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The Old Testament Feasts
Deut. 16:1-17

The Old Testament is an amazing blue print of God's prophetic plan for Israel and the Church. To Abraham God declared that through him all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Gen. 12:3

The statement includes both Israel and the Church for Paul clearly declares that Abraham is the father of Jew and Gentile who believe in faith in Christ and righteousness is imputed to them by believing in what God did in Christ. Rom. 4:9-12

The unfolding of God's wisdom regarding the Jew and the Gentile are laid out by Paul in Romans in the picture of Israel being the root olive tree and the gentiles the wild olive branches that has been grated in. Rom. 11:16-17

There are also many types that are presented in scripture to be fulfilled in the future as the anti types.

A good example of this would be Haman, Herod or even Hitler in our own contemporary times who are types of antichrists by attempting to destroy the Jewish race.

Yet the ultimate fulfillment will be by a man empowered by Satan to rule over the world for seven years and he will bring the greatest persecution to the Jews and gentiles who are saved at this final seven years of history.

The feast of the Jews are much the same in that they also represent past historical realities to be celebrated in commemoration as well as pointing to a future fulfillment.

Moses remind the children of Israel about three feasts that had to be observe by all male Jews over the age of twenty and the importance of these feasts are marked by the repeated command and compulsion of their observance. Ex. 23:14-17, 34:21, Duet. 16:16

1. The feast of Passover.
2. The feast of Weeks.
3. The feast of Tabernacles.

There are seven feast in total that were given to the Jews to celebrate, all pointing to a future fulfillment.

Our text mentions the three that were mandatory but two others are found within the first one making them five in number which we want to look at this morning.

1. The feast of Passover.
2. The feast of Unleaven bread.
3. The feast of Firstfruits.
4. The feast of Weeks.
5. The feast of Tabernacles.

We want to look at these feasts in three ways.

- I. The particular feasts.
- II. The prophetic fulfillment's of the feasts.
- III. The parallel to human life and the feasts.

I. The particular feasts.

A. The Feast of Passover. 16:1-8

* The Feast of Passover is the main feast but it is accompanied with two other feasts, unleaven and firstfruits.

1. The Feast of Passover. vs. 1-2, 4b, 5-7
 - a. The feast was in commemoration of their deliverance from Egypt. vs. 1

- b.** They were to sacrifice the Passover lamb at the place where God would chose. vs. 2
 - 1)** The day was the 14th of April and the lamb was separated on the 10th. Ex. 12:3, 6
 - 2)** Passover is always the first full moon of spring.
 - a)** The feast is based on the lunar calendar, there can be no mistake.
 - b)** The approximate 28 day lunar cycle is harmonious throughout nature.
 - c)** Jerusalem would be that place.
 - c.** They were not to sacrifice the lamb within any of their gates. vs. 5
 - d.** They were to sacrifice the lamb at twilight, at the going down of the sun as in the Exodus of Egypt. vs. 6
 - e.** They were to eat the lamb in the very place appointed, Jerusalem and then return to their homes. vs. 7
 - f.** None of the lamb was to be left till the next morning. vs. 4b
- 2.** The Feast of Unleaven Bread. vs. 3-4a, 8
- a.** They were to eat no leaven bread with the Passover lamb. vs. 3a.
 - b.** The feast was seven days long and the expulsion of all leaven, a type of sin, symbolizing a holy walk for that duration. vs. 4a
 - 1)** The feast would commence on the next day after Passover, the 15th of April and run till the 21st of April. Ex. 12:18
 - 2)** The first and seventh days were Sabbaths of rest, holy convocations. Ex. 12:16
 - 3)** The person who would partake of leaven would be cut off from the congregation. Ex. 12:19

- 4)** The tradition of the Jews in the preparation for Passover and the Unleaven feast is interesting.
 - a)** They expel all leaven from their house except for a small portion so the children may search it out and when they find it, they ask, "what mean you by this". Then the parents rehearse the entire Passover as being when God delivered them from the house of bondage. Ex. 12:26-27
 - b)** They break one of three breads and they don't know why.
 - c)** They leave one chair empty at the table and the door open for Elijah.
 - d)** They say at the end of the Passover if they are not in Jerusalem, " This year here and next year at Jerusalem".
- 3.** The Feast of First fruits. Lev. 23:9-14
- a.** This feast is not mentioned here but it is recorded in Leviticus along with all the other six feasts. Lev. 23:9-14
 - b.** The feast celebrated the Spring harvest.
 - 1)** The first fruits of the barley harvest was brought to the priest and he would offer it as a wave offering before the Lord. Lev. 23:10-11a
 - 2)** The time would be the day after the Sabbath of the feast of Unleaven, Sunday, this is when we usually celebrate Easter after the Babylonian goddess of fertility, Ishtar. Lev. 23:11b
 - c.** The feast called for a lamb for a burnt offering, a grain offering mixed with oil and it's drink offering as a sweet aroma to the Lord. Lev. 23:12-13

B. The Feast of Weeks. 16:9-12

1. They were to count seven weeks from the Sunday of firstfruits, 49 days, making it fall on Sunday again. vs. 9, Lev. 23:15-17
2. The feast falls on June, it is the feast of Pentecost.
3. The feast celebrated the summer harvest of wheat called the feast of harvest. Ex. 23:16
4. They were to give a free-will offering of wheat, two wave loafs with leaven, called the firstfruits to the Lord. vs. 10, Lev. 23:17
- 45 They were to rejoice before the Lord their God, along with their families at the place God chose. vs. 11
6. They were to remember that they were slaves in Egypt.

C. The Feast of Tabernacles. 16:13-18

1. The feast of tabernacles was to be seven days long. vs. 13a
 - a. The feast would commence on the 15th of the seventh month, October till the 21st of October. Lev. 23:34
 - b. The first and the eighth day were Sabbaths of rest. Lev. 23:35-36, 39
2. The feast celebrated the ingathering of the year end or final harvest. vs. 13b, Ex. 23:16
 - a. The feast was accompanied with burnt offerings, grain offerings, drink offerings and free-will offerings. Lev. 23:37-38
* The specified offerings to be offered every day are given in the book of Numbers. Nu. 29:12-40
 - b. The feast was observed by taking branches and constructing booths to live in for seven

days as a reminder of dwelling in the wilderness. Lev. 23:40-43

3. The feast was to be a time of rejoicing for all the blessings of God on the harvest. vs. 14-15
4. The entire nation was to come to Jerusalem these three times but not empty handed. vs. 16-17
 - a. Every man was to give as he was able. vs. 17a
 - b. Every man was to give according as the Lord had blessed him. vs. 17b

These are the particular feasts!

II. The prophetic fulfilment's of the feasts.**A. The feast of Passover.**

* Remember there are three feasts tied up in this one.

1. Passover was prophetic of the death of Christ and salvation by His death. Jn. 3:16
 - a. The prophet John declared, "Behold the lamb of God who was to come to take away the sins of the world". Jn. 1:29
 - b. The blood of Jesus saves man from God's wrath even as the blood on the door post and lintel in Egypt. Ex. 12:22-23, Rom. 5:9, 1Pet. 1:19
 - c. The blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin ongoing as believers. 1Jn. 1:9
 - d. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself declared the fulfillment of the Passover by His own sacrifice for the sins of the world in the last Supper as He said that the bread was His body broken for them and His blood was for the remission of sins. Math. 26:17-29

- e. The Christian does not keep the Passover in remembrance of the Exodus but in remembrance of what Jesus did in fulfilling it, "Do this in remembrance of Me".
- 2. The Feast of Unleaven.
 - a. Unleaven was prophetic of the burial of Christ.
 - b. Remember it begins on the next day after Passover, the 15th of April, Jesus was buried at sundown as the Passover ended.
 - c. Jesus hung on the cross from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and He gave up His spirit declaring, 'It is finished". Jn. 19:30
 - d. Crucifixion usually took three days to die of suffocation but Jesus died in six hours because He had to be placed in the tomb before sundown.
- 3. The Feast of firstfruits.
 - a. First fruits is prophetic of the resurrection of Christ.
 - b. Remember it is the day after the Sabbath after the Passover, Sunday. Lev. 23:10-11
 - c. The feast is called "firstfruit" because Jesus was the firstfruits of the resurrection as evidence of the others who would follow in his likeness, in their own order. 1Cor. 15:23
 - 1) The graves were open and the dead people were seen walking in the streets of Jerusalem. Math. 27:53
 - 2) These were resurrected not simply raise back to life as Jairus' daughter or Lazarus.
 - 3) The believer looks forward to being raised in a body just like Christ's. 1Jn. 3:1-3
 - 4) The moment a Christian dies he or she is instantly present before the Lord and he will come back with Christ for His church, that is

why those who are alive at the rapture can not precede or be present before those who have died before them, because it is hard to beat someone who has left before you. 2Cor. 5:1-8, 1Thes. 4:13-18
 * These first three feast were fulfilled by Jesus personally while on earth.

B. The Feast of Weeks.

- 1. Weeks or Pentecost was prophetic of Jesus sending of the Holy Spirit to the church.
- 2. Jesus told His apostle to tarry in Jerusalem till they be endued with power from on high. Acts 1:8
- 3. The Holy Spirit came as a rushing mighty wind and filled the 120 and they began to speak with tongues as the Spirit gave them the ability. Acts 2:1-4
 - a. At Sinai the law was given and three-thousand were slain for braking the law before they even received it in idolatry. Ex. 32:28
 - b. At Pentecost three-thousand were saved and five-thousand shortly after. Acts 2:41, 4:4

C. The Feast of Tabernacles.

- 1. Tabernacles is prophetic of the reign of Jesus on the earth for a thousand year following His second return. Rev. 20:4-6
- 2. Jesus will shelter the Jews and those who did not except the mark of the Beast as He reigns from Jerusalem, in the Kingdom age.
- 3. The people will have to come to Jerusalem to worship the King and keep the feast of Tabernacles or they will have no rain. Zach. 14:16-19

These are the prophetic fulfillment's of the feasts!

III. The parallel to human life and the feasts.

* There is an interesting parallel between the seven feasts and the average pregnancy of 280 days which is calculated from the first day of the last menstrual cycle before conception. (Zola Levitt)

A. There are seven feasts we stated at the beginning of our study, the two that were not mentioned were The feast of Trumpets and Atonement.

1. Trumpets is the sounding of the trumpet to announce the holiest month of the year for the Jew, and prophetic of Israel's last week or seven years called the time of Jacob's trouble. Jer. 30:7
2. Trumpets also is the sounding of the trumpet for the rapture of the church, they will both take place at the same time. 1Cor. 15:52, 1Thes. 4:16
3. Atonement is the putting away of the sins of the nation and prophetic of the day when Jesus will pour out His spirit of grace and supplication on the house of Israel as they look upon Him whom they have pierced and weep and all Israel shall be saved. Zach. 12:10, 13:1, 6, Rom. 11:26

B. The Feast of Passover

1. The feast falls on the 14th day of the first month. Lev. 23:5
2. The egg of a woman appears on the 14th day of the first month.
3. The egg is a symbol of new life both in the Jewish culture at Passover and the pagan at Easter.

C. The Feast of Unleaven

1. The feast falls on the very next night, the 15th of the first month. Lev. 23:6
2. The egg of a woman is fertilized or implanted within twenty-four hours or the egg will pass on.
3. The Lord Jesus Christ was planted in the tomb the very next day of Passover, before sundown.
* Except a corn of wheat die, it abides alone.

D. The Feast of Firstfruits

1. The feast falls on the first Sunday during the week of Unleaven Bread, it could be a day after or almost a week. Lev. 23:11b
2. The fertilized egg travels down the tube at its own speed towards the uterus and may take anywhere from two to six days before it is planted.
3. The Lord Jesus Christ rose from the grave assuring us of life after death on Firstfruits.

E. The Feast of weeks or Pentecost.

1. The feast falls on the 50th day after Firstfruits, seven Sabbaths. Lev. 23:15-16
2. The embryo becomes a discernible human fetus on the 50th day.
3. The Lord Jesus sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to give discernible life to the Church by regeneration.

F. The Feast of Trumpets

1. The feast falls on the 1st day of the 7th month. Lev. 23:24
2. The baby's hearing is fully developed on the 1st day of the 7th month according to "Williams Obstetrics" textbook.

3. The trump of God will sound and the church will be caught up in the air to meet the Lord. 1Thes. 4:16

G. The Feast of Atonement

1. The feast falls on the 10th day of the 7th month. Lev. 23:27
2. The baby's fetal blood that carries the mother's oxygen through the baby's system is changed. The hemoglobin of the blood changes from the mother's dependency to that of self-respiring and circulating human being. This change occurs on the 10th day of the 7th month.
3. The Scriptures tell us that the life of the flesh is in the blood and by His blood and that we are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Lev. 17:11, 1Pet. 1:19

H. The Feast of Tabernacles

1. The feast falls on the 15th day of the 7th month. Lev. 23:34
2. The baby's lungs are fully developed .
3. The Lord Jesus breathes into us His Spirit of life. Jn. 20:22

The parallel to human life and feasts!

Conclusion

We have looked at these feasts in three ways.

- I. The particular feasts.
- II. The prophetic fulfillment's of the feasts.
- III. The parallel to human life and the feasts.

We have gotten a better understanding of Paul's statement of the wisdom of God, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the

wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsarchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!". Rom. 11:33