



INTRODUCTION

In this study, we'll explore the significance of God's appointed feasts as described in **Leviticus 23** and throughout the Old Testament. These feasts—established by God Himself for the people of Israel—are more than historical rituals or cultural traditions. They're profound symbols of **God's redemptive plan for humanity, pointing us to Jesus Christ** and His fulfillment of each feast.

Over the next seven weeks, we will closely examine each of the seven feasts:

1. **Passover** (Pesach)
2. **The Feast of Unleavened Bread** (Chag HaMatzot)
3. **The Feast of Firstfruits** (Bikkurim)
4. **The Feast of Weeks** (Shavuot or Pentecost)
5. **The Feast of Trumpets** (Rosh Hashanah)
6. **The Day of Atonement** (Yom Kippur)
7. **The Feast of Tabernacles** (Sukkot)

Each feast holds layers of meaning, rich with cultural, prophetic, and spiritual significance. In his book, *The Seven Feasts of Israel*, Zola Levitt skillfully unveils how these holy days not only shaped Israel's history but also reveal God's eternal plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. Together, we'll connect the feasts to their fulfillment in the Messiah, deepening our understanding of the Gospel and God's covenantal faithfulness.

Key Scripture: Leviticus 23:1-2

Other Scripture References: Leviticus 23:4, 23:37, Numbers 29:39, 10:10, Exodus 12:16, 23:14-17, Psalm 81:3, and Joel 2:15

Accompanying Book References: *The Seven Feasts of Israel* by Zola Levitt pages 1-2.

Topics:

- Overview of the feasts and their significance in Israel's history.
- How the feasts foreshadow Christ and God's redemptive plan.
- Why Christians should study and understand these feasts today.

Application: Discover the importance of aligning our worship with God's biblical timeline.

WHY STUDY THE FEASTS?

- To understand the Biblical roots of our faith and God's unfolding plan.
- To see how each feast points to Christ—His death, resurrection, and future return.
- To deepen our devotion and worship, recognizing God's sovereignty and His desire to dwell with His people.

Throughout this study, we'll discuss Scripture, historical background, and practical applications. This study promises to enrich your walk with the Lord as we discover His redemptive story written across the pages of Scripture.

Let us approach this time with open hearts and minds, ready to marvel at the intricate beauty of God's Word.

As Psalm 119:18 says:

"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL

God's relationship with Israel is a central theme throughout the Bible, rooted in a covenantal bond and marked by God's steadfast love, faithfulness, and

purpose. This relationship unfolds across the Old and New Testaments and reveals both God's character and His plan for redemption.

These are the highlights of that relationship.

1. The Covenant with Abraham

The relationship begins with God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12, 15, 17). God promises to make Abraham's descendants into a great nation, bless them, and give them the land of Canaan. Through this covenant, Israel becomes God's chosen people, set apart for His purposes.

2. The Covenant at Sinai

After delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12), God establishes the Mosaic Covenant at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19-24). Israel is given the Law, including the Ten Commandments, which define how they are to live in obedience to God. This covenant emphasizes Israel's role as a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6).

3. God's Faithfulness and Israel's Disobedience

Throughout the Old Testament, Israel often struggles to remain faithful. They frequently fall into idolatry, disobedience, and rebellion. Yet, God remains faithful, sending prophets to call them to repentance and restoration. His relationship with Israel reflects His patience and mercy, as seen in passages like Hosea 11:1-9, where God describes His love as that of a father for a wayward child.

4. The Promise of a Messiah

Despite Israel's failures, God promises to send a Messiah through the line of David (2 Samuel 7). This promise points to Jesus Christ, who fulfills God's covenant by offering salvation to Israel and the nations.

5. Israel in the New Testament

In the New Testament, Jesus fulfills God's promises to Israel (Matthew 5:17). While many Israelites reject Him, the early church begins with Jewish believers.

The Apostle Paul emphasizes that God's promises to Israel are irrevocable (Romans 11:1-2, 11:29), and that God's plan includes both Jews and Gentiles through faith in Christ.

6. The Purpose of the Relationship

God's relationship with Israel serves as a foundation for His plan to redeem humanity. Through Israel, He reveals His holiness, justice, and grace. Israel becomes a light to the nations (Isaiah 49:6), pointing to the ultimate fulfillment of God's redemptive work in Jesus Christ.

God's relationship with Israel is built on His covenants, His faithfulness, and His desire to redeem all people. While Israel's story includes periods of disobedience and judgment, it also highlights God's enduring love and His ultimate plan to bless the world through His chosen people.

GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH US TODAY

God's relationship with Christians is grounded in His love, grace, and the new covenant established through Jesus Christ. This relationship is personal, transformational, and eternal, reflecting God's desire for fellowship with humanity.

These are the highlights of our relationship with God.

1. Rooted in Love and Grace

God's relationship with Christians begins with His love. John 3:16 declares, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." This love is unconditional and demonstrated through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, offering forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God (Romans 5:8).

2. The New Covenant

The relationship is built on the new covenant, prophesied in the Old Testament (Jeremiah 31:31-34) and fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus established a covenant where believers are saved by grace through faith, not by

works (Ephesians 2:8-9). This covenant secures forgiveness, transforms hearts, and brings believers into God's family.

3. Adopted as God's Children

Christians are adopted as sons and daughters of God. Romans 8:15-17 says, "You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" Through this adoption, Christians enjoy an intimate relationship with God as their Father, sharing in the inheritance of eternal life with Christ.

4. Union with Christ

Believers are united with Christ through faith. Galatians 2:20 explains, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." This union transforms Christians, allowing them to grow in holiness, reflect Christ's character, and experience His power and presence in their lives.

5. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

God dwells in believers through the Holy Spirit, who guides, comforts, and empowers them (John 14:16-17). The Spirit assures Christians of their salvation, produces spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22-23), and equips them for God's work.

6. A Covenant of Faithfulness

God remains faithful to Christians, even when they stumble. 1 John 1:9 promises, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This faithfulness ensures that nothing can separate believers from God's love (Romans 8:38-39).

7. Participation in God's Mission

Christians are called to participate in God's mission, sharing the gospel and making disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). As part of God's family, believers serve as ambassadors of His kingdom, reflecting His light to the world (2 Corinthians 5:20).

8. A Future Hope

God promises Christians an eternal future with Him. Revelation 21:3-4 describes this final fulfillment: "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man... He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more." This hope sustains Christians through trials and suffering.

God's relationship with Christians is one of love, grace, and faithfulness. Through Christ's sacrifice, believers are forgiven, adopted into God's family, and transformed by the Holy Spirit. This relationship calls Christians to grow in holiness, reflect God's love, and look forward to an eternal future with Him. It is a relationship of intimacy, security, and purpose, sustained by God's unchanging faithfulness.

God's relationship with Israel is rooted in the Old Covenant, where Israel is chosen as a nation to reveal God's holiness, justice, and plan for redemption through obedience to the Law and the promises given to Abraham, Moses, and David. This covenant is national, conditional, and focused on Israel's role as a light to the nations. In contrast, God's relationship with Christians is based on the New Covenant, established through Jesus Christ, where salvation comes by grace through faith, not by works. It is a personal, spiritual relationship marked by adoption as God's children, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and a global call to share the gospel. While Israel's covenant pointed toward Christ, the Christian relationship fulfills it, uniting all believers—Jew and Gentile—into God's eternal family.

May this study deepen your faith, enhance your understanding of Scripture, and draw you closer to the Messiah—Jesus, our Passover Lamb and coming King.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. Who is speaking to Moses, and what does God call the feasts in this passage? Read **Leviticus 23:1-2**.

What does it mean that these feasts are described as “appointed times” or “holy convocations”?

2. According to **Leviticus 23:4** and **Leviticus 23:37**, what is the purpose of the feasts, and how were they to be observed?
3. How many feasts are mentioned in **Exodus 23:14-17**, and what does God require of His people during these times?

Why do you think God commands that “no one is to appear before me empty-handed”?

4. What role did trumpets and the new moon play in Israel's worship and celebration of the feasts in **Numbers 10:10** and **Psalms 81:3**?

How does this emphasize the importance of remembering and worshiping God at specific times?

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

5. In what ways do **Numbers 29:39** and **Joel 2:15** connect the feasts and festivals to acts of worship, sacrifice, and community gatherings?

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Why might God emphasize blowing trumpets and calling a “solemn assembly” during these times?

6. What does the inclusion of “rest” and “sacrifice” in the feasts teach about the relationship between worship, work, and dependence on God in **Exodus 12:16** (regarding Passover) and **Leviticus 23:37**?

How do these commands reveal God’s desire for His people to honor Him and trust in His provision?

7. How do the seven feasts, as outlined in **Leviticus 23**, reflect Israel’s history and God’s work of redemption for His people?

What do these “appointed times” teach about God’s character and His desire to dwell with His people?

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TODAY?

8. How do the seven feasts foreshadow Jesus Christ and God’s redemptive plan for humanity?

For example, how does Passover (**Exodus 12:16**) point to Jesus as the ultimate Passover Lamb (**1 Corinthians 5:7**)?

9. Why is it important for Christians today to study and understand the biblical feasts?

How can learning about these appointed times deepen our worship and understanding of God’s timeline for redemption?

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

10. What can we learn about aligning our worship with God's biblical calendar and appointed times?

Are there ways in your life where you can intentionally set aside time to reflect, rest, and worship as Israel did during the feasts?

BONUS CHALLENGE QUESTION (OPTIONAL):

Reflect on **Psalm 81:3** and **Joel 2:15**. How does the idea of "blowing the trumpet" or gathering in solemn assembly speak to the importance of worshiping God together as a community? How might this apply to modern-day worship practices?