



LEVITICUS

Sermon Points & Notes

Week 8 - 11.26.23 | Terrell Spears

Title: Feasts | Part II: The God of Celebration

Scripture: Leviticus 23:33-44

Main Point:

We were created to enjoy the gift of feasting by His design, as an opportunity to rest and rejoice in Him – His goodness and gifts – in a glorious act of faith and worship of the God of celebration.

Opening Questions to Consider Regarding the Feasts:

1. What is your theology of feasting?
2. How do you pursue pleasure?

God's design for feasting and His appointment of these particular feasts help us and teach us something eternally valuable concerning the Lord, His glory, and our greatest joy.

Creation - Feast - Jesus Chart:

	Creation	Feast	Jesus
1	<u>Light</u> Light into the darkness	<u>Passover</u> God's light of salvation after 9th plague of darkness / separating Egypt from Israel through dividing line of blood of the lamb	<u>Cross (Good Friday)</u> Jesus - bringing salvation as the Passover Lamb / conquering death & darkness as the light of the world (1 Cor. 5:7)
2	<u>Water</u> Separates oceans from the sky	<u>Unleavened Bread</u> Leaving Egypt / Crossing through the waters of the Red Sea	<u>Grave (Holy Saturday)</u> Jesus - despite having no sin (unleavened) - went under the waters of judgment and was buried in the grave
3	<u>Land / Vegetation / Fruit Trees</u> Provision of God for humanity	<u>First Fruits</u> 1st of the new barley harvest as thanksgiving for God's provision	<u>Resurrection (Easter Sunday)</u> Jesus - risen from the grave as the the firstfruits of those who will one day rise with him to eternal life (1 Cor. 15:20-23)
4	<u>Sun / Moon / Stars</u> For signs and seasons to direct humanity and give structure for people to live by	<u>Weeks</u> 1st of the wheat harvest / Moses giving the law - ascending Mt. Sinai with accompanied supernatural power of God's glory & presence	<u>Pentecost</u> Jesus - ascends to heaven / sends the Holy Spirit to direct believers' lives - accompanied by supernatural power of God's glory & presence
5	<u>Fish / Birds</u> Separating what's above from what's below	<u>Trumpets</u> Marking the end of the agricultural year / harvest time is over	<u>Jesus' Return - Judgment</u> Jesus - returns as the trumpet sounds, people are separated to eternal judgment or salvation with believers gathered up to heaven
6	<u>Animals / Humanity</u> Climax of creation - preparing what mankind needs	<u>Day of Atonement</u> Climax of feasts as mankind's sin is atoned for in the holy of holies through substitutionary shedding of an animal's blood	<u>Jesus' Return - Victory</u> Jesus - the lamb returns as the lion to crush sin, Satan & death once & for all at the climax of our salvation, giving unhindered access to God's presence forever
7	<u>Sabbath</u> God rested / Humanity enjoys all God has done	<u>Tabernacles</u> Joyful remembrance of God's provision while living in temporary tents / gratitude for home	<u>Jesus' Return - Rest</u> Jesus - ushers us into His new creation for our final, permanent home with God in forever rest.

The first four feasts take place in the Spring, and point to Jesus' first coming.

The three Fall feasts all take place in the 7th month, the most holy of all the months on the calendar, and point towards Jesus' second coming.

Feasts of Trumpets

Lev. 23:23-25 ; Num. 29:1-6 (more detail of sacrifice):

- 7th Month | 1st Day (1 Day Total)
- Day of solemn rest
- Memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets
- No ordinary work
- Holy convocation
- Food offering
- Tradition shows the ram's horn (shofar) as well as the priestly silver horns would be used, and most likely would be blown all day

On the trumpet blasts:

Elsewhere in the Old Testament the trumpet blast is associated with God's power or presence. Often it's blown like a musical prayer to acknowledge or request divine help—a prayer that tends to be answered. At the beginning of the agricultural year, blowing the trumpet is an expectant prayer to God that marks the passing of one season and the anticipation of a new one. - Davy Ellison TGC

Significance:

1. Day 5 | Creation - Fish / Birds
 - a) Separating what's above from what's below
2. Marking the end of the agricultural year / harvest time is over
3. Jesus' Return - Judgement

- a) Jesus - returns as the trumpet sounds, people are separated to eternal judgment or salvation with believers gathered up to heaven

A memorial, not simply for what's past, but of what's to come in the future.

In the same way we prepare for a new year, a new harvest season, how much more should our hearts be exhorted to prepare to meet our Lord face-to-face.

The Day of Atonement

Lev. 23:26-32; Num. 29:7-11:

- 7th Month | 10th Day (1 Day, evening of 9th to evening of 10th)
- Holy convocation
- Be afflicted (Fasting) > or be cut off
- Food Offering
- Not do **any** work > or be destroyed
- Sabbath of solemn rest
- Most solemn of all the feasts

Significance:

1. Day 6 | Creation - Animals / Humanity
 - a) Climax of creation - preparing what mankind needs

2. Climax of feasts as mankind's sin is atoned for in the holy of holies through substitutionary shedding of an animal's blood
3. Jesus' Return - Victory
 - a) Jesus - the lamb returns as the lion to crush sin, Satan & death once & for all at the climax of our salvation, giving unhindered access to God's presence forever

There is nothing in us that allows us to be in the presence of the Holy, to approach the Holy. Not only have we not earned a place at the table through good deeds or a righteousness that we've achieved, but we have forfeited our place at the table and disqualified ourselves in every way, a thousand times over.

We are not neutral in our rebellion to the Holy One, but proactively pursuing our own desires and the expansion of a personal kingdom where we rule and reign as supreme.

This is the reason for the veil, separating .

The Feasts of Booths (Tabernacles)

Lev. 23:33-43; Num. 29:12-40; Deut. 16:13-17:

- 7th Month | 15th Day (8 days)
- 1st and 8th days are solemn rests
- Holy convocation
- No ordinary work

- 7 days of food offerings
- More sacrifices than any other feast
- Dwell in booths for 7 days rejoicing before the Lord
- Celebrating with feasts

Significance:

1. Day 7 - Sabbath
 - a) God rested / Humanity enjoys all God has done
2. Joyful remembrance of God's provision while living in temporary tents / gratitude for home
3. Jesus' Return - Rest
 - a) Jesus - ushers us into His new creation for our final, permanent home with God in forever rest.

On the Feast of Booths:

It's the most joyous celebration on the Hebrew calendar as God's people come together and celebrate before the Lord in anticipation for the return of the Messiah and the wedding supper of the Lamb...[it] celebrates the gathering of the harvest at the end of the agricultural year in Israel, prophetically symbolizing the day when all of God's people are gathered together in the Kingdom in the Second Coming of Yeshua. - David Wilbur

On the 8th day of the Feast of Booths:

The eighth day was the great day of this feast, because then they returned to their own houses again, and remembered how, after they had long dwelt in tents in the wilderness, at length they came to a happy settlement in the land of promise, where they dwelt in goodly houses. And they would the more sensibly value and be thankful for the comforts and conveniences of their houses when they had been seven days dwelling in booths. It is good for those that have ease and plenty sometimes to learn what it is to endure hardness. - Matthew Henry

In moving from the Day of Atonement to the Feasts of Booths, God prepares His people's hearts by instituting fasting before feasting.

What's the point of Feasting?

Everything good we experience in the temporary festivals and holidays of today is intended to lift our eyes higher, beyond the present, and fix our hope on the eternal...the forever holiday of feasting with Christ in heaven.

We were created to enjoy the gift of feasting by His design, as an opportunity to rest and rejoice in Him – His goodness and gifts – in a glorious act of faith and worship of the God of celebration.

Revelation 21:1-4:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

On Feasting:

Feasting is not first about the food. It is foremost about the Godward celebration of some specific occasion together. Good food and drink, in abundance, come in alongside our corporate focus to accentuate the appreciation and enjoyment of God and his kindness. The heart of feasting is not the food itself, but the heart of the feasters. A true feast is bigger than the food — infinitely bigger. The center is God and his greatness and grace toward us in Christ. - David Mathis

For Christians, feasting is not the same as mere indulgence. There is nothing particularly Christian about eating and drinking more than usual. What makes feasting a means of God's grace for nourishing our souls is explicitly celebrating Christ together in

faith. Whether it's Thanksgiving or Easter, a birthday or anniversary, when we feast as Christians, we celebrate the bounty and kindness of our Creator and Redeemer. Feasting in Christ is no mere physical event, but deeply spiritual. - David Mathis

True Feasting Is:

1. Towards Jesus (Worship) & with Jesus (Fellowship)
2. Communal with Jesus (Vertical) & with other people (Horizontal)
3. Temporal (Present Earthly Blessing) & Eternal (Forever Heavenly Blessing)

Holidays, festivities, celebrations, and parties are God's design, His idea. It's connected to something core and central to who He is and what He wants us to understand and enjoy...and to the degree it's directly connected to Him, it's worship, and to the degree it's not, it's idolatry.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How are you feasting?
2. Are the holidays centered around Christ?
3. What pleasure are you pursuing?