

SERMON OUTLINE

In Leviticus 23:1-44 the LORD instructs His people concerning 7 appointed feasts & the weekly Sabbath (vs. 1-2, 37-38).

- I. You shall celebrate Passover (vs. 4-5).
- II. You shall celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread (vs. 6-8).
- III. You shall celebrate the Feast of Firstfruits (vs. 9-14).
- IV. You shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks (vs. 15-22).
- V. You shall celebrate the Feast of Trumpets (vs. 23-25).
- VI. You shall celebrate the Day of Atonement (vs. 26-32).
- VII. You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths (vs. 33-36, 39-44).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 10, 2019

Passage: Leviticus 23:1-44

Memory Passage: Leviticus 23:1

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Lev. 23:1-44.** Read this chapter twice today with the goal of understanding its structure by taking notice of repeated phrases/ideas and dates. Keeping the following questions in mind as you read may help. (1) What repeated phrases (sometimes with slight variations) do you notice? (2) What does this repeated phrase tell you about the structure of the passage (hint: they could begin or end a subsection, begin or end a major section, etc.)? (3) When do these feasts occur, especially with regard to Israel's agricultural life? (4) What principle seems to dominate the Israelite's behavior in these feasts? (5) What attitudes/beliefs seem to dominate Israel's response to God throughout these feasts?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Lev. 23:1-3.** What is a "holy convocation" and why are these feasts called such?

(b) In what ways is the Sabbath foundational for the rest of the festivals in this chapter?

(c) What reasons are given for keeping the Sabbath (also cf. Ex. 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15; Is. 58:13-14, etc.)?

(d) Are today's believers commanded to keep the Lord's Day (Sunday) in the same way Israelites were commanded to keep the Sabbath? Explain your answer (cf. Rom. 14:4-9; Col. 2:16-17, Heb. 3:7-4:11).

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Lev. 23:4-22.** How are the feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread connected, both in theme and calendar?

(b) When does the Feast of Firstfruits take place, and what is its significance?

(c) What does the phrase "in all your dwellings (vs. 14, 17, 21, 31) tell you about Israel's feasts?

(d) Explain the Feast of Weeks, including its relation to earlier feasts, its primary purpose, name, meaning, place on the calendar, length, etc.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Lev. 23:23-44.** What is the purpose of the Feast of Trumpets?

(b) We learned much about the Day of Atonement in chapter 16. What is the primary focus of chapter 23, and why do you think these commands are highlighted?

(c) What were the distinctive elements of the Feast of Booths, and of what did it serve as a reminder?

(d) What is the function of vs. 37-38 and why do they appear in the middle of the discussion of the Feast of Booths?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Matt. 11: 28-30 & Heb. 10:24-25.** How does each of these feasts in Leviticus 23 point forward to Christ (consider, for example, Matt. 11:28-30, Acts 2, 1 Cor. 5:7, 15:20-23, the timing of Jesus' death & resurrection, etc.)?

(b) Though you may not believe (as I do not) that NT believers are required to keep the Lord's Day as OT Israel was required to keep the Sabbath (cf. Day 2 (d)), how does Leviticus 23 inform your approach to worship today, and what changes might you need to make as you contemplate these facts? Consider, for example: all the extra Sabbaths, which fell on Sunday, required in the Feasts; the focus on rest from labor in order to worship God; the ideas of worship ("holy convocation") and rejoicing (v. 40) in community; the penalties for working instead of resting (revealing our need and God's provision and sovereignty); as well as anything else the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

DATE: November 10, 2019

PASSAGE: Leviticus 23:1-44

The LORD's Appointed Feasts