



**Doctrine: The Rapture
What About the Biblical Feast Days?
Patterns to Learn From or Ignore?
Leviticus 23
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

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Did you know that there are those who teach that not only is the return of Jesus Christ imminent, but that when He returns it will be the fulfillment of a feast day.

Where in the world does that idea come from? It comes from the reality that Jesus Christ, in His first coming, fulfilled all the feast that take place in the spring, leaving the fall dates pending.



I am not setting a date for the rapture with this teaching, but there will indeed be those who say that.

Let's take a look at selected verses in Leviticus 23 connected with each feast.

The "Feasts of the Lord" are seven in number. If we include the Sabbath there are eight. But the Sabbath stands by itself. It was to be observed "weekly," the other Feasts "annually." The Sabbath was to be observed at "home," the other Feasts at "Jerusalem." (Larkin 1918, 169)

Leviticus 23:3

"For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a Sabbath of complete rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work; it is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings." (NASB 2020)

1. Passover - Leviticus 23:5 "In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is the LORD'S Passover." (NASB 2020)

This feast began in Egypt, and it ties in with the plagues on Egypt as well as the judgment taking place at the time on the unseen realm. All the details surrounding this feast are provided in Exodus 12.

I want to look at a few of them.

Exodus 12:5-8

"Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to slaughter it at twilight. Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs." (NASB 2020)

In additional instructions, Moses said to use hyssop as the blood application tool, and it was to be applied to the lintel and the two doorposts. In other words, the top three portions of the cross.

The details in the trial and crucifixion of Jesus as seen in Passover are amazing. Jesus arrived in Jerusalem the same day as the lamb would be selected and, on the date, Daniel said He would. When He said His last words, tetelstai there on the cross, the lamb was also being slain in the Temple. Needless to say, the Passover lamb is a type of Christ. And the sacrifice of Christ on the cross was a completed act, He was pierced seven times, and seven is the number of completion. His head by the thorns, His back via Roman whipping, both hands, both feet, as well as His side.

Passover was indeed fulfilled by Jesus at the right time on the right day.

2. Unleavened bread - "You shall also keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your multitudes out of the land of Egypt; therefore you shall keep this day throughout your generations as a permanent ordinance. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening." (Exodus 12:17-18, NASB 2020)

As the Passover is a type of the death of Christ, so the Feast of Unleavened Bread is a type of the "Walk" of the Believer, and there should be no interval between the salvation of a soul and its entrance on a holy life and walk. The "seven days" point to the whole course of the Believer's life after conversion. (Larkin 1918, 170)

Dr. Fruchtenbaum wraps the two feasts together. "While the Passover was fulfilled by the actual death of Yeshua, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was fulfilled by the offering of His sinless blood. When He was



offered up as a sacrifice and shed sinless blood, the moment His blood was spilled outside His body, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was fulfilled.” (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 11)

Paul tied the need for us to live holy lives after we come to Christ and connects this feast in 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 as well. Just as the nation purged out the leaven, which is a type of sin, we too, in Christ, are to do the same.

3. First fruits - “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and you gather its harvest, then you shall bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD for you to be accepted; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.’” (Leviticus 23:9–11, NASB 2020)

First, it was the first-fruits of the barley and grain harvests. Secondly, there was to be a one-sheaf offering. Thirdly, it was offered the day after the Sabbath, which would be the first day of the week or Sunday. Fourthly, it marked the beginning of the two-month spring harvest. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 12)

This was fulfilled by Jesus Christ when He not only rose from the dead that day but also did so with the first sheaf to wave in front of the Father.

Jesus is our first fruits, meaning, there is much more to come. And those who were raised along with Him that day, were the first sheaf evidence of more to come.

Matthew 27:52–53

“Also the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.” (NASB 2020)

Another observation in all of this and once again, it involves Noah and the flood.

Genesis 8:4–5

“Then in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat. And the water decreased steadily until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains became visible.” (NASB 2020)

The calendar though was changed by the Lord in Exodus 12:2 when He instituted Passover and made the seventh month, the first month on the religious calendar. We know that Jesus was crucified on the 14th of Nisan and walked out of the grave on Sunday, the morning of the 17th of Nisan. The Ark came to rest on Mount Ararat on the 17th day of Nisan marking a new beginning for the planet but Noah and his family remained in the Ark finally removing the cover off of it on Yom Teruah, which is celebrated on Rosh Hashanah. Which this year runs from sunset on September 11th to sunset on September 13. That was the day of rejoicing for Noah and his family celebrating being rescued from the wrath of God in the flood.

4. Pentecost/Weeks - ““You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete Sabbaths. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD. You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread as a wave offering, made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to the LORD. Along with the bread you shall present seven one-year-old male lambs without defect, and a bull of the herd and two rams; they are to be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD.” (Leviticus 23:15–18, NASB 2020)



This feast, which takes place at the end of spring harvest season, involved leavened bread. The only feast that does. And two loaves were to be waved before the Lord. What we see is that the first four feasts take place within fifty days of each other.

Acts 2:1–4

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a noise like a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And tongues that looked like fire appeared to them, distributing themselves, and a tongue rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different tongues, as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out.” (NASB 2020)

The church was born on this day as the Holy Spirit began a new ministry for those who believe, Spirit baptism. This gave birth to the church.

Two loaves, two peoples now as one in the church, Jew and Gentile. And the loaves were leavened, meaning forgiven sinners are now part of the Church.

These four feasts were fulfilled as a result of the first coming of Jesus Christ, literally on the day of each feast. Then we have a pause between the two feasts. This pause would be the church age, laboring prior to the last of the summertime harvest that will take place in the fall. By the way, we are living in this time right now. Those who look at it this way see the spring feast covering the first coming.

There are some though who believe Pentecost has not yet been completely fulfilled, which changes that calculus.

Pentecost is a harvest festival, and yes, since the founding of the church, the harvest of souls has been ongoing all across the planet. But was the pouring out of the Holy Spirit simply the beginning of the full harvest which will not be completed totally until Jesus Christ returns and removes the church?

The Pentecost-Rapture Scenario: The Church is “betrothed” to the Lord on Pentecost, marking the commencement of the Church Age. Roughly 2,000 years later, the Church is wed to the Lord, also on Pentecost, marking the conclusion of the Church Age. This parallels the biblical wedding tradition that consists of two stages: The first stage is the betrothal, or erusin, at which time the bride and groom become legally married via a written contract (shitre erusin) but do not dwell together. The second stage is the fullness or consummation (nisu’in), when the nuptials are finalized and the bride and groom dwell together. (Tramm 2016, Kindle Location 54)

Does Jesus have to return on that day? No, but there is a pattern.

The pattern is one of fulfillment on the Feast Day in question.

As such, if the church began that day, is it logical for it to end the same day?

Onward to the fall feasts which begin on 1 Tishri. The view of most is that these feasts all point to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

5. Rosh HaShanah/Yom Teruah - “Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘In the seventh month on the first of the month you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD.’ ”” (Leviticus 23:23–25, NASB 2020)



This is the feast of the blowing of the trumpets (shofar). Jewish tradition holds to this being the day of creation but since it comes prior to Yom Kippur, it is also a time of remembrance calling Jews to remember their sins. But most call it Rosh Hashanah, “the head of the year.”

Okay, the religious new year was back in Nisan, Tishri would be the beginning of the civil year. Here is the problem though, it is based off a lunar calendar, so the season of the new year is pretty well known, but the exact day and hour is up for debate and is dependent upon watching and waiting for the new moon.

In ancient times, one could not always be sure when one day ended and another began. A day began after sunset, specifically once it was sufficiently dark enough to see three stars in the sky. Jews who lived outside the land, say in Babylonia, would have to try to figure out when the day began in Israel. So, in order to make sure that they did not observe the wrong day, the rabbis turned Yom T’ruah into a two-day festival. (Fruchtenbaum, *The Feasts and Fasts of Israel: Their Historical and Prophetic Significance* 2019, 141)

If you love listening to a good shofar, then you will love this day. There will be a total of one hundred blasts and yes, there are types of shofar blasts. “Four are to be remembered but the one we are concerned with is called “the great tekiah,” or “the last trump.” It is a very long, continuous sound which ends when the blower runs out of breath.” (Fruchtenbaum, *The Feasts and Fasts of Israel: Their Historical and Prophetic Significance* 2019, 149)

The fulfillment of this feast is pending and many hold that the rapture of the church will be the fulfillment.

Again, I am not date setting, the rapture is and has been imminent since Jesus ascended. Whether we are talking about Pentecost or if He is to return during the season of Rosh Hashanah, and if Rosh Hashanah that means the season is in a little over 40 days from now. I am not saying when He is coming, but again the pattern would keep us on our toes around Pentecost as well as Rosh Hashanah.

The season, yes (maybe), day and hour, no. Year, no.

1 Thessalonians 5:4–6

“But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, so that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then, let’s not sleep as others do, but let’s be alert and sober.” (NASB 2020)

As followers of Jesus, we are indeed to be watching and waiting, and now, there maybe a reason to watch just a bit more closely a couple of times a year. Just saying.

Matthew 24:42–44

“Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you must be ready as well; **for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.**” (NASB 2020)

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.” (NASB 2020)

Step 1, descends into the atmosphere. Step 2, a shout, κελεύσματι (keleusma) a shout of command. Step 3, voice of Michael but we do not know what he says. Coordination with the rest of heaven I suppose or a



subordinates reissuing the order just given. Step 4, trump of God. This is a military process and when the horn sounds, we are summoned to attention. Step 5, resurrection/translation.

Step 6, the harpazo. A definitive military action taken to remove/protect those who belong to the King out of the combat zone. Step 7, we meet everyone up there, united forever with the Lord. Ok, so the next feast.

6. Yom Kippur - "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble yourselves and present an offering by fire to the LORD. You shall not do any work on this very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before the LORD your God." (Leviticus 23:26–28, NASB 2020)

There are some who look at this being fulfilled with the Second Coming of Christ, others point to this as being fulfilled in the Great Tribulation. But here is a key take away, The rapture has already taken place prior to this point.

To better understand how the great tribulation will fulfill Yom Kippur, let's review the biblical practice and the Jewish observance. First, the key word is "affliction." In the case of the biblical practice, the affliction was that of the soul. In the case of the Jewish observance, it is the affliction of the body. Second, the key concept of Yom Kippur is atonement. On Yom Kippur, atonement was made for the nation, not the individual. (Fruchtenbaum, *The Feasts and Fasts of Israel: Their Historical and Prophetic Significance* 2019, 232)

As the Great Tribulation comes to a close, Israel will finally realize their rejection of the Messiah is why they are in the predicament they are in (Hosea 5:15). As the nation turns to the Lord, they repent as one fulfilling this feast (Hosea 6:1-3). Israel's suffering in the Great Tribulation leads to their repentance fulfilling this day.

Sukkot/Tabernacles - ""Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to the LORD. On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work. For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to the LORD; it is an assembly. You shall not do any laborious work.'" (Leviticus 23:34–36, NASB 2020)

This is indeed fulfilled in the Kingdom with Jesus Christ.

While the Feast of Tabernacles began on the Sabbath and continued seven days, it was to be followed by a Sabbath. Lev. 23:39. This Sabbath on the "Eighth Day" points to the New Heaven and Earth that follow the Millennium. (Larkin 1918, 173)

That is the picture given to us in the Feasts. We are currently awaiting the next event per the feasts, and yes, Jesus can indeed return at any moment. But again, Dr. Missler states "Most scholars agree that the spring feasts – the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Firstfruits – are predictive of the first coming of Christ. All the elements of those first three feasts were fulfilled and not only that, they were fulfilled on the very days they are observed. That fact is both fascinating and potentially enlightening as well. (Missler and Stolebarger 2014, Kindle Location 597)

Lets pray.



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