

## ~FESTIVAL (1085)

[Hebrew, *chagh*, *Moh-`edh*]

- The Three Great Festivals
- The Festival of Unfermented Cakes
- The Festival Of Weeks
- The Festival Of Booths
- Observances Common To These Festivals
- Importance Of Festivals In Life Of Israel

• Festivals formed an integral part of the true worship of God, being prescribed by Yehowah for his chosen people Israel by the hand of Moses. The Hebrew word *chagh*, which is translated festival, possibly comes from a verb that denotes circularity of motion or form, dancing around in circles, and hence, **celebrating a periodic festival or feast**.

• *Moh-`edh*, also rendered festival, basically refers to a set time or place of assembly.

• And it came about in the morning that Jonathan made his way out to the field of David's **appointed place**, and a young attendant was with him. (1 Samuel 20:35)

• So Amasa went to call Judah together, but he came later than the **fixed time** that he had appointed for him. (2 Samuel 20:5)

• The **festivals**, and similar special days, might be outlined as follows:

## FESTIVALS IN ISRAEL

### BEFORE THE EXILE ANNUAL FESTIVALS

Passover, **Abib (Nisan) 14**

Unfermented Cakes, **Abib (Nisan) 15-21**

Weeks, or Pentecost, **Sivan 6**

Trumpet Blast, **Ethanim (Tishri) 1**

Day of Atonement, **Ethanim (Tishri) 10**

Booths, **Ethanim (Tishri) 15-21**, with a solemn assembly on the **2nd**

### PERIODIC FESTIVALS

Weekly Sabbath  
New Moon  
Sabbath year [every 7th year]  
Jubilee year [every 50th year]

## AFTER THE EXILE

Festival of Dedication, Chislev 25  
Festival of Purim, Adar 14,15

### • The Three Great Festivals

- The three primary seasonal festivals, sometimes called pilgrimage festivals because of the assembling of all males at Jerusalem, occurred at appointed times and were designated by the Hebrew word *moh-`edh*.
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them; The seasonal festivals of Yehowah that you should proclaim are holy conventions. These are my seasonal festivals. (Leviticus 23:2)
- These are the seasonal festivals of Yehowah, holy conventions, which you should proclaim at their appointed times: (Leviticus 23:4)
- But the word often used when referring exclusively to the three great festivals is *chagh*, which connotes not only a periodic occurrence, but also a time of great rejoicing. These three great festivals are;

### • The Festival of Unfermented Cakes

- You will keep the festival of unfermented cakes. You will eat unfermented cakes seven days, just as I have commanded you, at the appointed time in the month of Abib, because in it you came out of Egypt. And they must not appear before me empty-handed. (Exodus 23:15)
- This festival began the day after the Passover and ran from Abib (Nisan) 15th through the 21st. Passover was on Nisan 14 and was really a day of observance to itself, but since it was so closely connected in time with the Festival of Unfermented Cakes, the two were often spoken of together as the Passover.

- On the first day of the unfermented cakes the disciples came up to Jesus, saying; Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover? (**Matthew 26:17**)
- Now on the first day of unfermented cakes, when they customarily sacrificed the Passover victim, his disciples said to him; Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover? (**Mark 14:12**)
- The day of the unfermented cakes now arrived, on which the Passover victim must be sacrificed. (**Luke 22:7**)

### .. The Festival Of Weeks

- Or, as called later, Pentecost, celebrated on the 50th day from Nisan 16, that is, on Sivan 6
- Also, the **festival** of harvest of the first ripe fruits of your labors, of what you sow in the field, and the festival of ingathering at the outgoing of the year, when you gather in your labors from the field. (**Exodus 23:16**)
- And you will carry on your **festival** of weeks with the first ripe fruits of the wheat harvest, and the festival of ingathering at the turn of the year. (**Exodus 34:22**)

### .. The Festival Of Booths

- Tabernacles or Ingathering. This took place in the seventh month, Ethanim or Tishri, 15th through the 21st, with a solemn assembly on the 22nd.
- Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the **festival** of booths for seven days to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 23:34**)
- On the first day is a holy convention. No sort of laborious work may you do. (**Leviticus 23:35**)
- Seven days you should present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. On the eighth day there should occur a holy convention for you, and you must present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. It is a solemn assembly. No sort of laborious work may you do. (**Leviticus 23:36**)

- The time, the place, and the way they were to be conducted were all fixed by Yehowah. As the expression seasonal **festivals** of Yehowah implies, they were associated with various seasons of the sacred calendar year the early spring, the late spring, and the fall.

- How significant this was, because at these times the firstfruits of the field and vineyards brought great joy and happiness to the inhabitants of the Promised Land, and recognition was thereby given to Yehowah as the generous Provider of all good things!

### •• **Observances Common To These Festivals**

- The Law covenant required that all males appear before Yehowah your God in the place that he will choose every year, during each of the three great annual **festivals**.

- Three times in the year every male of yours should appear before Yehowah your God in the place that he will choose, in the **festival** of the unfermented cakes and in the festival of weeks and in the festival of booths, and none should appear before Yehowah empty-handed. (**Deuteronomy 16:16**)

- The place eventually chosen for a **festival** center was Jerusalem. No specific penalty for individual nonattendance was stated, with the exception of the Passover, failure to attend it brought the penalty of death.

- Then Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 9:9**)

- Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; Although any man of you or of your generations should happen to be unclean by a soul or off on a distant journey, he too must prepare the Passover sacrifice to Yehowah. (**Numbers 9:10**)

- In the second month, on the fourteenth day between the two evenings, they should prepare it. Together with unfermented cakes and bitter greens they should eat it. (**Numbers 9:11**)

- They must not let any of it remain until morning, and they should break no bone in it. According to the whole statute of the Passover they should prepare it. (**Numbers 9:12**)

- But when the man was clean or did not happen to be off on a

journey and neglected to prepare the Passover sacrifice, that soul must then be cut off from his people, because the offering of Yehowah he did not present at its appointed time. For his sin that man will answer. (**Numbers 9:13**)

- **Nonetheless, neglect of any of God's laws, including his **festivals** and Sabbaths, would bring national judgment and distress.**
- **If you will not take care to carry out all the words of this Law that are written in this book so as to fear this glorious and fear-inspiring name, even Yehowah, your God. (**Deuteronomy 28:58**)**
- **Yehowah also will certainly make your plagues and the plagues of your offspring especially severe, great and long-lasting plagues, and malignant and long-lasting sicknesses. (**Deuteronomy 28:59**)**
- **And he will indeed bring back upon you all the diseases of Egypt before which you got scared, and they will certainly hang onto you. (**Deuteronomy 28:60**)**
- **Also, any sickness and any plague that is not written in the book of this law, Yehowah will bring them upon you until you have been annihilated. (**Deuteronomy 28:61**)**
- **And you will indeed be left with very few in number, although you have become like the stars of the heavens for multitude, because you did not listen to the voice of Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 28:62**)**
- **The Passover itself had to be observed on Nisan 14 or, in certain circumstances, one month later.**
- **Although women were not under obligation, as were the males, to make the annual **festival** journeys, yet there are examples of **festival** attendance by women such as Hannah the mother of Samuel**
- **And that was the way she would do year by year, as often as she went up into the house of Yehowah. That was the way she would vex her, so that she would weep and not eat. (**1 Samuel 1:7**)**
- **And Mary the mother of Jesus.**

- Now his parents were accustomed to go from year to year to Jerusalem for the **festival** of the Passover. (Luke 2:41)
- Israelite women who loved Yehowah attended such **festivals** whenever possible. In fact, not only did Jesus parents attend regularly but their relatives and acquaintances went along with them.
- Assuming that he was in the company traveling together, they covered a day's distance and then began to hunt him up among the relatives and acquaintances. (Luke 2:44)
- Yehowah promised; **Nobody will desire your land while you are going up to see the face of Yehowah your God three times in the year.**
- For I shall drive the nations away from before you, and I will make your territory spacious, and nobody will desire your land while you are going up to see the face of Yehowah your God three times in the year. (Exodus 34:24)
- Even though no men were left to guard the cities and the land, it proved true that no foreign nation ever came up to take the land of the Jews during their **festivals** prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in **70 C.E.** However, in **66 C.E.**, which was after the rejection of Christ by the Jewish nation, Cestius Gallus slew 50 persons at Lydda during the Festival of Tabernacles.
- None of the male attenders were to come empty-handed, they were to bring a gift in proportion to the blessing of Yehowah your God that he has given you.
- Three times in the year every male of yours should appear before Yehowah your God in the place that he will choose, in the **festival** of the unfermented cakes and in the festival of weeks and in the festival of booths, and none should appear before Yehowah empty-handed. (Deuteronomy 16:16)
- The gift of each ones hand should be in proportion to the blessing of Yehowah your God that he has given you. (Deuteronomy 16:17)
- Also, at Jerusalem the second tenth part, in contrast with that given to maintain the Levites;
- And you should speak to the Levites, and you must say to them,

you will receive from the sons of Israel the tenth part that I have given to you from them for your inheritance, and you must contribute from it as a contribution to Yehowah a tenth part of the tenth part. ([Numbers 18:26](#))

- And it must be reckoned to you as your contribution, like the grain of the threshing floor and like the full produce of the wine or oil press. ([Numbers 18:27](#))
- Of the current years grain, wine, and oil, as well as the firstborn of the herd and the flock were to be eaten, these were to be shared with the Levites. However, in case the journey to the **festival** place was too far, the Law provided that such goods could be turned into money, then this money could be used to buy food and drink for use while at the sanctuary.
- Without fail you should give a tenth of all the produce of your seed, that which comes forth of the field year by year. ([Deuteronomy 14:22](#))
- And before Yehowah your God, in the place that he will choose to have his name reside there, you must eat the tenth part of your grain, your new wine and your oil and the firstborn ones of your herd and of your flock, in order, that you may learn to fear Yehowah your God always. ([Deuteronomy 14:23](#))
- Now in case the journey should be too long for you, because you will not be able to carry it, since the place that Yehowah your God will choose to place his name there will be too far away for you, because Yehowah your God will bless you. ([Deuteronomy 14:24](#))
- You must then turn it into money, and you must wrap the money up in your hand and travel to the place that Yehowah your God will choose. ([Deuteronomy 14:25](#))
- You must also give the money for whatever your soul may crave in the way of cattle and sheep and goats and wine and intoxicating liquor and anything that your soul may ask of you, and you must eat there before Yehowah your God and rejoice, you and your household. ([Deuteronomy 14:26](#))
- And the Levite who is inside your gates, you must not abandon him, for he has no share or inheritance with you. ([Deuteronomy](#)

**14:27)**

- **These occasions were opportunities for demonstrating allegiance to Yehowah and were to be celebrated with joy, the alien resident, the fatherless boy, and the widow were to be included.**
- **And you must rejoice before Yehowah your God, you and your son and your daughter and your man slave and your slave girl and the Levite who is inside your gates and the alien resident and the fatherless boy and the widow, who are in your midst, in the place that Yehowah your God will choose to have his name reside there. (Deuteronomy 16:11)**
- **And you must rejoice during your **festival**, you and your son and your daughter and your man slave and your slave girl and the Levite and the alien resident and the fatherless boy and the widow, who are inside your gates. (Deuteronomy 16:14)**
- **This was providing, of course, that the males among such alien residents were circumcised worshipers of Yehowah.**
- **And in case an alien resident resides as an alien with you and he will actually celebrate the Passover to Yehowah, let there be a circumcising of every male of his. First then he may come near to celebrate it, and he must become like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised man may eat of it. (Exodus 12:48)**
- **One Law is to exist for the native and for the alien resident who is residing as an alien in your midst. (Exodus 12:49)**
- **Special sacrifices were always offered in addition to the daily offerings, and while the burnt offerings and the communion sacrifices were made, trumpets were blown.**
- **And in the day of your rejoicing and in your festal seasons and at the commencements of your months, you must blow on the trumpets over your burnt offerings and your communion sacrifices, and their use must serve as a memorial for you before your God. I am Yehowah your God. (Numbers 10:10)**
- **Just before the building of the temple the priesthood was reorganized by King David, who arranged for the immense staff of hundreds of Aaronic priests to be divided into 24 divisions, along with Levitical assistants. (1 Chronicles Chapter 24) Each division of trained**

workers later served twice each year at the temple, a week at a time, the necessary arrangements being made by the head of the paternal house.

- And it came about when the priests came out from the holy place, for all the priests that were to be found had, for their part, sanctified themselves, there was no need to observe the divisions. (**2 Chronicles 5:11**)
- Indicates that the 24 divisions of priests all served together at the dedication of the temple, which took place during the **Festival** of Booths, or Tabernacles.
- So all the men of Israel congregated themselves to King Solomon in the lunar month of Ethanim in the **festival**, that is, the seventh month. (**1 Kings 8:2**)
- Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the **festival** of booths for seven days to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 23:34**)
- Alfred Edersheim says that on **festival** days any priest was welcome to come up and assist in the temple service, but during the **Festival** of Tabernacles, Booths, all 24 divisions were required to be in attendance. [**The Temple, 1874, p. 66**]
- During these **festival** occasions a tremendous amount of work fell to the priests, the Levites, and the Nethinim serving with them. An example of the work they did is indicated in the description of the Festival of Unfermented Cakes held by King Hezekiah after he had cleansed the temple, which celebration, on this occasion, was extended for another seven days.
- The account states that Hezekiah himself contributed for sacrifice 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep and that the princes contributed 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep.
- So the sons of Israel that were found in Jerusalem held the **festival** of the unfermented cakes seven days with great rejoicing, and the Levites and the priests were offering praise to Yehowah day by day with loud instruments, even to Yehowah. (**2 Chronicles 30:21**)
- Moreover, Hezekiah spoke to the heart of all the Levites who

were acting with fine discretion toward Yehowah. And they proceeded to eat the appointed feast for seven days, sacrificing communion sacrifices and making confession to Yehowah the God of their forefathers. (2 Chronicles 30:22)

- Then all the congregation decided to hold it for seven more days, and so they held it for seven days with rejoicing. (2 Chronicles 30:23)
- For Hezekiah the king of Judah himself contributed for the congregation a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep, and the princes themselves contributed for the congregation a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep, and priests kept sanctifying themselves in great number. (2 Chronicles 30:24)
- Certain days of these **festivals** were solemn assemblies or holy conventions, these were Sabbaths, and similar to the weekly Sabbaths, they required a complete cessation of ordinary business. No secular work at all was to be done.
- An exception to the regular Sabbath arrangement was that work such as the preparing of food, unlawful on the weekly Sabbath days, was permitted in connection with the preparation for the **festival** observances.
- And on the first day there is to take place for you a holy convention, and on the seventh day a holy convention. No work is to be done on them. Only what every soul needs to eat, that alone may be done for you. (Exodus 12:16)
- A distinction exists in this respect between holy conventions of the **festivals** and the regular weekly Sabbaths, and the Sabbath on the tenth day of the seventh month, the Day of Atonement, a time of fasting, on which days no work whatsoever was allowed, not even the lighting of a fire in any of your dwelling places.
- Six days may work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of complete rest, a holy convention. You may do no sort of work. It is a Sabbath to Yehowah in all places where you dwell. (Leviticus 23:3)
- And Yehowah spoke further to Moses, saying; (Leviticus 23:26)
- However, on the tenth of this seventh month is the day of

atonement. A holy convention should take place for you, and you must afflict your souls and present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. ([Leviticus 23:27](#))

- And you must do no sort of work on this very day, because it is a day of atonement to make atonement for you before Yehowah your God. ([Leviticus 23:28](#))
- Because every soul that will not be afflicted on this very day must be cut off from his people. ([Leviticus 23:29](#))
- As for any soul that will do any sort of work on this very day, I must destroy that soul from among his people. ([Leviticus 23:30](#))
- You must do no sort of work. It is a statute to time indefinite for your generations in all places where you dwell. ([Leviticus 23:31](#))
- It is a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you must afflict your souls on the ninth of the month in the evening. From evening to evening you should observe your Sabbath. ([Leviticus 23:32](#))
- On the first day you will have a holy convention occur. No sort of laborious work may you do. ([Leviticus 23:7](#))
- But you must present an offering made by fire to Yehowah seven days. On the seventh day there will be a holy convention. No sort of laborious work may you do. ([Leviticus 23:8](#))
- And you must make a proclamation on this very day, there will be a holy convention for yourselves. No sort of laborious work may you do. It is a statute to time indefinite in all your dwelling places for your generations. ([Leviticus 23:21](#))
- Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; In the seventh month, on the first of the month, there should occur for you a complete rest, a memorial by the trumpet blast, a holy convention. ([Leviticus 23:24](#))
- No sort of laborious work may you do, and you must present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. ([Leviticus 23:25](#))
- On the first day is a holy convention. No sort of laborious work may you do. ([Leviticus 23:35](#))

- Seven days you should present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. On the eighth day there should occur a holy convention for you, and you must present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. It is a solemn assembly. No sort of laborious work may you do. (**Leviticus 23:36**)
- Six days may work be done, but on the seventh day it will become something holy to you, a Sabbath of complete rest to Yehowah. Anybody doing work on it will be put to death. (**Exodus 35:2**)
- You must not light a fire in any of your dwelling places on the Sabbath day. (**Exodus 35:3**)

## • Importance Of Festivals In Life Of Israel

- **Festivals** played a very important part in the national life of the Israelites. While they were still in Egyptian bondage, Moses told Pharaoh that the reason for demanding that the Israelites and their livestock be allowed to leave Egypt was that we have a **festival** to Yehowah.
- Then Moses said; With our young people and our old people we shall go. With our sons and our daughters, with our sheep and our cattle we shall go, for we have a **festival** to Yehowah. (**Exodus 10:9**)
- The Law covenant incorporated many detailed instructions regarding the observance of **festivals**.
- The **festival** of unfermented cakes you are to keep. You will eat unfermented cakes, just as I have commanded you, seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, because it was in the month of Abib that you came out of Egypt. (**Exodus 34:18**)
- Everything that first opens the womb is mine, and, as regards all your livestock, the male firstling of bull and of sheep. (**Exodus 34:19**)
- And the firstling of an ass you are to redeem with a sheep. But if you will not redeem it, then you must break its neck. Every firstborn of your sons you are to redeem. And they must not appear before me empty-handed. (**Exodus 34:20**)

- Six days you are to labor, but on the seventh day you will keep Sabbath. In plowing time and in harvest you will keep Sabbath. (**Exodus 34:21**)
- And you will carry on your **festival** of weeks with the first ripe fruits of the wheat harvest, and the festival of ingathering at the turn of the year. (**Exodus 34:22**)
- Three times in the year every male of yours is to appear before the true Lord, Yehowah, the God of Israel. (**Exodus 34:23**)
- For I shall drive the nations away from before you, and I will make your territory spacious, and nobody will desire your land while you are going up to see the face of Yehowah your God three times in the year. (**Exodus 34:24**)
- And Yehowah went on speaking to Moses, saying; (**Leviticus 23:1**)
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them, The seasonal **festivals** of Yehowah that you should proclaim are holy conventions. These are my seasonal **festivals**. (**Leviticus 23:2**)
- Six days may work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of complete rest, a holy convention. You may do no sort of work. It is a Sabbath to Yehowah in all places where you dwell. (**Leviticus 23:3**)
- These are the seasonal **festivals** of Yehowah, holy conventions, which you should proclaim at their appointed times. (**Leviticus 23:4**)
- In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, between the two evenings is the Passover to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 23:5**)
- And on the fifteenth day of this month is the **festival** of unfermented cakes to Yehowah. Seven days you should eat unfermented cakes. (**Leviticus 23:6**)
- On the first day you will have a holy convention occur. No sort of laborious work may you do. (**Leviticus 23:7**)
- But you must present an offering made by fire to Yehowah seven days. On the seventh day there will be a holy convention. No

sort of laborious work may you do. ([Leviticus 23:8](#))

- And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; ([Leviticus 23:9](#))
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them; When you eventually come into the land that I am giving you, and you have reaped its harvest, you must also bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ([Leviticus 23:10](#))
- And he must wave the sheaf to and fro before Yehowah to gain approval for you. Directly the day after the Sabbath the priest should wave it to and fro. ([Leviticus 23:11](#))
- And on the day of your having the sheaf waved to and fro you must render up a sound young ram, in its first year, for a burnt offering to Yehowah. ([Leviticus 23:12](#))
- And as its grain offering two tenths of an ephah of fine flour moistened with oil, as an offering made by fire to Yehowah, a restful odor, and as its drink offering a fourth of a hin of wine. ([Leviticus 23:13](#))
- And you must eat no bread nor roasted grain nor new grain until this very day, until your bringing the offering of your God. It is a statute to time indefinite for your generations in all places where you dwell. ([Leviticus 23:14](#))
- And you must count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day of your bringing the sheaf of the wave offering, seven Sabbaths. They should prove to be complete. ([Leviticus 23:15](#))
- To the day after the seventh Sabbath you should count, fifty days, and you must present a new grain offering to Yehowah. ([Leviticus 23:16](#))
- Out of your dwelling places you should bring two loaves as a wave offering. Of two tenths of an ephah of fine flour they should prove to be. They should be baked leavened, as first ripe fruits to Yehowah. ([Leviticus 23:17](#))
- And you must present along with the loaves seven sound male lambs, each a year old, and one young bull and two rams. They

- should serve as a burnt offering to Yehowah along with their grain offering and their drink offerings as an offering made by fire, of a restful odor to Yehowah. ([Leviticus 23:18](#))
- And you must render up one kid of the goats as a sin offering and two male lambs, each a year old, as a communion sacrifice. ([Leviticus 23:19](#))
  - And the priest must wave them to and fro along with the loaves of the first ripe fruits, as a wave offering before Yehowah, along with the two male lambs. They should serve as something holy to Yehowah for the priest. ([Leviticus 23:20](#))
  - And you must make a proclamation on this very day, there will be a holy convention for yourselves. No sort of laborious work may you do. It is a statute to time indefinite in all your dwelling places for your generations. ([Leviticus 23:21](#))
  - And when you people reap the harvest of your land, you must not do completely the edge of your field when you are reaping, and the gleaning of your harvest you must not pick up. You should leave them for the afflicted one and the alien resident. I am Yehowah your God. ([Leviticus 23:22](#))
  - And Yehowah went on speaking to Moses, saying; ([Leviticus 23:23](#))
  - Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; In the seventh month, on the first of the month, there should occur for you a complete rest, a memorial by the trumpet blast, a holy convention. ([Leviticus 23:24](#))
  - No sort of laborious work may you do, and you must present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. ([Leviticus 23:25](#))
  - And Yehowah spoke further to Moses, saying; ([Leviticus 23:26](#))
  - However, on the tenth of this seventh month is the day of atonement. A holy convention should take place for you, and you must afflict your souls and present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. ([Leviticus 23:27](#))
  - And you must do no sort of work on this very day, because it is a day of atonement to make atonement for you before Yehowah

your God. (**Leviticus 23:28**)

- Because every soul that will not be afflicted on this very day must be cut off from his people. (**Leviticus 23:29**)
- As for any soul that will do any sort of work on this very day, I must destroy that soul from among his people. (**Leviticus 23:30**)
- You must do no sort of work. It is a statute to time indefinite for your generations in all places where you dwell. (**Leviticus 23:31**)
- It is a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you must afflict your souls on the ninth of the month in the evening. From evening to evening you should observe your Sabbath. (**Leviticus 23:32**)
- And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (**Leviticus 23:33**)
- Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the **festival** of booths for seven days to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 23:34**)
- On the first day is a holy convention. No sort of laborious work may you do. (**Leviticus 23:35**)
- Seven days you should present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. On the eighth day there should occur a holy convention for you, and you must present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. It is a solemn assembly. No sort of laborious work may you do. (**Leviticus 23:36**)
- These are the seasonal **festivals** of Yehowah that you should proclaim as holy conventions, for presenting an offering made by fire to Yehowah, the burnt offering and the grain offering of the sacrifice and the drink offerings according to the daily schedule. (**Leviticus 23:37**)
- Besides the Sabbaths of Yehowah and besides your gifts and besides all your vow offerings and besides all your voluntary offerings, which you should give to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 23:38**)
- However, on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered the produce of the land, you should celebrate the **festival** of Yehowah seven days. On the first day is a complete

rest and on the eighth day is a complete rest. ([Leviticus 23:39](#))

- And you must take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, the fronds of palm trees and the boughs of branchy trees and poplars of the torrent valley, and you must rejoice before Yehowah your God seven days. ([Leviticus 23:40](#))
- And you must celebrate it as a **festival** to Yehowah seven days in the year. As a statute to time indefinite during your generations, you should celebrate it in the seventh month. ([Leviticus 23:41](#))
- It is in the booths you should dwell seven days. All the natives in Israel should dwell in the booths. ([Leviticus 23:42](#))
- In order, that your generations may know that it was in the booths that I made the sons of Israel to dwell when I was bringing them out of the land of Egypt. I am Yehowah your God. ([Leviticus 23:43](#))
- Accordingly Moses spoke of the seasonal **festivals** of Yehowah to the sons of Israel. ([Leviticus 23:44](#))
- Let there be an observing of the month of Abib, and you must celebrate the Passover to Yehowah your God, because in the month of Abib Yehowah your God brought you out of Egypt by night. ([Deuteronomy 16:1](#))
- And you must sacrifice the Passover to Yehowah your God, of the flock and of the herd, in the place that Yehowah will choose to have his name reside there. ([Deuteronomy 16:2](#))
- You must eat nothing leavened along with it for seven days. You should eat along with it unfermented cakes, the bread of affliction, because it was in haste that you came out of the land of Egypt, that you may remember the day of your coming out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life. ([Deuteronomy 16:3](#))
- And no sourdough should be seen with you in all your territory seven days, neither should any of the flesh, which you will sacrifice in the evening on the first day, stay all night until the morning. ([Deuteronomy 16:4](#))
- You will not be allowed to sacrifice the Passover in any one of your cities that Yehowah your God is giving you. ([Deuteronomy](#)

**16:5)**

- But at the place that Yehowah your God will choose to have his name reside there, you should sacrifice the Passover in the evening as soon as the sun sets, at the appointed time of your coming out of Egypt. (**Deuteronomy 16:6**)
- And you must do the boiling and the eating in the place that Yehowah your God will choose, and in the morning you must turn around and go to your own tents. (**Deuteronomy 16:7**)
- Six days you should eat unfermented cakes, and on the seventh day there will be a solemn assembly to Yehowah your God. You must do no work. (**Deuteronomy 16:8**)
- Seven weeks you should count for yourself. From when the sickle is first put to the standing grain you will start to count seven weeks. (**Deuteronomy 16:9**)
- Then you must celebrate the **festival** of weeks to Yehowah your God, according to the voluntary offering of your hand that you will give, just as Yehowah your God may bless you. (**Deuteronomy 16:10**)
- And you must rejoice before Yehowah your God, you and your son and your daughter and your man slave and your slave girl and the Levite who is inside your gates and the alien resident and the fatherless boy and the widow, who are in your midst, in the place that Yehowah your God will choose to have his name reside there. (**Deuteronomy 16:11**)
- And you must remember that you became a slave in Egypt, and you must observe and carry out these regulations. (**Deuteronomy 16:12**)
- The **festival** of booths you should celebrate for yourself seven days when you make an ingathering from your threshing floor and your oil and winepress. (**Deuteronomy 16:13**)
- And you must rejoice during your **festival**, you and your son and your daughter and your man slave and your slave girl and the Levite and the alien resident and the fatherless boy and the widow, who are inside your gates. (**Deuteronomy 16:14**)

- Seven days you will celebrate the **festival** to Yehowah your God in the place that Yehowah will choose, because Yehowah your God will bless you in all your produce and in every deed of your hand, and you must become nothing but joyful. (**Deuteronomy 16:15**)
- Three times in the year every male of yours should appear before Yehowah your God in the place that he will choose. In the **festival** of the unfermented cakes and in the festival of weeks and in the festival of booths, and none should appear before Yehowah empty-handed. (**Deuteronomy 16:16**)
- The gift of each ones hand should be in proportion to the blessing of Yehowah your God that he has given you. (**Deuteronomy 16:17**)
- In keeping with God's commands, the **festivals** helped all the attenders to keep their minds on the word of God and not to become so involved in their personal affairs that they would forget the more important spiritual aspect of their daily life.
- These **festivals** also reminded them that they were a people for Yehowah's name. Traveling to and from the **festive** gatherings would naturally give much opportunity to talk about the goodness of their God and the blessings they were daily and seasonally enjoying.
- The **festivals** afforded time and opportunity for meditation, association, and the discussion of Yehowah's Law. They broadened knowledge of the God-given land, increased understanding and neighbor love among the Israelites, and promoted unity and clean worship.
- The **festivals** were occasions of happiness. The minds of the attenders were filled with God's thoughts and ways, and all who participated in sincerity received a rich spiritual blessing. Consider, for example, the blessing to thousands who attended the **Festival** of Pentecost at Jerusalem in **33 C.E.**
- Now while the day of the **festival** of Pentecost was in progress they were all together at the same place. (**Acts of Apostles 2:1**)
- And suddenly there occurred from heaven a noise just like that of a rushing stiff breeze, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. (**Acts of Apostles 2:2**)

- And tongues as if of fire became visible to them and were distributed about, and one sat upon each one of them. ([Acts of Apostles 2:3](#))
- And they all became filled with Holy Spirit and started to speak with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance. ([Acts of Apostles 2:4](#))
- As it was, there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, reverent men, from every nation of those under heaven. ([Acts of Apostles 2:5](#))
- So, when this sound occurred, the multitude came together and were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ([Acts of Apostles 2:6](#))
- Indeed, they were astonished and began to wonder and say; See here, all these who are speaking are Galileans, are they not? ([Acts of Apostles 2:7](#))
- And yet how is it we are hearing, each one of us, his own language in which we were born? ([Acts of Apostles 2:8](#))
- Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and the inhabitants of Mesopotamia, and Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the district of Asia. ([Acts of Apostles 2:9](#))
- And Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya, which is toward Cyrene, and sojourners from Rome, both Jews and proselytes. ([Acts of Apostles 2:10](#))
- Cretans and Arabians, we hear them speaking in our tongues about the magnificent things of God. ([Acts of Apostles 2:11](#))
- Yes, they were all astonished and were in perplexity, saying one to another; What does this thing purport to be? ([Acts of Apostles 2:12](#))
- However, different ones mocked at them and began to say; They are full of sweet wine. ([Acts of Apostles 2:13](#))
- But Peter stood up with the eleven and raised his voice and made this utterance to them; Men of Judea and all you inhabitants of Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give ear to my sayings.

**(Acts of Apostles 2:14)**

- These people are, in fact, not drunk, as you suppose, for it is the third hour of the day. **(Acts of Apostles 2:15)**
- On the contrary, this is what was said through the prophet Joel. **(Acts of Apostles 2:16)**
- And in the last days, God says, I shall pour out some of my spirit upon every sort of flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy and your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams. **(Acts of Apostles 2:17)**
- And even upon my men slaves and upon my women slaves I will pour out some of my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. **(Acts of Apostles 2:18)**
- And I will give portents in heaven above and signs on earth below, blood and fire and smoke mist. **(Acts of Apostles 2:19)**
- The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and illustrious day of Yehowah arrives. **(Acts of Apostles 2:20)**
- And everyone who calls on the name of Yehowah will be saved. **(Acts of Apostles 2:21)**
- Men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus the Nazarene, a man publicly shown by God to you through powerful works and portents and signs that God did through him in your midst, just as you yourselves know. **(Acts of Apostles 2:22)**
- This man, as one delivered up by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, you fastened to a stake by the hand of lawless men and did away with. **(Acts of Apostles 2:23)**
- But God resurrected him by loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to continue to be held fast by it. **(Acts of Apostles 2:24)**
- For David says respecting him, I had Yehowah constantly before my eyes, because he is at my right hand that I may never be shaken. **(Acts of Apostles 2:25)**

- On this account my heart became cheerful and my tongue rejoiced greatly. Moreover, even my flesh will reside in hope. ([Acts of Apostles 2:26](#))
- Because you will not leave my soul in Hades, neither will you allow your loyal one to see corruption. ([Acts of Apostles 2:27](#))
- You have made lifes ways known to me, you will fill me with good cheer with your face. ([Acts of Apostles 2:28](#))
- Men, brothers, it is allowable to speak with freeness of speech to you concerning the family head David, that he both deceased and was buried and his tomb is among us to this day. ([Acts of Apostles 2:29](#))
- Therefore, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one from the fruitage of his loins upon his throne. ([Acts of Apostles 2:30](#))
- He saw beforehand and spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he forsaken in Hades nor did his flesh see corruption. ([Acts of Apostles 2:31](#))
- This Jesus God resurrected, of which fact we are all witnesses. ([Acts of Apostles 2:32](#))
- Therefore because he was exalted to the right hand of God and received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out this which you see and hear. ([Acts of Apostles 2:33](#))
- Actually David did not ascend to the heavens, but he himself says, Yehowah said to my Lord; Sit at my right hand. ([Acts of Apostles 2:34](#))
- Until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet. ([Acts of Apostles 2:35](#))
- Therefore let all the house of Israel know for a certainty that God made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you impaled. ([Acts of Apostles 2:36](#))
- Now when they heard this they were stabbed to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles; Men, brothers, what shall we do? ([Acts of Apostles 2:37](#))

- Peter said to them; Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit. ([Acts of Apostles 2:38](#))
- For the promise is to you and to your children and to all those afar off, just as many as Yehowah our God may call to him. ([Acts of Apostles 2:39](#))
- And with many other words he bore thorough witness and kept exhorting them, saying; Get saved from this crooked generation. ([Acts of Apostles 2:40](#))
- Therefore those who embraced his word heartily were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added. ([Acts of Apostles 2:41](#))
- And they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to sharing with one another, to taking of meals and to prayers. ([Acts of Apostles 2:42](#))
- Indeed, fear began to fall upon every soul, and many portents and signs began to occur through the apostles. ([Acts of Apostles 2:43](#))
- All those who became believers were together in having all things in common. ([Acts of Apostles 2:44](#))
- And they went selling their possessions and properties and distributing the proceeds to all, just as anyone would have the need. ([Acts of Apostles 2:45](#))
- And day after day they were in constant attendance at the temple with one accord, and they took their meals in private homes and partook of food with great rejoicing and sincerity of heart. ([Acts of Apostles 2:46](#))
- Praising God and finding favor with all the people. At the same time Yehowah continued to join to them daily those being saved. ([Acts of Apostles 2:47](#))
- The **festivals** symbolized happiness to the Jews. Before the exile in Babylon, by which time the nation in general had lost sight of the true spiritual purpose of the **festivals**, the prophets Hosea and Amos

linked the coming foretold desolation of Jerusalem with the cessation of these joyous and happy observances, or the turning of them into occasions of mourning.

- And I shall certainly cause all her exultation, her **festival**, her new moon and her Sabbath and her every **festal** season to cease. (**Hosea 2:11**)
- And I will turn your **festivals** into mourning and all your songs into a dirge, and I will bring up upon all hips sackcloth and upon every head baldness, and I will make the situation like the mourning for an only son, and the end result of it as a bitter day. (**Amos 8:10**)
- After Jerusalem's fall Jeremiah lamented that the ways of Zion are mourning, because there are none coming to the **festival**. **Festival** and Sabbath were now forgotten.
- The ways of Zion are mourning, because there are none coming to the **festival**. All her gates are laid desolate, her priests are sighing. Her virgins are grief-stricken, and she herself has bitterness. (**Lamentations 1:4**)
- And he treats his booth violently like that in a garden. He has brought his **festival** to ruin. Yehowah has caused to be forgotten in Zion festival and Sabbath, and in his angry denunciation he shows no respect for king and priest. (**Lamentations 2:6**)
- Isaiah described in advance the happy condition of the returned exiles from Babylon in **537 B.C.E**, saying,
- You people will come to have a song like that in the night that one sanctifies oneself for a **festival**, and rejoicing of heart like that of one walking with a flute to enter into the mountain of Yehowah, to the Rock of Israel. (**Isaiah 30:29**)
- However, it was not long after their restoration to their God-given land that they again corrupted Yehowah's **festivals**, so that, through the prophet Malachi, God warned the priests that the dung of their **festivals** would be scattered upon their faces.
- And now this commandment is to you, O priests. (**Malachi 2:1**)
- If you will not listen, and if you will not lay it to heart to give

glory to my name, Yehowah of armies has said; I shall also certainly send upon you the curse, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have even cursed the blessing, because you are not laying it to heart. (**Malachi 2:2**)

- Look! I am rebuking on your account the sown seed, and I will scatter dung upon your faces, the dung of your **festivals**, and someone will actually carry you away to it. (**Malachi 2:3**)
- The writers of the **Christian Greek Scriptures** make several references and allusions to the **festivals**, sometimes giving them a happy, symbolic, and prophetic application to Christians. However, the keeping of these **festivals** in a literal way was not enjoined upon Christians.
- Therefore let no man judge you in eating and drinking or in respect of a **festival** or of an observance of the new moon or of a Sabbath. (**Colossians 2:16**)
- For those things are a shadow of the things to come, but the reality belongs to the Christ. (**Colossians 2:17**)