

HOLY DAYS

Exodus 12

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INTRODUCTION: THE HOLIDAY CONTROVERSEY

One of the persistent questions in the history of the church is what to do with holidays.

Jeremiah 10:2b-4

Do not learn the way of the nations... For the customs of the peoples are delusion; Because it is wood cut from the forest, The work of the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool. They decorate it with silver and with gold;

? Why is there so much controversy?

Regulative Principle of Worship

We only worship as the Bible specifically prescribes.

Normative Principle of Worship

We exclude worshipping in ways that Scripture specifically prohibits.

We can use the feasts of Exodus 12 as a springboard to introduce the Old Testament Law and discover how we as Christians should look at Old Testament laws and traditions.

The first two Old Testament holidays are found in Exodus 12.

I. THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

A. UNLEAVENED BREAD=REPENTANCE, V. 8

Throughout the Bible, leaven or yeast is a symbol of sin.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

B. THE COMMAND TO CELEBRATE, VV. 14-20

1. A Permanent Ordinance, v. 14

2. Prescriptions for Celebration

a. Celebrated for seven days, vv. 15-19

b. Remove all leaven from your houses, v. 15

c. Eat only unleavened bread, v. 20

d. Holy assemblies, v. 16

e. Required attendance, Deuteronomy 16:16

C. THE REASONS TO CELEBRATE, V. 14

1. To Remember

2. As Worship

II. THE PASSOVER CELEBRATION

A. APPLYING THE BLOOD=FAITH, VV. 6, 22-23

Hebrews 11:28

By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.

B. THE REASON TO CELEBRATE

1. To Remember and to Remind Your Children, vv. 24-27

2. To Celebrate

C. THE COMMAND TO CELEBRATE, VV. 42-49

1. A Permanent Ordinance, v. 24

2. Prescriptions for Celebration

a. Exclusive to Israel, vv. 43-45, 47-48

b. It is to be celebrated on the fourteenth of the month, v. 6

c. It is to be eaten inside (not taken outside)

d. No bones are to be broken

III. THE LAW FOR CHRISTIANS

A. THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

To reveal the holiness and glory of God.

B. CHRIST AND THE LAW

Matthew 5:17-19

C. THE LAW FOR CHRISTIANS

Romans 7:1-6

We obey every law, even the ceremonial laws by the Spirit, not by the letter.

Matthew 5:21-48

D. MODERN EQUIVALENTS

1. The Feast of Unleavened Bread=Baptism?

Acts 2:38

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2. The Feast of Passover=Communion?

? What about feasts that don't have a modern equivalent?

Point: Every law reveals the character of God. All believers should search for this and apply it, then to the letter, now by the spirit.

CONCLUSION: HOLIDAYS TODAY

? Should we celebrate holidays today?

John 4:23

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

Romans 14:5-9

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

APPLICATION

If you celebrate a holiday:

1. Let it be a day to remember what God has done.
2. Use it to remind your children of what God has done.
3. Let it be for the purpose of worship.