

Seven Feasts of Israel – part 4

--Lev. 23:15-17 – a couple of strange things about this offering just from initial observation:

1. Yeast?! – always a symbol of that which is corrupt (yeast is forbidden in all other feasts and offering??)—yeast represents something getting in that shouldn't be there.
2. "first fruits" (V. 17b)– how is this first fruits when the previous feast was the "Feast of First fruits"?

--Feast has a very unusual nature: Its not with the others in many respects

--The first 3 feast represent Jesus in His first coming, the last 3 in His second coming; but the Feast of Pentecost was left stuck in the middle.

1. It is one of the 3 mandatory feast for Israel in which ever able-bodied male had to be in Jerusalem for. Deut. 16:16

--The first was Passover/Unleavened Bread – Every able-bodied male Jew was there for Jesus' crucifixion.

--Every able-bodied Jewish male was there for Jesus trial and crucifixion.

--The last is the Feast of Tabernacles – Every able-bodied male will be there for Jesus' second coming.

--Pentecost, the one in the middle – Every able-bodied Jewish male was there to witness the events of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

--The first and last of the three were pegged to the calendar: they both began on the 15th of their respective months.

--Pentecost is not pegged to the calendar but the day of the week = **Always on a Monday**

--It is called "Pentecost" because of the fifty day interval from the last feast to it. The Jews call it Hag Ha Shavout or "the Feasts of Weeks" referring the seven-week interval from the last feast.

2. We can think of it in a since as a feast of births.

1. The birth of Israel is commemorated on this day because it was on this day that Moses brought the ten commandments and the covenant to Israel.

2. The birth of the church happened on this very day as Israel was celebrating its own birth.

--Acts 2:1-6 (understand why God wanted all the Jews there?)

--That we should draw a direct line between these is without question as they happened on the same day and 3,000 lives were affected on each respective birth (3K killed at Mt. Sinai; 3K saved in Jerusalem on the same day)

--Most believe that the reason yeast was used on this feast was indicative of the future allowance of Gentiles (unclean) in as children of God whereas previously it had only been Jews (clean).

3. These Feast span only 7 months, so it's as if Jesus' first and second coming are only 7 months apart in festival time keeping.

--In fact, that is the way He is portrayed in the Old Testament: there is basically, no time given between Jesus' first and second coming in the Old Testament. **Lk. 4:18, Is. 61:1.**

--Therefore, the Jews expected that when the Messiah came that the end would come quickly (the inauguration of God's plans (the Spring Feasts) were followed by the consummation of God's plans 7ll Feasts).

--Everywhere in the Old Testament it reads as if there would be virtually no gap between the events of Jesus' first and second comings; with one exception: **Dan. 9:26** (it implies at least a 40 year gap between Jesus' death and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.)

--It is as if time has been suspended since the birth of the Church at Pentecost so that now we are living in almost 2,000 years of un-prophesied time as far as the Old Testament is concerned.

--This time warp is the reason why Paul calls the church and the church age a "mystery."
Rom. 16:25-27, Eph. 3:4-6.

--It is as if God has stopped the prophesied progression of end time events until the fullness of the church has come in. and, in fact, that is what He has done!

4. The Gentile flavor of the church is alluded to in several ways in the Old Testament.

1. The yeast of the Pentecost feast.

2. The Book of Ruth – traditionally read at the Feast of Pentecost.

--In this book, the Jewish rescuer, Boaz, takes a Gentile bride and through her redeems the destitute Jewish woman Naomi.

--Much in the same way as the Jewish rescuer, Jesus, has taken to Himself a Gentile bride, the church, and through her will redeem destitute Israel in future.

3. Enoch – Gentile prophet was raptured out before worldwide judgment.

--There were 3 groups of people facing the judgment of the flood of Noah.

1. Those that perished in the flood (most people)

2. Those that were preserved through the flood (Noah and his family).

3. Those that were removed prior the flood (Enoch).

--These same three grouping will hold true for the end times judgment: some perish, some preserved, some removed beforehand (church).

--Enoch's story is provocative on yet another level: Jewish tradition says he was born on the same day as Pentecost (like the church) it also says that he was raptured out on his birthday (Pentecost) over 300 years later (like the church?).

--Remember, there three harvest seasons for Israel that coincide with the three mandatory feasts: Spring harvest (first fruits, relating to Jesus' resurrection), Summer or Full harvest (relating to the birth of the church), Fall or Final harvest (relating to the return of Israel to their Messiah).

--But we still have one harvest unaccounted for: the harvest of the rapture—which one of these feasts will it fall on?

5. A final note about the date of the birth of Jesus Lk. 1:26-27.

--The sixth month on the Jewish calendar is basically September on our calendar.

--Mary conceives Jesus in that month at Gabriel's pronouncement.

--Mary is pregnant for 9 months by all indications which means she was pregnant through the end of the Jewish year (6 months later) and then more or less 3 months into the following year.

--This would place Jesus birth near the beginning of the Summer which is in agreement with the shepherds in the fields by night part of the story (they would have not been out there in the winter).

--This "coincidentally" places Jesus birth at or near the feast of Pentecost which was also in the third month.

--Incidentally, Jesus was also caught up into heaven about the same time 33 years later much in the same way as traditionally it is believed that Enoch was...

--This is Birth feast! Could be the same as Jesus' birth? Could it also be a rapture feast?