

Deborah's Song

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THE FEASTS OF THE LORD

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

Hag HaMatzah

Exodus 12:15-17, Leviticus 23:6-8

I. Introduction

This feast begins the day after Passover and is observed for 7 days. It is the second spring festival beginning on the 15th of Nisan.

It is a week-long observance during which nothing containing leaven may be eaten. Abstaining from leavened bread for 7 days is symbolic of God's people separating themselves from sin and becoming a holy people, set apart from a world of leaven!

This is one of the 3 pilgrimage feasts in which the men were required to present themselves before the Lord in Jerusalem each year. The other two are Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks), and Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles).

II. What is Leaven?

- A. A substance used to produce fermentation, such as yeast, baking soda, baking powder, or leavening agents.
- B. Symbolic of Sin (Mark 8:15)
- C. A little leaven EQUALS a lot of leaven, because it works through the whole lump of dough. (1 Cor. 5:6)
- D. Purge the leaven out so you may be uncontaminated, because Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. (1 Cor. 5:7)

III. God says, "Get the Leaven Out!"

- A. "Cause leaven to cease from your house" (Exodus 12:15). This was a spring cleaning and a spiritual cleaning!

THE FEASTS OF THE LORD

Shavuot – The Feast of Weeks

I. Introduction

On Shavuot, God revealed Himself on Mount Sinai. His people heard His voice on this day proclaiming the Ten Commandments. Passover freed God's people from bondage physically. Shavuot freed God's people from bondage spiritually – bondage to idolatry and sin, because on this day He gave them His **Law**.

This Feast has been prophetically fulfilled. Fifty days AFTER Jesus rose from the dead as the Firstfruits from the dead, God gave His people the **Holy Spirit** in the upper room at Pentecost! Since Shavuot is a pilgrimage feast, Jews from many nations and languages were in Jerusalem that day. The tongues in which they supernaturally spoke allowed the pilgrims to each hear in their own language.

Shavuot is also called the Feast of Weeks, because God directed the people to count off the weeks until they were to meet Him at Mount Sinai. This counting is called *Counting the Omer*.

When the Torah was given, 3,000 men died as a result of worshipping the golden calf. When the Holy Spirit was given in Jerusalem at Pentecost, 3,000 men were given new life through salvation. "The letter of the law kills, but the Spirit gives life." (II Cor. 3:6)

II. General Facts About Shavuot

1. A Major Feast
 - a. This is one of 3 feasts in which the men were required to present themselves before the Lord in Jerusalem each year.
 - b. The other two are the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles.

THE FEASTS OF THE LORD

The Feast of the Tabernacles

Sukkot

I. Introduction

- A. This is the 7th and final Feast of the Lord (Lev. 23:33-43).
- B. It is a pilgrimage feast, to be celebrated in Jerusalem.
- C. It is a permanent regulation, to be celebrated generation after generation.
- D. The purpose of the Feast was to help people remember that the children of Israel lived in tents when God brought them up out of Egypt.
- E. It begins and ends with a Sabbath (Lev. 23:39).
- F. It begins 5 days after Yom Kippur.
- G. It is held Tishri 15-21, occurring in September/October. Two additional days are added to the feast, making this the longest festival to the Lord.
- H. The two days following this feast are called Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.
 - 1. **Shemini Atzeret** was added in the time of Ezra. It means “Eighth Day of Solemn Assembly.” On this day, the prayers of the first two days are offered again, and the people cease from eating in booths.

PILGRIMS AND STRANGERS:

[Jhn 17:14-19 NLT] 14 I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to this world any more than I do. 17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. 18 Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. 19 And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

[Heb 11:13-16 NLT] 13 All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. 14 Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. 15 If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. 16 But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

[1Pe 1:17 NLT] 17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as "foreigners in the land."

[1Pe 2:11-12 NLT] 11 Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. 12 Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

[Phl 3:20 NLT] 20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER BY THE HOLY SPIRIT:

[Rom 5:1-5 NLT] 1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. 3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

[2Pe 1:2-11 NLT] 2 May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. 3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. 5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. 8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. 10 So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. 11 Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

[Phl 4:10-14 NLT] 10 How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. 11 Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. 14 Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty.

THE LORD IS ON OUR SIDE:

[Psa 118:6-7 NLT] 6 The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? 7 Yes, the LORD is for me; he will help me. I will look in triumph at those who hate me.

[Heb 13:5 NLT] 5 Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

[Psa 46:1 NLT] 1 For the choir director: A song of the descendants of Korah, to be sung by soprano voices. God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

[Psa 32:7 NLT] 7 For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory. Interlude

[2Pe 1:3 NLT] 3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

If It Had Not Been For The Lord On My Side Lyrics

[Chorus:]

*If it had, not, been for the Lord, on my side
Tell me where would I be?, Where would I be?
If it had not been for the Lord on my side
Where would I be?*

[Verse 1:]

*He kept my enemies away
He let the sun shine through a cloudy day
Oh, He wrapped me in the cradle of His arms
When He knew I' been battered and torn,
So...*

[Chorus:]

[Verse 2:]

*He never left me all alone
He gave me peace and joy I've never known
He answered when I knelt to Him in Prayer
And in victory the Lord brought me this way,
So...*

[Chorus:]