

OLD TESTAMENT FEASTS



FULFILLMENT IN JESUS

SPRING FEASTS

- ❖ There were **FOUR** feasts in the Spring:
 - ❖ **Passover** (Pesach) - Nisan 14
 - ❖ **Unleavened Bread** - Nisan 15 - 22
 - ❖ **First Fruits** - First Sunday during feast of UB.
 - ❖ **Pentecost** (Shavu'ot) - Sivan 6 (50 days after Feast of First Fruits)

FALL FEASTS

- ❖ There are **THREE** feasts in the Fall time:
 - ❖ **Trumpets** (Rosh Hashana) Tishri 1
 - ❖ **Atonement** (Yom Kippur) Tishri 10
 - ❖ **Tabernacles** (Sukkot) Tishri 15

SHIEEV'AH CYCLE

- ❖ The number and cycle of feasts being **SEVEN** - (shevah) - also the word for covenant.
- ❖ The seven feasts were spread over seven months of the Jewish Calendar.
- ❖ The Feasts of the Lord represented the feasts of the Family of God. "**Moadim**" the word for feasts in Hebrew literally means "**appointed times.**"
They were the catechism of Hebrew worship.

WEEKLY FEAST

- ❖ There are several other minor feasts but there was one additional Feast celebrated weekly:
 - ❖ **Sabbath** - The seventh day of the week. For six days one labors, but on the seventh day of the week - it is a day of rest.
 - ❖ **Theme: Creation** - A weekly reminder God created all there is, and that they were to imitate the rhythm of God

SHEEV'AH CYCLE

- ❖ The 4 Spring Feasts and first 2 Fall Feasts were sacrificial and penitential in nature.
- ❖ On the 7th Feast of the Year - Tabernacles, the command was to rejoice and give thanks.
- ❖ Thus the number of major annual feasts also echoed to creation. Sabbath concept applied to annual feasts.
- ❖ For six feasts one labors, but on the seventh annual feast - one rests and give thanks.

FULFILLED IN JESUS

- ❖ Finally, the **7 feasts** not only echoed the rhythm of God, they also were **prophetic** by design.
 - ❖ The Feasts of Israel were signs that pointed to a greater future fulfilment.
 - ❖ For that **Messiah** would have to come. Jesus came to fulfill the law. As such He fulfilled the Feasts - they pointed to Him.



FULFILLED IN JESUS

THE MESSIAH

"And beginning with
Moses and all the
prophets, He interpreted
to them all the Scriptures
concerning Himself."

Lk 24:27

PASSOVER

DELIVERANCE



PASSOVER

- ❖ Gen 22: 8 - Isaac noted that while he carried the fire and the wood for a holocaust sacrifice, there appeared to be no animal for the sacrifice.
- ❖ Abraham was to sacrifice his son, as an *offering* to God by God's command. So Abraham told Isaac:
 - ❖ “God Himself will provide the lamb”
 - ❖ A prophecy regarding Jesus.

PASSOVER

- ❖ **Ex 12: 1-20** - The Israelites were ordered to kill a male lamb, without blemish, and eat it - spreading its blood on their doorposts for all to see.
 - ❖ The angel of the Lord, *seeing the blood and noting that the family had sacrificed and eaten the unblemished Lamb*, would Passover that house - leaving its inhabitants intact.
- ❖ **14** - All generations will keep this feast, **perpetually**, *therefore, it is still kept today in some form!*

PASSOVER

- ❖ **Lev 1: 1-2, 10** - The Israelites were to offer a qorban (gift) to God daily. If the qorban was a sheep, it was to be a male without blemish.
- ❖ **13** - The **Priest** shall offer up and burn the whole offering on the **altar**, as a holocaust, a sweet-smelling oblation to the Lord.
- ❖ **Laying hands on the animal resulted in the forgiveness of sin. (cf Lev 4).**

PASSOVER

- ❖ On April 3, 33AD - Jesus fulfilled this feast.
- ❖ God Himself, provided Himself as the lamb
- ❖ This Lamb, a Passover lamb, freed us from the slavery of Egypt (sin).
- ❖ This Lamb, was a holocaust - totally consumed, for the forgiveness of our sins.

UNLEAVENED BREAD



SANCTIFICATION

UNLEAVENED BREAD

- ❖ Leaven is spoken of by Jesus both favorably and unfavorably. - Leaven is both an enhancer that can produce good or contamination when producing bad.
- ❖ **Favorably.** For instance the kingdom of God is like leaven that a woman took and mixed with ... flour ... (Mt 13:33)
- ❖ **Unfavorably.** As the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees, describing their bad teaching. (Mt 16: 6, 12).

UNLEAVENED BREAD

- ❖ **Lev 23: 6-8** - Describes the 7 day feast that commences after the Passover day on 15th of Nisan.
- ❖ **First and Last Day** - Hold an assembly and no work.
- ❖ **7** - For seven days shall eat Unleavened Bread
 - ❖ Preceded by ridding the home of all Leaven, as a contaminant. **The Passover Lamb is unblemished.** Leaven here reminds Israel that **sin must be eradicated.**
A call to Holiness, after being saved on Passover

UNLEAVENED BREAD

❖ John 6: 33,35,51:

❖ “For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

❖ “I am the bread of life.”

❖ “...whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

UNLEAVENED BREAD

- ❖ Lk 22:19 Taking the unleavened bread of the Passover - Jesus says: “This is my body which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.”
- ❖ This is a statement that Jesus is without blemish, as Pilate himself says: “I find no ‘cause’ (fault) in Him.”
- ❖ 1 Cor 5: 7-8 - “For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

FIRST FRUITS

GLORIFICATION



FIRST FRUITS

- ❖ **Lev 23: 9-14** — Describes the feast of First Fruits
- ❖ First day after the first Sabbath contained within the 7 day Unleavened Bread feast. **By definition the Feast of First Fruits, *always* falls on a Sunday.**
- ❖ Waive offering. Sheaf of first fruits of grain, from which Bread is made.
- ❖ First Fruits of a Harvest - that will come. Reliance on God that more will come, after the First Fruits.

FIRST FRUITS

- ❖ Look at 33 AD. Christ was crucified as a Passover Lamb on 14 Nisan, a Friday because the Sabbath was coming.
- ❖ That Saturday was the Feast of Unleavened bread.
- ❖ The following day was the feast of First Fruits.
 - ❖ On the Third day He rose again at the same time in the Temple, the High Priest was waving the wheat sheaf. That grain of wheat would die, but would now be available to produce Bread. cf Jn 12: 20-24

FIRST FRUITS

- ❖ This significance of Jesus' resurrection on the feast of First Fruits was not lost on St Paul.
 - ❖ Not only was it a promise of the greater harvest that the Church will produce.
 - ❖ It was a certification of Jesus' promise that He, the Unleavened Bread that comes down from Heaven, can and will raise us on the Last day.

FIRST FRUITS



- ❖ **1 Cor 15:20.** “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the First Fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”
- ❖ **verse 23 continues ...** “Christ the First Fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.”
- ❖ **That is us!**

PENTECOST

THE
HARVEST



PENTECOST

- ❖ **The Feast of Weeks, continues God's covenant rhythm by falling on the day after, 7 weeks of 7 days, from the Feast of First Fruits.**
- ❖ **Again, like First Fruits, this feast necessarily has to fall on a ...**

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Sunday

PENTECOST

❖ Seven Sevens, represents a double emphasis on the gathering of a complete harvest, through the Blessing of God.

❖ Seven is a number of perfection.



❖ Therefore, the feast represents a perfect completion, by God.

❖ cf. 2 Ptr 3:9

PENTECOST

- ❖ Notice that the **Feasts that flow from the new Covenant regarding salvation** - are **celebrated on the *first* day of the week, a Sunday**, implicitly reminding us of the first day of Creation in Genesis.



PENTECOST

- ❖ St Paul sees this:
- ❖ “In Christ, you are a new creation” 2 Cor 5:17
 - ❖ Our ingathering is a fulfillment of the Feast of Pentecost in Christ.



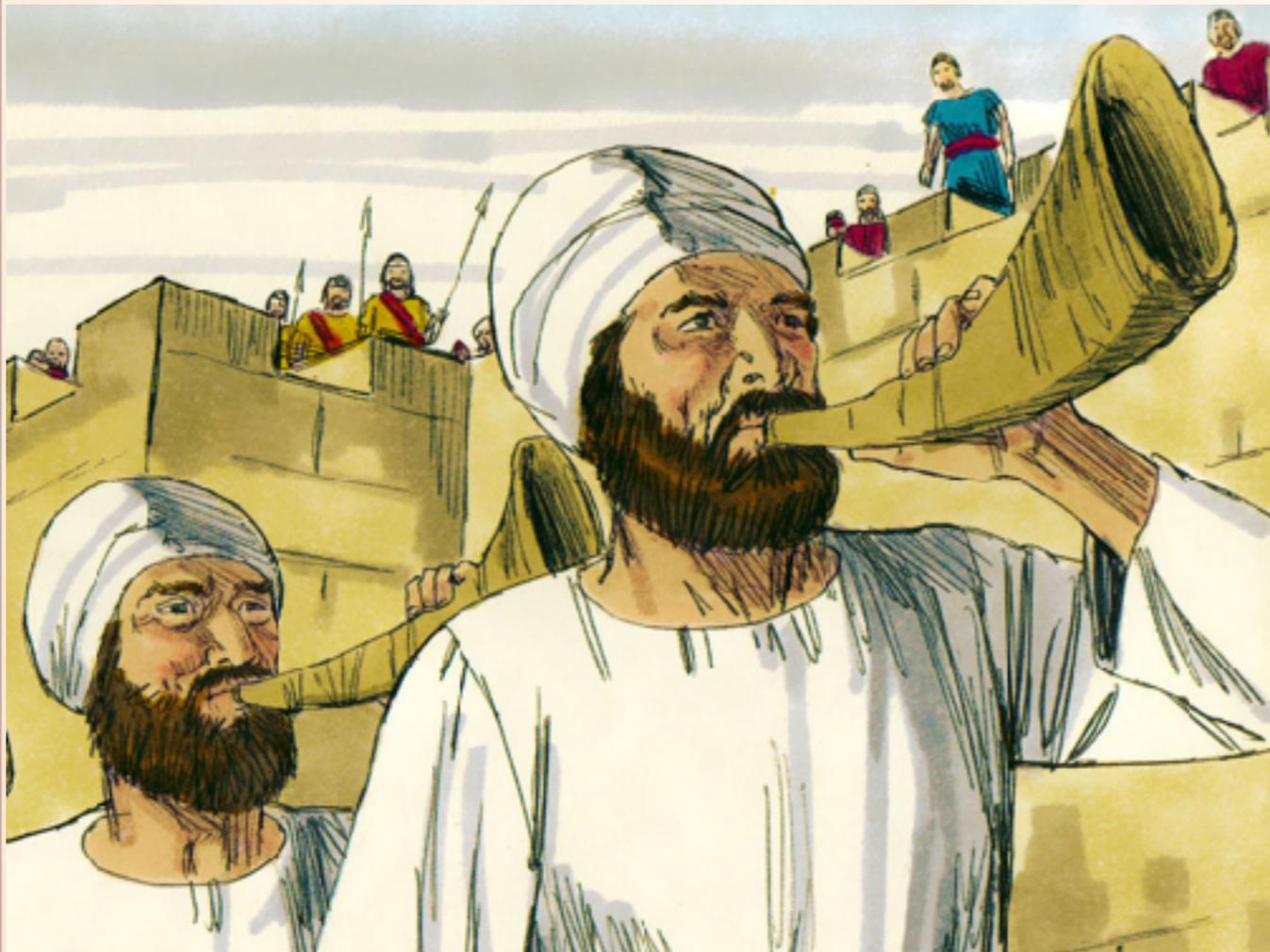
In the new covenant, the Church celebrates Sunday as a feast day - “on the first day of the week when we break bread.” (Acts 20:7)

TRUMPETS

THE CALL TO JUDGMENT



TRUMPETS



- ❖ The call of the Trumpet, is often associated with **Judgment** in the Old Testament.
- ❖ Recall how **Jericho was destroyed**. What caused the walls to come tumbling down?
Jos 6:1-5

TRUMPETS

- ❖ It is no different in the New Testament.
- ❖ The end times as described in the **book of Revelation** consists of 7 trumpets being blown.
- ❖ The blowing of the **Seventh Trumpet** - signifies the end, the Kingdom of the World now belonging to the **Anointed Lord** - and that the time of Satan has passed away. **Rev 11&12**

TRUMPETS

- ❖ St Paul explicitly notes the end of time, the last day with the sound of a trumpet.
- ❖ “For the Lord himself, with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.” 1 Tess 4:16
 - ❖ This is the last day. cf. Jn 6:54*
[not some rapture that precedes the last day]

TRUMPETS

- ❖ Again St Paul notes the end of time, the last day with the sound of a trumpet in his letter to the Corinthians.
- ❖ “We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead rise incorrupt.” 1 Cor 15:51-52
 - ❖ This is again the last day.

TRUMPETS

- ❖ So what was God's purpose in ordaining the annual Feast of Trumpets, prior to the age of the Church?
- ❖ The same as in the New Testament, a reminder of a future fulfillment when the Last Judgment would come - hence a call for Repentance, a call to resolve for a new beginning.
 - ❖ Rosh Hashanah - Feast of Trumpets - Head of the year. Is literally New Year's Day.
 - ❖ We get New Year's resolutions from the Rosh Hashanah tradition.

TRUMPETS

- ❖ This feast follows 30 days of Penance and Introspect in the month of Elul, the sixth month of the Jewish Calendar.
 - ❖ **Elul** is a month of Preparation, for one to draw closer to God, as one focuses on the coming Day of Judgment.
- ❖ Rosh Hashanah ushers in the 7th Month - and interestingly the New Year starts on the 7th month.

TRUMPETS



- ❖ Jesus fulfills this feast, as the one who comes to Judge the living and the dead. (Mt 25:31)
- ❖ Some people believe that the last day, will fall on the same day as the Jewish feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) - *and thus Jesus would fulfill this feast literally, as he does the Spring feasts.*

ATONEMENT

RETURN AND
MARRIAGE SUPPER
OF THE LAMB



ATONEMENT

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ATONEMENT

- ❖ **Yom Kippur - Feast of Atonement** is described more fully in **Leviticus 16**.
- ❖ **Two goats - sacrifice and 'scapegoat'**
 - ❖ Tradition - at time of Jesus a **Gentile** took the goat for **Azazel** to kill it outside the gates.
 - ❖ **Scarlet thread** Temple door turned **white**, when goat died. **Ceased!**

ATONEMENT

- ❖ High Priest - acted as Priest mediator and a Bridegroom
- ❖ After goat Azazel died, performed a liturgy of intercession for the forgiveness of the community's sins.
 - ❖ Entered Tabernacle - made with human hands.
(cf. Hebrews 9:24 - after Ascension)
- ❖ Ritual washing - Cleansing representing purity. The feast is not complete until the High Priest returned to the people after his liturgy inside the Tabernacle.

ATONEMENT

- ❖ Then the High Priest **donned a crown - as a **Bridegroom** -** representing that God had Israel as a bride.
 - ❖ **Jesus also wore a crown** (Mt 27:29). He wore it on the day of our Atonement.
- ❖ **St Paul sees it! - Eph 5:21-25** Jesus is the true bridegroom, and the Church is His Bride.
- ❖ **Virgins - dressed awaited bridegroom - parable of virgins**
- ❖ **Finally, a wedding feast, where High Priest dined.**
cf. Rev 19:9 the wedding feast of the Lamb

TABERNACLES

NEW HEAVEN
AND
NEW EARTH



TABERNACLES

- ❖ **Lev 23: 33-43**
- ❖ **After Yom Kippur - there is cause for celebration.**
 - ❖ **For this God instituted a feast that called for a celebration, and that reminded them of His presence among them.**
 - ❖ **This seven day celebration also begins and ends with a sacred Assembly and no work.**

TABERNACLES

- ❖ The Israelites are to make merry and be thankful, as a reminder that God not only led them out of Egypt, but that He tabernacled among them.
- ❖ **Jesus fulfillment of this Feast is obvious and two-fold.**
 - ❖ **First, St John records at 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us.**
 - ❖ **John uses the same Greek word in the LXX, that describes - God tabernacled in the midst of Israel. Ex 25:8.**

TABERNACLES



- ❖ **Secondly, we see that Jesus fulfills this feast in our churches today - Tabernacled and substantially present: body, blood, soul and divinity.**
- ❖ **Eucharist - from the Greek to give thanks - for God's continuing presence among His people.**

TABERNACLES

- ❖ Finally, this feast points to a future time, after the Last Day, when God will dwell among His people.
 - ❖ Rev 21:3 “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.”
- ❖ This is the ultimate and final revelation of God to all of us. A new heaven and a new earth - where we will dwell in “communion” with the Holy Trinity forever! Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT



GOD'S SAVING PLAN