

Prophetic Feasts of Israel - Introduction

Rich Jacobs, M.D.

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I. Overview

A. Seven (7) Biblically-mandated feasts for Israel - **Leviticus 23**

1. The word translated “feasts”, in Hebrew, also means “appointed times”. Take place during a 7-month cycle, each year.
2. Corresponds to the agricultural life of Israel, with cycles of sowing and harvesting
3. Feasts prophetically anticipated Christ and were observed by Christ
4. Four (4) spring feasts, beginning with the first month of the sacred Jewish Calendar, called *Nisan*, corresponding to March/April in our calendar.
 - a) **Passover** - Nisan 14 - *Pesach*
 - b) **Unleavened Bread** - Nisan 15, commences a 7-day holiday period - *Hag HaMazot*
 - c) **First Fruits** - Nisan 16, occurs on the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread - *Bi Kurim*
 - d) **Weeks**, or **Pentecost** - 50 days after First Fruits - *Sivan 6* (May/June) - *Shavuot*.
5. Three (3) fall feasts, corresponding with September/October in our calendar
 - a) **Trumpets** - *Rosh Hashanah*, New Year - *Tishi 1* - did not become the Jewish New Year until after the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 AD.
 - b) **Atonement** - *Yom Kippur* - *Tishri 10*
 - c) **Tabernacles** - *Tishri 15*, begins 7-days of celebrations - *Sukkot*

B. Jesus prophetically fulfilled the spring feasts during His first coming

1. Crucified on Passover
2. Laid to rest in the grave, but without corruption, on Unleavened Bread
3. Resurrected on First Fruits
4. Sent the Holy Spirit to empower the Church and make it both Jewish and gentile on Weeks, or Pentecost.

C. Jesus will fulfill the fall feasts at His second coming.

1. The Church will be resurrected at the “last trumpet” (**1 *Corinthian 15:52***). The trumpet blown to announce Rosh Hashanah, or Trumpets, was called the “last trumpet” because it announces the last month in the seven (7) month festival season.
2. It is believed that Christ will return on Rosh Hashanah, or 1 Tishri, also. Perhaps this is about one year after the resurrection/rapture of the Church, but this is conjecture.
3. Israel will be redeemed by Christ on Yom Kippur, or on the Day of Atonement.
4. Christ’s eternal Kingdom on Earth will commence on Sukkot, or during the Festival of Tabernacles, when Christ will “tabernacle” among men (***John 1:14***)

II. Jewish time

A. Our modern day begins just after midnight. The Jewish day began at sunset.

1. The Jewish day would begin at different times throughout the year because the sun set at different times, depending on the season.

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2. Feasts began with the new day, at sundown.
- B. Our calendar is based on the sun, while the Jewish calendar was based mainly on the moon.
- C. Modern calendar
 1. Derived from the calendar established under Julius Caesar, in 45 B.C.
 - a) Had 365.25 days in the year, distributed over 12 months and 52 weeks.
 - b) Every fourth year added a "lead day" to February, giving it 29 days until 28 days. This was done to keep the calendar synchronized with the seasons.
 2. Was modified under Pope Gregory, in 1582, when it was realized that the solar year is 11 minutes short of 365.25 days. Called the Gregorian Calendar.
 - a) Retained the Julian Calendar format
 - b) Did not allow a leap year to be observed on century years evenly divisible for 400 (i.e. 1600, 2000). This kept the calendar better synchronized with the seasons that the Julian Calendar.
- D. Jewish calendar
 1. Each month corresponded to one complete cycle of the moon, new moon to new moon, which is 29.5 days long.
 2. Had 12 months consisting of 29 or 30 days, resulting is a year that was 354 days long.
 3. Added a 13th "leap month" after the last month and an extra "leap day" to the last month in the year approximately every 3 years to synchronize the calendar with the seasons.
 - a) The leap month and day was added to the Jewish calendar 7 times in 19 years.
 - b) The leap year adjustments took place in the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19th years.
 - c) The leap month was called "Adar 2"
 4. After the exodus from Egypt, Israel observed two (2) calendars - a religious one and a secular one. The Bible references the religious calendar where Nisan is the first month.
 5. The names of the Jewish months were changed to Babylonian names after the Babylonian exile (i.e. *Abib* became *Nisan*, *Ziv* became *Iyar*, etc.)
- E. Prophetic calendar
 1. Consists of 12 months of 30 days, each. Examples:
 - a) Noah's ark was in the water 5 months or 150 days. (**Genesis 7 & 8**)
 - b) The 3.5 years in Revelation corresponds to 42 months and 1260 days. (**Revelation 11:2; 12:6; 13:5**)
 2. It is not known how this calendar arose or relates to the religious or secular Jewish calendar.
 3. A table summarizing the Jewish Sacred Calendar, which is the one referenced in the Bible, is shown in **Table One**.

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Table One: Jewish Sacred Calendar*

No#	Month	No.# of Days	Our Month	Feast(s)
1	Nisan	30	Mar/Apr	Passover (14th), Unleavened Bread (15th-21st), First Fruits (16th)
2	Iyar	29	Apr/May	
3	Sivan	30	May/Jun	Shavuot -- also called Weeks and Pentecost (6th)
4	Tammuz	29	Jun/Jul	
5	Av	30	Jul/Aug	Tisha B'Av (9th)
6	Elul	29	Aug/sep	
7	Tishri	30	Sep/Oct	Rosh Hashanah (1st), Yom Kippur (10th), Sukkot, or Tabernacles (15th-21st)
8	Heshvan	29/30	Oct/Nov	
9	Kislev	29/30	Nov/Dec	Hanukkah (25th)
10	Tevet	29	Dec/Jan	
11	Shebat	30	Jan/Feb	
12	Adar	29/30	Feb/Mar	Purim (14th)
Leap	Adar 2	29		

* The Secular calendar begins with Tishri, making Nisan the 7th month, rather than the 1st month.

* Biblically-mandated feast are in the gray cells.

Refresher (Circle the right answer or fill in the blank)

- How many Biblically-mandated feasts did Israel observe? (3, 4, 7, 12)
- All of the Jewish feast are described in which book of the Bible? (Genesis, Leviticus, 1 Samuel, Proverbs, Acts)
- The Jewish feast occurred in these two seasons: _____ and _____.
- The Jewish calendar was based on the (galaxy, moon, sun). Each new Jewish day began at (sunrise, midnight, sunset).
- There are _____ feasts in the spring and _____ feasts in the fall.
- Jesus fulfilled the feast in the _____ (season of the year). He is believe to fulfill the feasts in the _____ (season of the year) at His second coming.
- Name the spring feasts. Now, name the fall feasts.