

What Holidays Does God Want Us to Celebrate?

God-Given Holidays (Holy Days) for the Nation Israel

Most (not all) of the holidays celebrated by the Jews were mandated by God. He gave them specific days, and how they were to be celebrated. Each celebrated a past event, and looked forward to a future event.

The first one of the year was Passover. It looked back to the time when God brought the Jews out of slavery in Egypt. It looked forward to the time when Jesus Christ would be sacrificed to bring all people out of their slavery to sin.

Leviticus 23:4-5 (page 128)

These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the **fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover.**

The day after Passover was the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It looked back to the haste with which the Jews left Egypt--they had no time to let their bread rise before it was baked. It looked forward to the time when a sinless savior (Christ) would spend 3 days in the tomb. (Leaven was symbolic of sin, so bread without leaven would represent someone without sin.)

Leviticus 23:6 (page 128)

And on the **fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.**

At the end of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (7 days,) was the Feast of Firstfruits. It spoke of the harvest that God would give Israel when they came into their land. It looked forward to the resurrection from the dead of the Lord Jesus Christ. He would be the first fruit of all of us who are believers to rise from the dead, never to die again.

Leviticus 23:9-11 (page 128)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, **then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:** And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

The next feast in the year was Pentecost. Just as the Feast of Firstfruits commemorated the first of the harvest--Pentecost, 50 days later--would commemorate the end of the harvest. It looked forward to the time that all believers in Israel would gather together to receive the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2)

Leviticus 23:15-16, 24-25 (page 128)

And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

The previous 4 feasts are all celebrated in the spring and the events for which they are prophetic have already happened. The events prophesied also occurred within the same year, the last year that the Lord Jesus Christ was on earth.

The next 3 feasts, fall feasts, are also commemorative and prophetic, but the events they prophesy have not yet occurred. The events they prophesy will also not happen in the same year, like the first 4 feasts.

Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. **Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.**

The first is the Feast of Trumpets, known as Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. It is a celebration. The Bible does not say this, but because it is a celebration, there is speculation that Jesus was born on the Feast of Trumpets. Many Jews believe that He will return to set up His earthly kingdom on the Feast of Trumpets.

Leviticus 23:24 (page 128)

Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

Nine days later, quite the opposite, there is a day of atonement, where the nation was supposed to “afflict your souls,” known as Yom Kippur. Israel was warned, as they were being given the Law, that if they didn’t follow God’s Law, they would receive 7 years (7 times) of punishment.

Leviticus 26:24 (page 133)

Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will **punish you yet seven times for your sins.**

Leviticus 23:26-28 (page 128)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement:** it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

This feast is prophetic of the Tribulation, God’s wrath and judgment which will be poured upon the earth for 7 years.

The last of the fall feasts is the Feast of Tabernacles. It lasts for 7 days. It commemorates the 40 years of Israel wandering in the desert with God supplying

them with food, drink, and making sure that their clothing and shoes did not wear out.

Deuteronomy 29:5 (page 216)

And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: **your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.**

Leviticus 23:33-35 (page 129)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, **The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.** On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

Leviticus 23:42-44 (page 129)

Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

The Feast of Tabernacles is prophetic of the protection that God will provide the faithful of Israel (who have not taken the mark of the beast) during the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation.

Revelation 12:14 (page 1158)

And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, **where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.**

What does God want us to celebrate today? Holy days and feasts are part of the Law given to Israel. We are not under the Law so we are free to celebrate or not celebrate any holiday. Paul calls continued adherence to the Law while we are under Grace “weak and beggarly elements.”

Romans 3:28 (page 1052)

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Galatians 4:9-11 (page 1089)

But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

Romans 14:1-6 (page 1061)

Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

Colossians 2:8 (page 1102)

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Colossians 2:16-17 (page 1102)

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: **Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.**

Colossians 2:20 (page 1102)

Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

Why do people want to celebrate seasons such as Lent and Advent? How about Christmas and Easter, even though there is no Biblical directive to do so?

Matthew 6:5 (page 895)

5And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, **They have their reward.**

Isaiah 64:6 (page 699)

But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;** and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Matthew 15:8-9 (page 907)

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**

Colossians 2:20-23 (1102)

Wherefore **if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,** (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) **after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship,** and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

Matthew 23:27-28 (page 917)

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are **within full of dead**

men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Romans 10:2-4 (page 1058)

For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (page 1085)

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; **whose end shall be according to their works.**

How about the Sabbath Day? Did you know God never changed it to Sunday?

Deuteronomy 5:12-14 (page 190)

Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee. Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

Numbers 15:29-36 (page 158)

How serious is God about His Law?