

Leviticus: Living Life at the Second Fork

Leviticus 23

“Rest Thee”

August 17, 2025

Leviticus outline:

- 1-7 Fellowship with Heaven – Various sacrifices
- 8 & 9 Dress Divine – Priestly attire
- 10 Watch Where You Sin – Nadab and Abihu
- 11 Watch What You Leaven – Dietary laws
- 12 Rest After Labor – Childbirth laws
- 13 & 14 Watch Those Spots – Leprosy laws
- 15 We All Have Issues – Bodily purity laws
- 16 Once a Year – Day of Atonement
- 17 Eat Like You Mean It – Specifics of sacrificing
- 18-20 Sins Aplenty – Morality laws
- 21 & 22 Perfect for You – Sacrifice and Sacrificer
- 23 Rest Thee – National holidays of worship

Chapter 23 Overview of the seven holy convocations:

Spring:

- 1. Passover – 1/14 (first month, fourteenth day)
- 2. Unleavened Bread – 1/15-1/21
- 3. First Fruits Ceremony – first “Sunday” after 1/14
- 4. Pentecost/Weeks – 7 Sabbaths plus one day

Fall:

- 5. Trumpets – 7/1
- 6. Day of Atonement – 7/10
- 7. Booths/Tabernacles – 7/15

These holy convocations are also an outline of God’s plan for Israel and the world. The Spring festivals have been fulfilled already with the Advent of Messiah; the Fall events will happen next to signal the beginning of the Day of the Lord. We are living in the interim, the church age, which will come to an end when the trumpet of the Lord will sound and the dead in Christ will rise first, then those who remain will be caught up together with Him in the clouds, **1 Thess 4**.

Leviticus 23 These are the seven “High Sabbaths” and notice the commandments to *rest*:

Unleavened Bread

v. 7 . . . you shall not do any laborious work.

v. 8 . . . you shall not do any laborious work.’ ”

Pentecost

v.21 . . . You shall do no laborious work. . .

v.25 ‘You shall not do any laborious work . . .

Day of Atonement

v.28 “You shall not do any work on this same day . . .

Feast of Booths

v.35 . . . you shall do no laborious work of any kind.

v.36 . . . You shall do no laborious work.

But also notice that they were to be offering animal sacrifices:

Unleavened Bread

v.8 . . . you shall present an offering by fire. . .

Pentecost

v.18 . . . seven one year old male lambs . . . a bull . . . two rams; they are to be a burnt offering. . .

Trumpets

v.25 . . . you shall present an offering by fire. . .

Day of Atonement

vv. 26ff *multiple offerings*

Booths

v.36 . . . you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. . .

The people were to rest, *but the priests had to work hard*. This pictures our relationship to our Savior; we are to rest in His finished work.

Rest for our eternal destiny: **Romans 4:5** “But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,”

Our temporal rest, here on earth, derives from our comprehension of our spiritual standing in God’s eyes: we are in Christ, and when God sees us, He sees Christ. We do not need to perform to have God’s acceptance. We serve Him out of love.

Ephesians 1:1-8 The destiny of every person in Christ has already been determined; our status is sealed “in the heavenlies, in Christ,” not here, on the planet. We already have “every spiritual blessing.” We are “holy and blameless” before Him. Having redeemed us through the blood of Jesus, out of His kindness He has given us His grace above and beyond, because we are “in the Beloved.”