

Gleanings of Grace

Leviticus 23

Lesson 3

In this chapter, God instructs Moses regarding the commemoration of special days called "feasts" nine times and "holy convocations" eleven times. "Feasts" have nothing to do with eating. In fact, on the Day of Atonement, the people fasted. The word simply means "appointed times". "Convocation" gives the idea that during each of these feasts, all the people met together as a congregation, but this also was not always true. There were special gatherings on some of the special days, but the word basically means "proclamation" or "announcement". The Lord "appointed and announced" these events, which He called His people, Israel, to faithfully celebrate.

OBSERVATION: Read Leviticus 23

1. Read Leviticus 23 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD/God*.

Key Words: *God (LORD), holy, and Sabbath*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used two times in Leviticus 23. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Background:

1. As we study the *feasts* established by the LORD, we will see that many require offerings. Leviticus 22:17-33 defines *acceptable offerings* and *unacceptable offerings*. Scan through the verses and summarize each.

The Sabbath: Read Leviticus 23:1-3

1. God spoke to Moses regarding the *feasts*. Using verse 2, what two things can we know about them?
 - a. One definition of *holy* is “set aside for God’s purposes”. Knowing this, what attitude should Israel have had regarding the *feasts*?
2. The first *feast* mentioned is the *Sabbath*. What were the instructions?
3. What is the purpose of the *Sabbath*?
 - a. In your own words, describe this *rest* that God was requiring.
4. Observance of the Sabbath is no longer a requirement. Confirm this by writing the words of Colossians 2:16,17.
5. Reflect upon God’s promises to those who *call the Sabbath a delight* in Isaiah 58:13,14. Record two of the benefits.
 - a. Although we are no longer required to keep the *Sabbath*, the idea of a *Sabbath rest* is a good one. What might that look like today?

Challenge: Hebrews 4:1-11 speaks of the *rest that remains* for the believer. What are some key points?

The Passover/Feast of Unleavened Bread: Read Leviticus 23:4-8

1. The *Passover* was also known as the *Feast of Unleavened Bread* because only unleavened bread was eaten during the seven days immediately following the *Passover*. What instructions were given for this feast?

2. The *Passover* was instituted the night of the tenth plague, the death of the first born of all who did not follow God's instructions for protection – primarily the Egyptians. Every man was to take for himself a lamb. According to Exodus 12:5, what was the requirement for the lamb?

- a. How did Jesus meet this requirement? See 1 Peter 1:19

3. The lamb was to be killed at twilight. Its blood was to be put on the doorposts and on the lintel (the two side posts and the upper post of the door) of the houses where they ate it. Using the graphic of the door below, draw a line from one side to the other and from the top to the bottom. What do you see?



4. Read and summarize Exodus 12:12,13,23.

- a. What is the significance of *the blood*?

Challenge: Read all of Exodus 12 and record other information that you gleaned.

5. Read Luke 22:19,20. What do you think the disciples may have thought when they connected what Jesus was saying with the Passover?

The Feast of Firstfruits: Read Leviticus 23:9-14

1. The *Feast of Firstfruits* was celebrated seven complete weeks, or fifty days, after *Passover*. It was called the *Feast of Firstfruits* because it marked the beginning of the time in which people were to bring offerings of *firstfruits*. List what the people were to *offer* during this time.

2. According to verse 13, how would God view these offerings?

- a. Why do you think these offerings please God?

3. Define *firstfruits*.

4. Read Proverbs 3:9 and Matthew 6:33 and connect them to God's desire that we give of our *first fruits* today.

The Feast of Weeks: Read Leviticus 23:15-22

1. The *Feast of Weeks* was celebrated seven full weeks or fifty days after the *Feast of Firstfruits*. It is also called Pentecost meaning fifty or fiftieth. What were God's instructions?
2. According to verses 18,19, what type of offering did each of the following represent?
the lambs, bull and rams (verse 18)
the goat (verse 19)
the two lambs (verse 19)
3. Scan Leviticus 23:15-22 and list the words or phrases used to describe the importance *to the LORD* of the offerings given during the Feast of Weeks.
 - a. What are your thoughts as you consider these words/phrases?
4. We find the New Testament fulfillment of the *Feast of Weeks/Pentecost* in Acts 2:1-4. •What happened?
5. Leviticus 23:22 records God's provision for the *poor and foreigners*. What were His instructions?

The Feast of Trumpets: Read Leviticus 23:23-25

1. Read Leviticus 23:23-25 and describe the *Feast of Trumpets*.
2. Numbers 29:1-6 delineates the offerings that were to be brought. What were they?

3. The blowing of *trumpets* was to gather the people. As it relates to this holiday, it was to gather the people to celebrate the beginning of the new year. Using Matthew 24:31 and 1 Corinthians 15:52, reflect on what might be the New Testament fulfillment of the *Feast of Trumpets*. **Note:** Matthew 24:31 refers to those who are saved during the tribulation. 1 Corinthians 15:52 refers to believers at the time of the rapture.

The Day of Atonement: Read Leviticus 23:26-32

1. Define the word *atonement*.
2. As you read through the verses, describe the serious consequences of not properly celebrating this day.
3. *Afflicting the soul* requires a humility and occupying oneself with the things of God. Describe how you would view a time of *afflicting your soul*.
4. Compare Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:22. What do you see?

Challenge: Read Leviticus 16 and list pertinent points about this *feast*.

The Feast of Tabernacles: Read Leviticus 23:33-44

1. The *Feast of Tabernacles* or *Feasts of Booths* commemorated God's protection and provision during the forty years of Israel's wandering in the wilderness. What are some of the ways God physically cared for them? See Deuteronomy 8:3,4,15,16; 29:5
2. What does Leviticus 23:40 instruct the Israelites to do?
3. How long were they to celebrate and *dwell in the booths*?

4. Notice the word *rejoice* in verse 40. Take a moment and *rejoice* over God's provision and protection in your life by listing your own reasons to *rejoice*.

5. According to Leviticus 23:43, what was one purpose of this *feast*?
 - a. What are some things you can do to help others *know* of God's provision and protection?

6. Jesus declared two things about Himself during the *Feast of Tabernacles*. What were they?
See John 7:37 and John 8:12

REVIEW: Leviticus 23

1. If you were to choose to celebrate one of the feasts, which would it be?
 - a. Why?

2. God expected strict adherence to His instructions in the celebration of the feasts. Why do you think it is important to properly celebrate religious holidays?

3. Share one thought regarding your study of the celebration of the *feasts*.

*Give the following instructions to the people of Israel.
These are the LORD'S appointed festivals,
which you are to proclaim as official days for holy assembly.
- Leviticus 23:2*

Observation Worksheet

Leviticus 23

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. ³ Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. ⁴ 'These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. ⁵ On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD's Passover. ⁶ And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. ⁷ On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. ⁸ But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.' " ⁹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁰ "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. ¹² And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. ¹³ Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. ¹⁴ You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. ¹⁵ 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. ¹⁶ Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. ¹⁷ You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the LORD. ¹⁸ And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be as a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD. ¹⁹ Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering. ²⁰ The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the LORD for the priest. ²¹ And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations. ²² 'When you reap the harvest of

your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleanings from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God.' " ²³ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴ "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. ²⁵ You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.' ²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²⁷ "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. ²⁸ And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. ²⁹ For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. ³⁰ And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. ³¹ You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. ³² It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath." ³³ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ³⁴ "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. ³⁵ On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it. ³⁶ For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it. ³⁷ These are the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day-- ³⁸ besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD. ³⁹ 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest. ⁴⁰ And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. ⁴¹ You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. ⁴² You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, ⁴³ that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.' " ⁴⁴ So Moses declared to the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.