

## God's Holy Days

### Leviticus 23

Group <sup>1</sup>	C	V	Description
Laws of Religious Festivals	23	1-2	Regarding God's appointed times
		3	Sabbath
		4-8	Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread
		9-14	Regarding offering of first fruits of the harvests
		15-21	Regarding Pentecost
		22	Regarding leaving something for the poor and needy
23-25		Regarding a day of rest in the seventh month	
26-32		Regarding the Day of Atonement in the seventh month	
33-36		Feast of Booths or Tabernacles	
37-38		God's appointed times for presenting offerings and sacrifices	
The Day of Atonement		39-44	Regarding living in “booths” for seven days and using palm branches in celebration

This chapter outlines the religious calendar for the nation which the priests were to lead the people in along with the required sacrifices and feasts that were to be observed. Note the emphasis in verse 4.

**Leviticus 23:4 NASB** 'These are the appointed times of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them.

Once the tabernacle was stationary and the temple was built, there were three times (Passover, Pentecost, and Day of Atonement/Booths) when a pilgrimage was required to be taken by all Jews to pray and offer sacrifices. There are indications that these times were not always celebrated nationally by their being called for by Hezekiah (2Ch 30) and Josiah (2Ki 23; 2Ch 35) of Judah after times of neglect. Ezra also reinstituted the national Passover celebration after the return from the exile and the rebuilding of the temple (Ezr 6). These holidays are still celebrated today by most Jews, although the pilgrimage to Jerusalem is not required since the temple was destroyed In AD 70, including Messianic Jews, who, along with Christians, believe that they all pointed to Jesus.

I've compiled a list of the various feasts in the Old Testament indicating how Jesus can be seen in them. This is not a definitive list but merely an overview. Much can be learned by further study of these special God appointed times and are well worth the time invested.

#### *Jesus can be seen in the Feasts of the Old Testament<sup>2</sup>*

Holiday	Jewish Name	Date	Scripture	Overview	Jesus in the Feast
Sabbath	Shabbat (Shab-BAT)	Fri Sunset → Sat Sunset	Gen 2; Exo 20	7th day of creation week rest and reflect on God	Jesus is rest for the weary and our eternal rest in heaven.
† Passover	Pesach (PAY-sahk)	14 Nisan (Mar or Apr)	Exo 12; Lev 23	God's Deliverance of Israel Out of Egypt	Jesus used the Passover to institute the Lord's Supper. The Perfect Sacrificial Lamb for us.

<sup>1</sup> (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

<sup>2</sup> (*Feasts of the Bible*; Kasdan; Olitzky and Judson; Nadler; Parsons, "The Jewish Holidays"; Parsons, "Jewish Calendar")

## God's Holy Days

Holiday	Jewish Name	Date	Scripture	Overview	Jesus in the Feast
Unleavened Bread	Hag HaMatzot (Hawg Hah-MAHT zot) Sfirat HaOmer	15-21 Nisan (Mar or Apr)	Exo 12; Lev 23	Celebrated with Passover, 7 days	Matzah stands for unleavened bread. Leaven represents sin. Jesus is the only sinless man. He is the Bread of Life.
Firstfruits	Reishit (Re-SHEET)	16Nisan (Mar or Apr)	Lev 23	Offerings for the Spring Barley Harvest	Jesus was resurrected on this day, Easter Sunday.
† Feast of Weeks or Pentecost	Shavout (Sha-voo-OTE)	2 Sivan (May or Jun)	Lev 23	Offerings of Summer Grain Harvest and Giving of the Law	50 days after Firstfruits. Disciples received the Holy Spirit in the upper room.
Feast of Trumpets New Year	Yom HaTeruah or Rosh HaShanah (Rosh Ha-SHA-nah)	1 Tishri (Sep or Oct)	Lev 23; Num 29	10 days of repentance. Called High Holy Days with Yom Kippur. Beginning of the New Year	Jesus will judge the living and the dead and all will appear before Him.
† Day of Atonement	Yom Kippur (Yome Ki-POOR)	10 Tishri (Sep-Oct)	Lev 23	10th day of Rosh HaShanah. The day the High Priest makes atonement for sin.	Jesus has entered the Holy of Holies as our High Priest who is ever making atonement for our sins.
† Feast of Booths or Tabernacles	Sukkot (Soo-KOTE)	15-22 Tishri (Sep-Oct)	Lev 23	Commemorates the 40 year wilderness journey. 8 days	Jesus is the Light of the world, our temporary home. (Possible time of Jesus' birth.)
Feast of Dedication	Hanukkah (KHA-noo-kah)	25 Kislev-2 Tevet (Nov or Dec)	John 10 (Maccabees)	Purification of the Temple. 8 days. Not in Old Testament.	Reminder to remain faithful to Jesus in spite of persecution. Jesus is & will return victorious.
Feast of Lots	Purim (POOR-im)	14 or 15 Adar (Feb or Mar)	Esther	Preservation of Jewish People	God's faithful protection of the His people. Jesus delivers sinners from a decree of death.

† - indicates required pilgrimages to Jerusalem by all Jews to pray and sacrifice

**Key Words:** Old Testament, Torah/Pentateuch, Leviticus, Sabbath, Feasts, Passover, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, New Year, Day of Atonement, Booths



This work by James Swanson is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) International License. Originally published at [studythebook.org](https://studythebook.org) on April 20, 2016.

## Bibliography

*Feasts of the Bible.* Torrance: RW Research, Rose Publishing, 2004. Print.

Kasdan, Barney. *God's Appointed Times: A Practical Guide for Understanding and Celebrating the Biblical Holidays.* Clarksville: Lederer Books; Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1993. Print.

Nadler, Sam. *Messiah In the Feasts of Israel.* Revised Edition. Charlotte: Word of Messiah Ministries,

## God's Holy Days

2006. Print.

(NASB) *New American Standard Bible*. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.

Olitzky, Kerry M., and Daniel Judson. *Jewish Holidays: A Brief Introduction for Christians*. Woodstock: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2007. Print.

Parsons, John J. "The Jewish Calendar." *Hebrew 4 Christians* - [www.hebrew4christians.com](http://www.hebrew4christians.com). Web.

---. "The Jewish Holidays." *Hebrew4Christians* - [www.hebrew4christians.com](http://www.hebrew4christians.com). Web.