

Seven Feasts of Israel – part 2

The Jewish calendar is set up on a system of 7's: 7-day cycle Sabbath to Sabbath; 7-year cycle of Sabbatical years; 7x7 cycle for the Jubilee; within these years was 7-month season of *Feasts*.

--Within these 7 months is a subsystem of 7s: beginning with the first month, you count 2x7 days until the Passover (14th of Nisan); from that day you had a 7-day feast called Unleavened Bread; The Sunday after the Passover counting 7x7 days and taking the next is Pentecost; Exactly 7 months after the Unleavened Bread began the Feast of Tabernacles.

--7 is the number of completion: so the 7th feast (Tabernacles) which is in the 7th month and which begin after 2x7 days in that month and which lasts exactly 7 days leaves us with an easy conclusion: we can safely say that when it is fulfilled that everything is *complete*!!

Remember, these 7 Feasts were set up organizationally exactly like the Menorah was, physically: 1st month= a cluster of 3 feasts; 7th month= a cluster of 3 feasts; off by itself in the "middle" was the remaining feast.

--As was true for the Menorah, so is true for these feasts—they represent Jesus and His ministry as the Light of the World.

1. These feasts have two interpretations: one historical and the other prophetic.

--Historically speaking, they commemorate an important event in Israel's past (Ex. the Passover in Egypt or the Tabernacles they built in the wilderness)

--Their prophetic role was predicted by Jesus and the writers of the New Testament:

Matt. 5:17 (Law contains these feasts), **Col. 2:16-17** ("a shadow of what is to come").

--God has done the same thing with us and the Lord's Supper: Partly to look back at what Jesus has done and partly to look forward to what He will do. **Revelation 19:7-9**

2. The Passover is the first feast on the Jewish Calendar: Ex. 12:1-3

This entire season of Feasts/celebrations begins with the death of innocent substitute—a lamb.

--Our entire season celebrations as believers begins with the death of an innocent substitute—The Lamb of God.

--Gods' wrath will Passover all who place their faith in His blood.

--Pay careful attention to this precedent because Jesus is the fulfillment of every one of these feasts.

--"first month of the year" – God just picks randomly from the calendar? Or are these days dictated by future events?

--God looks at the calendar differently than we do; we commemorate dates based on the past, God commemorates dates based on the future!

Of particular importance is a date in this sequence that many overlook:

V. 3 "the tenth of the month" or lamb choosing day **VV. 5-6** – It was to remain with them for 4 days and be sacrificed on the evening of Passover.

--The 10th is predicative of the exact day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

--Jesus would not allow people to acknowledge Him publicly as Messiah for the vast majority of His ministry; but on this day, not only did He allow them to acknowledge Him, He orchestrated it! **Luke 19:29-44**

--This was an important day because God had marked the day in the Passover event in Egypt when the lamb would be chosen; it was also an important day because God had predicted which Passover the real Lamb would arrive on the scene. **Dan. 9:25-26.**

--Daniel's prophecy is a mathematical one (69 weeks of years = 483 years): we have to know two things about the calendar to arrive at the exact day.

1. The date of decree to restore Jerusalem -- We know this date: **March 14, 445 B.C.** thanks to the research of Sir Robert Anderson, Head of Scotland Yard, and he published his findings in his book "The Coming King" in 1894.

2. The number of days in a year in the biblical calendar – 360 days.

--Counting 483 years from March 14, 445 B.C. or, to be exact, 173,880 days brings us to April 6, 32 A.D. which falls on the 10th day of the first month on the Jewish calendar!

--This is why Jesus says and does this on that day: **Lk. 19:40** (demands that He be acknowledged as Messiah), weeps over the city **Lk. 19:41-42** (He expected them to know that day on the calendar).

--As a result of them missing their appointment: **Lk. 19:43-44**.

--These appointed feasts are appointments we are not allowed to miss!!

3. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the 10th of Nisan and is crucified on the 14th at the very same time as the lambs were being slain for the Passover.

--The Passover is pegged to the Jewish calendar **Lev. 23:4-5**, it is not pegged to a day of week, but we celebrate Jesus crucifixion on Friday every year...why?

--Jesus almost certainly was not crucified on a Friday because: **Matthew 12:40**

--In fact, we don't even celebrate His crucifixion on Passover even though the Bible says clearly that that is when it happened...why?

--We celebrate Easter (Named after the Babylonian goddess Ishtar) a pagan holiday that is not pegged to a calendar date. This is why Easter is different every year.

--What the lamb was symbolically, Jesus was in reality: **Ex. 12: 6-7, 23**

--If the Jews failed to place the blood on the door, what would have happened to them? The only thing that made them different from the Egyptians was the blood of a lamb!

--**12:8** – On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus had His disciples prepare the Passover meal but in the middle of the meal He took the bread and wine and said, "**This is actually Me.**" Thus, He converted the Passover which looked forward to the event of His crucifixion into a meal of remembrance looking back at the same event—the Lord's Supper.

--**12:11** -- "The Lord's Passover" – But it was the people being passed over not the Lord. It seems like it would be called "the people's Passover." Likewise, Jesus is called the "Lamb of God", but God didn't need a lamb for sin, the people did.