

**THE FEASTS OF THE LORD**  
The Old Testament Today  
Banska Bystrica, 27th March 2022

שְׁלוֹשׁ פְּעָמִים בַּשָּׁנָה יִרְאֶה אֶת־פָּנָי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ  
בְּמָקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר בְּחַג הַמַּצּוֹת וּבְחַג הַשִּׁבְעוֹת  
וּבְחַג הַסּוּפּוֹת וְלֹא יִרְאֶה אֶת־פָּנָי יְהוָה רִיקָם

**Deut 16:16** "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths.

**Leviticus 23:1-44** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts. <sup>3</sup> "Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places. <sup>4</sup> "These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. <sup>5</sup> In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the LORD's Passover. <sup>6</sup> And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. <sup>7</sup> On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. <sup>8</sup> But you shall present a food offering to the LORD for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work." <sup>9</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>10</sup> "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest, <sup>11</sup> and he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. <sup>12</sup> And on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb a year old without blemish as a burnt offering to the LORD. <sup>13</sup> And the grain offering with it shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, a food offering to the LORD with a pleasing aroma, and the drink offering with it shall be of wine, a fourth of a hin. <sup>14</sup> And you shall eat neither bread nor grain parched or fresh until this same day, until you have brought the offering of your God: it is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. <sup>15</sup> "You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering. <sup>16</sup> You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the LORD. <sup>17</sup> You shall bring from your dwelling places two loaves of bread to be waved, made of two tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour, and they shall be baked with leaven, as firstfruits to the LORD. <sup>18</sup> And you shall present with the bread seven lambs a year old without blemish, and one bull from the herd and two rams. They shall be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD. <sup>19</sup> And you shall offer one male goat for a sin offering, and two male lambs a year old as a sacrifice of peace offerings. <sup>20</sup> And 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. <sup>21</sup> And you shall make proclamation on the same day. You shall hold a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a statute forever in all your dwelling places throughout your generations. <sup>22</sup> "And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God." <sup>23</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>24</sup> "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. <sup>25</sup> You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the LORD." <sup>26</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>27</sup> "Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present a food offering to the LORD. <sup>28</sup> And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. <sup>29</sup> For whoever is not afflicted on that very day shall be cut off from his people. <sup>30</sup> And whoever does any work on that very day, that person I will destroy from among his people. <sup>31</sup> You shall not do any work. It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. <sup>32</sup> It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. On the ninth day of the month beginning at evening, from evening to evening shall you keep your Sabbath." <sup>33</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>34</sup> "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the LORD. <sup>35</sup> On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. <sup>36</sup> For seven days you shall present food offerings to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work. <sup>37</sup> "These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim as times of

holy convocation, for presenting to the LORD food offerings, burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its proper day, <sup>38</sup> besides the LORD's Sabbaths and besides your gifts and besides all your vow offerings and besides all your freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD. <sup>39</sup> "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest. <sup>40</sup> And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. <sup>41</sup> You shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. <sup>42</sup> You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, <sup>43</sup> that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." <sup>44</sup> Thus Moses declared to the people of Israel the appointed feasts of the LORD.

## OUTLINE

### 0. INTRODUCTION

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### 1. WHY FEASTS?

- 1.1. REST
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### 3. OT FEASTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

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- 3.2. FULFILLED IN CHRIST
- 3.3. "CHURCH YEAR"

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

Scotfield Study Bible:

23:2

### THE HEBREW RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

Israel's religious calendar began in Nisan (in the spring); their civil year, in Tishri (in the autumn). The seven festivals of the Hebrews were included within the first seven months of the religious calendar: the first three feasts (Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits) took place in the first month, Nisan; the last three (Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles), in the seventh month, Tishri. Between the first and last three was the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) which followed fifty days after the offering of the firstfruits.

The following table correlates the Hebrew religious calendar with the one generally accepted by Christians:

Nisan (or Abib)	= March–April	Tishri (or Ethanim)	= September–October
Iyyar (or Ziv)	= April–May	Marchesvan (or Bul)	= October–November
Sivan	= May–June	Chislev	= November–December
Tammuz	= June–July	Tebeth	= December–January
Ab	= July–August	Shebat	= January–February
Elul	= August–September	Adar	= February–March

About every six years an extra month (Second Adar, or leap-year month) was added because the calendar was based upon the moon instead of the sun.

### 0.1. WHY "HOLIDAYS"

- our problem: entertainment age; holidays for relaxation, fun, self...
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### 0.2. AN AGRARIAN SOCIETY AND US

- practically 100% of the population worked in agriculture
  - Globally, about 1 billion people\* work in the agricultural sector, about 28% of the population employed in 2018. This is down from 44% in 1991.<sup>1</sup>
- (1) remember when SHOPPING (food does not grow in supermarkets)
- (2) remember when EATING (meat is from ANIMALS; bread is from GRAIN; vegetables, fruit grow in FIELDS)
- (3) remember when talking about WEATHER (rain and sunshine) → Israel in the subtropical zone; rain-season ↔ dry season

### 0.3. THE SEVEN FESTIVALS

→ civil year began in Tishri; → religious year began in Nisan

- (1) Passover → Egypt
- (2) Unleavened Bread → haste from Egypt
- (3) First Fruits → (barley harvest), **dependence** on God's provision;
- (4) Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) → (wheat) **fullness** of God's provision
- (5) Trumpets → new year celebration; **Numbers 10:9** And when you go to war in your land against the adversary who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, that you may be remembered before the LORD your God, and you shall be saved from your enemies
- (6) The Day of Atonement → thorough cleansing before meeting God
- (7) Tabernacles → remembering wilderness; preparing to live with God

## 1. WHY FEASTS?

- life: (1) routine ↔ celebration; (2) fellowship ↔ solitude; (3) supplication ↔ thanksgiving/praise

### 1.1. REST

- shabbat → for everyone! PERSPECTIVE
- community; encouragement;

### 1.2. WORSHIP

- the GLORY of God; celebration; thanksgiving; remembering...
- meaning, "metanarrative";

## 2. THE TEACHING OF THE FEASTS

- Old Testament → New Testament

### 2.1. PERSONAL

- (1) Passover → the Cross, salvation, forgiveness; (2) Unleavened Bread → purity; regeneration, sanctification; (3) Firstfruits → dependence, consecration; (4) Pentecost → Jesus present in power; (5) Trumpets → spiritual war; (6) The Day of Atonement → final preparation (7) Tabernacles → living with Christ in heaven

### 2.2. CORPORATE

- "Heilsgeschichte" → God's program of world salvation

<sup>1</sup> <https://blog.resourcewatch.org/2019/05/30/map-of-the-month-how-many-people-work-in-agriculture/>

- (1) Passover → the Cross → the Lord's Supper; (2) Unleavened Bread → Jesus as the bread of life; (3) Firstfruits → resurrection; (4) Pentecost → The Holy Spirit mission; (5) Trumpets → end times; (6) The Day of Atonement → final purification of the church (7) Tabernacles → Second Coming

### 3. OT FEASTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- **1Cor 5:7-9** Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. <sup>9</sup> I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-

#### 3.1. NOT BINDING

- **Galatians 4:9-11** But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? <sup>10</sup> You observe days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup> I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain. (Ale teraz, keď ste poznali Boha, alebo skôr, keď Boh pozná vás, ako to, že sa znova vraciate k slabým a úbohým živlom a chcete im zasa slúžiť ako predtým?! <sup>10</sup> Zachováate dni, mesiace, obdobia a roky! <sup>11</sup> Bojím sa o vás, či sa azda nenamáham medzi vami nadarmo.)

#### 3.2. FULFILLED IN CHRIST

- **Matthew 11:28** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
- **Hebrews 4:1** Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it

#### 3.3. "CHURCH YEAR"

- remembering and celebrating Christ: Birth, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Pentecost

### 4. TO REMEMBER

- During holidays combine rest with worship!
- Although the meaning of the feasts has been fulfilled in Christ, we still need times for celebration and spiritual recuperation.
- Christian faith suffers in solitude (→ COVID-19). We receive blessing and instruction in community that can hardly be received otherwise.