

LEVITICUS 23V4-22 THE SPRING FESTIVALS

These appointed feasts of Yahweh were so important that they are mentioned five times in the law. Exodus records the three main pilgrim festivals (Ex 23v14-19) and these are repeated again when the covenant is renewed (Ex 34v18-26). All the festivals are recorded in (Num 28,29). Finally, they appear in (Deut 16v1-17) when Moses speaks to the new generation of people about to enter the promised land. These festivals are important because not only do they look back, but they also point forward to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ who has fulfilled them all in His glorious person and work.

Passover v4,5

The Passover meal was to be observed annually on the 14th day of the first month. The timing is significant. As the first sacrifice to be observed in the year it spoke of the new beginning Israel enjoyed, thanks to the mighty intervention of God. It celebrated their redemption by the slaying of the Passover lamb. The full details are found in (Ex 12v1-51). This feast points us to Christ the true Passover lamb who has been sacrificed for us (1 Cor 5v7).

Unleavened Bread v6-8

The Passover merged into the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which began the next day and lasted for seven days. They were to eat unleavened bread in commemoration of their quick escape from Egypt (Ex 12v17-20). Redemption is to be followed by a holy life and walk (1 Cor 5v7,8) communion with Christ, the unleavened bread, will result in separation from evil (leaven).

Firstfruits 9-14

Firstfruits was an important day within the festival of unleavened Bread, for it was the time when the first sheaf of the barley harvest was offered to the Lord. It was a pledge of the complete harvest in the field. This sheaf was to be waved before the Lord on the day after the Passover Sabbath. It is of profound significance that Jesus Christ, who died at the time of the Passover, rose from the dead on the "day after the Sabbath" to become the "first fruits" of those who sleep in Jesus (1 Cor 15v20).

Feast of Weeks or Pentecost v15-22

This occurred fifty days after the Feast of first fruits. It celebrated the ingathering of the wheat harvest (v22). This feast finds its fulfilment in the events surrounding the gift of the Holy Spirit as a result of the death and resurrection of Christ. In Acts 2v1 Luke writes "...when the day of Pentecost had fully come". The Greek word = "was fulfilled". This was the day when three thousand people were converted to Christ. It was the beginning, a foretaste, as Luke indicates in the book of Acts, of a worldwide harvest to be gathered in.