

A BRIEF LOOK AT JEWISH FEASTS AND FESTIVALS

Introduction:

1. The Bible is filled with many things that we sometimes overlook.
2. In the Bible there are feasts and festivals that are mentioned.
3. Tonight we are going to take a brief look at each of these festivals to understand them more clearly.

I. The Passover Festival

- A. (Exodus 12:6; Leviticus 23:5,8; Numbers 28:16-25; Deuteronomy 16:1-8)
- B. This festival was celebrated the 14th day of the first month.
- C. It was celebrated about the same time as the barley harvest.
- D. This festival was actually two celebrations in one:
 1. The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread
 2. Since the two feasts were close together and they resembled each other, they were combined into one festival.
- E. During the festival a lamb was slain and it was eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
 1. The blood of the lamb symbolized the cleansing of sin.
 2. The unleavened bread symbolized purity.
 3. The bitter herbs symbolized the bitterness of the bondage in Egypt.
- F. Jesus was crucified during the Passover.

II. Pentecost

- A. (Numbers 28:26-31; Deuteronomy 16:11-12)
- B. This feast was celebrated 50 days after the offering of the barley sheaf during the Passover festival.
- C. The feast fell during the wheat harvest.
- D. It was also known as the Feast of Weeks or Feast of Firstfruits.
- E. This was a one-day festival.

III. The Feast of Tabernacles

- A. (Exodus 23:16; Leviticus 23:26, 33ff; Numbers 29:12-35; Deuteronomy 16:13-15; John 7:37)
- B. This feast fell at the end of the autumn harvest on the 15th day of the seventh month.
- C. During this feast the Israelites lived in leafy booths for seven days.
- D. This commemorated the wandering in the Wilderness.
- E. This feast was also known as the Feast of Booths or the Feast of Ingathering.

IV. The Day of Atonement

- A. (Leviticus 16; 23:26-32; Numbers 29:7-11)
- B. The Law of Moses called for one fast—The Day of Atonement.
- C. This day was set aside for the cleansing of sins.
- D. This day used a scapegoat.
- E. This goat symbolized the sins of the people. It was sent off or taken into the wilderness and abandoned to die. This symbolized that God had forgiven the sins of the people.

Conclusion:

1. Hopefully we can see through these feasts the reverence and honor we need to display to God.
2. The Israelites took many days to show their love and devotion to God.
3. Let's be sure that we show God the honor, reverence, respect, and glory He deserves.