

# Celebrate Jesus Celebrate

## Leviticus 23

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### Introduction

Is having fun and being a Christian two different things? Are parties for the people in the world? Why are Christians so serious about everything? As we are going to discover today God is author of both fun and parties. The Jewish calendar is full of God appointed celebrations. Times to reflect on the hope of His promises and reminders of what He has done.

In the Old Testament these appointed feasts were full of symbolic rituals to keep the children of Israel focused on the promised Messiah. In the New Testament these feasts now are a celebration to remind us of what we have in Christ. The observance of these feasts are no longer law but it does not mean they have to be done away with (Col 2:16-17). Celebrating the feasts can enhance one's relationship with God and provide a warm festive family experience that is far richer in meaning and purpose than the world's holidays.

Holidays means holy days, it is time as Christians that we redeem the holidays and celebrate them God's way. Christians should not reflect on the past and remember the days they use to have fun. As Christians the world should look to us in awe of how we celebrate the goodness of God through the different feasts.

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### I. Sabbaths. "Celebrate the Rest of God"

- Leviticus 23:1-4

- A. Six Days Shall Man Work.

- 1. Work unto the Lord not men. (Col. 3:23)
    - 2. Do all things without grumbling or questioning.....be lights in the world. (Phil. 2:14-15)

- B. The Seventh Day Shall Be A Sabbath.

- 1. Complete Rest. (Hebrews 4:10 "whoever has entered the rest of God has ceased from his works.")

Sunday, February 12, 2017

2. Holy Assembly. (Hebrews 10:25 “do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together...”)
  - a) Supply grace to each other. (Ephesians 4:16)
  - b) Encourage and build each other up. (1 Thes. 5:11)

“In addition to the Sabbath, these are the lord’s appointed festivals, the official days for holy assembly that are to be celebrated at their proper times each year.” Leviticus 23:4

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## II. Passover & Feast of Unleavened Bread. “Celebration of Being Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb”

- Leviticus 23:5-8, Exodus 12:3-14
- Early Spring March or April depending on the year.
  - A. Celebrate What?
    1. We are redeemed from the curse of the law.
    2. The judgment of God has been turned away.
    3. We are released from oppression & bondage.
    4. The promises of God are now restored.
  - B. Celebrate How?
    1. Special Passover Worship Service
    2. Share a traditional Passover meal.

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## III. The Feast of Pentecost. “Celebrate Open Heavens”

- (Exodus 19:16-20, Acts 2:1-4)
- First Sunday in June
  - A. Celebrate What?
    1. The Person of the Holy Spirit
      - a) The fruits of the spirit.
      - b) The gifts of the spirit.

2. The revelation of God.
  - a) The right understanding of the Word.
  - b) Prophetic vision.
3. A fresh release of Holy Spirit.
  - a) Deeper surrender to God. (Galatians 5:25)
  - b) Eagerly desire the greater gifts. (1 Cor. 12:31)

B. Celebrate How?

1. Dedicate Pentecost Sunday as a time of refreshing of Holy Spirit.
2. Plan a private retreat to be alone with Holy Spirit for renewal.

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IV. Feast of Trumpets. "A Wake Up Call"

- (Leviticus 23:24, 27-28, 34, Deut. 16:13-15)
- Sept. 21-22
- Also called "Rosh Hashanah" - meaning the "head of the year." Jews believe this was the time of the beginning of creation.

A. Celebrate What?

1. The blasts of trumpets is a call to "awaken." (Isaiah 52:1, Ephesians 5:14)
  - a) Don't forget who you are in Christ.
  - b) Don't forget your purpose in Christ.
2. Ask God to show you anything that is hindering His work in you.

B. Celebrate How?

1. Gather together with God's people to worship.
2. Seek God for Prophetic direction.

## V. The Day's of Awe

- (Jeremiah 29:12-13)
  - Ten Days after trumpets to prepare one's heart for the prophetic direction given for the next year.
  - These days are also called "*Teshuvah*" which means "to turn," and "return."
    - A. Praise Him and Read His Word.
    - B. Ask God to reveal old cycles.
    - C. Ask God to reveal any old sin in your life.
    - D. Draw close to God.
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## VI. The Day of Atonement. "Experiencing Restoration"

- (Lev. 23:27-28, Lev. 16:5-34 "Scapegoat")
  - September 30th
  - A time of to experience restoration of relationship with God.
    - A. It is not a feast but a fast.
    - B. It is a day of repentance to get right with God.
    - C. It is a time to celebrate forgiveness. Jesus became the sacrifice for our sin like the first goat and took away our sin like the scape goat.
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## VII. The Feast of Tabernacles. "Celebrating God's Glory"

- (Exodus 40:33-35, John 1:14)
- Oct. 5-11th
- A time to break out of every cycle of destruction and into God's cycle of blessing.
- Tabernacles or *sukkot*, is an appointed time to come boldly into God's presence, knowing that every hindrance is removed.
  - A. Celebrate What? (The Five Tabernacles)
    1. Tabernacle of Moses (Exodus 40:33-35)

- a) Perfect provision.
  - b) Divine protection.
  - c) Total Health.
2. Tabernacle of David. (Psalm 63:2 “I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.”)
    - a) God’s blessing was poured out and Israel enjoyed incredible prosperity and victory over every enemy.
  3. Tabernacle of Jesus. (John 1:14)
    - a) God dwelt among His people and manifested His glory releasing life, healing, salvation, and deliverance.
  4. Eternal Tabernacle. (Revelations 21:3-4 “Now the Tabernacle of God is with men and He will live with them.”)
    - a) Isaiah 4:5 says “over everything God will be our tabernacle.”
  5. The Fifth Tabernacle is the Church. (Acts 15:16-17 describes the church now as the restoration of David’s tabernacle.
    - a) God’s glory is now enthroned in the praises of His people.
- B. Celebrate How?
1. A week set apart of extended times to worship and encounter God.
  2. Special services to offer God thanksgiving and praise for His glory.
  3. Build a Sukkah (a tabernacle, or temporary shelter to reflect the covering of God’s over our lives and the fruitfulness that comes by abiding in the vine.)

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## VIII. The Charge

- A. It is not sin to miss these appointed times but it is an opportunity to have a special time to meet with God and celebrate His goodness. So why not?
- B. Celebrate holidays the way God intended. That we may provoke Jews and Gentiles to jealousy for what we have in Christ.
- C. Learn to live a life of joy. For joy is contagious. The fruit of joy is what God uses to draw people to Him.