

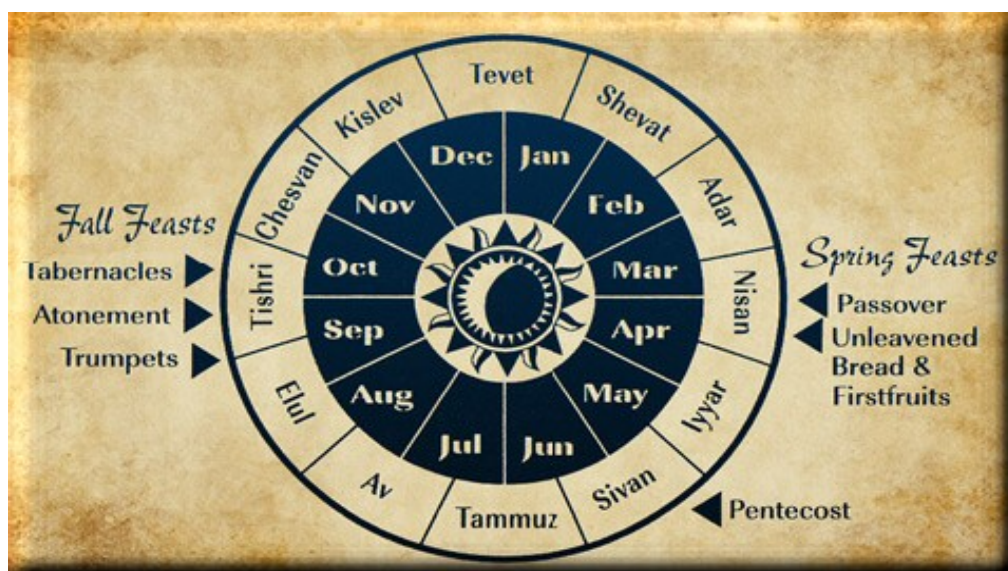
In Leviticus 23 we find the most comprehensive record of how the Israelites were commanded by God to observe seven feasts over a period of seven months. The Hebrew for feasts, *moadim* is strictly translated as *appointed times*. Four feasts were in the spring and the final three were observed in autumn. The feasts have multiple layers of meaning and application. They were related to the agricultural cycle and historical events meant to remind the Hebrews of what the LORD has done for them. As important as these recognitions were, they are nothing compared to what the feasts are ultimately about.

SPRING FEASTS

1. Passover

(Leviticus 23:5)

- Pointed to the Messiah as our Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7).
- Jesus was crucified during the time that the Passover was observed (Mark 14:12).
- Christ is a “lamb without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:19).
- As the first Passover marked the Hebrews’ release from Egyptian slavery, so the death of Christ marks our release from the slavery of sin (Romans 8:2).



2. Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6)

- Pointed to the Messiah’s sinless life (as leaven is a picture of sin in the Bible), making Him the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus’ body was in the grave during the first days of this feast, like a kernel of wheat planted and waiting to burst forth as the bread of life.
- Jesus’ life was completely free from sin (Hebrews 4:15).

3. First Fruits (Leviticus 23:10)

- Pointed to the Messiah’s resurrection as the first fruits of the righteous. Jesus was resurrected on this very day, which is one of the reasons that Paul refers to him in 1 Corinthians 15:20 as the “first fruits from the dead.”



4. Pentecost (Leviticus 23:16)

- Occurred fifty days after the Feast of First Fruits. Points to the great harvest of souls and the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit for both Jew and Gentile, who would be brought into the kingdom of God during the Church Age (see Acts 2). The Church was actually established on this day when God poured out His Holy Spirit and 3,000 Jews responded to Peter's great sermon and his first proclamation of the gospel.

FALL FEAST

5. Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24)

- The second coming of Jesus and the rapture of the Church when the Messiah Jesus will appear in the heavens as He comes for His bride. The Second coming of Jesus is always associated in Scripture with the blowing of a loud trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:52, and Matthew 24:30).
- Matthew 24:29-31 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 "Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God."

6. Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:27)

- This prophetically points to the day when Jesus will march up the Bozrah valley (Isaiah 63:1-6) and eventually end up in Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives to split it in two. That will be the Day of Atonement for the Jewish remnant when they "look upon Him whom they have pierced," repent of their sins, and receive Him as their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10 and Romans 11:1-6, 25-36).
- Zechariah 12:10-11 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him



whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.”

- **Romans 11:25-26** “Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,”

7. Tabernacles or Booths (Leviticus 23:34)

- This feast day points to the Lord’s promise that He will once again “tabernacle” with His people when He returns to reign over all the world (Read **Micah 4:1-7**).

Spring Feasts

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Passover Special Sabbath	Unleavened Bread begins		Sabbath	First Fruits
Christ’s Crucifixion	1st full day in the tomb	2nd full day in the tomb	3rd full day in the tomb	Christ’s Resurrection

Fifty days after **First Fruits** is the day of Pentecost (the same day of the Church’s inception).

Fall Feasts

	10 days later	5 days later
Feast of Trumpets	Day of Atonement	Feasts of Tabernacles
Jesus’ Second Coming	All of Israel repents	Jesus splits the Mount of Olives

