosh HaShanah	Atonement Yom Kippur	Booths Sukkot
14 Nisan	15-21 Nisan	16 Nisan?	6 Sivan	1 Tishri	10 Tishri	15-22 Tishri
Leviticus 23:4-5 Numbers 28:16-25 Exodus 11-15 Deut. 16:1-8 John 19	Leviticus 23:6-8 Numbers 28:16-25 1 Cor. 5:6-8	Leviticus 23:9-14 Leviticus 2:14-16 1 Cor. 15:20 Matthew 28	Leviticus 23:15-22 Numbers 28:26-31 Deut. 16:9-12 Acts 2:1-42	Leviticus 23:23-25 Numbers 29:1-6 Matthew 3:1-12 Matthew 24:29-31	Leviticus 23:26-32 Numbers 29:7-11 Hebrews 9-10	Leviticus 23:33-44 Numbers 29:12-38 Deut. 16:13-15 John 7:1-10:20
Jewish "Independence Day"				Jewish "Near Year"		Jewish "Thanksgiving"
Jesus' Death	Jesus' Purity Jesus as the Bread of Life	Jesus' Resurrection	Jesus Pours Out the Spirit	Jesus' Call to Repentance & Gathering His People	Jesus' Atoning Sacrifice	Jesus' Ability to Provide in Our Wilderness

- a. The Scriptures commanded the Israelites to come to Jerusalem three times a year for the feasts (Exodus 23:14, 34:23; Deuteronomy 16:16; 1 Kings 9:25). Why, if there are seven feasts, were the Israelite's commanded to come only three times a year?

- b. Briefly Explain the Purpose of each Mosaic feast...
 - i. Passover

 - ii. Unleavened Bread

 - iii. Firstfruits

 - iv. Pentecost

 - v. Trumpets

 - vi. Atonement

 - vii. Booths

- c. Where in the Old Testament history do we see God's people keeping these feasts?

Lesson 3 – Sabbath

1. Types of Sabbath's

a. Weekly Sabbath

i. What was commanded in these passages?

1. Exodus 16:23 –
2. Exodus 20:10 (cf. Leviticus 23:3) –
3. Exodus 34:21 –
4. Exodus 35:3 –
5. Numbers 15:32-36 –
6. Jeremiah 17:21 –
7. Numbers 28:9-10 –

ii. Purposes of the Sabbath

1. Exodus 20:8-11 –
2. Deuteronomy 5:12-16; cf. Mark 2:27-28 –
3. Exodus 31:12-17 –

iii. **Perversion of Sabbath:** There are many a lot of details of what was prohibited in the Sabbath. Since the commands for the Sabbath were vague, the Jews “helped God” by adding rules and regulations, which were very specific. The Rabbi's added 39 traditions in the Mishnah that “help” make God's laws more “concrete.” They added these laws to ensure that they wouldn't break the original intent of the Law. In what ways can we fall into the same temptation today?

b. Seven Additional Sabbath Days During Festivals

- i. First & Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:7-8)
- ii. Feast of Weeks/Pentecost (Leviticus 23:21)
- iii. Feast of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:25)
- iv. Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:28)
- v. First & Last Days of Booths (Leviticus 23:35-36)

c. Sabbath Year & Jubilee (Leviticus 25)

2. Antitypes of the Sabbath

a. Look at Matthew 11:28-12:14 and answer the following questions.

- i. How does the end of Matthew 11 flow into Matthew 12?
- ii. In what ways does Jesus fulfill the meaning of the Sabbath?
- iii. What other miracles did Jesus do on the Sabbath? How do they fulfill the Sabbath purpose?

b. Look at Hebrews 3:16-4:13 and answer the following questions.

- i. In what ways does the Promised Land picture Sabbath and rest?
- ii. How is heaven going to be ultimate “rest”?

Lesson 4 – Passover, Pt. 1

1. The Event of Passover

- a. Describe the context leading up to the moment of the Passover in Exodus (Exodus 1-11)

- b. Describe what the Israelites were commanded to do when Passover happened (Exodus 12:1-13)

- c. Describe what happened when the Angel of Death passed through Egypt (Exodus 12:29-39)

2. The Commemoration of Passover

- a. What instructions are given to remember the Passover? (Exodus 12:14-20)

- b. What were parents supposed to tell their children during Passover? (Exodus 12:26; 13:8, 14)

- c. Who was allowed to partake of the memorial? (Exodus 12:43-49)

- d. Israel's history with Passover
 - i. How often did Israel remember to keep the Passover (cf. 2 Kings 23:21-23)?

 - ii. How does this relate to Ezekiel 16:22, 43?

 - iii. What lessons can we learn from this regarding the Lord's Supper? (1 Cor. 11:24-25)?

3. Antitypes of Passover

- a. How does Exodus 12:5 relate to 1 Peter 1:19?

- b. How MIGHT Exodus 12:3 relate to Jesus' Triumphal Entry?

- c. How does Exodus 12:10 relate to "eating Jesus' flesh and drinking His Blood"? (cf. John 6:4, 53)

- d. How does Exodus 12:22 relate to John 19:29?

- e. How does Exodus 12:46 relate to John 19:32-33?

- f. What other connections do you see between Passover and Jesus?

Lesson 5 – Passover, Pt. 2

Observed in Times of Transition

Exodus 12 → Joshua 5 → 2 Kings 23 → Ezra 6
2 Chronicles 35

In each account, what was Israel transitioning from/to?

What was one of the main purposes of Passover?

Ex 12:27, Deut 16:1, 16:6

Who could partake in Passover?

Ex 12:43, 12:48, Num 9:6, 9:10, 9:14, 2 Chron 35:7-9

The Passover Lamb

Using the tool of your choice, run a search for mentions of the Passover Lamb. What is its significance?

What does it point towards (1 Cor 5:7)?

Images in Isaiah

11:12-16	What is raised, lifted up, or set up (v12 depending on your version)?	49:1, 14, 22-26	What do the people lament (v14)?
	What event is called to mind (v16)?		What previous situation of the Israelites is described in v24?
18:3, 7	<i>3 All you inhabitants of the world, you who dwell on the earth, when a signal is raised on the mountains, look! When a trumpet is blown, hear!</i>	→	<i>7 ...from a people tall and smooth, from a people feared near and far, a nation mighty and conquering, whose land the rivers divide, to Mount Zion, the place of the name of the LORD of hosts.</i>

Lesson 6 – Unleavened Bread

1. Read Exodus 12:14-20, Leviticus 23:6-15, and Numbers 28:16-25. Fill in the events of the week.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
15 Nisan	16 Nisan	17 Nisan	18 Nisan	19 Nisan	20 Nisan	21 Nisan

2. Purpose of Unleavened Bread

- a. Why did the people eat unleavened bread when they left Egypt?

- b. What purposes do you see for this feast from Exodus 13:2-10?

- c. In what ways did King Josiah clean out the leaven of Jerusalem? (2 Kings 22-23; esp. 23:21-28)

3. Antitypes of Unleavened Bread

- a. How does John 6:1-14, 32-35, 41, and 48 relate to Unleavened Bread?

- b. What are the three types of leaven mentioned in the New Testament?
 - i. Matthew 16:11-12 –
 - ii. Mark 8:15 –
 - iii. Luke 12:1 –

- c. What does 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 instruct Christians to do?

Lesson 7 – Firstfruits

Introduction: The first of firstfruits occurred during the week of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:9-14). Due to the proximity to Passover and Unleavened bread, this feast can easily be overlooked. The feast after firstfruits in Leviticus 23 is “The Feast of Weeks”, also known as Pentecost. Sometimes “firstfruits” and Pentecost may be confused with one another. There are similarities between these feasts, but they are not the same. In this lesson we will discuss the differences between firstfruits and Pentecost as well as the meaning of firstfruits.

1. Fill out the Chart Below

What Similarities Do You See Between These Two Feasts?	
Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)	First of Weeks / Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-22)
What Differences Do You See Between These Two Feasts?	
Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)	First of Weeks / Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-22)

2. Understanding Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)

- a. What is implied in the term, “firstfruits”? (cf. Romans 11:16)
- b. When would Israel be able to keep this feast?
- c. What day of the week was firstfruits?
- d. What offerings were given to God? How were they given?
- e. Who ate the firstfruits offerings? (cf. Numbers 18:8-13; Ezekiel 44:30; Leviticus 2:16)
- f. What additional instructions are given in Leviticus 2:14-16 about firstfruits offerings?

3. Antitypes of Firstfruits

- a. How does 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 relate to firstfruits?
- b. What other connections do you see between firstfruits and the New Covenant?

Lesson 8 – Pentecost

4. Understanding Pentecost

- a. What other name does this feast go by?
 - i. Exodus 34:22 –
 - ii. Deuteronomy 16:10 –
- b. Read Leviticus 23:15-22 and answer the following questions.
 - i. When did this feast take place?
 - ii. What was offered at this feast?
 - iii. Look back at the calendar from Lesson 2. What kind of grain would be offered?
 - iv. Why might there be two loaves offered on this feast?
 - v. What is the instruction given in verse 22 about reaping? How does this relate to Ruth 2?

5. Antitypes of Pentecost

- a. Giving of the Law / Giving of the Spirit
 - i. Quote from Barney Kasdan: **“Rabbis discovered that the Israelites came to Mount Sinai in the third month after Passover (Exodus 19:1). Shavuot is the day Moses received the Law to deliver to the people. Modern observance includes celebrating the giving of the Torah. Hence, the rabbinic name for Shavuot is Zman Matan Torateynu (the Time of the Giving of our Law).”**¹
 - ii. Provided this tradition is true, how does Pentecost parallel the events of Acts 2?
 - iii. What contrast do you see between Exodus 32:25-29 and Acts 2:37-41?
- b. How does Leviticus 23:22 relate to Acts 2:44; 4:34?
- c. How does Romans 8:23, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, and James 1:18 relate to this feast?
- d. What other connections do you see between Pentecost and the New Covenant?

¹ Kasdan, Barney. God's Appointed Times: A Practical Guide For Understanding and Celebrating The Biblical Holy Days . INgrooves. Kindle Edition.

Lesson 9 – Trumpets

1. Biblical Survey of the Use of Trumpets
 - a. What uses did the Trumpets have in Numbers 10:1-10?

 - b. What uses did Trumpets have in these other passages?
 - i. Exodus 19:16-20 –
 - ii. Leviticus 25:9-10 –
 - iii. Ezekiel 33:1-7 –
 - iv. Joel 2:1 –
 - v. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 –
 - vi. Matthew 24:29-31; cf. Isaiah 27:13 –

2. Understanding the Feast (Leviticus 23:23-25)
 - a. Verse 24 says this is a “memorial.” What would be remembered by blowing the trumpets?

 - b. What was offered to God on this feast? (Look also at Numbers 29:1-6)

 - c. What additional events in Israel’s history happened on the feast of Trumpets?
 - i. Ezra 3:1-6

 - ii. Nehemiah 8:1-12

3. Based on what we have studied, how do you see Jesus fulfilling the feast of trumpets?

Lesson 10 – Day of Atonement

1. Survey of Leviticus 16

a. General Instructions, Pt. 1 (16:1-10)

- i. What is significant about mentioning Nadab and Abihu in verse 1?

- ii. How was the high priest commanded to dress?

- iii. How many total sacrifices were offered on the Day of Atonement?

b. Sacrifices for Priest (16:11-14)

- i. Before Aaron could sacrifice for the people, what did he need to do first?

- ii. Where is significant about the “cloud” in verse 13? (cf. Ex. 19:16; 1 Kgs 8:10-13)

c. Sacrifices for the People (16:15-22)

- i. What does the High Priest do with the blood?

- ii. Why would the Holy Place need to be cleaned? (vs. 16)

- iii. Verse 21 uses the three main Hebrew words for “sin.” Define them below.
 1. Iniquities
 2. Transgressions
 3. Sins

- iv. What is differs between laying hands on the scapegoat and the regular offerings? (Lev. 1:4)

d. Concluding Instructions (16:23-28)

- i. What was the High Priest commanded to do with linen garments?

- ii. What was carried outside the camp?

- e. General Instructions, Pt. 2 (16:29-34)
 - i. What does “afflict” mean? (cf. Lev. 23:27, 29, 32) How should we think about our sin?

 - ii. How often was the Day of Atonement to be kept?

2. Antitypes of the Day of Atonement

- a. How does Leviticus 16:1-3 relate to Hebrews 10:19-25?

- b. How does Leviticus 16:6, 11-14 relate to Hebrews 5:3?

- c. How does Leviticus 16:23 relate to Matthew 27:57-59 and John 20:4-7? (cf. Rev. 5:6; 19:11-16)

- d. How does the scapegoat imagery apply to Jesus? (Hebrews 13:12)?

- e. How does Leviticus 16:34 relate to Hebrews 9:11-10:18?

- f. What other connections do you see between the Day of Atonement and the New Covenant?

Lesson 11 – Booths

Introduction: The feast of Booths was also known by “the feast of tabernacles” and “The Feast of Ingathering” (Exodus 23:16). It was such a prominent feast that 1 Kings 8:2 refers to it simply as, “The Feast.” When Jeroboam created the golden calves in the Northern Kingdom, it was this particular feast he “competed with” (1 Kings 12:32-33). This was the final feast of the year under the Law of Moses. Later feasts (Purim and Hanukkah) were added later in Jewish history.

1. Read Leviticus 23:33-44 and Numbers 29:12-38 and fill in what happened on each day of this feast

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
15 Tishri	16 Tishri	17 Tishri	18 Tishri	19 Tishri	20 Tishri	21 Tishri	22 Tishri

2. Purpose of Booths

- a. What is the purpose of Booths seen in Leviticus 23:40 and Deuteronomy 16:13-15?
- b. Why might the Israelites be commanded to dwell in booths for seven days? (Lev. 23:42)
- c. What would happen at this feast every seven years? (Deuteronomy 31:10-18)
- d. What does Nehemiah 8:13-18 indicate about how often the nation kept this feast?

3. Antitypes of Booths

- a. How does John 1:14 relate to Booths?
- b. How does John 7:37-39 relate to Booths?
- c. How MIGHT 2 Corinthians 5:2 relate to Booths?
- d. What other connections do you see between the Day of Atonement and the New Covenant?