Lesson 58 – The Annual Festivals

based on Leviticus 23.

1) What was expected of every male three times a year in Israel?
   Exodus 23:14 Three times thou shalt keep a _____ unto me in the year.
   Exodus 23:15 Thou shalt keep the feast of _____ bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)
   Exodus 23:16 And the feast of _____, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of _____, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

The people were surrounded by fierce, warlike tribes, that were eager to seize upon their lands; yet three times every year all the able-bodied men and all the people who could make the journey were directed to leave their homes and repair to the place of assembly, near the center of the land.

2) Who took care of things while you were gone?
   Psalm 34:7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that _____ him, and delivereth them.
   Exodus 34:24 For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man _____ thy land, when thou shalt go up to appear before the LORD thy God thrice in the year.
3) Which Festival came first?
   Leviticus 23:5-6 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S _____. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of _____ bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

On the 14th of the first month the Passover was kept and the next day was the beginning of a seven-day feast called the Feast of Unleavened Bread, eight days in all.

Throughout the land, bands of pilgrims were making their way toward Jerusalem. The shepherds from their flocks, the herdsmen from the mountains, fishers from the Sea of Galilee, the husbandmen from their fields, and sons of the prophets from the sacred schools, all turned their steps toward the place where God's presence was revealed.

All the houses in Jerusalem were thrown open to the pilgrims, and rooms were furnished free; but this was not sufficient for the vast assembly, and tents were pitched in every available space in the city and upon the surrounding hills.

4) What was to happen at the Passover?
   Exodus 12:5-7 Your lamb shall be without _____, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall _____ it in the evening. And they shall take of the _____, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

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On the fourteenth day of the month, at even, the Passover was celebrated, its solemn, impressive ceremonies commemorating the deliverance from bondage in Egypt, and pointing forward to the sacrifice that should deliver from the bondage of sin. When the Saviour yielded up His life on Calvary, the significance of the Passover ceased, and the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was instituted as a memorial of the same event of which the Passover had been a type.

5) What happened the next day beginning the Feast of Unleavened Bread?
Leviticus 23:7-8 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven _____: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.
6) What happened on the second day of the Feast?
Leviticus 23:10-11 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the _____ thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the _____ of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

On the second day of the feast, the first fruits of the year's harvest were presented before God. Barley was the earliest grain in Palestine, and at the opening of the feast it was beginning to ripen. A sheaf of this grain was waved by the priest before the altar of God, as an acknowledgment that all was His. Not until this ceremony had been performed was the harvest to be gathered.

On the second day (the 3rd from the Passover) Christ presented Himself as the Wave Sheaf offering before the Father on Sunday morning. He was the Firstfruits of the harvest of the redeemed of the Earth.

7) What was the second Feast of the year?
Leviticus 23:15-16 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the _____ offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number _____ days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

Fifty days from the offering of first fruits, came the Pentecost, called also the feast of harvest and the feast of weeks. As an expression of gratitude for the grain prepared as food, two loaves baked with leaven were presented before God. The Pentecost occupied but one day, which was devoted to religious service. The two loaves represented God's acceptance of the redeemed through Christ's sacrifice. That's what the resurrection of many at Christ's death was about. They went with Him into heaven at the time of His ascension from the Mount of Olives.

8) What was the third appointment with the LORD in the year?
Leviticus 23:34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of _____ for seven days unto the LORD.

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In the seventh month came the Feast of Tabernacles, or of ingathering. This feast acknowledged God's bounty in the products of the orchard, the olive grove, and the vineyard. It was the crowning festal gathering of the year. The land had yielded its increase, the harvests had been gathered into the granaries, the fruits, the oil, and the wine had been stored, the first fruits had been reserved, and now the people came with their tributes of thanksgiving to God, who had thus richly blessed them.

This feast was to be pre-eminently an occasion of rejoicing. It occurred just after the great Day of Atonement, when the assurance had been given that their iniquity should be remembered no more. At peace with God, they now came before Him to acknowledge His goodness and to praise Him for His mercy. The labors of the harvest being ended, and the toils of the new year not yet begun, the people were free from care, and could give themselves up to the sacred, joyous influences of the hour. Though only the fathers and sons were commanded to appear at the feasts, yet, so far as possible, all the household were to attend them, and to their hospitality the servants, the Levites, the stranger, and the poor were made welcome.

9) What was unique about this Feast?
Leviticus 23:40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, _____ of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.
Leviticus 23:42-43 Ye shall dwell in _____ seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I _____ them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Well would it be for the people of God at the present time to have a Feast of Tabernacles, a joyous commemoration of the blessings of God to them. As the children of Israel celebrated the deliverance that God had wrought for their fathers, and His miraculous preservation of them during their journeyings from Egypt, so should we gratefully call to mind the various ways He has devised for bringing us out from the world, and from the darkness of error, into the precious light of His grace and truth.

The Feast of Tabernacles was not only commemorative but typical. It not only pointed back to the wilderness sojourn, but, as the feast of harvest, it celebrated the ingathering of the fruits of the earth and pointed forward to the great day of final ingathering, when the Lord of the harvest shall send forth His reapers to gather the tares together in bundles for the fire, and to gather the wheat into His garner.

10) What will happen to the wicked at that time?
Obadiah 1:16 For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they _____ _____ _____.
11) Who will be left?
Revelation 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, _____, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

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The people of Israel praised God at the Feast of Tabernacles, as they called to mind His mercy in their deliverance from the bondage of Egypt and His tender care for them during their pilgrim life in the wilderness. They rejoiced also in the consciousness of pardon and acceptance, through the service of the day of atonement, just ended. But when the ransomed of the Lord shall have been safely gathered into the heavenly Canaan, forever delivered from the bondage of the curse.

12) What is the future of those who trust in the LORD?
Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the _____ _____ of the children of God.

Can you see that Salvation was mapped out by God in the Festivals ?

Would you like to be there in the actual Feast of Tabernacles in Heaven?

When is it time to remember our deliverance?

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