



THE SPRING FEASTS: FROM PASSOVER TO PENTECOST

Notes by Pastor Joe Reeves

THE YEARLY CALENDAR OF FEASTS & CONVOCATIONS – Leviticus 23

The spring feasts point forward to the events of Jesus ministry on earth surrounding his first coming 2,000 years ago. The fall feasts point forward to the events of Jesus ministry in heaven surrounding his second coming in the near future. The remarkable detail and accuracy of the spring feasts foreshadowing His earthly ministry should give us unshakable confidence that He will yet complete the salvation of His children as promised!

1ST & 2ND SPRING FEAST: PASSOVER & FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD – Leviticus 23:4-8

Passover to the Jews is like Independence Day to Americans. It memorialized the birth of their nation when they gained independence from Egyptian bondage. The story is in Exodus 12. The Passover sacrifice was a powerful promise that the Son of God would offer Himself a sacrifice. As with other feasts, the Passover feast commemorated something in the past and pointed forward to something in the future. The Passover sacrifice was made at twilight on the 14th of the month. The Feast of Unleavened Bread began on the 15th.

1. The annual celebration of Passover was to commemorate what historical event?
Deuteronomy 16:1-6
2. What did they have to do to be delivered from the destroying angel?
 - a. *Apply the blood from the perfect Passover lamb on the doorposts (Exodus 12:7,13, 23).*
 - b. *Eat the Passover lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs (Exodus 12:8)*
 - c. *Cleanse the house from all leaven (Exodus 12:15,19-20)*
3. Who did the Passover lamb point forward to? **1 Corinthians 5:6-7**
As the Passover lamb was perfect and without blemish so Jesus was a sinless sacrifice. The Passover lamb was never to have a broken bone (Ex 12:46) to best represent Jesus who would be the only one to die on the cross that day without a broken bone (John 19:31-36).
4. What has to be purged from our lives like leaven from the house? **1 Corinthians 5:8**
5. What day did Jesus die on? **John 19:14, 31**

3RD SPRING FEAST: FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS – Leviticus 23:9-14

Waving a sheaf of grain from the firstfruits of the harvest before the Lord on the 16th of the month (the day after the Sabbath) was a guarantee that the larger harvest was coming soon.

When did Jesus become the firstfruits of a larger harvest to come? **1 Cor. 15-20-23**

On the 16th of the month (the day after the Sabbath) Jesus rose from the grave as the firstfruits of a larger resurrection that was guaranteed for all who believe in Him.

4TH SPRING FEAST: FEAST OF WEEKS – Leviticus 23:15-22

*The Feast of Weeks was a grand celebration of the ripened harvest. Feast Weeks happened 50 days after Passover. Feast of Weeks is later referred to as Pentecost (a transliteration of the Greek word pentekostos, which means “fifty.”) When the Jews kept the Feast of Weeks they also remembered that it was 50 days after Passover that God revealed Himself and gave His law on Mount Sinai.**

At Feast of Weeks they rejoiced in God’s abundant blessings, especially of that year’s harvest. **Deuteronomy 16:9-12.**

What happened 50 days after Jesus rose from the grave? **Acts 2:1-4**

How did the harvest of souls in the book of Acts happen? **John 15:16**

SPRING FEAST SUMMARY:

| FEAST | Calendar | Historical event | NT fulfillment |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------|
| Passover | Abib 14 | Passover | Crucifixion |
| Unleavened Bread | Abib 15-21 | Exodus from Egypt | Christ in grave |
| Firstfruits | Abib 16 | Guarantee of larger harvest | Resurrection |
| Feast of weeks/ Pentecost | Sivan 6 | Celebration of harvest/ God’s law given at Mt. Sinai | Pentecost/Acts 2 |

The crucifixion of Jesus on the cross on Friday, His rest in the grave on Sabbath, His resurrection on Sunday and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the church 50 days later – it was all planned to the very day millennia in advance. God made a plan for Jesus to save us. The combined principalities and powers in heavenly places and on earth could not even partially cancel, derail, or diminish the gifts of Jesus to fallen humanity! His gifts are complete, guaranteed, and forever irreversible.

RESPONSE:

1. Do you want to apply the blood of Jesus to your home for all the world to see?
2. Do you want to feast on Jesus – the perfect lamb of God?
3. Do you want sin cleansed from your house?

Footnote:

** Israel departed from Egypt on the 15th of the 1st month (Numbers 33:3). They came to the Wilderness of Sin 30 days later on the 15th of the 2nd month (Exodus 16:1). On the 46th day after the Exodus, on the 1st day of the 3rd month they came to the wilderness of Sinai (Exodus 19:1). It appears that Moses spent a day with God on the 47th after the Exodus (Exodus 19:11). On the 47th day since the Exodus God told them to prepare for Him to appear to the congregation after 3 days. On the 50th day, God appeared to them on Mount Sinai with lightning, thunder, the sound of a trumpet and a great earthquake. The whole congregation trembled as they heard God speak the ten-commandment law (Exodus 19:11-Exodus 20:21).*