

## *Entering the Joy of God's Rest*

Leviticus 23:1-44

February 2, 2014

Sermon Outline

Notes:

### I. Introduction

- A. Children's Sermon (The seed sown)
- B. What is Being Taught in Lev. 23?

#### **Key Idea**

*God appointed feasts and holy days to remind Israel of His acts of creation, deliverance, protection, and provision; and to announce Jesus to them.*

### II. Review

- A. Holy Times set by and for the LORD
- B. The Sabbath "Rest" (Leviticus 23:3-4)
- C. Passover (Lev. 23:5-8)

"The instruction for Passover was that in the springtime on Nisan 14 the people killed a lamb at twilight, roasted it, and ate it in common that night. The expression translated "at twilight" is *bēn hā`ar-bāyim* (lit., "between the evenings"), which should probably be taken to mean the middle of the afternoon between noon (when the sun begins to go down) and darkness; thus, about 3:00 p.m."<sup>1</sup>

#### **Mark 15:33-37**

<sup>33</sup> And when the *sixth hour* had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the *ninth hour*.<sup>34</sup> And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"<sup>35</sup> And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah."<sup>36</sup> And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah

---

<sup>1</sup> Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (412). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

will come to take him down.”<sup>37</sup> And Jesus uttered a loud cry *and breathed his last*.

D. “Feast” (pilgrim-feast) of Unleavened Bread  
(Lev. 23:5–8)

(1<sup>st</sup> Feast)

**1 Corinthians 5:6–8** (Context Sexual Immorality)

<sup>6</sup> Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little *leaven* leavens the whole lump? <sup>7</sup> Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For **Christ**, our *Passover lamb*, has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Let us therefore *celebrate the festival*, *not with the old leaven*, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the *unleavened bread* of sincerity and truth.

E. The Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9–14)

**Leviticus 23:11b**

“*On the day after the Sabbath* the priest shall wave it.” ... (Burt offering; Grain Offering X2; No Eating)

1. “Firstfruit” of God’s Promised Provision
2. Resurrection of Jesus

**1 Corinthians 15:16–24**

<sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the *firstfruits* of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

### III. The “Times” of the LORD (Continued)

#### A. The Feast of Weeks/Pentecost (Lev. 23:15–22)

(2<sup>nd</sup> Feast)

##### 1. Love God

“This festival celebrated what the harvests produced, or more precisely what the Lord had produced for them.

The Feast of Weeks also came to commemorate the giving of the law that took place shortly after Passover and the exodus from Egypt.”<sup>2</sup>

- **2 loaves** of bread as “firstfruits”
- 7 lambs, 1 bull 2 rams – a burnt offering to the Lord, (with their grain offering and their drink offerings, a food offering) with *a pleasing aroma to the Lord*;
- 1 male goat – sin offering;
- 2 lambs – a sacrifice of **peace offerings**.
- A holy convocation. No ordinary work.

##### 2. Love Neighbor

#### Leviticus 23:15–44

<sup>22</sup> “And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.”

#### B. **The** Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

#### Acts 2:1–5

<sup>1</sup> When **the** day of **Pentecost** arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And **divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them**. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other

---

<sup>2</sup> Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (420). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.<sup>5</sup> Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ...

“Just as the firstfruits were eventually turned into loaves of bread, Christ’s death and resurrection produced the body of Christ—believers who were gathered into the church on this day of Pentecost. And just as Pentecost commemorated the giving of the law to Israel at Sinai, the Lord chose this day to send his Spirit and unite the body of Christ. According to the new covenant (Jer. 31:31–34; Ezek. 36:24–32) the Spirit will write the law on the hearts of the believers.”<sup>3</sup>

#### IV. Application: Believe God

- A. God Announced His Own Story!
- B. Jesus is Our Sabbath Rest (The Law was a Schoolmaster)

#### Colossians 2:16–17

<sup>16</sup> Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a *festival* or a new moon or a *Sabbath*.<sup>17</sup> *These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.*

#### Hebrews 3:12–14

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, *unbelieving heart*, leading you to fall away from the living God.<sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.<sup>14</sup> *For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.*

#### Key Idea

*We enter God’s rest, God’s feast by hearing about and believing in the savior He sent.*

---

<sup>3</sup> Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (424). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.