

Fundamental Belief: The Festivals of God

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Introduction:

As we prepare to keep the Spring Holy Days that begin this week, I thought it would be “meat in due season” to give this message. Since most mainstream Christian churches do not observe the Holy Days, I feel it is worthwhile to go through the scriptures and see what the bible says.

“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Matthew 24:45

#12. GOD’S APPOINTED HOLY DAYS

We believe in keeping God’s commanded observance of the seven annual Holy Days that were “appointed” by God. They were kept by Jesus Christ, the apostles and the New Testament Church; and will be observed by all mankind during Christ's millennial reign. These Holy Days reveal God's plan of salvation.

(Colossians 2:16-17; 1 Peter 1:19-20; 1 Corinthians 5:8; 15:22-26; 16:8; James 1:18; Exodus 23:14-17; Leviticus 23; Luke 2:41-42; 22:14-15; John 7:2, 8, 10, 14; Acts 2:1; 18:21; 20:16; Zechariah 14:16-21).

Col 2:16 NKJV - So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,

Col 2:17 NKJV - which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

1Pe 1:17 NKJV - And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay [here] in fear;

1Pe 1:18 NKJV - knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, [like] silver or gold, from your aimless conduct [received] by tradition from your fathers,

1Pe 1:19 NKJV - but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1Pe 1:20 NKJV - He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

1Pe 1:21 NKJV - who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1Co 5:7 NKJV - Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

1Co 5:8 NKJV - Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened [bread] of sincerity and truth.

1Co 15:22 NKJV - For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

1Co 15:23 NKJV - But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those [who are] Christ's at His coming.

1Co 15:24 NKJV - Then [comes] the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

1Co 15:25 NKJV - For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

1Co 15:26 NKJV - The last enemy [that] will be destroyed [is] death.

1Co 16:8 NKJV - But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.

Jas 1:18 NKJV - Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

Exo 23:14 NKJV - "Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year:

Exo 23:15 NKJV - "You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty);

Exo 23:16 NKJV - "and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of

Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in [the fruit of] your labors from the field.

Exo 23:17 NKJV - "Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

Lev 23:1-44 NKJV - 1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim [to be] holy convocations, these [are] My feasts.

3 'Six days shall work be done, **but the seventh day [is] a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation.** You shall do no work [on it]; it [is] **the Sabbath of the LORD** in all your dwellings.

4 **'These [are] the feasts of the LORD,** holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.

5 'On the fourteenth [day] of the first month at twilight [is] **the LORD's Passover.**

6 'And on the fifteenth day of the same month [is] **the Feast of Unleavened Bread** to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.

7 'On the **first day you shall have a holy convocation**; you shall do no customary work on it.

8 'But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. **The seventh day [shall be] a holy convocation**; you shall do no customary work [on it].' "

9 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.

11 'He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

12 'And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD.

13 'Its grain offering [shall be] two-tenths [of an ephah] of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering [shall be] of wine, one-fourth of a hin.

14 'You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; [it shall be] a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

15 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: **seven Sabbaths shall be completed.**

16 '**Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath**; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.

17 'You shall bring from your dwellings two wave [loaves] of two-tenths [of an ephah]. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. [They are] the firstfruits to the LORD.

18 'And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be [as] a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD.

19 'Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering.

20 'The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits [as] a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.

21 'And you shall proclaim **on the same day [that] it is a holy convocation to you.** You shall do no customary work [on it]. It shall be] a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

22 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I [am] the LORD your God.' "

23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

24 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: '**In the seventh month, on the first [day] of the month, you shall have a sabbath-[rest], a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.**

25 'You shall do no customary work [on it]; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.' "

26 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 27 **"Also the tenth [day] of this seventh month [shall be] the Day of Atonement.** It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.

28 "And you shall do no work on that same day, for it [is] the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.

29 "For any person who is not afflicted [in soul] on that same day shall be cut off from his people.

30 "And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people.

31 "You shall do no manner of work; [it shall be] a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

32 "It [shall be] to you a sabbath of [solemn] rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth [day] of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."

33 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

34 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month [shall be] **the Feast of Tabernacles** [for] seven days to the LORD.

35 'On **the first day [there shall be] a holy convocation**. You shall do no customary work [on it].

36 '[For] seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On **the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation**, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It [is] a sacred assembly, [and] you shall do no customary work [on it].

37 '**These [are] the feasts of the LORD** which you shall proclaim [to be] holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day--

38 'besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD.

39 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, **you shall keep the feast of the LORD [for] seven days; on the first day [there shall be] a sabbath-[rest], and on the eighth day a sabbath-[rest]**.

40 'And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.

41 'You shall keep it as a feast **to the LORD** for seven days in the year. [It shall be] a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

42 'You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,

43 'that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I [am] the LORD your God.' "

44 So Moses declared to the children of Israel **the feasts of the LORD**.

Luk 2:41-42 NKJV - 41 His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the **Feast of the Passover**.

42 And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.

Luk 22:14-15 NKJV - 14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.

15 Then He said to them, "With [fervent] desire I have desired to eat this **Passover** with you before I suffer;

John 7:2, 8, 10, 14 NKJV - 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.

... 8 "You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come."

... 10 But when His brothers had gone up, then **He also went up to the feast**, not openly, but as it were in secret.

... 14 Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught.

Act 2:1 NKJV - 1 When the **Day of Pentecost** had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Act 18:21 NKJV - 21 but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means **keep this coming feast in Jerusalem**; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus.

Act 20:16 NKJV - 16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the **Day of Pentecost**.

Zec 14:16-21 NKJV - 16 And it shall come to pass [that] everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem **shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles**.

17 And it shall be [that] whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they [shall have] no [rain]; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the **Feast of Tabernacles**.

20 In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be [engraved] on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

21 Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

1. God's Holy Days Are Commanded Observances

God's appointed festivals (Leviticus 23:2–4) are to be kept in obedience to Him—not replaced by man-made, pagan-derived holidays (Deuteronomy 12:29–32).

Deu 12:29-32 NKJV - 29 "When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,

30 **"take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them**, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.'

31 **"You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way**; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

[Similar verses: Rev 22:18-19 NKJV - 18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to these things**, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

19 **and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy**, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book.]

These feasts are divine appointments (Hebrew mo'edim) that reveal God's plan and are rooted in the agricultural harvest seasons (Exodus 23:14–16; Deuteronomy 16:1–17).

Leviticus 23:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: '**The feasts of the LORD**, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, **these are My feasts**.'

Lev 23:3-4 NKJV - 3 'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day [is] a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work [on it]; it [is] the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

4 **'These [are] the feasts of the LORD**, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.

Deu 16:1-17 NKJV - 1 "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the **Passover to the LORD your God**, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night.

2 "Therefore you shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God, from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to put His name.

3 "You shall eat **no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it**, [that is], the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.

4 "And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory for seven days, nor shall [any] of the meat which you sacrifice the first day at twilight remain overnight until morning.

5 "You may not sacrifice the Passover within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you;

6 "but at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide, there you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt.

7 "And you shall roast and eat [it] in the place which the LORD your God chooses, and in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents.

8 "Six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there [shall be] a sacred assembly to the LORD your God. You shall do no work [on it].

9 "You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from [the time] you begin [to put] the sickle to the grain.

10 "Then you shall keep the **Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God** with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.

11 "You shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your

female servant, the Levite who [is] within your gates, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who [are] among you, at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.

12 "And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.

13 "You shall observe the **Feast of Tabernacles seven days**, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress.

14 "And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who [are] within your gates.

15 "Seven days you shall keep **a sacred feast to the LORD** your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.

16 "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

17 "**Every man [shall give] as he is able**, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.

2. The Festivals Symbolize God's Plan of Salvation

Each festival pictures a major step in **God's plan to redeem humanity**. The physical harvests of the Barley, then the Wheat and then the Fruits, represent spiritual harvests of people (Matthew 9:37–38; John 4:35; John 15:1–8). These appointed times point to Jesus Christ and His work (Colossians 2:16–17).

Exodus 23:15 You shall **keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread** (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty);

Exodus 23:16 and the **Feast of Harvest the firstfruits** of your labours which you have sown in the field; and **the Feast of Ingathering (fruits) at the end of the year**, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labours from the field.

Exodus 34:22 "And you shall observe the **Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest**, and the **Feast of Ingathering at the year's end**.

Mat 9:37-38 NKJV - 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly [is] plentiful, but the laborers [are] few.

38 "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

John 4:35 NKJV - 35 "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and [then] comes the **harvest**'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

John 15:1-8 NKJV - 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every [branch] that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you [are] the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, **bears much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw [them] into the fire, and they are burned.

7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

8 "By this My Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples.

Matthew 7:17 KJV - Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Matthew 7:18 KJV - A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Matthew 7:19 KJV - Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Col 2:16-17 NKJV - 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,
17 **which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.**

3. Jesus and the Early Church Kept the Holy Days

Jesus kept the Holy Days (John 7:8–14), and His followers are to walk as He walked (1 John 2:6). The New Testament Church began on Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4) and continued observing God's festivals long after Christ's resurrection (Acts 18:21; 20:16; 27:9; 1 Corinthians 5:8).

John 7:8-13 NKJV - 8 "You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come."

9 When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

10 But when His brothers had gone up, then **He also went up to the feast**, not openly, but as it were in secret.

11 Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?"

12 And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people."

13 However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

John 7:14 Now about the **middle of the feast (of Tabernacles)** Jesus went up into the temple and taught.

Act 2:1 When the **Day of Pentecost** had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Act 2:2-4 NKJV - 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and [one] sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Act 18:21 but (Paul) took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this **coming feast in Jerusalem**; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus.

Act 20:16 NKJV - 16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the **Day of Pentecost**.

Act 27:9 NKJV - 9 Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because **the Fast** was already over, Paul advised them,

1Co 5:8 NKJV - 8 Therefore let us **keep the feast, not with old leaven**, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with **the unleavened [bread] of sincerity and truth**.

4. The Spring Festivals Point to Christ's First Coming Passover:

Christ is our sacrificial Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18–20).

1Peter 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

1Peter 1:19 but with the **precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

1Pe 1:20-21 NKJV - 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1Co 5:7-8 NKJV - 7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed **Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**

8 **Therefore let us keep the feast,** not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened [bread] of sincerity and truth.

Unleavened Bread: Teaches us to live a life free from sin (1 Corinthians 5:8; Exodus 12:19).

1Corinthians 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Exo 12:18-20 NKJV - 18 'In the first [month], on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.

19 'For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether [he is] a stranger or a native of the land.

20 'You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.' "

Pentecost: Celebrates the giving of the Holy Spirit and the firstfruits of salvation (Acts 2:1–4; James 1:18; Romans 8:23).

Romans 8:23 Not only that, but we also who have **the firstfruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Act 2:1-4 NKJV - 1 When the **Day of Pentecost** had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and [one] sat upon each of them.

4 And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Jas 1:18 NKJV - 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

5. The Fall Festivals Reveal Christ's Return and Reign

Feast of Trumpets: Symbolizes Christ's return and the resurrection of the saints (1 Corinthians 15:52–53; Revelation 11:15. Joel 3:14-16).

1Co 15:51-53 NKJV - 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--
52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**
53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

Rev 11:15 NKJV - 15 Then **the seventh angel sounded:** And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become [the kingdoms] of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Joel 3:15 The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness.

Joel 3:16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

Day of Atonement: Represents the removal of Satan and reconciliation through Christ's atoning work (Leviticus 16:29–30; Hebrews 9:11–14; Revelation 20:1–3).

Leviticus 16:29 "This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict (fast) your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you.

Leviticus 16:30 For on that day the priest shall make **atonement** for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

Leviticus 16:31 It is a sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict (fast) your souls. It is a statute forever.

Heb 9:11-14 NKJV - 11 But **Christ came [as] High Priest** of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,
14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Rev 20:1-3 NKJV - 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is [the] Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

6. The Feast of Tabernacles Foreshadows the Millennial Kingdom

This seven-day feast pictures Christ's 1,000-year reign on earth and the ingathering of humanity into God's Kingdom (Leviticus 23:39–43; Revelation 19:11–16; 20:4; Isaiah 2:2–4). Believers live in temporary dwellings, symbolizing life in a temporary world under Christ's soon-coming rule.

Leviticus 23:39 'Also on the **fifteenth day of the seventh month**, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for **seven days**; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest.

Lev 23:40 'And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. ...

Leviticus 23:41 You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a **statute forever** in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

42 'You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,

Rev 19:11-16 NKJV - 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes [were] like a flame of fire, and on His head [were] many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He [was] clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And He has on [His] robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev 20:4 NKJV - 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then [I saw] the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received [his] mark on their foreheads or on their hands. **And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

Isa 2:2-4 NKJV - 2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days [That] the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.

3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

7. Eighth Day (Last Great Day) Final Judgment and Salvation

The final festival pictures the resurrection of those who never had a full opportunity for salvation (Ezekiel 37:1–14; Revelation 20:11–13; Romans 11:25–27). This day completes God's plan to offer eternal life to all humanity.

Revelation 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

Rev 20:13 NKJV - 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

Eze 37:1-14 NKJV - 1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the **valley; and it [was] full of bones.**

2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, [there were] very many in the open valley; and indeed [they were] very dry.

3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."

4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!'

5 'Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "**Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.**

6 "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I [am] the LORD." ' "

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.

8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but [there was] no breath in them.

9 Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' "

10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!'

12 "Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

13 "Then you shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.

14 "**I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken [it] and performed [it],**" says the LORD.' "

Rom 11:25-33 NKJV - 25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

26 **And so all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

27 For this [is] My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

28 Concerning the gospel [they are] enemies for your sake, but concerning the election [they are] beloved for the sake of the fathers.

29 For the gifts and the calling of God [are] irrevocable.

30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience,

31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy.

32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable [are] His judgments and His ways past finding out!

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Additional Resources:

God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind

<https://www.ucg.org/learn/bible-study-aids/gods-holy-day-plan-promise-hope-all-mankind>

Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Matter Which Days We Observe?

<https://www.ucg.org/learn/bible-study-aids/holidays-or-holy-days-does-it-matter-which-days-we-observe>

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