

Feasts of the Old Testament

Objectives

To understand the significance of the Old Testament feasts as precursors of our life with the Lord Jesus Christ

References

Holy Scripture

Scriptural Verse

“So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.” (Colossians 2:16, 17)

Lesson Outlines

Purpose of Feasts

- ❖ To remember an event that God did for His people
- ❖ A source of joy

Major Annual Feats

- ❖ Passover Feast
- ❖ Feast of Unleavened Bread
- ❖ Feast of First Fruits
- ❖ Feast of Pentecost
- ❖ Feast of the Trumpets (“Rosh Hashanah”)
- ❖ Feast of Atonement (“Yom Kippur”)
- ❖ Feast of Tabernacles (“Sukkot”)

Passover Feast

When?

- ❖ On the 14th day of the 1st month, Nissan (April)

Why?

- ❖ Remember the Exodus from Egypt

Old Testament References:

- ❖ Exodus 11:4-7, 12:1-13; Leviticus 23:4-5

Symbol:

- ❖ Crucifixion of the Lord Christ

New Testament References:

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 5:7

Feast of Unleavened Bread

When?

- ❖ For seven (7) days after the Passover

Why?

- ❖ Leaven is yeast which is a symbol of sin
- ❖ Removing sin from our lives

Old Testament Reference:

- ❖ Exodus 12:39, Leviticus 23:6-8

Symbol:

- ❖ Sinless Sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross
- ❖ Burial of the Lord

New Testament Reference:

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Feast of the First Fruits**When?**

- ❖ Sunday after the Passover

Why?

- ❖ The blessing of offering the first born of the livestock and the fields

Old Testament References:

- ❖ Leviticus 23:9-14, Malachi 1:8

Symbol:

- ❖ The Lord Jesus Christ is the first fruit of those who have risen from the dead!
- ❖ Resurrection

New Testament Reference:

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:20

Feast of the Pentecost**When?**

- ❖ 50 days after First Fruits (May/June)

Why?

- ❖ Celebrate the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses 50 days after crossing the Red Sea

Old Testament Reference:

- ❖ Leviticus 23:15-22

Symbol:

- ❖ Coming down of the Holy Spirit

New Testament References:

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 3:2-3, Acts 2:1-4

Feast of Trumpets: “Rosh Hashanah”**When?**

- ❖ 1st day of the 7th month, Tishri (September)
- ❖ New Year

Why?

- ❖ 10 days of repentance; new life

Old Testament Reference:

- ❖ Leviticus 23:23-25

Symbol:

- ❖ Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

New Testament Reference:

- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

Day of Atonement: “Yom Kippor”**When?**

- ❖ 10th day of the 7th month, Tishri (September)

Why?

- ❖ High Priest would offer a sacrifice for himself and the people

Old Testament Reference:

- ❖ Leviticus 23:26-32

Symbol:

- ❖ Second Coming and Final Judgment

New Testament Reference:

- ❖ Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:11-15

Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)**When?**

- ❖ 5 days after Yom Kippur, Tishri 15 (September/October)
- ❖ Lasts for 7 days

Why?

- ❖ Remember the 40 years in the wilderness

Old Testament Reference:

- ❖ Leviticus 23:33-34,42-44

Symbol:

- ❖ People’s punishment and God’s faithfulness

New Testament Reference:

- ❖ Matthew 8:11

Other Feasts

- ❖ Sabbath
- ❖ Sabbatical Year, The Year of Release
- ❖ Year of Jubilee

Conclusion

The feasts of the Old Testament represent the feasts of the New Testament, which are experienced by the Church.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. What are some differences between the feasts of the Old and New Testament?
2. Discuss the importance of the Old Testament feasts as symbols of the new covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ.