

Lessons from Torah 91

Learning from the Feasts - Journey Into Rest (Leviticus 23)

1. We are taking our time going through the Torah (the books of Moses) because they were designed by God to:
 - a. Luke 16:27-31, John 5:39, Galatians 3:24 - Prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah
 - b. Colossians 2:17, Hebrews 10:1 - Teach us what God is doing in our lives as believers in Jesus Christ, so we can better see His hand at work in our lives and not live in ways that interfere with that work
2. The feasts described in Leviticus 23 were designed around the seasons of the year, giving to each a religious significance
 - a. The Weekly Feast - The **Sabbath** and its command to add rest to labor
 - b. The “Early Feasts” – The Spring Harvest
 - i. **Passover** and **Matzoh** (Unleavened Bread) – A reminder of how God brought them into being
 - ii. **Firstfruits** – Giving to God the first harvest as an expression of faith in the harvest yet to come
 - iii. **Shavuot** - (Festival of Weeks, which we call Pentecost) – Celebrating the full Spring Harvest
 - c. The “Latter Feasts” – Testimony to God’s Provision
 - i. The Feast of **Trumpets** – Announcing the Holiest days of the year:
 - ii. Yom Kippur – **Day of Atonement** – forgiveness for the whole people of God
 - iii. Sukkoth – **The Feast of Tabernacles** – re-enacting the Exodus to remind the people of God’s promise to provide, as he did then
3. For the Christian, the Feasts are a reminder of our new life in Christ.
 - a. Faith offers us a **Sabbath** - Our life begins as we REST in the finished work of Jesus Christ, trusting in his obedient life and sacrificial death as the door to abundant life with God (Ephesians 2:4-9)
 - b. Jesus, Our **Passover** Lamb, was slain, (and protects us from the Angel of Death, as God brings us out of our slavery to sin and into a new relationship with Him; In return, we keep the Feast of **Matzoh** – eliminating all trace of sin still in us (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)
 - c. Jesus is our **Firstfruits**, coming as it does the day after the Passover Sabbath, just as did he resurrection; “the ‘firstfruits’ of those who have fallen asleep” – promise of a resurrection harvest to come (1 Corinthians 15:20)
 - d. Our Shavuot (**Weeks** or ‘Pentecost’, meaning “50 days” – or 7 weeks) reminds us of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the “early harvest” He provides, reminding us of our secure place in God’s family and empowering us for service (Romans 8:15-16, 23; Galatians 5:22-23)
 - e. Our Feast of **Trumpets** – reminding us of the Trumpet blast to come that will summon us to stand face to face with our Savior (1 Corinthians 15:52)
 - f. Our **Day of Atonement** – looking back again to the sacrifice of Christ, but with a new vision
 - i. Not just seeing WHAT he did there – saving us from the angel of death – but also
 - ii. HOW he accomplished this, as our scapegoat and sin offering that carries our sin away from us so we can be clean (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - g. Our Feast of **Sukkoth** (Shelters) – reminding us of God’s promise never to leave or forsake us in this life, and Jesus’ promise of new and permanent dwelling that is being prepared for us in the age to come
4. Making sure we don’t miss any of the “Feasts”
 - a. Hebrews 4:1 – Don’t stop short of the goal
 - b. Hebrews 6:11 – Keep following Christ
 - c. Philippians 3:16 – Offer yourselves to God for Him to work through you
 - d. “Don’t drop the ball before you’ve passed the goal line!”