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God's Prophetic Calendar in the Jewish Feasts
Leviticus 23

Many accuse God of being judgmental and keeping man in the dark about His plans, one who delights in the consequences of man's judgment but if we search the Scriptures we will find just the opposite.

- * God delights in pardoning man from his sin, "For I take no pleasure in the death of the one who dies, says the Lord God. Therefore turn and live!" Ezk.18:32.
- * "Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets" Amos 3:7a-b.

- 1) God revealed the coming flood of judgment to Noah but none believed, only eight were saved.
- 2) God revealed the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah but only three were saved.
- 3) God told Israel they would go into captivity but they believed the false prophets.
 - Israel was captured by Assyria in 722 b.c.
 - Judah was captured by Babylon in 606-586 b.c.

God also has laid out in the Scriptures His prophetic system and calendar through the proclamation of seven feast in Lev.23 (Num.28-29, Deut.16).

- 1) They commemorate an actual event.
- 2) They pointed to a future fulfillment.
- 3) They outline God's prophetic calendar.
- 4) They are called appointed feasts or seasons, vs.2(2times), 4(2 times), 37.

- 5) They are said to be sacred assemblies or holy convocations vs.2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 21, 24, 27, 35, 36, 37.
- 6) They are accompanied by Sabbath day of rest vs.3, 11, 15(2 times), 16, 32(2 times), (opens up with the regular Sabbath vs.3)
- 7) They are called "The feasts of the Lord" vs.2b.
 - * Based on the lunar year not solar!

I. The Feast of Passover 23:4-5.

- A. Commemorated the exodus of Egypt reminding them of their redemption from bondage Ex.12.
 1. The first born in Egypt were killed by the Angel of the Lord for refusing to believe and obey God.
 2. The blood on the doorpost and lintel was the sign of faith and trust in God's word.
 3. The date was in the 14th of April, the first month of the year. (religious calendar for Jews) Ex.12:2, Josh.5:10.
- B. Consummated at the crucifixion of Christ.
 1. He was the lamb of God Jn.1:29.
 2. He was the one to redeem man kind Eph.1:7, 1Pet.1:19.
 3. He proclaimed the New Covenant to His disciples in the cup and bread Matt.26:27-29.

- C. Celebrated the beginning of God deliverance in the age of Grace on His prophetic calendar, proclaiming "whosoever will" Jews and Gentiles could and needed to be saved.

II. The Feast of Unleaven 23:6-8.

A. Commemorated Israel's deliverance from sin having to leave in haste that night no leaven could be used for the bread.

* Leaven is symbolic of sin in the Scriptures.

1. The Jews clean their house of all leaven and their children looked for some leftovers to remind them of that night Ex.13.
2. The date was on the 15-21 of April at twilight with two Sabbath vs.5-8.

B. Consumated at Christ's burial as He was place in the Tomb at sundown.

1. He died in 6 hours rather than 3 days as was the usual duration.
2. Why? Because Jesus had a feast to keep, the Unleaven feast.
3. The bread is striped and perforated with holes, it is broken and hidden then revealed in the ceremony of the Jews (Jesus had no sin).

C. Celebrated our Passover through Christ with the unleaven bread of sincerity and truth to genuine repentance leading to salvation 1 Cor.5:7-8.

III. The Feast of Firstfruits Lev.23:9-14.

A. Commemorated spring harvest of barley reaped in April/May, wheat came two to three weeks later.

1. The day after the Sabbath, Sunday vs.11.
 2. The offering was to be with oil and sweet aroma to God vs.13, Jn.12:24.
- * Symbol of the Holy Spirit.

B. Consumated at the resurrection of Jesus.

1. He is the first fruits of those to rise from the dead 1 Cor.15:23.

* Firstfruits means the pledge offered to God in faith of what will follow of the same kind.

2. Others rose from the dead in Jerusalem Matt.27:52-53.

C. Celebrated in our own resurrection 1 Cor.15, Jn.11.

IV. The Feast of Weeks Lev.23:15-22.

A. Commemorated the second harvest of the year the summer harvest vs.15-16.

1. The date was 50 days after Passover.
2. The feast was to be with sacrifice of dedication vs.18.

B. Consumated at Pentecost

1. The law was given to Israel at Sinai, the Holy Spirit to the Church at Jerusalem and the Church was birthed Act 2.
2. Two people were to be one, Jew and Gentile Act.10.
 - vs.17 Two loaves.
 - vs.17 Leaven representing redemption yet sin nature present.

C. Celebrated at our receiving Christ and His Holy Spirit. 1 Cor.6:19-20, Eph.5:18.

V. The Feast of Trumpets Lev.23:23-25.

A. Commemorated the announcement of the Holy month.

1. It marked the end of the agricultural year.
2. It marked the beginning of the civil year, Oct.1st.
3. It marked the end of summer Neh.8:9-12.
* Jer.8:20 harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved."

- B.** Consummated at the appearing of the Antichrist and the removal of the Church.
1. The church is the restraining force 2 Thes.2:5-7.
 2. The Antichrist will appear only then 2 Thes.2:8, Rev.4:1.
- C.** Celebrated at the gathering of the Church in the air 1 Thess 4:16-17.
- Blowing of Trumpets is throughout Scripture Num.10, Gideon, Jericho, Revelation etc.

VI. The Feast of Atonement Lev.23:26-32.

- A.** Commemorated the forgiveness of Israel's national sins.
1. The date was Oct.10 vs.27.
 2. Day of affliction and sorrow vs.27.
 3. Leviticus 16 has details.
- B.** Consummation will take place when the Jews will look on Him whom they pierced.
1. The prophet declares it Zech.12:10, 13:1, 6.
 2. The apostle Paul affirms this Rom.11:26.
- C.** Celebrated during the Great tribulation and the second coming of Christ.

VII. The Feast of Tabernacles Lev.23:33-46.

- A.** Commemorates the gathering of the agricultural year vs.39, Deut.16:13-15.
1. The date was Oct.15 vs.34.
 2. The duration was 7 days vs.35-36.
 3. They dwell in booths in reminder of God's faithfulness in the wilderness vs.42-43.
- B.** Consummated at the millennium.
1. The reign of Jesus.
 2. The only feast to be observed Zech.14:16-17.
* No rain given if not attended!
- C.** Celebrated by Jesus in Jerusalem as yet future.
* Jn.7:37-39. Water was brought from the Pool of Siloan to court of temple on the eighth day and poured out.
1. Recalling God's faithfulness to provide water in the wilderness.
 2. Declaring God no longer had to provide for they were in the promise land.
* Jesus on that day stood and cried out, "If any man thirst..."

CONCLUSION

The Jewish feast are a prophetic calendar.
- Can you see the time at hand?