

# **Welcome to the Tabernacle**

## **LESSON 11**

**God's Prophetic Calendar**

**We must be careful in studying the tabernacle that we do not stop with the structure or even the Shekinah glory, for it was what took place in the tabernacle that really mattered.**

**One does not go to church simply to admire the architecture of the building, beautiful as it may be.**

**Neither does one go just to see what mighty things one might experience there.**

**We go to church services to  
WORSHIP God.**

**Many times during this study, reference has been made to one of the feasts—the Day of Atonement.**

**The ultimate sacrifice of Christ on the cross was foreshadowed by the Day of Atonement.**

**The sixteenth chapter of *Leviticus* is completely devoted to this most important day of the year to the nation of Israel.**

**However, if we are to learn the lessons God has for us in the Day of Atonement, we must also study the 23rd chapter of *Leviticus*, where the Day of Atonement is placed in**

**chronological order in relation to the other six holy feast days that were annually observed by all devout Jewish males.**

**The full significance of Leviticus 23 cannot be understood without realizing it is God's prophetic calendar.**

**Additionally, if we are to understand what God is doing in this world, we must be acquainted with His calendar.**

**God is a God who does things decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40).**

**God's orderly observance of the annual holy feast days is no exception, as they begin with...**

## **I. The Passover**

**Leviticus 23:5 "'On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Passover.'"**



**God's calendar is lunar and is therefore based on the moon rather than the earth's revolutions around the sun.**

**Each month starts with a new moon, reaching a full moon in the midst of the 28-day cycle.**

**Thus, the fourteenth day of the month is the full moon.**

**In Hebrew reckoning, the day begins with sundown, or moonrise.**

**This seemed to be God's intention from the very beginning.**

**Genesis 1:5 "God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day."**

**The feast of Passover marked the beginning of Israel's religious calendar.**

**After NT times, the Jewish Christians linked Easter with the Passover and observed it on the fourteenth day of Nisan (April) regardless of the day of the week.**

**H o w e v e r , G e n t i l e  
C h r i s t i a n s l a t e r c e l e b r a t e d  
t h e a n n u a l o b s e r v a n c e o f  
t h e r e s u r r e c t i o n o f C h r i s t  
o n t h e L o r d ' s d a y  
( S U N D A Y ) .**

## II. The Meaning of Passover

**The full explanation of the Passover Feast is found in Exodus 11 and 12.**

**The nation of Israel had been in bondage for more than 400 years.**

**The growing numbers of the Israelites had caused the Pharaoh to be apprehensive, so he issued a decree that all male Jewish babies be killed.**

**This would eventually cause the Israelites to become extinct.**

**However, God intervened and saved the life of the baby Moses and prepared him to lead his people out of Egypt.**

**Because of the resistance of the Pharaoh to the exodus of the Israelites, what did God decree in:**



**Exodus 11:4-5 "Then Moses said,  
"Thus says the LORD: 'About  
midnight I will go out into the midst  
of Egypt; 5 'and all the firstborn in  
the land of Egypt shall die, from the  
firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his  
throne, even to the firstborn of the  
female servant who is behind the  
handmill, and all the firstborn of the  
animals.'"**

**Observance of the Passover introduced the nation of Israel to the significance of the LAMB as God's provision for His own people so God would "pass over" and not take the life of the firstborn.**

**According to Exodus 12:5, the lamb had to be without blemish, a male.**

**Exodus 12:6-7 "'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. 7 'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.'"**

**For salvation from God's judgment, the blood of the lamb was required to be applied to the door posts.**

**With unmistakable clarity the New Testament identifies Jesus as the perfect Lamb, which God the Father knew He would provide.**

**John 1:29 "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"**

**1 Peter 1:19 "but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."**

**Revelation 5:11-12 "Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!""**

**Matthew 26:28** ""For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

**The Christian celebrates Passover, in effect, by participating in the Lord's Supper.**

**Back in Egypt the Jew marked his house with the blood of the Lamb.**

**Today the Christian marks his house – his body, “the house of the spirit” – with the blood of Christ.**

**The angel of death will pass over each Christian just as he passed over each obedient Jew in Egypt.**



**Leviticus 16:3-4 “But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on.”**

**In the Passover, God's prophetic calendar comes into clear focus.**

**The institution of the Passover in Exodus 12 prophetically points to the day God's Lamb would provide a new beginning for all who would trust in His sacrifice.**

**It is no coincidence the Lord Jesus was crucified during Passover.**

**The night before Jesus died He was leading His disciples in a Passover meal.**

**Near the end of His last Passover meal, according to...**

*Matthew 26:26 “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples.”*

**At that point the Passover passed over into the Lord's Supper.**

**The remarkable fulfillment of Passover on the exact day illustrates a principle which we will see with each of the feasts.**

**Our Lord fulfilled each feast on its appropriate day with an appropriate action up to the point we have now reached in His prophetic plan.**

**We will see that all seven of the feasts have either been fulfilled, or are prophesied to be fulfilled, with reference to their exact meaning.**

**Passover, then represents our SALVATION.**

**We do not keep the feast in remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt, since that was but a mere**

**shadow of the greater redemption to come.**

**The Lord Himself instructed us to “Do this in remembrance of Me.”**

**We take communion, (The Lord's Super) a part of the original Passover feast, in remembrance of **the Lord.****

**The Gospels very carefully point out Jesus was crucified on the Feast of Passover, for in John 18:28 when Jesus was taken from Caiaphas to the Praetorian (Hall of Judgment), the Jews would not enter “...lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the passover.”**



**To understand this statement, since the Passover was observed the night before Jesus was arrested and put on trial, we must consider.**

### **III. The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6-8)**

**The Feast of the Passover was followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread, with the two forming a double festival.**

**The Feast of Unleavened Bread began the day after Passover and lasted seven days (Leviticus 23:5-8).**

**They are sometimes referred to as one and the same, as we see in:**

**Matthew 26:17-19 “Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,**

**“Where will You have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” 18 He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ” 19 And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.”**

**Luke 22:1 "Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover."**

**At the gate of the Praetorium, Jesus was handed over to the governor's soldiers because the righteous members of the Sanhedrin who were in the procession would be defiled if they entered the heathen palace.**

**Exodus 23:14 “Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. 15 Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened 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:) 16 And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. 17 Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.”**

**Exodus 23:14 “Three times thou shall keep a feast unto me in the year.”**

**The feast of the passover, on the fourteenth of the month Nisan or March; and the feast of weeks or pentecost fifty days after that; and the feast of tabernacles on the fifteenth day of Tisri or September.**

**And, if they were defiled, they could not participate in the Feast of Unleavened Bread that was a part of the Passover.**

**God told the Jews to eat only pure, unleavened bread during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.**



**In the Bible, leaven symbolizes sin.**

**Passover was a one-day feast because the slaying of the lamb was a single act.**

**However, the Feast of Unleavened bread was of longer duration—seven days— because it pictures the outcome of Passover.**

**Passover is a picture of Christ's death on the cross, a one-time act.**

**Unleavened bread represents a holy life, which should be characteristic of the believer after he or she has received Christ.**

**The apostle Paul commented beautifully on the feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread, with which he was, of course, quite familiar as a Jewish scholar:**

**1 Corinthians 5:7-8 "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."**

**The unleavened bread in the New Testament is, of course, the body of our Lord.**

**He is described as “the Bread of Life”.**

**He was born in Bethlehem, in Hebrew “House of Bread”.**

**He utilized bread as an image of Himself (“If a kernel of wheat fall into the ground.”).**

**God fed the Israelites in the wilderness with manna from heaven, and He feeds the Christians in the world on the Bread of Life.**

**The very piece of bread used by the Jews during this week of Unleavened Bread is a good picture of our Lord.**

**Anyone who has seen the Jewish matzoh sees that it is striped (“By His stripes are we healed”), **pierced** (“They shall look upon me whom they’ ve pierced”), **and,****

**of course, pure, without any leaven,  
as His body was without any sin.**

**The Passover ceremony of breaking  
and burying and then resurrecting a  
piece of this bread (the middle piece,  
as the Son in the Trinity) very  
obviously presents the Gospel in the  
midst of the modern Jewish Passover  
celebration.**



# Matzoh



**God performed this exact ceremony with the burial of Jesus, our precious piece of unleavened bread, and more importantly, He performed it on the exact day of the feast.**

**Once again, the required feast was fulfilled in a remarkable and unmistakable way.**

**Men have speculated just how it was that Jesus died so quickly on the cross.**

**Crucifixion normally took three days.**

**That was the point of it.**

**The victim died by inches as the people passed the cross, morning and night, morning and night.**

**The Romans utilized this slow and terrible way of death to terrify the population of provincial Israel.**

**We see in the Gospel that the governor was not ready to believe that the young, strong Carpenter of Galilee was dead in just six hours.**

**Mark 15:44 "And Pilate marveled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead."**

**The speculation is ended of course, if we simply understand the schedule of the first two feasts.**

**Our Lord died in time to be buried at sundown that day.**

**He was placed on the cross at 9:00 a.m. (“The third hour”) and taken down at 3:00 p.m.**

**There was then time enough to wrap the body and bury it at sundown.**

**The answer to why He died in six hours is that's all the time He could spare.**

**Our Lord never omitted a feast.**

**He said pointedly enough that no one could take His life from Him — “I lay it down and I take it up again.”**

**NEXT: The feast of First Fruits**



**PRAYER TIME**

# Prayer Time