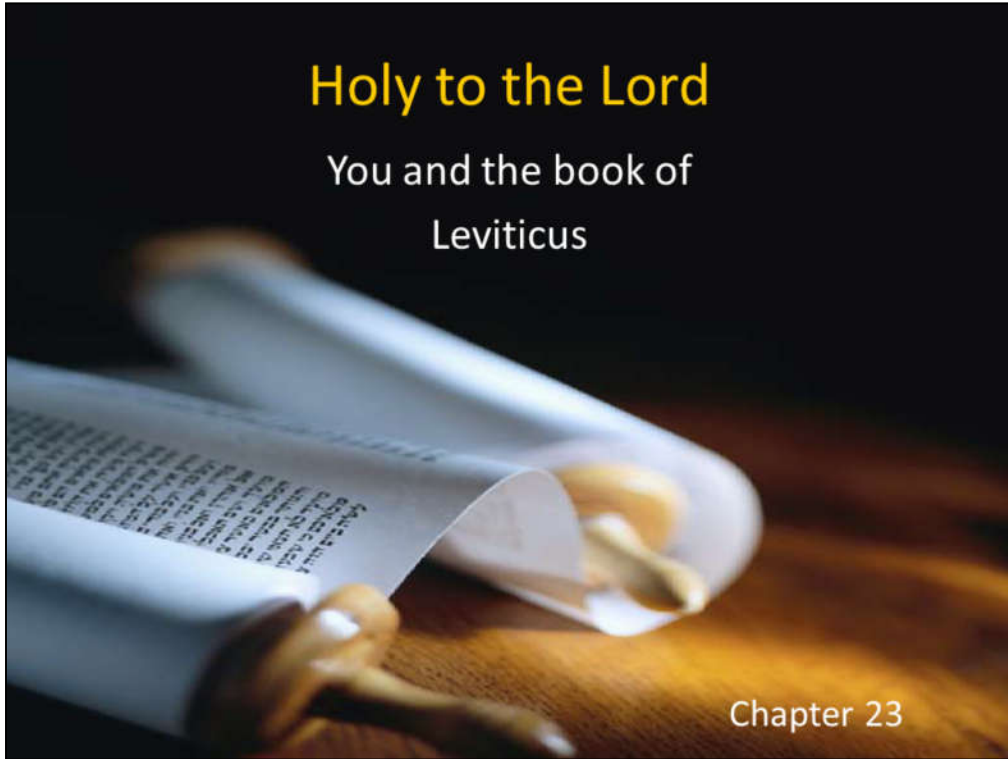
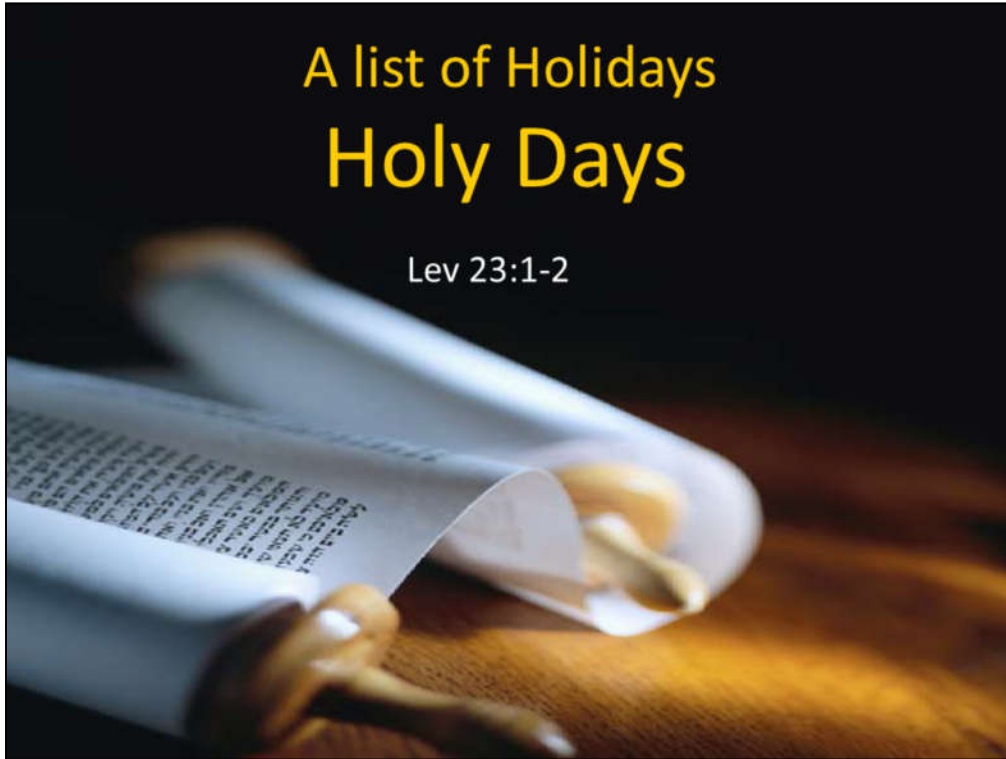


Holy to the Lord

You and the book of
Leviticus



Chapter 23



In Chapter 23 God gives His people a chronological list of the various holidays they are to keep.

Holidays is an interesting word. What is the etymology of the word? (Holy Day)
How has that changed?

If these days truly are “Holy,” then what does that mean? (They are “set-apart” from the other days.)

Note: Whose feasts are they? (v.2 God’s. He is the host. We are to consider ourselves as invited guests.)

A list of Holidays



Not surprisingly, a lot of these days involve feasting? Why would God do that?
Also involved with many is a command to rest, stop working. Why?

Sabbath

Lev 23:3



Read Lev, 23:3 Why do you think God starts His list of festivals (Holydays) with the weekly Sabbath (rest day)?

It is the archetypal holyday.

-it belongs to the Lord

-no work is done on it

All other holydays derive from the Sabbath and are extensions of it.

That is why this list of festivals begins with the Sabbath.

Passover

Lev 23:4-8

Ex 13:3-16



Passover is probably the festival we are most acquainted with. It celebrates the day the Lord rescued His people from Egypt by passing over their houses as the first born in every non-Israelite house was killed.

What is special about this feast? (v. 6 -for six days they ate unleavened bread.) During the entire week, whether the Israelites were at the sanctuary or not, they would all eat unleavened bread.

Why? Read Ex 13:3-16 (Notice the wording here. The Israelites spoke as though they were really there. [see verse 8] This meal connected them to the event of salvation with their God. They were saved as a people and remember the event as a people. -Do we have an event like this? [The cross, and we connect to that event through the feast of the Lord's Supper.]

Passover



Like many of these festivals, Passover is still celebrated today.

Feast of Firstfruits

Lev 23:9-14



The feast of Firstfruits is one of the more lesser known festivals, but was still important to the Israelites.

It marks the beginning of the barley harvest. In a public ceremony the priest would elevate the first sheaf of the barley harvest and offer it to God. After it has been raised then the Israelite families can eat of the new harvest.

Feast of Weeks

Lev 23:15-22

49



The only ritual observance for this day is to take care of the poor and needy. (v 22)



In Hebrew they don't have a separate name for "week" The name for a week is the number seven. There fore this 49 days or 7 weeks is considered by them to be a week of weeks. Still following?

These were the weeks appointed for the harvest. Jeremiah refers to them in Jer 5:24

Feast of Weeks Pentecost



The Feast of Weeks concludes on the 50 day which becomes known as?
(Pentecost –Greek word for 50 days)

This is a harvest festival, since it comes at the end of the growing season.

How is the bread different at this festival? (v. 17 the bread is made with leaven, yeast. Compared to the unleavened bread of Passover)

This bread with it's yeast is seen as the ripe firstfruits of the harvest.

The bread, along with two lambs, are waved (raised) before the Lord and sacrificed.

A peace offering (in which the people eat) is made of the Lambs.

What does this celebration remind you of? (Our Thanksgiving)

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4



This was the feast that the disciples were celebrating when the Holy Spirit came in Acts 2.

How does the Christian church view Pentecost? (As the beginning of the church)

Feast of Trumpets

Lev 23:23-25



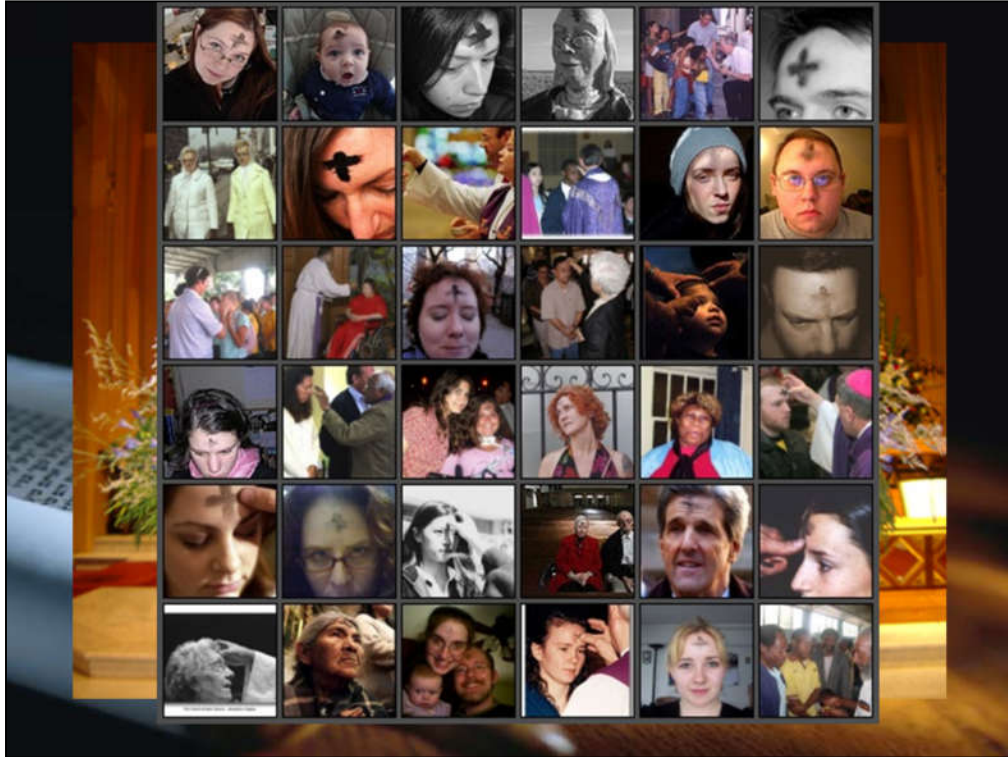
When did the Feast of Trumpets (or Feast of Acclimation) start? (v 24 –on the first day of the seventh month)

Do you think the seventh month is significant in some way? (Seven is usually a holy number)

This is the start to the month that will include the Day of Atonement and the beginning of the Feast of Booths.

The purpose of this Feast was to “announce the beginning of this holy month” and to help people get mentally prepared for the feasts that are to come.

What does the Christian



What does the Christian do that is similar in preparation? (Lent and Advent.)
Does it make a difference?



We won't spend too much time on the Day of Atonement since we spent two entire sessions on it (chapter 16 part 1 & 2)

Here in chapter 23 the focus is not on the sacrifice or even the sins of the people. What is the emphasis here? (Not doing work)

How many times is the prohibition against work mentioned?

The Day of Atonement fell on the seventh month which is also referred to as the "Sabbath Month."

All people rested on this day, whether they were in at the tabernacle/temple or not.

How serious was God that His people rest on this day? (v 30)

Verse 32 is literally "you shall Sabbath your Sabbath." What does this mean? (A total ban on work.)

Why is God so strict about this? Why do people resist rest, even though they know it's a good thing?

What does Jesus say about this? (Matthew 11:28-30) "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

What does Jesus mean by "rest for your *souls*?"

Feast of Booths

Lev 23:33-43



The Feast of Booths (also called the Feast of Tabernacles/tents) was one of the great pilgrimage festivals (meaning the head of the household, if possible was to travel to the Tabernacle/Temple). The purpose of it was to celebrate how God provided for Israel during its trek in the wilderness. Now think about this; what might you do to remember and celebrate a journey in the wilderness?

This ceremony did involve travel; both to the temple but then it had a procession as part of it (much like we do when we have our Palm Sunday services.) During the feast of Booths, the Israelites appeared before the Lord as pilgrims in procession, with a bouquet of tree branches. They processed around the altar and rejoiced together in God's presence with playing music and singing songs. Ps 81 is the appointed psalm and was likely sung as they processed passed the altar. Read it:

Psalm 81:1-5 Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob!

[2] Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp.

[3] Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day.

[4] For it is a statute for Israel, a rule of the God of Jacob.

[5] He made it a decree in Joseph when he went out over the land of Egypt. I hear a language I had not known:

What do you see in this Psalm that fits with the remembrance and celebration of God's providence in the wilderness?

What parts suggest the celebration that goes on during the Feast of Booths?

The Feast of booths was celebrated by creating a booth, a temporary structure, often made of a roof of large grape leaves which gave shade during the day. The leaves were loosely fitted so that at nightfall the stars could be seen while reclining in the booth. It was a

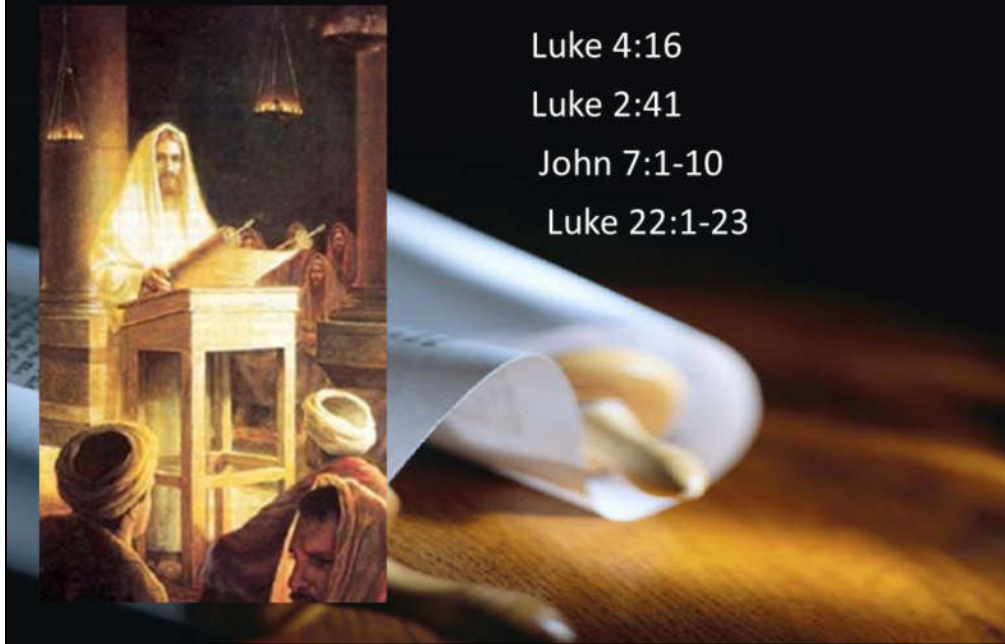
reminder that God was with them as they looked into the heavens. (would also remind them of God's promise to Abraham.)

Feast of Booths



The feast of Booths is still celebrated by Israelites today. A tent of some sort (rough or elaborate) is set up in the yard and a meal is enjoyed in the open.

Fulfilled in Christ



Luke 4:16

Luke 2:41

John 7:1-10

Luke 22:1-23

Jesus fulfills the feasts and even transforms them.

Luke 4:16 Jesus rests in the Word on the Sabbath

Luke 2:41 Jesus belonged to a family that made the pilgrimages for the festivals.

John 7:1-10 Jesus himself went to the festivals.

Luke 22:1-23 Jesus changes the Passover into the Lord's Supper. Makes Himself the eternal Passover Lamb.

“This is the Feast...”

