

**HOLY DAYS, FESTIVALS & FEASTS**  
**PART I**  
**CELEBRATIONS ORDAINED IN OLD COVENANT**

By

Richard W. Linthicum

RichardLayman@verizon.net

[www.MessiahBible.net](http://www.MessiahBible.net)

*This document was prepared by and is the intellectual property of Richard W. Linthicum (“Author”), who offers it without charge to recipients. Author permits recipients to use, copy and/or disseminate this document, or portions thereof, provided that no fees are charged for those materials.*

**HOLY DAYS, FESTIVALS & FEASTS**  
**PART I – CELEBRATIONS ORDAINED IN OLD COVENANT**

<b><u>Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Pages</u></b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A. Summary of Holy Days, Festivals &amp; Feasts</b>	<b>5</b>
1. Holy Days Ordained by the Lord .....	5
2. Lord’s Ordained Festivals & Feasts .....	5
3. Other Historical Feasts in Scripture .....	6
<b>B. Fall of Man to the Mountain of God</b>	<b>6</b>
1. Early Image of Passover Covering ( <i>Atonement</i> ) .....	6
2. Promise of Universal Times & Seasons .....	6
3. Call of a People & Nation .....	6
4. Lord Delivers Israel from Bondage .....	8
5. Israel at the Mountain of God .....	17
6. Moses Receives the Sacred Law .....	20
7. Summary of the Sacred/Religious Laws .....	22
<b>C. Holy Days Prescribed in Law</b>	<b>24</b>
1. Sabbath (“ <i>Shabbat</i> ”) .....	24
2. New Moon (“ <i>Rosh Chodesh</i> ”) .....	26
<b>D. Festivals &amp; Feasts Prescribed in Law</b>	<b>27</b>
1. The Lord’s Pilgrim Feasts .....	27
2. The Passover Festival .....	28
• Feast of Passover (“ <i>Pesach</i> ”) .....	28
• Feast of Unleavened Bread (“ <i>Hag HaMatzot</i> ”) .....	32
• Feast of First Fruits (“ <i>Yom HaBikkurim</i> ”) .....	34
3. Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (“ <i>Shavuot</i> ”) .....	37
4. Festival of Booths / Tabernacles .....	39
• Feast of Trumpets (“ <i>Yom Teruah</i> ” or New Year (“ <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> ”) .....	39
• Day of Atonement (“ <i>Yom Kippur</i> ”) .....	40
• Feast of Booths or Tabernacles (“ <i>Sukkot</i> ”) .....	43
<b>E. Ordained / Sacred Years</b>	<b>45</b>
1. Sabbatical Year (“ <i>Shemittah</i> ”) .....	45
2. Year of Jubilee .....	48
<b>F. Israel’s Historical Feasts in Scripture</b>	<b>51</b>
1. Historical Overview .....	51
2. Feast of Lots (“ <i>Purim</i> ”) .....	68
3. Feast of Dedication (“ <i>Hanukkah</i> ”) .....	69
<b>Postscript</b>	<b>70</b>
<b><u>Appendix A - Hebrew / Jewish Sacred Calendar</u></b>	<b>71</b>

All Scriptural Quotations are taken from the New American Bible (1970 Version).

- *(Parenthetic Italics) Imbedded within Bible Quotes are Author's Comments.*
- **Bold** and Underlined Text are Author's Emphasis.
- **Green** Indicates References & Quotations from Catholic "Deuterocanonical" Books.

*Small Italics are Author's Footnotes.*

Acknowledgements. Sources for the Hebrew/Jewish Calendar and Traditional Practices Presented in this Study are Zola Levitt Ministries, El Shaddai Ministries & Jewish Voice Ministries.

**HOLY DAYS, FESTIVALS & FEASTS**  
**PART I – CELEBRATIONS ORDAINED IN OLD COVENANT**

**Introduction**

*Times & Seasons. God created the Universes full of galaxies, stars, planets, etc., which He set into motion as orbital bodies, each with their own times and seasons. (e.g. An Earth Day is one rotation on its axis, with its Moon revolving around it ever 29.5 Days. Earth then revolves around the Sun every Year that consists of 365.25 of its Days.)*

*“Then God said: ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth.’ And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.” Gen. 1:14-19*

*The orbital cycles of other planets, with their times and seasons, differ considerably from Earth, as do their Suns revolving within their galaxy.*

*Creation of Man. Creator God, Who is sovereign from all these times, created Man in His image to be ageless and timeless. God placed Man (Male & Female) on Earth, giving them dominion over Earth, including its assigned times and seasons.*

*“Then God said: ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.’ God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: ‘Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.’..... God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.” Gen. 1:26-31*

*God created Earth in Six Days (from His perspective), resting on the Seventh Day. God created Man on that 6<sup>th</sup> Day to enter and eternally live with Him in His Sabbath Rest.*

*“Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.” Gen. 2:1-3*

*The Fall of Man. Man (Male & Female) disobeyed God and fell into a mortal state, losing dominion of Earth, becoming subject to its times and seasons.*

*Plague of Sin. “To the man he (God) said: ‘.... Cursed be the ground because of you! In toil shall you eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you, as you eat of the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat, Until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dirt, and to dirt you shall return.” Gen. 3:17-19*

*Man fell from being ageless and timeless, becoming subject to Earth with its seasons of seed-time and harvest for his sustenance where he will toil until he dies, eternally separated from a Holy God. God uses Earth's times and seasons to reacquaint Man with Himself and reveal His plan of reconciliation, ordaining Holy Days, Festivals and Feasts as Divine Appointments.*

*This is a study of the Lord God's Holy Days, Festivals and Feasts prescribed for His Chosen People Israel. This study interjects Hebrew Names for these appointed times, seasons and rituals. (Translating Hebrew into English often results in variations of spelling.)*

## **A. Summary of Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts**

*(See Sections C & D Below for In-Depth Descriptions of these Appointed Times with their Prescribed Rituals, Sacrifices, etc.)*

The Hebrew/Jewish Calendar is Based Upon Both Lunar Cycles (Defining Months) and Solar Cycles (Defining Years). Every Month Begins on a New Moon, and Each Day Begins at Sundown (i.e. Moonrise). There are 2 Beginnings of the Year Alluded to in Scripture: the Original is a Sacred/Religious Calendar Established by the Lord that Begins in Spring (Re: Ex. 12:1-2), and the Other is a Later Civil Calendar that Begins in Autumn. This Study Uses the Sacred Calendar - See **Appendix A - "Hebrew/Jewish Sacred Calendar"** Below.

1. Holy Days Ordained by the Lord
  - a. **Sabbath ("Shabbat")** Observed on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day of Every Week. Lev. 23:3  
*Acknowledges the Lord God of Israel as Creator Who Rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day.*
  - b. **New Moon ("Rosh Chodesh")** Observed on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Every Month.  
Num 28:11-15 *Celebrates the Beginning of New Month.*
2. Lord's Ordained Festivals & Feasts  
*Feasts are 7 Holy Convocations Held Every Year by God's Chosen People Israel.*

### SPRING HARVEST

- a. Passover Festival  
*Commemorates the Lord's Deliverance of Israel from Bondage in Egypt.*
  - 1) **Feast of Passover ("Pesach")** Lev. 23:5  
Observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of 1<sup>st</sup> Month.
  - 2) **Feast of Unleavened Bread ("Hag HaMatzot")** Lev. 23:6-8  
Observed on the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of 1<sup>st</sup> Month & Lasting 7 Days.
  - 3) **Feast of First Fruits ("Yom HaBikkurim")** Lev. 23:9-14  
Observed on the Day (Sunday) Following Passover Sabbath.
- b. **Feast of Weeks or Pentecost ("Shavuot")** Lev. 23:15-21  
Observed on the 50<sup>th</sup> Day After the Feast of First Fruits.  
*Commemorates the Lord Giving Moses the Law on Mount Sinai.*

### AUTUMN HARVEST

- c. Festival of Booths / Tabernacles
  - 1) **Feast of Trumpets ("Yom Teruah") or New Year ("Rosh Hashanah")**  
Observed on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of 7<sup>th</sup> Month Lev. 23:23-25  
*Season of Self Examination in Preparation for the Day of Atonement.*
  - 2) **Day of Atonement ("Yom Kippur")** Lev. 23:26-32  
Observed on the 10<sup>th</sup> Day of 7<sup>th</sup> Month.  
*Day of Repentance and Atonement (Covering) of Sins.*

- 3) **Feast of Booths or Tabernacles (“Sukkot”)** Lev. 23:33-43  
 Observed on the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of 7<sup>th</sup> Month & Continuing for 7 Additional Days  
*God’s Chosen People Rejoice & Celebrate in the Promise Land, Recalling the Lord’s Provision for them in the Wilderness.*

3. Other Historical Feasts in Scripture

*These Feasts were Established by Jews to Recall & Celebrate being Saved from Annihilation, Centuries After Receiving the Law (See Section F Below).*

- a. **Feast of Lots (“Purim”)** Esther 9:20-32  
 Observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Days of 12<sup>th</sup> Month.
- b. **Feast of Dedication (“Hanukkah”)** 1 Macc. 4:36-61  
 Observed on the 25<sup>th</sup> Day of 9<sup>th</sup> Month & Lasting for 8 Days

**B. Fall of Man to the Mountain of God**

*This Section Traces the History of Man from His Fall to Receiving God’s Laws on Mount Horeb/Sinai.*

1. Early Image of Passover Covering (Atonement) Gen. 3:21-24  
*After Condemning Adam & Eve to Death for their Sin, the Lord God Covered them with Animal Skins and Banishes them from His Garden.*

- a. *“For the man and his wife the LORD God made leather garments, with which he clothed them.” (Gen. 3:21)*

*(The Lord Killed Animals and Covered Adam & Eve with their Hides. Death Temporally Passed Over Adam & Eve by Covering their Sins, Giving them Time to Repent, Seek the Lord’s Forgiveness and Start Populating the Earth.)*

2. Promise of Universal Times & Seasons Gen. 6 - 9  
*Man Became So Degenerate that God Destroyed the Inhabitants of Earth with a Great Flood. Noah was the Only Person Found Worthy Enough to be Saved. The Lord Instructs Noah to Build an Ark for Himself & His Family, and Fill it with 7 Pairs of Every Clean Animal (Suitable for Sacrifice) and One Pair of Every Unclean Animal. Noah Did So, and those in the Ark were Rescued from Destruction.*

*Noah, His Family and the Animals Disembarked from the Ark After the Water Receded. Noah then Offers Sacrifices to the Lord. The Lord Accepts His Sacrifices and Establishes a Covenant with Him and His Descendants (i.e. All Humanity).*

- a. *“When the LORD smelled the sweet odor (From Burning Sacrifices), he said to himself: ‘Never again will I doom the earth because of man, since the desires of man’s heart are evil from the start; nor will I ever again strike down all living beings, as I have done. As long as the earth lasts, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, Summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.’” (Gen. 8:21-22)*  
*(The Lord Promises that Earth’s Cyclical Seasons will Continue for the Sustenance of Mankind, Both Physically & Spiritually. It is from these Times & Seasons that the Lord God Ordains Holy Days & Feasts for Man to Commune with and be Nourished by Him.)*

- b. *The Lord Instructs Noah to Repopulate Earth.*

3. Call of a People & Nation

- a. Lord’s Call & Covenant with Abram (Abraham)  
 1) Lord Announces His Covenant with Abram Gen. 12:1-3

- a) Calls Abram Out of a Pagan Land. “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.”
- b) Promises Abram:
  - (1) Father a Nation. “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
  - (2) God’s Favor on His Nation. “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.
  - (3) Blessing to All Mankind. “All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.”
- 2) Abram Migrates to Canaan (Promised Land) with His Wife Sarai (Sarah), Nephew Lot, Servants & Possessions Gen. 12:4-5
- 3) Lord Seals His Covenant by Sacrifice Gen. 15
  - a) Abram Discouraged Because He has No Son to Inherit Lord’s Covenant
  - b) Lord Restates His Covenant with Abram
  - c) Lord Prescribes a Covenant Sacrifice that Abram Prepares
    - (1) Lord Prophesies: “Know for certain that your descendants shall be aliens in a land not their own, where they shall be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation they must serve, and in the end they will depart with great wealth.” (*Gen. 15:13-14*)
    - (2) Sacrifice Consumed by Lord, Executing His Covenant
- 4) Sign of the Lord’s Covenant Gen. 17
  - a) Lord Reaffirms His Covenant with Abram
    - (1) Changes Abram’s Name to Abraham (“*Father is Exalted*”, *Signifying a New Prolific Beginning as Father of a Nation.*) Gen. 17:3-8
  - b) Lord Establishes Circumcision as Sign of His Covenant (*Sign Applied to Man’s Means of Procreation*)
    - (1) “.... This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised. Circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that shall be the mark of the covenant between you and me. Throughout the ages, every male among you, when he is eight days old, shall be circumcised....” (*Gen. 17:9-12*) (*Circumcision Initiates a Male Under the Lord’s Covenant with Abraham*)
  - c) Lord Promises to Give Abraham & Sarai a Son
    - (1) Changes Sarai’s Name to “Sarah” (“*Princess*”) Gen. 17:15-16
    - (2) Confirms His Covenant with their Son Before He is Conceived
  - d) Abraham Circumcises Himself & His Household (*Abraham Fathers a Son by His Wife Sarah After He is Circumcised. They Name their Son Isaac, as the Lord Instructed. Gen. 21:1-8*)
- 5) The Lord Confirms His Covenant with Abraham’s Son Isaac Gen. 26:23-25
- 6) The Lord Confirms His Covenant with Isaac’s Son Jacob Gen. 35:1-15
  - a) Changes Jacob’s Name to Israel Gen. 32:25-31; Gen. 35:9-10
  - b) Jacob’s Sons Become 12 Tribes of Israel
- 7) Israel’s Migration into Egypt Gen. 46:1-7  
(*Jacob, His Sons & their Families Migrate to Egypt, Where His Son Joseph is Vizier to Pharaoh, to Survive Famine.*)

*There is No Record in Scriptures of the Ancient Patriarchs Observing the Sabbath or Other*

*Ordained Days, Festivals or Feasts, Which Seem to be Unknown to Them.*

4. Lord Delivers Israel from Bondage

*The Israelites Grew & Prospered in Egypt. The Egyptians Became Intimidated by the Israelites and Eventually Enslaved Them. The Lord Calls & Equips Moses to Deliver His Chosen People from Bondage and Establish Them as His Nation.*

- a. Israel Enslaved by the Egyptians Ex. 1 - 2
  - 1) Lord Chooses a Deliverer
    - a) Moses, Israelite from Tribe of Levi, Escapes Pharaoh's Infanticide Order
      - (1) Adopted by & Grows Up in Egypt's Royal Family
    - b) Moses Flees Egypt After Killing an Abusive Taskmaster
- b. The Lord Calls & Commissions Moses Ex. 3 - 4
  - 1) Moses Tending Sheep at Mount Horeb
    - a) "There an angel of the LORD appeared to him in fire flaming out of a bush....." (Ex. 3:2)
  - 2) Lord God Speaks to Moses from Flaming Bush
    - a) "Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." (Ex. 3:5-6)
    - b) "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey (*Promise Land*)...." (Ex. 3:7-9)
    - c) "Come, now! I will send you to Pharaoh to lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt..... when you bring my people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this very mountain." (Ex. 3:10-12)
  - 3) Moses Asks Lord God His Name (*Egyptians had Many Gods, All had Names*)
  - 4) Lord Replies:
    - a) "I am who am. This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM ("*Yahweh*") sent me to you." (*Name Means: I AM the Ever Present, Ever Living, No Beginning, No Ending God!*)
    - b) "Thus shall you say to the Israelites: The LORD (*Yahweh*), the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.
    - c) "This is my name forever; this is my title for all generations."  
(Ex. 3:14-15)
  - 5) Lord Instructs Moses
    - a) "Go and assemble the elders of the Israelites, and tell them: The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to me and said: I am concerned about you and about the way you are being treated in Egypt; so I have decided to lead you up out of the misery of Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, ....., a land flowing with milk and honey (*Promise Land Inheritance*).
    - b) "Thus they will heed your message. Then you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him: The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent us word. Permit us, then, to go a three days' journey in the desert, that we may offer sacrifice to the LORD, our God.

- c) “Yet I know that the king of Egypt will not allow you to go unless he is forced. I will stretch out my hand, therefore, and smite Egypt by doing all kinds of wondrous deeds there. After that he will send you away.”  
(*Ex. 3:16-20*)
- 6) Lord Confirms Moses’ Commission with 3 Signs
- 7) Moses Returns to Egypt as Instructed by the Lord
- a) Lord’s Warning & Promise
- (1) Pharaoh Will be Obstinate Refusing to Release Israel
- (2) “So you shall say to Pharaoh: Thus says the LORD: Israel is my son, my first-born. Hence I tell you: Let my son go, that he may serve me. If you refuse to let him go, I warn you, I will kill your son, your first-born.” (*Ex. 4:22-23*) (*What will Start as a Simple Request to Allow the Israelite Slaves to Worship the Lord their God, will Escalate to the Death of Pharaoh’s First Born Son - Heir to Throne of Egypt.*)
- b) Aaron Meets Moses on His Way Back to Egypt, as Lord Instructed
- (1) Aaron Appointed as Moses’ Spokesman
- c) Moses & Aaron Meet with Israelites in Egypt
- (1) Inform Them of their Mission & Perform Signs
- (2) Israelites Believe & Worship the Lord
- c. The Lord Delivers Israel from Bondage Ex. 5:1 - 12:36  
*The Israelites were in Egypt Over 400 Years, being Influenced and Assimilated into the Egyptian Culture & Religion. The Lord God Sends Plagues Upon Egypt to Demonstrate His Supremacy Over Egyptian Gods & Human Authorities; thereby, Revealing He is the Only True God Worthy of Worship.*
- 1) Moses’ & Aaron’s First Audience with Pharaoh
- a) They Say to Pharaoh: “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Let my people go, that they may celebrate a feast to me in the desert.” (*Ex. 5:1*) (*There is No Record of the Lord Specifying Feasts at that Time. The Israelites in Egypt were Familiar with the Pagan Festivals Celebrated there. Here the Lord Reveals that His People are to Celebrate & Worship Him, and Him Alone, with Feasts.*)
- b) Pharaoh Refuses & Increases the Hardships of Israelite Slaves
- 2) The Lord Orders Moses Back to Pharaoh
- a) Instructs Moses to Perform the First Sign Before Pharaoh
- 3) Moses & Aaron Return to Pharaoh
- a) Aaron Throws His Staff to Ground which Turns into a Serpent
- b) Pharaoh Summons His Wise Men, Sorcerers & Magicians
- (1) Each One Throws His Staff to Ground that Turn into Serpents  
(*Counterfeiting Lord’s Sign by Black Arts*)
- (2) Aaron’s Staff Swallows Egyptian Staffs (*Showing Superiority*)
- c) Pharaoh Refuses to Listen to Them
- 4) The Lord God Sends Plagues on Egypt Ex. 7:14 - 12:30  
*(Pharaoh Remains Obstinate throughout 9 Plagues, Refusing to Release the Israelites to Worship the Lord their God. Even though He Succumbs to Pressures Promising to Acquiesce if Moses Prays & Removes Plagues, He Reneges When Moses Does So. Finally the Lord Forces Pharaoh to Release the Israelites from Slavery and Expel them from Egypt with the 10<sup>th</sup> Plague.)*
- a) Plague 1 - Egypt’s Water Turns into Blood Ex. 7:14-24

- b) Plague 2 - Infestation of Frogs Ex. 7:25 - 8:11
- c) Plague 3 - Infestation of Gnats Ex. 8:12-15
- d) Plague 4 - Swarms of Flies Ex. 8:16-28
- e) Plague 5 - Death of Egyptian Livestock Ex. 9:1-7
- f) Plague 6 - Egyptians Afflicted with Boils Ex. 9:8-12
- g) Plague 7 - Devastating Hail Storm Ex. 9:13-35
- h) Plague 8 - Swarms of Locusts Ex. 10:1-20
- (1) Pharaoh Negotiates with Moses & Aaron. “You may go and worship the LORD, your God. But how many of you will go?”
- (2) Moses Answers: “Young and old must go with us, our sons and daughters as well as our flocks and herds must accompany us. That is what a feast of the LORD means to us.”
- (3) Pharaoh Replies: “No, no! Just you men can go and worship the LORD. After all, that is what you want.” (Ex. 10:11)  
(*Not So! The Lord’s Feasts are to be Celebrated by All Israelites: Men, Women & Children.*)
- i) Plague 9 - Dense Darkness Covers Egypt Ex. 10:21-29
- (1) Pharaoh Negotiates with Moses & Aaron: “Go and worship the LORD. Your little ones, too, may go with you. But your flocks and herds must remain (*Worship Without Sacrifice*).” (Ex. 10:24)
- (2) Moses Rejects Pharaoh’s Offer: “You must also grant us sacrifices and holocausts to offer up to the LORD, our God. Hence, our livestock also must go with us. Not an animal must be left behind. Some of them we must sacrifice to the LORD, our God, but we ourselves shall not know which ones we must sacrifice to him until we arrive at the place itself.” (Ex. 10:25-26)  
(*Sacrificial Worship is Integral to Israel’s Festivals & Feasts.*)
- (3) Pharaoh Refuses, Dismissing Moses: “... The day you appear before me you shall die!” (Ex. 10:28)
- j) Plague 10 – Death of the First Born Ex. 11:1 – 12:30  
(*The Lord Delivers His People from Bondage with the 10<sup>th</sup> Plague, Establishing the **Feast of Passover.***)
- (1) Pronouncement of Last Plague Ex. 11
- (a) Lord’s Announcement to Moses: Ex. 11:1-3
- “One more plague will I bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. After that he will let you depart. In fact, he will not merely let you go; he will drive you away.
  - “Instruct your people that every man is to ask his (*Egyptian*) neighbor, and every woman her neighbor, for silver and gold articles and for clothing. (*Restitution for Years of Servitude*)
  - “The LORD indeed made the Egyptians well-disposed toward the people; Moses himself was very highly regarded by Pharaoh’s servants and the people in the land of Egypt.”
- (b) Moses’ Pronouncement to Pharaoh: Ex. 11:4-8
- “Thus says the LORD: At midnight I will go forth through Egypt. Every first-born in this land shall die, from the first-born of Pharaoh on the throne to the first-born of the slave-girl at the handmill, as well as all the first-born of the animals. Then there shall be loud wailing throughout the

land of Egypt, such as has never been, nor will ever be again.

- The Lord Will Protect His People. “But among the Israelites and their animals not even a dog shall growl, so that you may know how the LORD distinguishes between the Egyptians and the Israelites.
- “All these servants of yours shall then come down to me, and prostrate before me, they shall beg me, ‘Leave us, you and all your followers!’ Only then will I depart....”

(c) Pharaoh Refuses to Listen to Moses

(2) The Lord Prescribes a Ritual for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plague, Establishing the Feast of Passover Ex. 12:1-13

(a) “This month (*Month of “Abib” Renamed “Nisan”*) shall stand at the head of your calendar; you shall reckon it the first month of the year.

(b) “Tell the whole community of Israel:

- “On the tenth of this month every one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household.... The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats.”
- “You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month (*Inspecting their Lamb to Ensure it’s Suitable for Sacrifice, i.e. Without Blemish*), and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight.”
- “They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house in which they partake of the lamb.”
- “That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. It shall not be eaten raw or boiled, but roasted whole, with its head and shanks and inner organs. None of it must be kept beyond the next morning; whatever is left over in the morning shall be burned up.”

(c) “This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. **It is the Passover of the LORD.**”

- “For on this same night I (Lord God) will go through Egypt, striking down every first—born of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt - I, the LORD!”
- “But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you; thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow (*Plague*) will come upon you.”

(3) The Lord Establishes Feast of Unleavened Bread Ex. 12:14-20  
(*The Lord Establishes the Feast of Unleavened Bread to Celebrate the Day He Brought Israel Out of Egypt.*)

(a) “This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a

- perpetual institution.
- (b) “For seven days you must eat unleavened bread. From the very first day you shall have your houses clear of all leaven. Whoever eats leavened bread from the first day to the seventh shall be cut off from Israel.
  - (c) “On the first day (Feast of Unleavened Bread) you shall hold a sacred assembly, and likewise on the seventh. On these days you shall not do any sort of work, except to prepare the food that everyone needs.
  - (d) “Keep, then, this custom of the unleavened bread. Since it was on this very day that I brought your ranks out of the land of Egypt, you must celebrate this day throughout your generations as a perpetual institution.
  - (e) “From the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month (Feast of Passover) until the evening of the twenty-first day of this month you shall eat unleavened bread”
  - (f) “For seven days no leaven may be found in your houses. Anyone, be he a resident alien or a native, who eats leavened food shall be cut off from the community of Israel. Nothing leavened may you eat; wherever you dwell you may eat only unleavened bread.”

*(Summary: The Feast of Passover is Held on the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of the Month of Abib/Nisan. The 7 Days of Unleavened Bread Begins that Evening. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is Held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of that 7 Day Period, Which is the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of that Month. The 7 Day Period Ends on the Evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> Day of that Month.)*

- (4) Israel Prepares for Passover Ex. 12:21-28
  - (a) Moses Instructs Elders of Israel. “Go and procure lambs for your families, and slaughter them as **Passover** victims. Then take a bunch of hyssop, and dipping it in the blood that is in the basin, sprinkle the lintel and the two doorposts with this blood. But none of you shall go outdoors until morning.
  - (b) Moses Tells Them of Lord’s Final Plague. “For the LORD will go by, striking down the Egyptians. Seeing the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and not let the destroyer come into your houses to strike you down.
  - (c) Moses Instructs Them to Observe **Passover** as a Perpetual Ordinance. “You shall observe this as a perpetual ordinance for yourselves and your descendants. Thus, you must also observe this rite when you have entered the land which the LORD will give you as he promised. When your children ask you, ‘What does this rite of yours mean?’ you shall reply, ‘This is the **Passover sacrifice of the LORD,** who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt; when he struck down the Egyptians, he spared our houses.’
  - (d) Israelites Prepare for Passover. “Then the people bowed down in worship, and the Israelites went and did as the LORD had

commanded Moses and Aaron.”

- (5) Execution of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plague Ex. 12:29-36
- (a) Lord Kills All First Born of Egypt. “At midnight the LORD slew every first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh on the throne to the first-born of the prisoner in the dungeon, as well as all the first-born of the animals. Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians; and there was loud wailing throughout Egypt, for there was not a house without its dead.”
- Death Passes Over Israelite Homes Covered by the Blood, Sparing the First Born of Israel.
- (b) Pharaoh Summons Moses & Aaron During the Night
- Sets Israel Free. “Leave my people at once, you and the Israelites with you! Go and worship the LORD as you said. Take your flocks, too, and your herds, as you demanded, and be gone; and you will be doing me a favor.”
- (c) “The Egyptians likewise urged the people on, to hasten their departure from the land; they thought that otherwise they would all die.”
- (d) Israelites Prepare to Leave Egypt
- Take Unleavened Bread. “The people, therefore, took their dough before it was leavened, in their kneading bowls wrapped in their cloaks on their shoulders.”
  - Gather the Spoils of Egypt. “The Israelites ... asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. The LORD indeed had made the Egyptians so well-disposed toward the people that they let them have whatever they asked for. Thus did they despoil the Egyptians.” (*Materials that Will be Used to Construct the Lord’s Tabernacle, its Furnishings, Utensils & Priestly Vestments*)
- d. Israel’s Exodus from Egypt Ex. 12:37 - 13:16
- 1) Israelites Leave Egypt Ex. 12:37-42
- a) “The Israelites set out from Rameses for Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, not counting the children. A crowd of mixed ancestry also went up with them, besides their livestock, very numerous flocks and herds.
- b) “Since the dough they had brought out of Egypt was not leavened, they baked it into unleavened loaves. They had been rushed out of Egypt and had no opportunity even to prepare food for the journey.
- c) “The time the Israelites had stayed in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. At the end of four hundred and thirty years, all the hosts of the LORD left the land of Egypt on this very date (*15<sup>th</sup> of Abib/Nisan*). This was a night of vigil for the LORD, as he led them out of the land of Egypt; so on this same night all the Israelites must keep a vigil for the LORD throughout their generations.”

*Comment.* Every Hebrew Month Begins on a New Moon; therefore, there would have been a Full Moon on the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of that Month when the Lord brought Israel out of bondage.

- 2) Lord Gives Moses & Aaron Regulations for Passover Ex. 12:43-49
- a) “These are the regulations for the **Passover**. No foreigner may partake of it (*Paschal Lamb*). However, any slave who has been bought for money may partake of it, provided you have first circumcised him. But no transient alien or hired servant may partake of it.”
  - b) “It must be eaten in one and the same house; you may not take any of its flesh outside the house. You shall not break any of its bones.”
  - c) “The whole community of Israel must keep this feast. If any aliens (*Gentiles*) living among you wish to celebrate the **Passover of the LORD**, all the males among them must first be circumcised (*Bringing them Under Lord’s Covenant*), and then they may join in its observance just like the natives. But no man who is uncircumcised may partake of it. The law shall be the same for the resident alien as for the native.”
- 3) “All the Israelites did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. On that same day the LORD brought the Israelites out of Egypt company by company.” Ex. 12:50-51
- 4) Lord Commands Israel to Consecrate their First Born to Him Ex. 13:1-16  
(*Israel’s First-Born Belong to the Lord, Since He Spared their First Born During the 10<sup>th</sup> Plague Pass Over.*)
- a) “Consecrate to me (Lord) every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites, both of man and beast, for it belongs to me.” (Ex. 13:2)
  - b) Reminder to Celebrate Passover Every Year in Promise Land. Ex.13:3-10
    - (1) “Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, that place of slavery. It was with a strong hand that the LORD brought you away. Nothing made with leaven must be eaten. This day of your departure is in the month of Abib (*Renamed “Nisan”*). Therefore, it is in this month that you must celebrate this rite, after the LORD, your God, has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, (*i.e. The Promise Land*) ....., which he swore to your fathers he would give you, a land flowing with milk and honey.
    - (2) “For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and the seventh day shall also be a festival to the LORD. Only unleavened bread may be eaten during the seven days; no leaven and nothing leavened may be found in all your territory.
    - (3) “On this day you shall explain to your son (*See “Haggadah” Below*), ‘This is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ It shall be as a sign on your hand and as a reminder on your forehead; thus the law of the LORD will ever be on your lips, because with a strong hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt. Therefore, you shall keep this prescribed rite at its appointed time from year to year.”
  - c) Regulations for Consecrating the First Born Ex. 13:11-16
- e. The Lord Leads Israel to the Mountain of God Ex. 13:17 - 18:27  
(*Lord Leads Israel to Mount Horeb/Sinai to Receive Laws for His Nation.*)
- “*The LORD preceded them, in the daytime by means of a column of cloud to show them the way, and at night by means of a column of fire to give them light. Thus they could travel both day and night. Neither the column of cloud by day nor the column of fire by night ever left its place in front of the people.*”  
Ex. 13:21-22

- 1) The Lord Leads Israel Through the Red (“Reed”) Sea Ex. 14
  - a) Lord Informs Moses: “..... Thus will I make Pharaoh so obstinate that he will pursue them (*i.e. Israel*). Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.” (*Ex. 14:4*) (*The Lord Reveals & Confirms His Supremacy Over Egypt’s Authority & Strength.*)
  - b) Pharaoh Regrets Releasing Israel
    - (1) Leads Egyptian Army in Pursuit of Israelites
    - (2) Israel Encamped by Red Sea
  - c) Israelites See Egyptian Army & Become Fearful
    - (1) People Cry Out to Lord & Complain to Moses
  - d) Israel Crosses the Red Sea
    - (1) Lord Commands Moses to Move Israelites Toward the Sea
    - (2) Moses Stretches His Hand Over Sea, as Lord Commanded
      - (a) Lord Sends a Strong East Wind Dividing the Waters
    - (3) Israel Marches Through the Sea on Dry Ground
  - e) Egyptians Pursue Israel into Midst of Sea
    - (1) Wheels of Egyptian Chariots Bog Down
  - f) Moses Stretches His Hand Over Sea, as Lord Commanded
    - (1) Sea Flows Back to its Normal Depth, Drowning Egyptian Army
  - g) Moses & Israelites Rejoice Ex. 15:1-21
- 2) The Lord Sweetens Bitter Water in Desert Ex. 15:22-27
- 3) The Lord Provides Food in Desert Ex. 16
 

*(The Sabbath is Introduced in Gathering the Lord’s Food in the Desert)*

  - a) Israel Arrives at Desert of Sin on 15<sup>th</sup> Day of 2<sup>nd</sup> Month (“Iyar”)

*Comment.* *Israel arrives at the place where the Lord reveals the Sabbath, one month after their departure from Egypt. There would be a Full Moon on the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of Iyar.*

- (1) People Hungry, Grumble Against Moses & Aaron (*Lord’s Anointed*)
- b) The Lord Informs Moses:
  - (1) “I will now rain down bread from heaven for you (*Creative Miracle*). Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not.
  - (2) “On the sixth day, however, when they prepare what they bring in, let it be twice as much as they gather on the other days.” (*Ex. 16:4-5*) (*Prepare for 7<sup>th</sup> Day of Week which will be a Day of Rest*)
- c) Moses Calls an Assembly of Israelite Community
  - (1) Moses Instructs Aaron: “Tell the whole Israelite community: Present yourselves before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.” (*Ex. 16:9*)
  - (2) People Assemble & Face the Desert
  - (3) Glory of the Lord Appears in a Cloud
    - (a) Lord Speaks to Moses from Cloud: “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them: In the evening twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread, so that you may know that I, the LORD, am your God.” (*Ex. 16:12*) (*Lord Reveals Himself as Israel’s Provider & Sustainer*)

- d) The Lord Feeds His People in Desert
- (1) Quail Every Evening. “In the evening quail came up and covered the camp.
  - (2) Manna Every Morning. “In the morning a dew lay all about the camp, and when the dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground. On seeing it, the Israelites asked one another, ‘What is this (*“Man-hu”*)?’ for they did not know what it was. But Moses told them, ‘This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.’” (*Ex. 16:13-15*)
  - (3) Moses Instructs Israelites on Gathering Manna. “Now, this is what the LORD has commanded:
    - (a) “... gather it that everyone has enough to eat, an omer (*2 Quarts or 1.89 Liters*) for each person, as many of you as there are, each man providing for those of his own tent.” (*Ex. 16:16*)
    - (b) “Let no one keep any of it over until tomorrow morning.” (*Ex. 16:19*)
  - (4) People Gather their Daily Portions
    - (a) Those Who Gathered Too Much - Leftovers Spoil the Next Day
    - (b) Those Who Gathered Too Little had Enough to Eat
  - (5) The Lord Introduces the Sabbath (7<sup>th</sup> Day of Week) as Sacred
    - (a) People Gather a Double Portion on 6<sup>th</sup> Day. “On the sixth day they gathered twice as much food, two omers for each person.” (*Ex. 16:22a*)
      - Community Leaders Inform Moses
      - Moses Replies: “That is what the LORD prescribed. Tomorrow is a day of complete rest, the sabbath, sacred to the LORD. You may either bake or boil the manna, as you please; but whatever is left put away and keep for the morrow.” (*Ex. 16:23*)
        - The Extra Portion Remains Fresh through the Sabbath
    - (b) Moses’ Instruction for the Sabbath: “Eat it today, for today is the sabbath of the LORD. On this day you will not find any of it on the ground. On the other six days you can gather it, but on the seventh day, the sabbath, none of it will be there”
      - “Still, on the seventh day some of the people went out to gather it, although they did not find any.” (*Ex. 16:25-27*)
- e) The Lord Establishes the Sabbath as a Sacred Day of Rest
- (1) “Lord Says to Moses: “How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and laws? Take note! The LORD has given you the sabbath. That is why on the sixth day he gives you food for two days. On the seventh day everyone is to stay home and no one is to go out.”
  - (2) “After that the people rested on the seventh day.” (*Ex. 16:28-30*)
- f) “The Israelites called this food manna. It was like coriander seed, but white, and it tasted like wafers made with honey.” (*Ex. 16:31*)
- 4) The Lord Provides Water from Rock Ex. 17:1-7
  - 5) The Lord Gives Israel Victory Over Amalek Ex. 17:8-16
    - a) Amalek was Obstructing Israel’s Passage to Mountain of God

## 5. Israel at the Mountain of God

*Israel Arrives at Mount Horeb/Sinai on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Month (Sivan) After Leaving Egypt. (Horeb & Sinai are the Same Mountain. Ex. 19:11 & Deut. 4:10) Israel Encamps at Mount Sinai. Here the Lord God Delivers His Laws to Israel as His Holy Nation. These Laws Consist of Moral, Civil and Sacred/Religious Laws in which He Ordains Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts.*

Comment. *Like the other months in the Jewish Calendar, there is a New Moon on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sivan.*

- a. The Lord's Intention for His Nation Ex. 19:1-15  
*The Lord's Intention for Israel is to be His Kingdom of Priests on Earth; His Witness to the Nations.*
  - 1) Moses Ascends Mount Sinai  
*(Moses Ascends Mountain on the 40<sup>th</sup> Day Following Passover Sabbath.)*
    - a) Lord Speaks to Moses: "Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob;
      - (1) "..... You have seen for yourselves how I treated the Egyptians and how I bore you up on eagle wings and brought you here to myself.
      - (2) "Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine. "You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation...." (Ex. 19:3c-6)
    - 2) Moses Returns from the Mountain & Summons the Elders
      - a) Relates the Word of the Lord
      - b) People Respond: "Everything the LORD has said, we will do."  
(Ex. 19:8b)
    - 3) Moses Reports Israel's Answer to the Lord
    - 4) The Lord Instructs Moses:
      - a) "I am coming to you in a dense cloud, so that when the people hear me speaking with you, they may always have faith in you also...."
      - b) "Go to the people and have them sanctify themselves today and tomorrow. Make them wash their garments and be ready for the third day; for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai before the eyes of all the people....." (Ex. 19:9b-13)
      - c) Moses Prepares the People as the Lord Instructed
  - b. The Lord's Visitation (*"The Great Theophany"*) Ex. 19:16 – 20:17
    - 1) On 3<sup>rd</sup> Day (of Sivan), Heavy Cloud Appears Over Mount Sinai with Thunder & Lightning Accompanied by Loud Trumpet Blasts
      - a) Moses Leads People Out of their Camp to Meet the Lord
        - (1) Stations Them at Foot of the Mountain
    - 2) Mount Sinai Wrapped in Smoke & Trembled as the Lord Descends in Fire
      - a) Moses Speaks & Lord Answers with Thunder
    - 3) The Lord Audibly Delivers His 10 Commandments to Israel Ex. 20:1-17
      - a) The Lord Introduces Himself. "I, the LORD (*"Yahweh"*), am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.
      - b) Commandments Regarding their Relationship with the Lord
        - (1) "You shall not have other gods besides me.  
(*The Lord is the Only True & Living God.*)
        - (2) "You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them....."

*(The Lord God Alone is Worthy of Worship)*

(3) “You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain....”

*(The Lord God Almighty is Holy, Do Not Profane His Name. Honor, Respect & Revere Him & His Sacred Name.)*

(4) **Commandment to Keep the Sabbath.** “Remember to keep holy the **sabbath** day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.”

*(The Lord Reveals Himself as Creator of Heaven & Earth. He Commands His People to Acknowledge Him as Creator, Observing Every Sabbath as a Holy Day of Rest, Reflecting on Him and Refreshing Themselves.)*

c) Commandments Regarding their Relationship with One Another

(1) “Honor your father and your mother, .....”

(2) “You shall not kill.

(3) “You shall not commit adultery.

(4) “You shall not steal.

(5) “You shall not bear false witness ....”

(6) “You shall not covet .....”

c. Israel’s Reaction

Ex. 20:18-20

1) The People Become Afraid & Ask Moses: “You speak to us, and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we shall die.” (Ex. 20:19)

*(Israelite People were Afraid by the Lord’s Revelation at Mount Sinai. They Ask Moses to Intercede to God for Them, Keeping a Distance Between Themselves and the Lord their God; thereby, Setting the Premise for Israel’s Formal Intercessory Priesthood. These Priests Will Officiate on the Lord’s Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts.)*

2) Moses Answers: “Do not be afraid, for God has come to you only to test you and put his fear (*Awe*) upon you, lest you should sin.” (Ex. 20:20)

d. Moses Approaches the Cloud Where God Was

1) The Lord Instructs Moses:

Ex. 20:21-26

a) “Thus shall you speak to the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven.

b) “Do not make anything to rank with me; neither gods of silver nor gods of gold shall you make for yourselves.”

c) “An altar of earth you shall make for me, and upon it you shall sacrifice your holocausts and peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In whatever place I choose for the remembrance of my name I will come to you and bless you.” (Ex. 20:22-24)

*(The Lord God Requires Sacrifice to Approach Him.)*

2) The Lord Gives Moses Laws for His People/Nation

Ex. 21 – 23

a) Moral & Civil Laws

Ex. 21:1 - 23:9

b) Ordained Times & Seasons

Ex. 23:10-19

(1) Every 7<sup>th</sup> Year to be Observe as a Sabbatical Year (“**Shemithah**”).

“For six years you may sow your land and gather in its produce. But

the seventh year you shall let the land lie untilled and unharvested, that the poor among you may eat of it and the beasts of the field may eat what the poor leave. So also shall you do in regard to your vineyard and your olive grove.” (Ex. 23:10-11)

- (2) Every 7<sup>th</sup> Day to be Observed as the Sabbath (“Shabbat”). “For six days you may do your work, but on the seventh day you must rest, that your ox and your ass may also have rest, and that the son of your maidservant and the alien may be refreshed....” (Ex. 23:12-13a)
  - (3) The Lord’s Pilgrim Feasts. The Lord Appoints 3 Times Every Year for His People to Assemble in His Presence & Worship Him. “Three times a year you shall celebrate a pilgrim feast to me.” (The Term “Feast” is Translated from Hebrew Word “Moedim” Meaning “Appointment”. Here the Lord Mandates Divine Appointments for His People to Meet with Him.)
    - (a) “You shall keep the feast of Unleavened Bread (“Hag HaMatzot”). As I have commanded you, you must eat unleavened bread for seven days at the prescribed time in the month of Abib (aka Nisan), for it was then that you came out of Egypt.
    - (b) “No one shall appear before me empty-handed (Sacrifices & Offerings are Required to Approach the Lord’s Presence).
    - (c) “You shall also keep the feast of the grain harvest with the first of the crop that you have sown in the field (i.e. Feast of Weeks “Shavuot” [aka Pentecost]);
    - (d) “and finally, the feast at the fruit harvest at the end of the year, when you gather in the produce from the fields (i.e. Feast of Booths/Tabernacles “Sukkot”).
    - (e) “Thrice a year shall all your men appear before the Lord GOD.” (Ex. 23:14-17)
  - (4) Sanctity of Sacrifices & Offerings. “You shall not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread; nor shall the fat of my feast be kept overnight till the next day. The choicest first fruits of your soil you shall bring to the house of the LORD, your God.” (Ex. 23:18-19)
- e. Ratification of the Covenant Ex. 24:1-11
- 1) Moses Relates the Lord’s Word & Ordinances to People
    - a) People Respond: “We will do everything that the LORD has told us.” (Ex. 24:3b)
    - b) Moses Writes Book of the Covenant, Containing the Law
  - 2) Moses Seals the Lord’s Covenant with Israel with Blood Sacrifices
    - a) Moses Erects an Altar with 12 Pillars at Foot of Mountain (A Memorial Affirming Acceptance of the Law by 12 Tribes of Israel)
    - b) Sacrifices Offered to the Lord. “Then, having sent certain young men of the Israelites to offer holocausts and sacrifice young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD, Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls; the other half he splashed on the altar (Sanctifying It).” (Ex. 24:5-6)
    - c) Moses Reads Book of the Covenant to People
      - (1) People Respond: “All that the LORD has said, we will heed and do.” (Ex. 24:7b) (Confirming their Acceptance)

- d) “Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying, ‘This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words of his.’” (*Ex. 24:8*)  
(*Sealing the Lord’s Covenant with Israel*)
- 3) Moses Escorts Aaron & His Sons with 70 Elders to Meet the Lord  
(*The Lord Reveals His Majesty to Israel’s Leadership*)
6. Moses Receives the Sacred Law
- a. Moses Ascends Mount Sinai to Receive the Law Ex. 24:12-18
- 1) The Lord Invites Moses: “Come up to me on the mountain and, while you are there, I will give you the stone tablets on which I have written the commandments (*Including Sabbath Observance*)....” (*Ex. 24:12*)
- 2) Moses Ascends Mount Sinai
- a) Cloud of Glory Settles Upon Mount Sinai
- (1) Cloud Covers the Mountain 6 Days
- (2) Glory Appears as Consuming Fire on Mountain Top
- (3) Lord Calls Moses into Midst of Cloud (*Lord’s Presence*) the 7<sup>th</sup> Day
- b) Moses Enters into Midst of Cloud (*Moses Enters the Lord’s Presence on the 50<sup>th</sup> Day Following Passover Sabbath*)
- (1) Remains on Mountain 40 Days & 40 Nights
- 3) Lord Gives Moses the Sacred Law
- a) Specifications for the Tabernacle Ex. 25 - 27 & 30
- (1) Materials to be Contributed by People. “They shall make a sanctuary for me, that I may dwell in their midst.” (*Ex. 25:8*)
- b) Priesthood, their Vestments & Ordination Ritual Ex. 28 - 29
- c) Reminder to Observe the Sabbath. “You must also tell the Israelites: Take care to keep my sabbaths (*Even During Construction of Tabernacle*), for that is to be the token between you and me throughout the generations, to show that it is I, the LORD, who make you holy. Therefore, you must keep the sabbath as something sacred. Whoever desecrates it shall be put to death. If anyone does work on that day, he must be rooted out of his people. Six days there are for doing work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of complete rest, sacred to the LORD. Anyone who does work on the sabbath day shall be put to death. So shall the Israelites observe the sabbath, keeping it throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. Between me and the Israelites it is to be an everlasting token; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, but on the seventh day he rested at his ease.” Ex. 31:13-17
- 4) Lord Interrupts His Delivery of the Law to Moses Ex. 32
- a) Israelites Have Rebelled, Reverting to Idolatry
- (1) Made Golden Calf (*In Likeness of Egyptian God*), Declaring: “This is your God, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. Tomorrow is a feast of the LORD.” (*Ex. 32: 4-5*)
- (2) People Offer Sacrifices, Reveling in a Pagan Feast
- b) Lord Informs Moses, Condemning Israel Ex. 32:7-10  
(*Revealing His Righteous Justice*)
- (1) “Go down at once to your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, for they have become depraved....”
- (2) “Let me alone, then, that my wrath may blaze up against them to

consume them. Then I will make of you a great nation (*Replacing Israel with Moses' Lineage*).”

- c) Moses Intercedes for Israel Ex. 32:11-14
  - (1) Pleads for Lord's Mercy
  - (2) Reminds Lord of His Promises: “... Let your blazing wrath die down; relent in punishing your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, and how you swore to them by your own self, saying, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; and all this land that I promised, I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage.’”
  - (3) Lord Relents (*Revealing His Fidelity & Mercy*)
- b. Moses Descends the Mountain Returning to Israel's Camp Ex. 32:15-29
  - 1) Carrying 2 Stone Tablets Engraved by God with His Commandments (*Re: Ex. 31:18*)
    - a) Becomes Enraged, Seeing Golden Calf & People Reveling
      - (1) Throws Stone Tablets Down, Breaking Them (*Signifies Israel Breaking the Law*)
    - b) Destroys Golden Calf
    - c) 3,000 Guilty Israelites Executed
  - c. Moses Makes Atonement for Israel Ex. 32:30 – 33:6
    - 1) Addresses the Israelites: “You have committed a grave sin. I will go up to the LORD, then; perhaps I may be able to make atonement for your sin (*i.e. Cover their Sin*).” (*Ex. 32:30*)
    - 2) Goes Back Up the Mountain to the Lord
      - a) Moses Intercedes for Israel, Offering Himself as Atonement: “Ah, this people has indeed committed a grave sin in making a god of gold for themselves! If you would only forgive their sin! If you will not, then strike me out of the book that you have written.” (*Ex. 32:31-32*)
      - b) The LORD Answers: “Him only who has sinned against me will I strike out of my book. Now, go and lead the people whither I have told you. My angel will go before you. When it is time for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin.” (*Ex. 32:33-34*)
    - 3) Returns from Mountain & Relates Word of the Lord
      - a) Israel Mourns & Repents of their Sin
  - d. Moses Remains with Israelites Ex. 33:7-23
    - 1) Mediating for God's People
    - 2) Interceding to the Lord for God's People
    - 3) Being Intimate with the Lord God of Israel
  - e. Lord Calls Moses Back to Mount Sinai Ex. 34
    - 1) “The LORD said to Moses, ‘Cut two stone tablets like the former, that I may write on them the commandments which were on the former tablets that you broke. Get ready for tomorrow morning, when you are to go up Mount Sinai and there present yourself to me on the top of the mountain.’” (*Ex. 34:1-2*)
    - 2) Moses Ascends Mount Sinai as Lord Instructed
      - a) Lord Passes Before Moses, Exclaiming: “The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity, continuing his kindness for a thousand generations, and forgiving wickedness and crime and sin; yet not declaring the guilty guiltless,....” (*Ex. 34:6-7*)

- b) Moses Prostrates Himself Before the Lord in Worship
- c) Lord Promises to Bless to Israel: "... But you, on your part, must keep the commandments I am giving you today." (*Ex. 34:10-11*)
- d) Lord Restates His Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts *Ex. 34:18-26*  
(*Lord Reveals Compassion & Mercy Restoring His Appointed Times*)
  - (1) **Feast of Unleavened Bread** ("**Hag HaMatzot**"). "You shall keep the feast of Unleavened Bread. For seven days at the prescribed time in the month of Abib (*aka Nisan*) you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you; for in the month of Abib you came out of Egypt.
  - (2) Consecration of First Born
  - (3) Requirement of Sacrifice. "No one shall appear before me empty-handed."
  - (4) **Sabbath** ("**Shabbat**"). "For six days you may work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; on that day you must rest even during the seasons of plowing and harvesting.
  - (5) **Feast of Weeks/Pentecost** ("**Shavuot**"). "You shall keep the feast of Weeks with the first of the wheat harvest;
  - (6) **Feast of Booths** ("**Sukkot**"). "likewise, the feast at the fruit harvest at the close of the year."
  - (7) **Pilgrim Feasts**. "Three times a year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the LORD God of Israel. Since I will drive out the nations before you to give you a large territory, there will be no one to covet your land when you go up three times a year to appear before the LORD, your God.
  - (8) **Feast of Passover** ("**Pesach**"). "You shall not offer me the blood of sacrifice with leavened bread, nor shall the sacrifice of the Passover feast be kept overnight for the next day.
  - (9) **Feast of First Fruits** ("**Yom HaBikkurim**"). "The choicest first fruits of your soil you shall bring to the house of the LORD, your God."
- e) Moses Remains on Mountain 40 Days & 40 Nights
- f. Moses Returns from Mountain
  - 1) Carrying 2 Stone Tablets with Lord's Commandments
  - 2) Assembles Israelite Community
    - a) Reaffirms Sanctity of Sabbath. "This is what the LORD has commanded to be done. On six days work may be done, but the seventh day shall be sacred to you as the **sabbath** of complete rest to the LORD. Anyone who does work on that day shall be put to death. You shall not even light a fire in any of your dwellings on the sabbath day." *Ex. 35:1-3*

## 7. Summary of the Sacred/Religious Laws

*When Man Fell, God Interrupted His Sabbath Rest and Began His Work of Redemption. He Reveals His Redemptive Plan for Mankind through His Sacred Law. The Major Elements of that Law are as Follows:*

- a. The Tabernacle *Ex. 25 - 27 & 30*  
*The Lord God's Dwelling Place Among His People on Earth & Israel's Central Place of Worship (See 'Tabernacle & Temple - Part I' Study). It is the Lord's Designated Place for His People to Gather in His Presence to Celebrate His Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts.*

- 1) Basic Configuration of the Tabernacle
    - a) The Outer Court  
(*People Gather with their Sacrificial Offerings to Worship the Lord.*)
      - (1) Altar of Sacrifice (*Priests Offer Sacrifices on Altar*)
      - (2) Laver (*Priests Wash Themselves Before Entering Sanctuary*)
    - b) Meeting Tent (*Priests Minister Daily Before the Lord*)  
(*Also Referred to as the "Sanctuary" or "Dwelling"*)
      - (1) First Chamber is Inner Court ("*Holy Place*")
        - (a) Table of Showbread
          - "Regularly on each **sabbath day** this bread shall be set out afresh before the LORD, offered on the part of the Israelites by an everlasting agreement." Lev. 24:8
        - (b) Lampstand (Menorah)
          - "... Aaron shall set up the lamps to burn before the LORD regularly, from evening till morning..." Lev. 24:3
        - (c) Incense Altar (*Priests Intercede for the People Every Morning & Evening by Offering Incense Before the Lord*)
          - "Once a year (***On the Day of Atonement "Yom Kippur"***) Aaron shall perform the atonement rite on its horns.  
Throughout your generations this atonement is to be made once a year with the blood of the atoning sin offering. This altar is most sacred to the LORD." (*Ex. 30:10*)
        - (d) Veil Separating Inner Court from Holy of Holies
      - (2) Second Chamber is Holy of Holies ("*Most Holy Place*")  
(*High Priest Enters Only on the Day of Atonement, Ministering with Blood of Sacrificed Animals. Lev. 16*)
        - (a) Ark of the Covenant (*God's Throne of Earth*)
          - Containing Stone Tablets with 10 Commandments (*Including Sabbath Observance*)
  - 2) *The Original Tent Tabernacle was Subsequently Replaced by a Stone Temple in Jerusalem where Jews Continued to Gather to Worship the Lord on His Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts.*
- b. The Priesthood Ex. 28 - 29  
*Consecrated Priests Who Make Constant Intercession for God's Chosen People with Continual Sacrifices. Israel's Priests Officiate on the Lord's Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts. (See 'Anointed Priest – Part I' Study)*
  - 1) Lord Designates House of Aaron, Tribe of Levi, as His Exclusive Priests
  - 2) Lord Appoints Levites as Attendants & Assistants to His Priests
- c. Sacrifices & Offerings Lev. 1 - 7  
*Prescribed Means to Make Atonement for Sins Before a Holy God, Seek His Forgiveness, Absolution & Reconciliation, and to Offer Thanksgiving. The Lord Prescribes Specific Sacrifices & Offerings on His Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts. (See 'Sacrifices & Offerings - Part I' Study)*
  - 1) Major Types of Sacrifices:
    - a) *Holocausts (Whole Burnt Offerings). (Animal Sacrifices for the Atonement [Covering] of Sins.)*
      - (1) The Lord Prescribes an Established Daily Holocaust Offered Every Morning & Evening Num. 28:3-8
    - b) *Cereal Offerings. (Thanksgiving Offerings Recognizing God's Goodness*

- & Provision.)
- c) Peace Offerings. (*Animal Sacrifices to Fulfill a Vow, and/or for Reconciliation & Fellowship.*)
  - d) Sin Offerings. (*Animal Sacrifices for Forgiveness of Sins Against the Lord, and/or Cleansing of Ritual Uncleanness.*)
  - e) Guilt Offerings. (*Animal Sacrifices to Absolve Guilt of Sin Against Another Person, and/or Transgressions Against the Law.*)
- d. Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts Lev. 16; Lev. 23  
*Times & Seasons that the Lord Appointed for His People to Celebrate Him, Commune with Him and be Transformed by Him. The Lord Uses Reoccurring & Repetitive Cycles of 7 in Prescribing His Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts.*
- 1) “The LORD said to Moses, ‘Speak to the Israelites and tell them: The following are the festivals of the LORD, my feast days, which you shall celebrate with a sacred assembly.’” Lev. 23:1-2

*The Israelites Manufacture the Tabernacle, its Furnishings and Sacred Vessels as well Vestments for its Priests, as Specified by the Lord. Moses Erects the Tabernacle as the Lord Instructed: “On the first day of the first month you shall erect the Dwelling of the meeting tent” (Ex. 40:2). He then Anoints & Consecrates the Tabernacle and Ordains the Priests. The Shekinah Glory of God Descends and Takes Up Residence in the Tabernacle’s Holy of Holies (Ex. 36 - 40 & Lev. 8 - 9). The 12 Tribal Princes Offer Sacrifices for the Dedication of the Altar (Num. 7); After Which Israel Celebrates the Feast of Passover at the Newly Constructed Tabernacle on 14<sup>th</sup> Day of the 1<sup>st</sup> Month Starting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Year of Freedom from Bondage (Num. 9:1-14).*

*The Lord Reveals His Appointed Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts to Israel Over a Period of Time, Starting with their Deliverance from Bondage and Departure from Egypt, then on their Journey to the Mountain of God Where they Received the Law (Re: Exodus & Leviticus). The Lord Continues Confirming & Supplementing their Ceremonies & Rituals During Israel’s Time in the Wilderness (Re: Numbers). The Lord Re-emphasizes Certain Laws to a New Generation Before they Enter the Promise Land (Re: Deuteronomy). The Following Sections C & D of this Study Addresses and References these Revelations. It Also Looks at Some of the Traditional Practices that Grew Up Over the Years, Particularly Around Temple Worship in Jerusalem. (Traditions are Highlighted in Violet.)*

### C. Holy Days Prescribed in Law

#### 1. Sabbath (“Shabbat”)

*The Sabbath is Observed on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day of Every Week. It Acknowledges the Lord God of Israel as Creator; Commemorating His Sacred Rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day of Creation, and Celebrating Him as the Lord of All Creation.*

- “Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.” Gen. 2:1-3

*The Lord God Introduces the Sabbath to Israel in Providing Them Food from Heaven (Manna) in the Desert (See Ex. 16 Above). “Take note! The LORD has given you the sabbath....” Ex. 16:29*

The Sabbath was Made for Man:

- Before the Fall for Man (Adam, Eve & their Descendants) to Live in Restful Harmony with God, Communing with Him & Enjoying Him Forever.
- After the Fall God Interrupted His Rest and Began His Work of Redemption. Only Creator God, Against Whom Man Sinned, has the Right & Authority to Judge, Pardon and Redeem Mankind. The Lord God Gave Man the Sabbath to Acknowledge Him as Both Creator & Redeemer.
  - “You must also tell the Israelites: Take care to keep my sabbaths, for that is to be the token between you and me throughout the generations, to show that it is I, the LORD, who make you holy.” Ex. 31:13
  - “Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the LORD your God, am holy.... keep my sabbaths. I, the LORD, am your God.” Lev. 19:1-3
  - “Keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary (Lord God’s Dwelling Place Among His People). I am the LORD.” Lev. 19:30

a. Sabbath Commandments

- 1) One of the 10 Commandments the Lord Spoke from Mount Sinai Ex 20:1-17 (This is the Only Sacred/Ritualistic Law Mentioned in the 10 Commandments.)
  - a) “Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.” (Ex. 20:8-11)
- 2) Commandment Repeated & Confirmed at Mount Sinai (See Ex. 23:12-13; Ex. 31:12-17; Ex. 34:21; Ex. 35:1-3; Lev. 19:1-3 & 30 Above)
  - a) “Do not make false gods for yourselves. You shall not erect an idol or a sacred pillar for yourselves, nor shall you set up a stone figure for worship in your land; for I, the LORD, am your God. Keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary (Lord God’s Dwelling Among His People). I am the LORD.” Lev. 26:1-2
- 3) Moses Quotes the 10 Commandments to a New Generation of Israelites Before they Enter Promise Land Deut. 5:6-21
  - a) Commandments Regarding their Relationship with Lord
    - (1) “I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me.
    - (2) “You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them....”
    - (3) “You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain....”
    - (4) “Take care to keep holy the sabbath day as the LORD, your God, commanded you. Six days you may labor and do all your work; but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then, whether by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or ass or any of your beasts, or the alien who lives with you. Your male and female slave should rest as you

do. For remember that you too were once slaves in Egypt, and the LORD, your God, brought you from there with his strong hand and outstretched arm (*Delivering Israel from Bondage*). That is why the LORD, your God, has commanded you to observe the sabbath day.”

- b) Commandments Regarding their Relationship with One Another
  - (1) “Honor your father and your mother, ....”
  - (2) “You shall not kill.
  - (3) “You shall not commit adultery.
  - (4) “You shall not steal.
  - (5) “You shall not bear dishonest witness ....”
  - (6) “You shall not covet ....”

b. Sabbath Worship

- 1) Sacred Assembly Held Every Sabbath. “The LORD said to Moses, ‘Speak to the Israelites and tell them: The following are the festivals of the LORD, my feast days, which you shall celebrate with a sacred assembly (*Convocation or Public Assembly*).’” Lev. 23:1-2
  - a) “For six days work may be done; but the seventh day is the sabbath rest, a day for sacred assembly, on which you shall do no work. The sabbath shall belong to the LORD wherever you dwell.” Lev. 23:3  
(*Prescribed for God’s People to Acknowledge & Honor Him as Creator.*)
- 2) Priests Set Out Fresh Showbread in the Tabernacle Every Sabbath Lev. 24:8
- 3) Sacrifices Offered Every Sabbath Num. 28:9-10  
(*Prescribed for God’s People to Acknowledge Him as Redeemer.*)
  - a) Established Daily Holocausts
  - b) Additional Sabbath Holocausts of 2 Yearling Lambs, Each with a Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil, and a Libation of Wine.

2. **New Moon** (“**Rosh Chodesh**”)

*Observed on Every New Moon, which is the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Every Month in the Hebrew/Jewish Calendar. It Celebrates God’s Order.*

*New Moon Observances were Prescribed Separately from the Sabbath and the Other Ordained Festivals & Feasts (i.e. Lev. 23). It is First Mentioned When the Lord Instructs Israel’s Priests to Blow Silver Trumpets to Assemble the People at the Tabernacle or to Break Camp and Follow the Lord to the Promise Land. Once Settled in the Promise Land Trumpets were Used to Assemble Israel for War. Num. 10:1-10*

- “The LORD said to Moses: ‘Make two trumpets of beaten silver, which you shall use in assembling the community and in breaking camp.’” (Num. 10:1-2)

*The Trumpets are Also Blown Over Festive Sacrifices & Offerings.  
(Prescribed to Proclaim the Lord as Redeemer.)*

- “On your days of celebration, your festivals, and your new-moon feasts, you shall blow the trumpets over your holocausts and your peace offerings; this will serve as a reminder of you before your God. I, the LORD, am your God.” (Num. 10:10)

- a. Sacrifices Offered on Every New Moon Num. 28:11-15
  - 1) Established Daily Holocausts
  - 2) Additional New Moon Sacrifices
    - a) Holocausts Consisting of 2 Bulls, One Ram & 7 Yearling Lambs, Each with a Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil, and a Libation of Wine.

- (1) “This is the **new moon** holocaust for every new moon of the year.”  
(*Num. 28:14b*)
- b) Sin Offering of One Goat.

#### D. Festivals & Feasts Prescribed in Law

The Lord Prescribes 7 Ordained Feasts (*Divine Appointments*) to be Celebrated Every Year. (*The 7 Feasts Unveil the Lord God’s Plan of Redemption for His People.*) Lev. 23

- “The LORD said to Moses, ‘Speak to the Israelites and tell them: The following are the festivals of the LORD, my feast days, (“Feast” in Hebrew is “Moedim” Meaning “Appointment”) which you shall celebrate with a sacred assembly (i.e. Convocation or Public Assembly).” (*Lev. 23:1-2*)

*The Lord Ordains 7 Feasts Segmented into Festivals Celebrated During Harvest Seasons throughout the Year.*

- *Passover Festival is Celebrated at the First Spring Harvest, and Consists of 3 Feasts: (1) Feast of Passover (“Pesach”), (2) Feast of Unleavened Bread (“Hag HaMatzot”), and (3) Feast of First Fruits (“Yom HaBikkurim”).* Lev. 23:5-14
- *Feast of Weeks / Pentecost (“Shavuot”) is Celebrated at the Latter Spring Harvest.* Lev. 23:15-21
- *Festival of Booths is Celebrated at the Autumn Harvest, and Consists of 3 Feasts: (1) Feast of Trumpets (“Yom Teruah”) or New Year (“Rosh Hashanah”), (2) Day of Atonement (“Yom Kippur”), and (3) Feast of Booths / Tabernacles (“Sukkot”).* Lev. 23:23-43

#### 1. The Lord’s Pilgrim Feasts

*The Lord Designates 3 of the 7 Annual Feasts as Pilgrim Feasts, Requiring the Israelite Men to Gather in His Holy Presence at the Tabernacle, then Later at the Temple in Jerusalem, to Worship Him with Prescribed Sacrifices, Offerings & Rituals.*

- a. Pilgrim Feasts Introduced at Mount Sinai. “Three times a year you shall celebrate a pilgrim feast to me.”
- 1) “You shall keep the **feast of Unleavened Bread (“Hag HaMatzot”).** As I have commanded you, you must eat unleavened bread for seven days at the prescribed time in the month of Abib (*aka Nisan*), for it was then that you came out of Egypt.....”
  - 2) “You shall also keep the feast of the grain harvest with the first of the crop that you have sown in the field (i.e. **Feast of Weeks “Shavuot”**);
  - 3) “and finally, the feast at the fruit harvest at the end of the year, when you gather in the produce from the fields (i.e. **Feast of Booths “Sukkot”).**
- “Thrice a year shall all your men appear before the Lord GOD.” Ex. 23:14-17
- b. Pilgrim Feasts Confirmed at Mount Sinai (*See Ex. 34:18-20 & 22-26 Above*)
- c. Moses Restates the Pilgrim Feasts to New Generation of Israelites Before they Enter the Promise Land.
- (1) “Three times a year, then, every male among you shall appear before the LORD, your God, in the place which he chooses (*i.e. His Tabernacle/Temple*): at the **feast of Unleavened Bread (Hag HaMatzot)**, at the **feast of Weeks (“Shavuot”)**, and at the **feast of Booths (“Sukkot”).** No one shall appear before the LORD empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the LORD, your God, has bestowed on you.” (*Deut. 16:16-17*)

*The Israelites would Encamped Around the Tabernacle During their Time in the Wilderness. After they Settled in the Promise Land, Many had to Travel to the Tabernacle Site, then Later to the Temple in Jerusalem, to Observe these Pilgrim Feasts. People Would Typically Arrive at the Tabernacle/Temple in Time to Prepare and Celebrate the Entire Festival Before the Lord.*

“These, then, are the festivals of the LORD which you shall celebrate at their proper time with a sacred assembly.” Lev. 23:4

2. The Passover Festival

Lev. 23:5-14

*The Passover Festival Consists of 3 Feasts Celebrated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Month (Abib/Nisan) of the Jewish Calendar, They Commemorate the Lord’s Deliverance of Israel from Bondage in Egypt.*

a. **Feast of Passover (“Pesach”)**

“The **Passover of the LORD** falls on the fourteenth day of the first month, at the evening twilight.” Lev. 23:5

*Feast of Passover is Celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of 1<sup>st</sup> Month in the Jewish Calendar. It Commemorates the First Passover in Egypt, When the Plague of Death Passed Over Israelite Homes, Effecting their Release from Bondage.*

1) Summary of the First Passover

Ex. 3 - 12

a) Israel Enslaved in Egypt

b) Lord Sends 9 Plagues on Egypt

(1) Pharaoh Refuses to Release Israel

c) Lord’s 10<sup>th</sup> Plague is the Death of All First Born

(1) Lord Instructs Israel to Prepare for the Plague Ex. 12:1-10

(a) Set the Month of Deliverance as 1<sup>st</sup> of the Year

- “This month (“Abib” Renamed “Nisan”) shall stand at the head of your calendar; you shall reckon it the first month of the year.” (Passover is the 1<sup>st</sup> Scheduled Feast, the Starting Point for All Other Feasts.)

(b) Purchase Sacrificial Lambs on the 10<sup>th</sup> Day

- “On the tenth of this month every one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household....”

(c) Slaughter Lamb on the 14<sup>th</sup> Day

- “You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight.”

(d) Apply Lamb’s Blood to Entrance of their Homes

- “They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house in which they partake of the lamb.”

(e) Specified Meal to be Eaten Within Houses Marked with Blood

- “That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.... None of it must be kept beyond the next morning; whatever is left over in the morning shall be burned up.”

(2) Lord Will Execute the 10<sup>th</sup> Plague that Night Ex. 12:11-13

(a) “.... It is the Passover of the LORD. For on this same night I

will go through Egypt, striking down every first—born of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt - I, the LORD! But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you; thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow (*Plague*) will come upon you.”

- (3) Israelites Prepare their Homes as Lord Instructed Ex. 12:21-28
  - (4) Angel of Death Goes through Egypt Slaying All First Born, Sparing those Homes Marked with Lamb’s Blood Ex. 12:29-36
  - (5) Pharaoh Releases Israel from Bondage
- 2) The Lord Commands Israel to Celebrate the Feast of Passover Every Year
- a) Commanded When Leaving Egypt Ex. 12:43-49
    - (1) “The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ‘These are the regulations for the Passover.... It (*Lamb*) must be eaten in one and the same house; you may not take any of its flesh outside the house. You shall not break any of its bones. The whole community of Israel must keep this feast....”
  - b) Repeats Command at Mount Sinai. “The **Passover of the LORD** falls on the fourteenth day of the first month, at the evening twilight.” Lev. 23:5
    - (1) Sanctity of the Passover Sacrifice. “You shall not offer me the blood of sacrifice with leavened bread, nor shall the sacrifice of the Passover feast be kept overnight for the next day.” Ex. 34:25
  - c) Israel Celebrates their Second Passover the Following Year at Mount Sinai Num. 9:1-14 (*Establishing Precedents for Future Generations*)
    - (1) Feast Celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> Day of 1<sup>st</sup> Month
      - (a) “In the first month (*Abib/Nisan*) of the year following their departure from the land of Egypt, the Lord said to Moses in the desert of Sinai, ‘Tell the Israelites to celebrate the **Passover** at the prescribed time. The evening twilight of the fourteenth day of this month is the prescribed time when you shall celebrate it, observing all its rules and regulations.’ Moses, therefore, told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover. And they did so, celebrating the Passover in the desert of Sinai during the evening twilight of the fourteenth day of the first month, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.”
    - (2) Accommodations for those Unable to Celebrate Passover as Scheduled
      - (a) “There were some, however, who were unclean because of a human corpse and so could not keep the Passover that day. These men came up to Moses and Aaron that same day and said, ‘Although we are unclean because of a corpse, why should we be deprived of presenting the LORD’S offering at its proper time along with the other Israelites?’ Moses answered them, ‘Wait until I learn what the LORD will command in your regard.’
      - (b) “The LORD then said to Moses: ‘Speak to the Israelites and say: If any one of you or of your descendants is unclean because of a corpse, or if he is absent on a journey, he may still keep the LORD’S Passover. But he shall keep it in the second month, during the evening twilight of the fourteenth day of that month,

eating it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, and not leaving any of it over till morning, nor breaking any of its bones, but observing all the rules of the Passover. However, anyone who is clean and not away on a journey, who yet fails to keep the Passover, shall be cut off from his people, because he did not present the LORD'S offering at the prescribed time. That man shall bear the consequences of his sin.

- (c) 'If an alien who lives among you wishes to keep the LORD'S Passover, he too shall observe the rules and regulations for the Passover. You shall have the same law for the resident alien as for the native of the land.'
- d) Passover Confirmed in Wilderness. "On the fourteenth day of the first month falls the Passover of the LORD" Num. 28:16
- e) Moses Restates Feast of Passover for a New Generation of Israelites Before they Enter the Promise Land
- (1) "Observe the month of Abib (*aka Nisan*) by keeping the Passover of the LORD, your God, since it was in the month of Abib that he brought you by night out of Egypt. You shall offer the Passover sacrifice from your flock or your herd to the LORD, your God, in the place which he chooses as the dwelling place of his name." Deut. 16:1-2
- (2) "You may not sacrifice the **Passover** in any of the communities which the LORD, your God, gives you; only at the place which he chooses as the dwelling place of his name (*i.e. Tabernacle/Temple*), and in the evening at sunset, on the anniversary of your departure from Egypt, shall you sacrifice the Passover. You shall cook and eat it at the place the LORD, your God, chooses; then in the morning you may return to your tents."
- Deut. 16:5-7
- 3) Preparations to Celebrate the Feast of Passover
- a) Jews Observe New Moon Ritual on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of 1<sup>st</sup> Month (*Abib/Nisan*) Num. 28:11-15
- b) Priests Offer Established Holocausts Every Day of Month Num. 28:3-8
- c) Jews Observe the Sabbath as it Falls During the Month Lev. 23:3 & Num. 28:9-10
- d) Jews Procure their Paschal Lambs on 10<sup>th</sup> Day of Month
- (1) Examine their Lambs for 4 Days to Ensure they are Unblemished & Suitable for Sacrifice.
- e) Jews Cleanse their Houses of All Leaven
- 4) Jews Celebrate Passover Supper ("Seder")
- a) Paschal Lamb Sacrificed on 14<sup>th</sup> Day at Sunset
- 5) Traditional Passover Supper ("Seder")  
*(There are Some Variations in the Seder Resulting from Differing Jewish Sects, and Influences from Customs, Locals, etc. throughout the Generations.)*  
Summary of the Seder's Order of Service:  
*The Seder is Presided Over by Father (i.e. Head of Family/Household).*
- a) *House Purged of All Leaven (Leavening Symbolizes Sin)*
- b) *White Linen & Utensils are Set Out*  
 (1) *Father Dons a White Priestly Robe*
- c) *Woman of the House Lights Candles*

- (1) *Blessing Over Candles.* “Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who hallows our lives with commandments and bids us kindle festive holy light.”
- d) *Father Serves the First Cup (“Cup of Sanctification”)* Certifying that His Household is Prepared for the Feast  
(Wine Symbolizes Joy & Thanksgiving)
- (1) *Blessing Over the Cup.* “Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.”
- e) *The Hidden Bread*
- (1) *Father Takes 3 Loaves of Unleavened Bread*
- (2) *Father Places Bread in White Linen Envelope with 3 Compartments*
- (3) *Father Removes Middle Loaf; Breaks It, Wraps in Separate Linen Napkin & Hides It*
- (4) *Ceremony Conducted Silently*
- f) *The Youngest Asks Four Questions*  
(Answered Later When Father Recites the Haggadah)
- (1) Question. “Why is this night distinguished from all other nights? On this night we eat only unleavened bread.”  
Answer. “Unleavened bread symbolizes purity.”
- (2) Question. “On all other nights we eat any kinds of herbs, but on this night only bitter herbs. Why?”  
Answer. “Bitter Herbs remind us of the bitterness of slavery.”
- (3) Question. “On all other nights we do not dip, but tonight we dip twice. Why?”  
Answer. “The first dip is Israel, going into the Sea and coming out unharmed.” “The second dip is for the Egyptian army who tried to follow them.”
- (4) Question. “On this night we all recline in our chairs at the table. Why?”  
Answer. “The Jews can now recline, they are no longer slaves and can relax.”
- g) *Father Chants the Exodus Story from Passover Book (“Haggadah”), Serving Ceremonial Foods as He Tells the Story & Answers the Questions (Revealing How God Delivered His People from Bondage.)*
- (1) *Bitter Herbs (Symbolizing the Bitterness of Bondage)*
- (2) *Shinbone of a Lamb (Representing the Slaughtered Paschal Lamb)*
- (3) *Parsley to be Dipped in Salt Water (Representing Tears)*
- (4) *Choruses (Sweet Mixture of Fruits & Spices)*
- (5) *Roasted Egg (Egg is a Pagan Symbol of Fertility. Here it Represents New Growth, New Life & Hope)*
- h) *Father Serves the Second Cup (“Cup of Deliverance”)*
- (1) *Spills Wine Into Everyone’s (White) Dish*
- (2) *Recites Each Plague with Each Drop*
- (a) *Water Turned into Blood*
- (b) *Infestation of Frogs*
- (c) *Infestation of Gnats*
- (d) *Swarms of Flies*
- (e) *Death of Egyptian Livestock*
- (f) *Egyptians Afflicted with Boils*

- (g) *Devastating Hail Storm*
- (h) *Swarms of Locusts*
- (i) *Dense Darkness*
- (j) *Death of the First Born*
- (3) *Remembering God's Wrath & Suffering of Egyptian People*
- (4) *Blessing Before Drinking the Cup. "Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine."*
- i) *The Meal is Eaten with Joy & Celebration*
  - (1) *All Lamb Meat is Consumed*
- j) *Father Serves the Third Cup ("Cup of Redemption")*
  - (1) *Father Retrieves Hidden Loaf*
    - (a) *Blesses the Bread: "Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth."*
    - (b) *Breaks & Serves the Bread*
  - (2) *Father Blesses & Serves the Cup: "Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine."*
- k) *The Fourth Cup ("Cup of Praise" or "Elijah's Cup")*
  - (1) *Recalls Lord's Promise to Send Elijah to Announce Messiah*
  - (2) *Empty Chair & Cup Left for Elijah*
- l) *Passover Supper Concluded with Singing Hymns ("Hallel") Taken from Psalms 113 to 118*
  - (1) *Sample 1 from the Hallel: Psa. 113*  
*"Hallelujah ('Praise the Lord')!*

*"Praise, you servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.  
 Blessed be the name of the LORD both now and forever.  
 From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the LORD be  
 praised.*

*"High above all nations is the LORD; above the heavens God's glory.  
 Who is like the LORD, our God enthroned on high, looking down on  
 heaven and earth?"*

*"The LORD raises the needy from the dust, lifts the poor from the ash  
 heap,*

*"Seats them with princes, the princes of the people,  
 "Gives the childless wife a home, the joyful mother of children."*

- (2) *Sample 2 from the Hallel: Psa. 118:1-4*  
*(Sometimes Sung as a Responsorial Psalm)*  
*"Hallelujah ('Praise the Lord')!*

*"Give thanks to the LORD, who is good, whose love endures forever.  
 "Let the house of Israel say: God's love endures forever.  
 "Let the house of Aaron say, God's love endures forever.  
 "Let those who fear the LORD say, God's love endures forever."*

**b. Feast of Unleavened Bread ("Hag HaMatzot")**

**"The fifteenth day of this month (Abib/Nisan) is the LORD'S feast of Unleavened Bread.** For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first of these days you shall hold a sacred assembly and do no sort of work. On each of the seven

days you shall offer an oblation to the LORD. Then on the seventh day you shall again hold a sacred assembly and do no sort of work.” Lev. 23:6-8  
*Feast of Unleavened Bread is Celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of 1<sup>st</sup> Month in the Jewish Calendar. It is the First Pilgrim Feast Celebrated Every Year. This Feast Commemorates the Day Israel Departed Egypt, When they had to Leave in a Hurry with Only Unleavened Bread in their Kneading Bowls. Unleavened Bread is, therefore, Eaten from the Passover Seder through the Next 7 Days, Ending on the 21<sup>st</sup> Day of the 1<sup>st</sup> Month.*

Comment. *The Feast of Unleavened Bread usually falls on a Full Moon.*

- 1) Lord Commands Israel to Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread Every Year
  - a) Commanded When Preparing Israelites for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plague in Egypt  
 Ex. 12:14-20
    - (1) “This day (15<sup>th</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> Month) shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution.
    - (2) “For seven days you must eat unleavened bread....”
    - (3) “On the first day (Feast of Unleavened Bread) you shall hold a sacred assembly, and likewise on the seventh....”
    - (4) “Keep, then, this custom of the unleavened bread. Since it was on this very day that I brought your ranks out of the land of Egypt, you must celebrate this day throughout your generations as a perpetual institution.”
    - (5) “From the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month (*Feast of Passover*) until the evening of the twenty-first day of this month you shall eat unleavened bread”
  - b) Commanded After Leaving Egypt Ex. 13:1-10
    - (1) “Remember this day (15<sup>th</sup> of Abib/Nisan) on which you came out of Egypt, that place of slavery. It was with a strong hand that the LORD brought you away. Nothing made with leaven must be eaten.”  
 (Ex. 13:3)
    - (2) “For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and the seventh day shall also be a festival to the LORD. Only unleavened bread may be eaten during the seven days; no leaven and nothing leavened may be found in all your territory.” (Ex. 13:6-7)
    - (3) “...., you shall keep this prescribed rite at its appointed time from year to year.” (Ex. 13:10)
  - c) Designated as a Pilgrim Feast Ex. 23:14-15
    - (1) “Three times a year you shall celebrate a pilgrim feast to me. You shall keep the **feast of Unleavened Bread**. As I have commanded you, you must eat unleavened bread for seven days at the prescribed time in the month of Abib (*aka Nisan*), for it was then that you came out of Egypt....”
  - d) Confirmed as an Appointed Feast Ex. 34:18
    - (1) “You shall keep the **feast of Unleavened Bread**. For seven days at the prescribed time in the month of Abib (*aka Nisan*) you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you; for in the month of Abib you came out of Egypt.”
  - e) Commandment at Mount Sinai (*See Lev. 23:6-8 Above*)

- f) Moses Restates Feast of Unleavened Bread for a New Generation of Israelites Before they Enter the Promise Land
- (1) “You shall not eat leavened bread with it. For seven days you shall eat with it only unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, that you may remember as long as you live the day of your departure from the land of Egypt; for in frightened haste you left the land of Egypt. Nothing leavened may be found in all your territory for seven days, and none of the meat (*from Passover Lamb*) which you sacrificed on the evening of the first day shall be kept overnight for the next day.” Deut. 16:3-4
  - (2) “For six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh there shall be a solemn meeting in honor of the LORD, your God; on that day you shall not do any sort of work.” Deut. 16:8

2) Prescribed Worship for the Feast of Unleavened Bread  
Lev. 23:6-8 & Num. 28:17-25

- a) People Eat Unleavened Bread for 7 Days  
*(Recalling the Day the Lord Delivered them from Bondage in Egypt [Num. 33:3-4]. It Also Symbolizes a Holy Walk Before the Lord)*
  - (1) “The fifteenth day of this month is the LORD’S feast of Unleavened Bread. For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.” (Lev. 23:6)
  - (2) “... the fifteenth day of this month is the pilgrimage feast. For seven days unleavened bread is to be eaten.” (Num. 28:17)
- b) Sacred Assembly Held at Tabernacle/Temple on 1<sup>st</sup> of the 7 Days  
*(People Assemble Before the Lord’s Holy Presence)*
  - (1) “On the first of these days you shall hold a sacred assembly and do no sort of work (i.e. Work of Servitude or Livelihood).” (Lev. 23:7)
  - (2) “On the first of these days you shall hold a sacred assembly, and do no sort of work.” (Num. 28:18)
- c) Priests Offer Established Holocausts on Each of 7 Days Num. 28:3-8
- d) Jews Observe the Sabbath When it Falls Within the 7 Days  
Lev. 23:3 & Num. 28:9-10  
*(The Feast of First Fruits is Celebrated the Day Following Passover Sabbath, During this 7 Day Period. See Lev. 23:9-14 Below)*
- e) Additional Sacrifices Offered on Each of the 7 Days Num. 28:19-24
  - (1) “On each of the seven days you shall offer an oblation to the LORD.” (Lev. 23:8a)
    - (a) Holocausts Consisting of 2 Bullocks, One Ram & 7 Yearling Lambs, Each with a Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil.
    - (b) One Goat as Sin Offering
  - (2) “you shall make exactly the same offerings each day for seven days as food offerings,....” (Num. 28:24)
- f) Sacred Assembly Held at Tabernacle/Temple on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day
  - (1) “Then on the seventh day you shall again hold a sacred assembly and do no sort of work.” (Lev. 23:8b)
  - (2) “On the seventh day you shall hold a sacred assembly, and do no sort of work.” (Num. 28:25)

c. **Feast of First Fruits (“Yom HaBikkurim”)**

“The LORD said to Moses, ‘Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you come

into the land which I am giving you, and reap your harvest, you shall bring a sheaf (“Omer”) of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest, who shall wave the sheaf before the LORD that it may be acceptable for you. On the day after the (Passover) sabbath the priest shall do this. On this day, when your sheaf is waved, you shall offer to the LORD for a holocaust an unblemished yearling lamb. Its cereal offering shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, as a sweet-smelling oblation to the LORD; and its libation shall be a fourth of a hin of wine. Until this day, when you bring your God this offering, you shall not eat any bread or roasted grain or fresh kernels. This shall be a perpetual statute for you and your descendants wherever you dwell.”

Lev. 23:9-14

*After Israel Settled in the Promise Land, they are to Celebrate the Feast of First Fruits Every Year on the Day (i.e. Sunday) Following the Passover Sabbath. They are to Bring the First Fruits of Produce from their First Spring Harvest as a Thanksgiving Offering to the Lord their God, Acknowledging Him as Provider and Appreciating Him as the Source of All Blessing. This Feast Also Celebrates God Replenishing the Earth Every Spring. (The First Spring Harvest Would be Barley.)*

- 1) The Lord’s Requirements & Commandments
  - a) The Best of the First Fruits are to be Offered to the Lord
    - (1) “The choicest first fruits of your soil you shall bring to the house of the LORD, your God.” Ex. 23:19a
    - (2) “The choicest first fruits of your soil you shall bring to the house of the LORD, your God.” Ex. 34:26
  - b) Prescribed Cereal Offerings from the First Fruits Lev. 2:14-16
    - (1) “If you present a cereal offering of first fruits to the LORD, you shall offer it in the form of fresh grits of new ears of grain, roasted by fire. On this cereal offering you shall put oil and frankincense. For its token offering the priest shall then burn some of the grits and oil, together with all the frankincense, as an oblation to the LORD.”
  - c) The Lord Commands Israel to Celebrate the Feast of First Fruits Every Year (See Lev. 23:9-14 Above)
  - d) Moses’ Instructions for First Harvest in Promise Land Deut.26:1-11
    - (1) “When you have come into the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you as a heritage, and have occupied it and settled in it, you shall take some first fruits of the various products of the soil which you harvest from the land which the LORD, your God, gives you, and putting them in a basket (“Omer”), you shall go to the place which the LORD, your God, chooses for the dwelling place of his name (i.e. *Tabernacle/Temple*). There you shall go to the priest in office at that time and say to him,
      - (a) ‘Today I acknowledge to the LORD, my God, that I have indeed come into the land which he swore to our fathers he would give us.’
      - (2) “The priest shall then receive the basket from you and shall set it in front of the altar of the LORD, your God. Then you shall declare before the LORD, your God,
        - (a) ‘My father was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien.’

*(Acknowledging they were Chosen by the Lord from the Nations/Peoples of the World)*

Comment. “Wandering Aramean” refers to the semi-nomadic patriarchs who chose wives from their kinsmen in Aram Nahariam & Paddan-aram, fathering the 12 Tribes of Israel (Gen. 24 & Gen. 28 - 31).

- (b) “But there he became a nation great, strong and numerous. When the Egyptians maltreated and oppressed us, imposing hard labor upon us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and he heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil and our oppression. He brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders; and bringing us into this country, he gave us this land flowing with milk and honey. *(Acknowledging the Lord as their Deliverer)*
- (c) “Therefore, I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And having set them before the LORD, your God, you shall bow down in his presence. *(Acknowledging the Lord as their Provider)*
- (3) “Then you and your family, together with the Levite and the aliens who live among you, shall make merry over all these good things which the LORD, your God, has given you.”
- 2) Annual Celebration of the Feast of First Fruits
- a) Bring Sheaf of Barley to Priest. “...When you come into the land which I am giving you, and reap your harvest, you shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest, who shall wave the sheaf before the LORD that it may be acceptable for you. On the day after the (*Passover*) sabbath the priest shall do this.” (*Lev. 23:10-11*)  
*(“Sheaf” is Translated from the Hebrew Word “Omer”, which is a Unit of Measurement Equaling About 2 Quarts or 1.89 Liters.)*
- (1) Priest Waves Sheaf Before the Lord  
*(Priest Holds Offering Toward Heaven Waving it from Side to Side.)*
- b) Sacrifices & Offerings on the Feast of First Fruits
- (1) Established Daily Holocausts Num. 28:3-8
- (2) Additional Sacrifices. “On this day, when your sheaf is waved, you shall offer to the LORD for a holocaust an unblemished yearling lamb....”
- (a) Holocaust Consists of One Lamb, with Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil & Libation of Wine
- (3) “Until this day, when you bring your God this offering, you shall not eat any bread or roasted grain or fresh kernels. This shall be a perpetual statute for you and your descendants wherever you dwell.” (*Lev. 23:12-14*)

*Examples of how Days of the Week differ from year to year during the Passover Festival. (Jewish Day begins at Sundown.)*

	<u>5774 (2014)</u>	<u>5775 (2015)</u>
<i>Feast of Passover</i>	<i>Mon. Apr. 14</i>	<i>Fri. April. 3</i>
<i>Feast of Unleavened Bread</i>	<i>Tues. Apr. 15</i>	<i>Sat. Apr. 4</i>
<i>Passover Sabbath</i>	<i>Sat. Apr. 19</i>	<i>Sat. Apr. 4</i>
<i>Feast of First Fruits</i>	<i>Sun. Apr. 20</i>	<i>Sun. Apr. 5</i>

*The Lord Called Israel Out of Bondage in Egypt to be His Holy Nation (Re: Gen. 12:1-3; Gen. 15:13-14; Ex. 19:1-6). He Led them to Mount Sinai and Delivered His Laws (Moral, Civil & Sacred/Religious) for His Nation. The Next Feast, “Feast of Weeks” or “Pentecost”, Commemorates the Lord Giving the Law (“Torah”) to Moses.*

3. **Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (“Shavuot”)**

“Beginning with the day after the sabbath, the day on which you bring the wave-offering sheaf (i.e. Feast of First Fruits), you shall count seven full weeks, and then on the day after the seventh week, the fiftieth day, you shall present the new cereal offering to the LORD. For the wave offering of your first fruits to the LORD, you shall bring with you from wherever you live two loaves of bread made of two tenths of an ephah of fine flour and baked with leaven. Besides the bread, you shall offer to the LORD a holocaust of seven unblemished yearling lambs, one young bull, and two rams, along with their cereal offering and libations, as a sweet-smelling oblation to the LORD. One male goat shall be sacrificed as a sin offering, and two yearling lambs as a peace offering. The priest shall wave the bread of the first fruits and the two lambs as a wave offering before the LORD; these shall be sacred to the LORD and belong to the priest. On this same day you shall by proclamation have a sacred assembly, and no sort of work may be done. This shall be a perpetual statute for you and your descendants wherever you dwell.”

Lev. 23:15-21

*Feast of Weeks/Pentecost is Observed on the 50<sup>th</sup> Day Following the Feast of First Fruits. It is the Second Pilgrim Feast Celebrated Every Year, and Occurs During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Month (“Sivan”) of the Jewish Calendar. It Commemorates the Lord Giving the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai.*

*(Produce from this Latter Spring Harvest Would be Wheat.)*

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not be so thorough that you reap the field to its very edge, nor shall you glean the stray ears of your grain. These things you shall leave for the poor and the alien. I, the LORD, am your God.” Lev. 23:22

*(The Lord’s Intention for His Chosen People is to Reveal Him & His Mercy to the Peoples of the World.)*

- a. Lord Commands Israel to Celebrate the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost Every Year
  - 1) Introduced as a Pilgrim Feast. “You shall also keep the feast of the grain (i.e. Wheat) harvest with the first of the crop that you have sown in the field”  
Ex. 23:16a
  - 2) Confirmed as an Appointed Feast. “You shall keep the feast of Weeks with the first of the wheat harvest”  
Ex. 34:22a
  - 3) Commanded at Mount Sinai (See Lev. 23:15-22 Above)
  - 4) Moses Restates Feast of Weeks / Pentecost for a New Generation of Israelites Before they Enter the Promise Land  
Deut. 16:9-12
    - (a) “You shall count off seven weeks, computing them from the day when the sickle is first put to the standing grain (i.e. Feast of First Fruits). You shall then keep the feast of Weeks in honor of the LORD, your God, and the measure of your own freewill offering shall be in proportion to the blessing the LORD, your God, has bestowed on you.
    - (b) “In the place which the LORD, your God, chooses as the dwelling place of his name (i.e. Tabernacle / Temple), you shall make merry in his presence

together with your son and daughter, your male and female slave, and the Levite who belongs to your community, as well as the alien, the orphan and the widow among you. Remember that you too were once slaves in Egypt, and carry out these statutes carefully.”

- b. Countdown to Feast of Weeks (*Shavuot*). “Beginning with the day after the sabbath (*i.e. Feast of First Fruits*), the day on which you bring the wave-offering sheaf, you shall count seven full weeks, and then on the day after the seventh week, the fiftieth day, you shall present the new cereal offering to the LORD.”  
*(Lev. 23:15-16) (“Shavuot” Means “Weeks”. The Lord Commands Israel to Count Off 7 Weeks [49 Days], Starting with the Feast of First Fruits [See Lev. 23:9-14 Above], then on the 50<sup>th</sup> Day Celebrate the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost.)*
- 1) *Traditional Countdown to Shavuot (Known as “Counting of the Omer”)*
- a) *Jews Count Off Every Day to Shavuot:*
- (1) *It’s a Time of Spiritual Introspection Preparing Themselves for the Feast of Weeks.*
- (a) *Daily Prayer: “Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who sanctifies us and commands the counting of Sheaves (‘Omers’).”*
- (2) *A Time to Remember their Journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai where Moses Received the Law.*
- c. Prescribed Worship for Feast of Weeks / Pentecost Lev. 23:15-22; Num. 28:26-31
- 1) Sacred Assembly Held at Tabernacle/Temple  
*(People Assemble Before the Lord)*
- a) “On this same day you shall by proclamation have a sacred assembly, and no sort of work may be done.” *(Lev. 23:21a)*
- b) “On the day of first fruits, on your **feast of Weeks**, when you present to the LORD the new cereal offering (*From Latter Spring Harvest*), you shall hold a sacred assembly, and do no sort of work.” *(Num. 28:16)*
- 2) Priests Offer Established Daily Holocausts Num. 28:3-8
- 3) Additional Sacrifices & Offerings on the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost
- a) Wave Offering of Leavened Bread. “For the wave offering of your first fruits to the LORD, you shall bring with you from wherever you live two loaves of bread made of two tenths of an ephah of fine flour and baked with leaven.” *(Lev. 23:17)*  
*(Priest Waves 2 Loaves of Leavened Bread Before the Lord. This is the Only Time Leavening is Prescribed as an Offering. Leavening Typically Symbolizes Sin. No Leavening is Allowed to be Burnt on the Altar of Sacrifice [Lev. 2:11-12]. The Priest is Given these Loaves as Food After He Waves them to the Lord.)*
- b) Prescribed Sacrifices
- (1) “Besides the bread, you shall offer to the LORD a holocaust of seven unblemished yearling lambs, one young bull, and two rams, along with their cereal offering and libations, ... One male goat shall be sacrificed as a sin offering, and two yearling lambs as a peace offering.” *(Lev. 23:18-19)*
- (a) Holocausts Consisting of 7 Yearling Lambs, One Young Bull & 2 Rams, Each with their Cereal Offering & Libation
- (b) One Male Goat as a Sin Offering
- (c) 2 Yearling Lambs as Peace Offerings

- (2) Wave of Peace Offering. “The priest shall wave the bread of the first fruits (*i.e. Loaves of Leavened Bread*) and the two lambs as a wave offering before the LORD; these shall be sacred to the LORD and belong to the priest.” (*Lev. 23:20*)
- 4) “This shall be a perpetual statute for you and your descendants wherever you dwell.” (*Lev. 23:21*)

#### 4. Festival of Booths / Tabernacles

*The Festival of Booths / Tabernacles Consists of 3 Feasts Celebrated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Month (Tishrei) of the Jewish Calendar. It Celebrates Israel Living in the Promise Land as God’s Chosen People.*

- a. **Feast of Trumpets (“Yom Teruah”) or New Year (“Rosh Hashanah”)**  
*(This Feast was Originally Known as “Feast of Trumpets” [“Yom Teruah” Meaning ‘Day of Blowing the Shofar’]. It was Later Changed to “New Year” [“Rosh Hashanah” Meaning ‘Head of the Year’] When Jews Adopted their Civil Calendar.)*

“The LORD said to Moses, ‘Tell the Israelites: On the first day of the seventh month you shall keep a sabbath rest, with a sacred assembly and with the trumpet blasts as a reminder; you shall then do no sort of work, and you shall offer an oblation to the LORD.’” Lev. 23:23-25

*Yom Teruah / Rosh Hashanah is Observed on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of the 7<sup>th</sup> Month, the 7<sup>th</sup> New Moon of the Year in the Jewish Sacred Calendar. It Begins with the Blowing of the Trumpet (“Shofar”, *i.e.* Ram’s Horn) Calling the People to Repentance.*

- 1) The Lord Commands Israel to Celebrate the Feast of Trumpets Every Year.
- a) Priest Blows the Trumpet (Shofar) Signaling the People to Cease their Work, Come to the Tabernacle/Temple & Repent of their Sins.
- (1) The Shofar is Traditionally Blown 100 Times on the Feast of Trumpets. It is Blown in 11 Series of Soundings for 99 Blasts. This is Followed by a Blast Known as the “Last Trump”. There are 3 Types of Soundings Equal in Overall Length:*
- (a) “Tekiah” One Straight Blast*
- (b) “Shevarim” 3 Shorter Blasts*
- (c) “Teruah” Quick Blasts in Short Succession*
- (2) A New Season is Ushered in With Blowing the Shofar  
*(Jews Spiritually Begin a New Season by Recalling & Repenting of their Sins, Returning to the Lord Seeking His Forgiveness.)*
- b) A Sacred Assembly is Called & Sabbath Rest is Observed  
*(Feast Day Begins the 7<sup>th</sup> Month.)*
- (1) “.... On the first day of the seventh month you shall keep a sabbath rest, with a sacred assembly and with the trumpet blasts as a reminder” (*Lev. 23:24*)
- (2) “On the first day of the seventh month you shall hold a sacred assembly, and do no sort of work; it shall be a day on which you sound the trumpet.” Num. 29:1
- c) Sacrifices & Offerings on Rosh Hashanah
- (1) Priests Offer Established Daily Holocausts Num. 28:3-8
- (2) New Moon is Observed with its Prescribed Sacrifices & Offerings,

- Since it is the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of the Month Num. 28:11-15  
 (3) Additional Sacrifices & Offerings Num. 29:2-6  
 (a) Holocausts Consisting of One Bullock, One Ram & 7 Yearling Lambs, Each with their Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil.  
 (b) One Goat as a Sin Offering.

2) *Rosh Hashanah Begins the Traditional “Days of Awe” Which is a 10 Day Period for Jews to Examine Themselves and Repent of their Sins Preparing for “Yom Kippur” (See Below) When Atonement is Made for their Sins.*

b. **Day of Atonement (“Yom Kippur”)**

“The LORD said to Moses, ‘The tenth of this seventh month is the **Day of Atonement** (“Yom Kippur”), when you shall hold a sacred assembly and mortify yourselves and offer an oblation to the LORD. On this day you shall not do any work, because it is the **Day of Atonement**, when atonement is made for you before the LORD, your God. Anyone who does not mortify himself on this day shall be cut off from his people, and if anyone does any work on this day, I will remove him from the midst of his people. This is a perpetual statute for you and your descendants wherever you dwell: you shall do no work, but shall keep a sabbath of complete rest and mortify yourselves. Beginning on the evening of the ninth of the month, you shall keep this sabbath of yours from evening to evening.’”

Lev. 23:26-32

*The Day of Atonement (“Yom Kippur”) is Observed on the 10<sup>th</sup> Day of the 7<sup>th</sup> Month in the Jewish Calendar. This is the Holiest Day of the Year, When Israelites Fast & Mortify Themselves Repenting of their Sins, Both Individually & Nationally. On this Day, the High Priest Offers Sacrifices for the Atonement of Sins Committed Over the Past Year.*

*(“Atonement” is from the Hebrew Word “Kaphar” Meaning ‘to Cover’.)*

- 1) The Lord Commands Israel to Celebrate the Day of Atonement Every Year  
 Lev. 23:26-32; Lev. 16; Num. 29:7-11
  - a) A Sacred Assembly is Held & Sabbath Rest Observed
    - (1) Israelites Fast, Mortify Themselves & Repent of their Sins
      - (a) “The tenth of this seventh month is the **Day of Atonement**, when you shall hold a sacred assembly and mortify yourselves and offer an oblation to the LORD. On this day you shall not do any work, because it is the **Day of Atonement**, when atonement is made for you before the LORD, your God.” (Lev. 23:27-28)
      - (b) “On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall hold a sacred assembly, and mortify yourselves, and do no sort of work.” (Num. 29:7)
      - (c) “... you shall do no work, but shall keep a sabbath of complete rest and mortify yourselves. Beginning on the evening of the ninth of the month, you shall keep this sabbath of yours from evening to evening.” (Lev. 23:31-32)  
 (Jews Confess their Sins During these 24 Hours.)
  - b) Sacrifices & Offerings on Yom Kippur
    - (1) Priests Offer Established Daily Holocausts Num. 28:3-8
    - (2) Additional Sacrifices & Offerings Num. 29:8-11
      - (a) Holocausts Consisting of One Bullock, One Ram & 7 Yearling

- Lambs, Each with their Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil.
- (b) One Goat as a Sin Offering.
- (c) “These are to be offered in addition to the atonement sin offering (i.e. *Special Ritualistic Offerings Described Below. Lev. 16*) ....” (Num. 29:11b)
- 2) High Priest Performs Special “**Day of Atonement**” Ritual Lev. 16
- a) Prohibition Against Entering Holy of Holies Lev. 16:1-2  
(No One is Allowed to Enter the Holy of Holies [Lord’s Presence] in the Tabernacle, Except the High Priest Once a Year on the Day of Atonement to Perform its Prescribed Rites.)
- b) High Priest’s Preparations to Enter Lord’s Presence Lev. 16:3-5
- (1) Brings Bullock for Sin Offerings & Ram for a Holocaust
  - (2) Bathes Himself
  - (3) Clothes Himself with High Priest’s Sacred Vestments
  - (4) Receives 2 Male Goats for Sin Offering & One Ram for a Holocaust from Israelite Community
- c) High Priest Presents Sin Offerings to Lord Lev. 16:6-10
- (1) Bullock to Atone for Sins of High Priest & His Household
  - (2) Casts Lots Over the Community’s 2 Male Goats:
    - (a) One Goat to be Sacrificed as Sin Offering
    - (b) The Other Goat (*Scapegoat*) to be Released into Desert
- d) High Priest Makes Atonement for Himself & His Family Lev. 16:11-14  
(Covers the Sins of High Priest & His Family, Including Other Priests)
- (1) Slaughters Bullock as Sin Offering for Himself & His Household
  - (2) Enters into Lord’s Presence within the Holy of Holies
    - (a) Taking Some of the Blood from Slaughtered Bullock
    - (b) Taking Censor of Glowing Embers from Altar of Sacrifice
    - (c) Taking a Double Handful of Fragrant Incense
  - (3) Offers Incense on Fire in Incense Altar Before Propitiatory (i.e. *God’s Throne [‘Mercy Seat’] Atop Ark of the Covenant*)
    - (a) Cloud from Burning Incense Covers Lord’s Presence
  - (4) Sprinkles Blood with His Finger 7 Times on & in Front of the Propitiatory
- e) High Priest Makes Atonement for Israel Lev. 16:15-19  
(Covers the Sins of God’s Chosen People & Nation)
- (1) Slaughters the Goat Determined as Sin Offering for Israelites
  - (2) Enters into Lord’s Presence within the Holy of Holies with Blood from Slaughtered Goat
    - (a) Sprinkles Blood on & Before Propitiatory (*Lord’s ‘Mercy Seat’*)
  - (3) Makes Atonement for Tabernacle by Sprinkling Blood
    - (a) “Thus he shall make atonement for the sanctuary because of all the sinful defilements and faults of the Israelites. He shall do the same for the meeting tent, which is set up among them in the midst of their uncleanness.” (Lev. 16:16) (Covers the *Defilements Brought into Tabernacle by Sinful/Impure Men as they Approach the Lord to Comply with His Laws.*)
    - (b) “No one else may be in the meeting tent from the time he enters the sanctuary to make atonement until he departs.” (Lev. 16:17a)

- (4) Makes Atonement for the Altar of Sacrifice  
*(Covers All the Defilements Caused by the Sins/Impurities Applied to the Sacrifices Offered on the Altar.)*
- (a) Applies Blood from Bullock & Goat on Horns of Altar, then Sprinkles Blood with His Finger 7 Times on Altar
  - (b) “Thus he shall render it clean and holy, purged of the defilements of the Israelites.” *(Lev. 16:19b)*
- f) Scapegoat Released into Desert Lev. 16:20-22
- (1) “When he (*High Priest*) has completed the atonement rite for the sanctuary, the meeting tent and the altar, Aaron shall bring forward the live goat.
  - (2) “Laying both hands on its head, he shall confess over it all the sinful faults and transgressions of the Israelites, and so put them on the goat’s head. (Placing their Sins on Goat’s Head)
  - (3) “He shall then have it led into the desert by an attendant. Since the goat is to carry off their iniquities to an isolated region, it must be sent away into the desert.”
    - (a) Attendant Washes His Garments & Bathes Before Returning to Camp/City Lev. 16:26
- g) High Priest Concludes Rite of Atonement Lev. 16:23-25
- (1) Changes His Vestments
    - (a) Leaves Sacred Vestments in Sanctuary
    - (b) Bathes & Clothes Himself with His Own Vestments
  - (2) Sacrifices His & People’s Holocausts on Altar
    - (a) Making Atonement for Himself, Priestly Family & the Community on a Purified Altar
  - (3) Burns Sin Offerings on Altar
- h) Remains of Sin-Offered Bullock & Goat Burnt Outside Camp  
 Lev. 16:27-28
- 3) Day of Atonement Established as an Everlasting Ordinance Lev. 16:29-34
- a) Lord’s Appointed Day for Atonement. “This shall be an everlasting ordinance for you: on the tenth day of the seventh month every one of you, whether a native or a resident alien, shall mortify himself and shall do no work.”
  - b) Israelites Acknowledge & Repent of their Sins. “Since on this day atonement is made for you to make you clean, so that you may be cleansed of all your sins before the LORD, by everlasting ordinance it shall be a most solemn sabbath for you, on which you must mortify yourselves.”
  - c) To be Officiated by Succeeding Generations of Priests. “This atonement is to be made by the priest who has been anointed and ordained to the priesthood in succession to his father. He shall wear the linen garments, the sacred vestments, and make atonement for the sacred sanctuary, the meeting tent and the altar, as well as for the priests and all the people of the community. “
  - d) Established as a Perpetual Statute
    - (1) “This, then, shall be an everlasting ordinance for you: once a year atonement shall be made for all the sins of the Israelites.”
    - (2) “This is a perpetual statute for you and your descendants wherever you dwell:....” *(Lev. 23:31)*

c. **Feast of Booths or Tabernacles (“Sukkot”)**

“The LORD said to Moses, ‘Tell the Israelites: The fifteenth day of this seventh month is the LORD’S feast of Booths, which shall continue for seven days. On the first day there shall be a sacred assembly, and you shall do no sort of work. For seven days you shall offer an oblation to the LORD, and on the eighth day you shall again hold a sacred assembly and offer an oblation to the LORD. On that solemn closing you shall do no sort of work.’

‘These, therefore, are the festivals of the LORD on which you shall proclaim a sacred assembly, and offer as an oblation to the LORD holocausts and cereal offerings, sacrifices and libations, as prescribed for each day, in addition to those of the LORD’S sabbaths, your donations, your various votive offerings and the free-will offerings that you present to the LORD.’

‘On the fifteenth day, then, of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate a pilgrim feast of the LORD for a whole week. The first and the eighth day shall be days of complete rest. On the first day you shall gather foliage from majestic trees, branches of palms and boughs of myrtles and of valley poplars, and then for a week you shall make merry before the LORD, your God. By perpetual statute for you and your descendants you shall keep this pilgrim feast of the LORD for one whole week in the seventh month of the year. During this week every native Israelite among you shall dwell in booths, that your descendants may realize that, when I led the Israelites out of the land of Egypt, I made them dwell in booths. I, the LORD, am your God.’” Lev. 23:33-43

*Celebration of the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles (“Sukkot”) Begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of the 7<sup>th</sup> Month of the Jewish Calendar and Continues for a Week. It is the Third & Final Pilgrim Feast of the Year. During this Feast the Israelites Build & Live in Temporary Shelters, Called “Sukkah”(Booth), Commemorating the Lord Providing Shelter for His People in the Wilderness. This Feast is Celebrated at the Final (Autumn) Harvest of the Year, When the People Rejoice in God’s Provision for them in the Promise Land.*

*(Produce from the Autumn Harvest would be Fruits: Olives, Grapes, etc.)*

Comment. *The Feast of Booths Starts on the 7<sup>th</sup> Full Moon of the Year in the Jewish Calendar.*

- 1) Lord Commands Israel to Celebrate Feast of Booths/Tabernacles Every Year
  - a) Introduced as a Pilgrim Feast. “... finally, the feast at the fruit harvest at the end of the year, when you gather in the produce from the fields.”  
Ex. 23:16b
  - b) Confirmed as an Appointed Feast. “likewise, the feast at the fruit harvest at the close of the year.”  
Ex. 34:22b
  - c) Commanded at Mount Sinai (*See Lev. 23:33-43 Above*)
  - d) Moses Restates Feast of Booths/Tabernacles for a New Generation of Israelites Before they Enter the Promise Land  
Deut. 16:13-15
    - (1) “You shall celebrate the feast of Booths for seven days, when you have gathered in the produce from your threshing floor and wine press. You shall make merry at your feast, together with your son and daughter, your male and female slave, and also the Levite, the alien, the orphan and the widow who belong to your community. For seven

days you shall celebrate this pilgrim feast in honor of the LORD, your God, in the place which he chooses (*i.e. Tabernacle/Temple*); since the LORD, your God, has blessed you in all your crops and in all your undertakings, you shall do nought but make merry.”

- 2) Prescribed Worship on the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles  
Lev. 23:33-43; Num. 29:12-39
- a) People Gather Materials (Foliage from Trees, Palm Branches, etc.) & Build Temporary Shelters (“Booths”) Where they Will Dwell During this Week (*Recalling the Lord’s Deliverance of Israel from Bondage in Egypt, When He Provided for Them in the Wilderness.*)
- (1) “On the first day you shall gather foliage from majestic trees, branches of palms and boughs of myrtles and of valley poplars, and then for a week you shall make merry before the LORD, your God. . . . . During this week every native Israelite among you shall dwell in booths, that your descendants may realize that, when I led the Israelites out of the land of Egypt, I made them dwell in booths. I, the LORD, am your God.” (*Lev. 23:40-43*)
- b) Priests Offer Established Holocausts on Each Day of this Week  
Num. 28:3-8
- c) People Observe the Sabbath When it Falls Within this Week  
Lev. 23:3 & Num. 28:9-10
- d) Feast of Booths/Tabernacles Celebrated for a Week. “On the first day there shall be a sacred assembly, and you shall do no sort of work. For seven days you shall offer an oblation to the LORD, and on the eighth day you shall again hold a sacred assembly and offer an oblation to the LORD. On that solemn closing you shall do no sort of work.” (*Lev. 23:35-36*)  
(*The Following Sacrifices & Offerings are in Addition to the Established Daily Holocausts & Applicable Sabbath Sacrifices.*)
- (1) First Day (Opening Day) Num. 29:12-16
- (a) People Gather Materials & Build Temporary Shelters (Booths)
- (b) Sacred Assembly Held at Tabernacle/Temple  
(*People Assemble Before the Lord*)
- (c) Sacrifices & Offerings
- Holocausts Consisting of 13 Bullocks, 2 Rams & 14 Yearling Lambs, Each with their Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil
  - One Goat as Sin Offering
- (2) Second Day Offerings Num. 29:17-19
- (a) Holocausts Consisting of 12 Bullocks, 2 Rams & 14 Yearling Lambs, Each with their Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil
- (b) One Goat as Sin Offering
- (3) Third Day Offerings Num. 29:20-22
- (a) Holocausts Consisting of 11 Bullocks, 2 Rams & 14 Yearling Lambs, Each with their Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil
- (b) One Goat as Sin Offering
- (4) Fourth Day Offerings Num. 29:23-25
- (a) Holocausts Consisting of 10 Bullocks, 2 Rams & 14 Yearling Lambs, Each with their Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil
- (b) One Goat as Sin Offering

- (5) Fifth Day Offerings Num. 29:26-28  
 (a) Holocausts Consisting of 9 Bulls, 2 Rams & 14 Yearling Lambs, Each with their Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil  
 (b) One Goat as Sin Offering
- (6) Sixth Day Offerings Num. 29:29-31  
 (a) Holocausts Consisting of 8 Bulls, 2 Rams & 14 Yearling Lambs, Each with their Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil  
 (b) One Goat as Sin Offering
- (7) Seventh Day Offerings Num. 29:32-34  
 (a) Holocausts Consisting of 7 Bulls, 2 Rams & 14 Yearling Lambs, Each with their Cereal Offering Mixed with Oil  
 (b) One Goat as Sin Offering

Observation. The total number of Sukkot Offerings over these 7 days were: 70 Bulls, 14 Rams & 98 Lambs as Holocausts, plus 7 Goats as Sin Offerings.

- (8) Eighth Day (Closing Day) Num. 29:35-38  
*Following this Week, a Special Celebration is Held Closing the Festival. It is Known as "Hoshanna Rabba" (The Great Hosanna) in Which the People Rejoice Before the Lord.*
- (a) Sacred Assembly Held at Tabernacle/Temple  
*(People Assemble Before the Lord)*
- (b) Sacrifices & Offerings on 8th Day
- Holocausts Consisting of One Bull, One Ram & 7 Yearling Lambs, Each with their Cereal Offerings & Libations
  - One Goat as Sin Offering
- 3) Feast of Booths/Tabernacles a Perpetual Statute. "By perpetual statute for you and your descendants you shall keep this pilgrim feast of the LORD for one whole week in the seventh month of the year." (Lev. 23:41)
- 4) *Traditional Practices:*
- a) *Every Day During Sukkot, the High Priest and His Assistant Would Go to Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem and Draw Water. The Water was Taken to the Temple Where it was Poured Out with Wine on the Altar of Sacrifice, as the People Sang: "With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation," (Isa. 12:3)*
- b) *During Sukkot Festivities, 4 Tall Lamps in the Temple Precincts were Kept Burning Illuminating the Entire Area for Worshippers.*
- d. "Thus did Moses announce to the Israelites the festivals of the LORD (i.e. His Divine Appointments)." Lev. 23:44

## **E. Ordained / Sacred Years**

### **1. Sabbatical Year ("Shemittah")**

*A Sabbatical Year ("Shemittah") is Observed Every 7<sup>th</sup> Year. It Begins on the 7<sup>th</sup> New Moon (1<sup>st</sup> of Tishrei - Rosh Hashanah) of Every 7<sup>th</sup> Year in the Jewish Calendar and Continues for that Entire Year, Ending on the 29<sup>th</sup> of Elul. It is a Year Dedicated to the Lord, When His People Turn Away from their Human Pursuits and Trust in Him as their Source.*

*All the Ordained Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts are Celebrated as Scheduled During the Sabbatical Year.*

- a. Introduction of the Sabbatical Year Ex. 23:10-11
  - 1) “For six years you may sow your land and gather in its produce. But the seventh year (Shemithah) you shall let the land lie untilled and unharvested, that the poor among you may eat of it and the beasts of the field may eat what the poor leave. So also shall you do in regard to your vineyard and your olive grove.”
- b. Lord Commands Israel to Observe Every Sabbatical Year
  - 1) Terms of the Sabbatical Year Lev. 25:1-7
    - a) “The LORD said to Moses on Mount Sinai, ‘Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, let the land, too, keep a sabbath for the LORD.’
      - (1) Plant & Reap Crops for 6 Years. ‘For six years you may sow your field, and for six years prune your vineyard, gathering in their produce.’
      - (2) Let the Land Rest Every 7<sup>th</sup> Year. ‘But during the seventh year the land shall have a complete rest, a sabbath for the LORD, when you may neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. The aftergrowth of your harvest you shall not reap, nor shall you pick the grapes of your untrimmed vines in this year of sabbath rest for the land.’
      - (3) Share Food in Sabbath Year. ‘While the land has its sabbath, all its produce will be food equally for you yourself and for your male and female slaves, for your hired help and the tenants who live with you, and likewise for your livestock and for the wild animals on your land.’”
  - 2) Promise of Provision Lev. 25:18-22
    - a) “Observe my precepts and be careful to keep my regulations, for then you will dwell securely in the land. The land will yield its fruit and you will have food in abundance, so that you may live there without worry. Therefore, do not say, ‘What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we do not then sow or reap our crop?’ I will bestow such blessings on you in the sixth year that there will then be crop enough for three years. When you sow in the eighth year, you will continue to eat from the old crop; and even into the ninth year, when the crop comes in, you will still have the old to eat from.”
      - (1) Lord Will Sufficiently Bless Crops on 6<sup>th</sup> Year to Last 3 Years  
*(Revealing Himself as Provider & Sustainer, Honoring His Law)*
  - 3) Release of Debts at End of Every Shemithah Deut. 15:1-11  
*(The Shemithah is Also Referred to as Year of Relaxation or Remission.)*
    - a) “At the end of every seven-year period (Its Last Day Being 29<sup>th</sup> of Elul) you shall have a relaxation of debts, which shall be observed as follows.
      - (1) Cancellation of All Debts
        - (a) “Every creditor shall relax his claim on what he has loaned his neighbor; he must not press his neighbor, his kinsman, because a relaxation in honor of the LORD has been proclaimed.
        - (b) “You may press a foreigner, but you shall relax the claim on your kinsman for what is yours.

- (c) “Nay, more! since the LORD, your God, will bless you abundantly in the land he will give you to occupy as your heritage, there should be no one of you in need.”
- b) Promise of Provision. “If you but heed the voice of the LORD, your God, and carefully observe all these commandments which I enjoin on you today, you will lend to many nations, and borrow from none; you will rule over many nations, and none will rule over you, since the LORD, your God, will bless you as he promised.”
- c) Charge to be Generous & Honest, Trusting in the Lord as their Source
- (1) “If one of your kinsmen in any community is in need in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor close your hand to him in his need. Instead, you shall open your hand to him and freely lend him enough to meet his need.
  - (2) “Be on your guard lest, entertaining the mean thought that the seventh year, the year of relaxation, is near, you grudge help to your needy kinsman and give him nothing; else he will cry to the LORD against you and you will be held guilty. When you give to him, give freely and not with ill will; for the LORD, your God, will bless you for this in all your works and undertakings.
  - (3) “The needy will never be lacking in the land; that is why I command you to open your hand to your poor and needy kinsman in your country.”
- 4) Public Reading of the Law Deut. 31:9-13  
*(The Lord Commands the Entire Law [Torah] Read Out Loud to the People During the Sabbatical Year, When the Sacred Assembly is Held on the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles.)*
- a) “When Moses had written down this law, he entrusted it to the levitical priests who carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel, giving them this order: ‘On the feast of Booths, at the prescribed time in the year of relaxation which comes at the end of every seven-year period, when all Israel goes to appear before the LORD, your God, in the place which he chooses (i.e. Tabernacle/Temple), you shall read this law aloud in the presence of all Israel.
  - b) “Assemble the people—men, women and children, as well as the aliens who live in your communities—that they may hear it and learn it, and so fear the LORD, your God, and carefully observe all the words of this law. Their children also, who do not know it yet, must hear it and learn it, that they too may fear the LORD, your God, as long as you live on the land which you will cross the Jordan to occupy.”
- c. Israel’s Accountability to the Lord
- 1) Rewards for Obedience Lev. 26:1-13
    - a) “Keep my sabbaths (*Including Sabbatical Years*), and reverence my sanctuary. I am the LORD.” (*Lev. 26:2*)
    - b) “If you live in accordance with my precepts and are careful to observe my commandments, I will give you rain in due season, so that the land will bear its crops, and the trees their fruit; your threshing will last till vintage time, and your vintage till the time for sowing, and you will have food to eat in abundance, so that you may dwell securely in your land.” (*Lev. 26:3-5*)

- c) “I will look with favor upon you, and make you fruitful and numerous, as I carry out my covenant with you. So much of the old crops will you have stored up for food that you will have to discard them to make room for the new.” (Lev. 26:9-10)
- 2) Punishment for Disobedience Lev. 26:14-45
- a) Lord Cites Punishments for Israel’s Continual Disobedience
- (1) Effects of Disregarding the Shemitah (*See Note Below*)
- (a) “So devastated will I leave the land that your very enemies who come to live there will stand aghast at the sight of it. You yourselves I will scatter among the nations at the point of my drawn sword, leaving your countryside desolate and your cities deserted.” (Lev. 26:32-33)
- (b) “Then shall the land retrieve its lost sabbaths (Shemitahs) during all the time it lies waste, while you are in the land of your enemies; then shall the land have rest and make up for its sabbaths during all the time that it lies desolate, enjoying the rest that you would not let it have on the sabbaths when you lived there.” (Lev. 26:34-35)

*Note.* The Lord established Shemitah for His People living in the Promise Land to honor and trust in Him. By continually disregarding the Law the land itself will expel them until it has recovered its lost Shemitahs. In 606 BC Babylon conquered Judah and deported Jewish Noblemen, etc. In 586 BC Babylon sacked Jerusalem, destroyed its Temple and exiled the People. Jeremiah prophesies this time of dissolution: “All this (i.e. destruction of Jerusalem, the Temple, etc.) was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: ‘Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths (Shemitahs), during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled.’”

- In 536 BC, the first Jews return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple - 70 years after the first deportation.
- In 516 BC, the rebuilt Temple was dedicated to the Lord - 70 years after its destruction.

- (2) Lord Desires Repentance. “Thus they will have to confess that they and their fathers were guilty of having rebelled against me and of having defied me” (Lev. 26:40)
- (3) Lord Promises Restoration (*Revealing His Mercy*)
- (a) “I will remember my covenant with Jacob, my covenant with Isaac, and my covenant with Abraham; and of the land, too, I will be mindful.” (Lev. 26:42)  
(*Covenant Includes God’s People Living in the Promise Land.*)
- (b) “But the land must first be rid of them, that in its desolation it may make up its lost sabbaths (i.e. Shemitahs), and that they, too, may make good the debt of their guilt for having spurned my precepts and abhorred my statutes.” (Lev. 26:43)  
(*Israel Must Obey the Sabbatical Law in the Promise Land.*)

## 2. Year of Jubilee

*The Year of Jubilee is Observed in the Year Following 7 Shemitahs (i.e. Every 50<sup>th</sup> Year). It Begins on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) and Continues for an Entire Year. It is a Year of Liberty throughout the Land, When All Property is Returned to its Original Owners and Slaves are Set Free.*

*Conditions of the Shemitah Remain in Effect throughout the Year of Jubilee: 1) Rest of*

*the Land with No Sowing or Reaping, 2) Israelites Remain Free from Debt, and 3) the Ordained Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts are Observed as Scheduled.*

a. Perspective

- 1) The Land Belongs to the Lord God. "... the land is mine, and you are but aliens who have become my tenants." Lev. 25:23
  - a) All the Earth Belongs to the Lord God its Creator:
    - (1) "The earth is the LORD'S and all it holds, the world and those who live there. For God founded it on the seas, established it over the rivers." Psa. 24:1-2
    - (2) "LORD, God of hosts, who is like you? .... Yours are the heavens, yours the earth; you founded the world and everything in it." Psa. 89:9 & 12
- 2) The Lord Gave the Promise Land to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & His 12 Sons, the Tribes of Israel (*e.g. Gen. 13:14-17; Gen. 15:7 & 18-21; Gen. 26:2-5; Gen. 28:10-15; Gen. 35:9-12; Ex. 3:4-10 & 16-17; Ex 13:4-6; Joshua 1:1-4*).
  - a) When Israel was Conquering the Promise Land, the Lord Apportioned it Among the Tribes of Israel (*e.g. Num. 26:52-56; Deut. 3:12-17; Joshua 13 - 21*) as their Perpetual Inheritance. Each Tribe's Portion was Divided Among its Clans, Families, etc., Becoming their Specific Inheritance.
  - b) The Israelites are Tenant-Possessors of the Land Allotment they Inherited from the Lord.

b. Lord Commands Israel to Observe the Year of Jubilee

- 1) Year of Jubilee Terms Lev. 25:8-12
  - a) Observed Every 50<sup>th</sup> Year. "Seven weeks of years (7 Shemitahs) shall you count—seven times seven years—so that the seven cycles amount to forty-nine years. Then, on the tenth day of the seventh month let the trumpet resound; on this, the Day of Atonement, the trumpet blast shall re-echo throughout your land. This fiftieth year you shall make sacred by proclaiming liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when every one of you shall return to his own property, every one to his own family estate."
    - (1) Year of Jubilee Starts with Blowing the Shofar on the Day of Atonement ("Yom Kippur") Proclaiming Liberty throughout the Land
    - (2) People ("Original Owners") Return to their Ancestral Land (i.e. their Inheritance).
  - b) Land Remains at Rest (*No Planting or Reaping*) During Year of Jubilee. "In this fiftieth year, your **year of jubilee**, you shall not sow, nor shall you reap the aftergrowth or pick the grapes from the untrimmed vines. Since this is the jubilee, which shall be sacred for you, you may not eat of its produce, except as taken directly from the field."
- 2) Land Restored to Original Owners Lev. 25:13-17
  - a) "In this year of jubilee, then, every one of you shall return to his own property."
  - b) Deal Honestly with One Another. "Therefore, when you sell any land to your neighbor or buy any from him, do not deal unfairly. On the basis of the number of years since the last jubilee shall you purchase the land from him; and so also, on the basis of the number of years for crops, shall he sell it to you. When the years are many, the price shall be so much the

more; when the years are few, the price shall be so much the less. For it is really the number of crops that he sells you. Do not deal unfairly, then; but stand in fear of your God. I, the LORD, am your God.”

- c) Redemption of Land Property (*See Note 1 Below*) Lev. 25:23-34
- (1) “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity; for the land is mine, and you are but aliens who have become my tenants. Therefore, in every part of the country that you occupy, you must permit the land to be redeemed.” (*Lev. 25:23-24*)
  - (2) Farm Land Returned to Original Owner. “When one of your countrymen is reduced to poverty and has to sell some of his property,.... if he does not acquire sufficient means to buy back his land (*Between Years of Jubilee*), what he has sold shall remain in the possession of the purchaser until the jubilee, when it must be released and returned to its original owner.” (*Lev. 25:25 & 28*)
    - (a) Houses Sold in Walled Cities, if Not Purchased Back in 1 Year, Remain the Property of Buyers.
    - (b) Houses Sold in Unwalled Villages Surrounded by Farm Lands are Returned to Original Owners on Jubilee.
    - (c) Houses Sold by Levites are Returned to them on Jubilee.
- 3) Israelite Slaves Set Free (*See Note 2 Below*) Lev. 25:39-55
- a) Bond Servants of Fellow Israelites. “When, then, your countryman becomes so impoverished beside you that he sells you his services, do not make him work as a slave. Rather, let him be like a hired servant or like your tenant, working with you until the jubilee year, when he, together with his children, shall be released from your service and return to his kindred and to the property of his ancestors. Since those whom I brought out of the land of Egypt are servants of mine, they shall not be sold as slaves to any man.” (*Lev. 25:39-42*)
    - (1) Gentile Slaves Owned by Israelites are Not Redeemed on Jubilee
  - b) Bond Servants of Gentiles Living in the Promise Land. “When one of your countrymen is reduced to such poverty that he sells himself to a wealthy alien (*Gentile*) who has a permanent or a temporary residence among you, ..... If he is not thus redeemed (*Between Years of Jubilee*), he shall nevertheless be released, together with his children, in the jubilee year. For to me the Israelites belong as servants; they are servants of mine, because I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I, the LORD, your God.” (*Lev. 25:47 & 54-55*)

Notes:

1. *Redemption of Property.* When an Israelite becomes impoverished and sells his property, that property must be returned to him on the Year of Jubilee. His closest relative has the right to buy that property as Kinsman-Redeemer, anytime from when it was sold to the next Year of Jubilee. The Kinsman-Redeemer then administers that property for his own purposes until the Year of Jubilee when he returns it to the Original Owner. (*Lev. 25:13 & 23-28*)
2. *Release of Slaves.* Israelite slaves serve for a term of 6 years, then released on the 7<sup>th</sup> year with sufficient provisions. If the slave is devoted to his master, he may voluntarily remain as a servant in his master’s household (*Ex. 21:1-11, Deut. 15:12-18*). In any event, all slaves are set free on the Year of Jubilee regardless of when it occurs during their term of servitude (*Lev. 25:39-41*).

## F. Israel's Historical Feasts in Scripture

*This Section F Gives a Brief Overview of God's Holy Nation, Highlighting Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts Celebrated at Significant Times in their History.*

### 1. Historical Overview

- a. Israel in the Wilderness Num. 13 - 36 & Book of Deuteronomy  
*The Lord Leads Israel from Mount Sinai to an Encampment Beside the Promise Land. 12 Scouts (1 from Each Tribe) are Sent to Reconnoiter the Land. They Return Reporting that the Land is Bountiful but Inhabited by Fierce Peoples in Fortified Towns. 2 Scouts Encourage the Israelites to Trust in the Lord and Invade the Land. The Other Scouts Discourage the People, Who Refuse to Invade the Land Rebelling Against the Lord's Anointed (Moses & Aaron). The Lord Sentences Israel to Wander the Wilderness 40 Years Until that Faithless Generation Dies and a New Generation Arises Who will Trust Him. The 2 Faithful Scouts, Caleb & Joshua, Survive the Wilderness to Enter the Promise Land. Num. 13 - 14*

*The Lord Provided Food (Manna) & Shelter for His People in the Wilderness: "I led you for forty years in the desert. Your clothes did not fall from you in tatters nor your sandals from your feet; bread was not your food, nor wine or beer your drink. Thus you should know that I, the LORD, am your God." Deut. 29:4-5*

*Israel Observed the Lord's Ordained Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts at the Tabernacle in the Desert. They were Unable to Plant & Reap Crops; So, the Harvest Feasts of First Fruits, Pentecost & Booths Became Rehearsals of the Time Israel Would be in the Promise Land.*

- b. Israel's Conquest of the Promise Land Book of Joshua  
*The Lord Led Israel Across the Jordan River into the Promise Land, Under the Command of Joshua.*
- 1) Israel Encamps at Gilgal in the Promise Land Jos. 5
- a) Israelite Males Circumcised, Since that New Generation were Not Circumcised in the Wilderness Jos. 5:2-9  
*(Brings Them Under the Lord's Covenants. Gen. 17; Lev. 12:3)*
- b) Israel Celebrates the Feasts of Passover in the Promise Land
- (1) "... they celebrated the **Passover** on the evening of the fourteenth of the month.
- (2) "On the day after the Passover (**Feast of Unleavened Bread**) they ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain. On that same day after the Passover on which they ate of the produce of the land, the manna ceased. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan."
- Jos. 5:10-12

*Israel Begins their Campaign by Destroying the City of Jericho. They Continue their Conquest of the Promise Land with Partial Success, Failing to Accomplish their Divine Objective to Purge the Land of Pagan Nations & Religions. Those Remaining Nations Became a Reproach to God's Chosen People.*

*There is No Further Record in Scripture of Israel Celebrating the Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts During their Conquest of the Promise Land.*

- c. Period of the Judges Book of Judges & 1 Sam. 1 - 7  
*Israel Settled in the Promise Land as a Confederation of Tribes Interspersed Among Pagan Peoples/Nations. These Peoples/Nations Oppress God's People, Seducing them to Participate in Pagan Practices. The Lord Periodically Raises Up Tribal Leaders Called Judges to Govern His People and Deliver them from Oppression. During this Time, Observance of the Lord's Ordained Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts Became Lax. (See "Period of the Judges" in 'Anointed King - Part I' Study.) The Last Judge was the Prophet Samuel.*

- 1) Samuel's Birth & Dedication to Lord 1 Sam. 1:1 – 2:11
  - a) Elkanah Makes Pilgrimages to the Tabernacle in Shiloh with His Wives Peninnah & Hannah. "This man regularly went on pilgrimage (Presumably on Feasts Days) from his city to worship the LORD of hosts and to sacrifice to him at Shiloh..." (1 Sam. 1:3)
    - (1) Peninnah had Children, but Hannah was Barren
    - (2) Hannah Prays to Lord for a Son at the Tabernacle
      - (a) Vows to Give Him to Lord as Nazirite (Re: Num. 6)
    - (3) Priest Eli Hears Her, Agrees & Blesses Her
  - b) Hannah Returns Home, Conceives & Bears a Son
    - (1) Names Son "Samuel" (Meaning "Name of God")
  - c) Hannah Presents Samuel to Lord at Tabernacle on Subsequent Pilgrimage
    - (1) She Gives Samuel to Priest Eli, Who Raised Him to Serve the Lord
    - (2) The Lord Blesses Hannah with More Children
- 2) Samuel Becomes Israel's First Official Prophet & its Last Judge.

*The Ark of the Covenant was Taken from the Tabernacle, Without Consulting the Lord, and Brought to a Battlefield. The Philistines Defeat the Israeli Troops, Capture the Ark and Kill the Priests Accompanying the Ark (Eli's Sons). Eli Dies Upon Hearing of this Tragedy. The Lord Severely Afflicts the Philistines Wherever they Take the Ark. The Philistines Return the Ark to Israel, where it is Stored in Abinadab's House in Kiriath-jearim, Away from its Rightful Place in the Tabernacle.* 1 Sam. 4:1 - 7:6

*The Ark of the Covenant was God's Throne on Earth. It was to be Kept in the Tabernacle's Holy of Holies, Where God Dwelt Among His People. With the Ark Separated from the Tabernacle, there was No Legitimate Place for God's People to Keep the Lord's Divine Appointments (i.e. His Feasts).*

- d. Israel's Monarchy  
*The People Request a King to Rule Over them Like the Other Nations (1 Sam. 8). The Lord Grants their Request by Choosing & Anointing Kings to Rule Under His Authority. (See 'Anointed King – Part I' Study.)*

- 1) Reign of King Saul 1 Sam. 9 - 31  
*The Lord Anoints Saul from the Tribe of Benjamin as the First King of Israel.*

*There is Only One Scriptural Account of a Specific Holy Day, Festival or Feast Celebrated During King Saul's Reign.*

- a) King Saul Observes the New Moon 1 Sam. 20
  - (1) David Asks Jonathan (King Saul's Son & Crown Prince):

“Tomorrow is the **new moon**, when I should in fact dine with the king. Let me go and hide in the open country until evening.”  
*(1 Sam. 20:5) (David, an Officer in the King’s Court & His Son-in-Law, Suspects that Saul is Conspiring to Kill Him, He Solicits Jonathan to Confirm the King’s Intention.)*

- (2) New Moon Observed at the Palace
  - (a) “.... **On the day of the new moon**, when the king sat at table to dine, taking his usual place against the wall, Jonathan sat facing him, .... David’s place was vacant.” *(1 Sam. 20:24-25)*
  - (b) “**On the next day, the second day of the month**, David’s place was vacant.....” *(1 Sam. 20:27)*
    - Jonathan Makes an Excuse for David
  - (c) Saul Exposes His Conspiracy to Jonathan. “.... as long as the son of Jesse (*i.e. David*) lives upon the earth, you cannot make good your claim to the kingship! So send for him, and bring him to me, for he is doomed.” *(1 Sam. 20:31)*
- (3) Jonathan Informs David of King’s Conspiracy
  - (a) They Confirm their Mutual Loyalty Pack  
*(Jonathan Recognizes David’s Destiny as King of Israel.)*

*The Lord Rejects Saul as King Because of His Continual Disobedience. The Lord Anoints David, from the Tribe of Judah, as King of Israel During the Reign of King Saul (1 Sam. 16:1-13).*

- 2) Reign of King David Book of 2 Samuel & 1 Chron. 11 - 29  
*David Ascends to the Throne After King Saul’s Death.*
  - a) David Captures Jerusalem & Makes it Israel’s Capital City
  - b) David Brings Ark of Covenant to Jerusalem  
 2 Sam. 6; 1 Chron. 13, 15 & 16  
*At that Time the Ark of the Covenant was at Kiriath-jearim in the House of Abinadab (Re: 1 Sam. 4 - 7); While the Tabernacle was at Gibeon (Re: 1 Chron. 16:39-40).*

*King David Desires to Build a Permanent Dwelling (i.e. Temple) for the Lord, Where God’s People Would Worship Him & Keep their Divine Appointments (Feasts).* 2 Sam. 7; 1 Chron. 17

*The Lord Answers David through the Prophet Nathan, Establishing a Royal Covenant: 1) David’s Heir Will Build the Lord’s House, 2) the Lord Will Establish David’s Throne Forever, 3) the Lord Will be a Father to David’s Son, and 4) David’s House & Kingdom Will Last Forever.*

- c) David’s Preparations for the Temple  
*David Purchases the Temple Site in Jerusalem (2 Sam. 24; 1 Chron. 21:1 - 22:1), Gathers Building Materials, Commissions Work Forces, Transcribes the Lord’s Temple Specifications, Organizes Priests & Levites to Serve at the Temple, Composes Liturgical Music, etc.*  
*1 Kings 2:1-11; 1 Chron. 22 - 29*
  - (1) Re-Institution of Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts. “.... their (*Levites*) duty shall be to assist the sons of Aaron (*Priests*) in the service of the

house of the LORD, .... They must be present every morning to offer thanks and to praise the LORD, and likewise in the evening; and at every offering of holocausts to the LORD on **sabbaths, new moons, and feast days**, in such numbers as are prescribed, they must always be present before the LORD.” (1 Chron. 23:28-31)

- 3) Reign of King Solomon 1 Kings 1 - 11; 2 Chron. 1 - 9  
*Solomon Succeeds His Father David as King of Israel. He Obeys His Father by Executing His Judgments and Building the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem (See “Solomon’s Temple” in ‘Tabernacle & Temple - Part I’ Study.)*
- a) Construction of the Temple 1 Kings 6 - 7; 2 Chron. 3 - 4
- (1) Solomon’s Intention. “I intend to build a house for the honor of the LORD, my God, and to consecrate it to him, for the burning of fragrant incense in his presence, for the perpetual display of the showbread, for holocausts morning and evening, and for the **sabbaths, new moons, and festivals** of the LORD, our God: such is Israel’s perpetual obligation.” (2 Chron. 2:3)
  - (2) Construction Begins. “In the four hundred and eightieth year from the departure of the Israelites from the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month (*aka Iyar*), the construction of the temple of the LORD was begun.” (1 Kings 6:1)
  - (3) Furnishings, Sacred Vessels, etc. Manufactured
  - (4) Construction Completed. “.... it was completed in all particulars, exactly according to plan, in the month of Bul, the eighth month (*aka Cheshvan*), in the eleventh year (*Of Solomon’s Reign*). Thus it took Solomon seven years to build it.” (1 Kings 6:37-38)
- b) Consecration & Dedication of the Temple 1 Kings 8:1 - 9:9; 2 Chron. 5 - 7
- (1) Tabernacle, its Furnishings & Sacred Vessels Brought from Gibeon
  - (2) Ark of the Covenant Installed in Temple’s Holy of Holies  
*(The Ark of the Covenant was Brought into Temple’s Holy of Holies During the Festival of Booths/Tabernacles)*
    - (a) “At Solomon’s order the elders of Israel and all the leaders of the tribes, the princes of the Israelite ancestral houses, came to Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD’S covenant from the City of David (which is Zion). All the men of Israel assembled before the king during the **festival** of the seventh month (*i.e. “Tishrei”*). When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark, and they carried the ark and the meeting tent with all the sacred vessels that were in the tent; it was the levitical Priests who carried them.” (2 Chron. 5:2-5)
  - (3) The Shekinah Glory of the Lord Fills the Temple Taking His Throne on the Ark in the Holy of Holies, Residing Among His People
    - (a) Fire Descends from Heaven Consuming Sacrifices on the Altar  
 2 Chron. 7:1-3
  - (4) Israel Celebrates **Feast of Booths/Tabernacles (Sukkot)** at their Dedication of the Temple

- (a) “On this occasion Solomon and with him all Israel, who had assembled in very large numbers (*Sacred Assembly on 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Sukkot*)...., celebrated the **festival** for seven days. On the eighth day they held a special meeting (*Sacred Assembly on 8<sup>th</sup> Day*), for they had celebrated the dedication of the altar for seven days and the **feast** (*Sukkot*) for seven days. On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people back to their tents, rejoicing and glad at heart at the good things the LORD had done for David, for Solomon, and for his people Israel.” (2 Chron. 7:8-10) (*Feast of Booths/Tabernacles Starts on the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of 7<sup>th</sup> Month and Continues for a Week. Solomon Dismisses the People at the End of the 8<sup>th</sup> Day. They Return to their Homes on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of Month. See Lev. 23:33-43 & Num. 29:12-39 Above*)
- c) Solomon Observes Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts During His Reign
- (1) “In those times Solomon offered holocausts to the LORD upon the altar of the LORD ...., as was required day by day according to the command of Moses, and in particular on the sabbaths, at the new moons, and on the fixed festivals three times a year (*i.e. Pilgrim Feasts*): on the feast of the Unleavened Bread, the feast of Weeks and the feast of Booths.” 2 Chron. 8:12-13

*King Solomon Later Disobeyed the Law by Marrying Many Pagan Women Who Seduced Him into Idolatrous Worship. After Solomon Died, the Lord Divided His Nation into Two Kingdoms. Israel in the North Consisting of 10 Tribes Ruled by Successive Dynasties; and Judah in the South Consisting of 2 Tribes Ruled by the House of David, Which Retained Jerusalem as its Capital with its Temple, Priesthood, Sacrificial Rituals and Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts.*

e. The Divided Kingdom

1) Kingdom of Israel

*Northern Israel’s First King, Jeroboam (931-910 BC), Rebelled Against the Lord Instituting Idolatry as the National Religion. 1 Kings 12:26-32*

- a) “.... the king made two calves of gold and said to the people: ‘You have been going up to Jerusalem (*To Celebrate Pilgrim Feasts*) long enough. Here is your God, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.’ ....”
- b) “He also built temples on the high places and made priests from among the people who were not Levites.”
- c) “Jeroboam established a (*Pagan*) feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month to duplicate in Bethel the pilgrimage feast of Judah, ....” (*1 Kings 12:32*)

*Many Priests, Levites and Other People Who Remained Faithful to the Lord Migrated to Judah.*

*Israel Continued in Idolatry Despite the Many Prophets Sent by the Lord Who Called for Repentance and Return to the Lord. Their Nation was Eventually Conquered by Assyria in 721 BC, its People Subjugated, Dispersed or Taken into Captivity. Those that Remained in the Promise Land were Assimilated into Pagan Cultures.*

2) Kingdom of Judah

*Judah's First King was Solomon's Son Rehoboam (931-913 BC). Judah Continued Temple Worship but Repeatedly Rebelled Against the Lord, Disregarding and Disobeying His Laws in Spite of the Many Prophets Sent by the Lord to Correct Them and the Occasional King Who Initiated Reforms. This Section Looks at Reformer Kings with the Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts they Celebrated at Significant Times in the History of Judah.*

## a) The Sabbath Coup 2 Kings 11; 2 Chron. 22:10 - 23:21

## (1) Background

*King Jehoram (853-841 BC), from the House of David, Murdered All His Brothers (Princes) to Secure the Throne of Judah. He Married Athaliah, the Daughter of Israel's Evil King Ahab & His Infamous Wife Jezebel. Together they Aggressively Promoted Idolatry throughout Judah, Damaging the Temple and Misappropriating its Resources. Jehoram was Succeeded by their Son Ahaziah, Who was Assassinated in the First Year of His Reign.*

*Queen Athaliah Orders the Annihilation of the Royal House of David and Seizes the Throne of Judah (841-835 BC). Jehosheba (Ahaziah's Sister & Wife of Priest Jehoiada) Secretly Rescues Ahaziah's Infant Son Joash and Hides Him in the Temple for 6 Years.*

## (2) House of David Restored

(a) "In the seventh year (Of Athaliah's Rule), Jehoiada ...."

*(2 Chron. 23:1) Leads a Conspiracy Against Athaliah*

- Gathers Levites, Captains & Family Heads at the Temple
  - Reveals Joash. "Here is the king's son who must reign, as the LORD promised concerning the sons of David." *(2 Chron. 23:3b)*
  - Organizes a Coup. "This is what you must do: a third of your number, both Priests and Levites, who come in on the **sabbath** must guard the thresholds, another third must be at the king's palace, and the final third at the Foundation Gate, when all the people will be in the courts of the LORD'S temple." *(2 Chron. 23:4-5)*
- "The Levites and all Judah did just as Jehoiada the Priest commanded. Each brought his men, those who were to come in on the **sabbath** as well as those who were to depart on the **sabbath**, .... Jehoiada the Priest gave the captains the spears, shields and bucklers of King David which were in the house of God." *(2 Chron. 23:8-9)*
  - "Then Jehoiada led out the king's son and put the crown and the insignia upon him. They proclaimed him king and anointed him, clapping their hands and shouting, 'Long live the king!'" *(2 Kings 11:12)*

## (b) Athaliah Hears the Commotion &amp; Goes to the Temple

- She is Removed from Temple Precincts & Executed

- (c) Priest Jehoiada Restores Judah Back to God
- Makes a Covenant with People. "... that they should be the LORD'S people." (2 Chron. 23:16)
  - People Destroy Pagan Temples, Altars with their Priests
  - Reassigns Levitical Priests to Temple Service
- (d) King Joash Led Out of the Temple to His Palace
- Seated Upon the Royal Throne of Judah
  - "Joash was seven years old when he became king."  
2 Kings 12:1
  - Rules with Priest Jehoiada as Regent
- (3) Reign of King Joash (835-796 BC) 2 Kings 12; 2 Chron. 24  
*Joash, Under the Guidance of Jehoiada, was a Religious Reformer. He Restored the Temple & Trained the People in the Laws of Moses.*
- b) King Hezekiah's Great Passover
- (1) Background  
*King Ahaz (735-715 BC) Obtains Aide from Assyria Against the Invading Armies of Israel & Aram (Syria). Assyria Invades Aram & Israel Rescuing Judah. Ahaz Robs the Temple Treasuries to Pay Assyria. He Becomes Enamored with Pagan Gods, Believing they are Superior to the Lord. He Institutes Idolatry in Judah, Desecrating & Profaning the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem Which He Uses for Pagan Worship.* 2 Kings 16; 2 Chron. 28
- King Ahaz was Succeeded by His Son Hezekiah (715-686 BC) Who Reigns as King of Judah. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was Under Assyrian Rule. 2 Kings 18 – 20; 2 Chron. 29 – 32; Isa. 36 - 39*
- (2) King Hezekiah Restores the Temple. "It was he who, in the first month of the first year of his reign, opened the doors of the LORD'S house and repaired them." (2 Chron. 29:3)
- (a) Commands Priests & Levites to Sanctify Themselves & the Temple
- Priests & Levites Sanctify Themselves
  - Priests & Levites Cleanse the Temple, Removing & Discarding All Pagan (Unclean) Objects
- (b) Priests Consecrate the Temple. "They began the work of consecration on the first day (New Moon) of the first month (Abib/Nisan), and on the eighth day of the month they arrived at the vestibule of the LORD (Entrance into Sanctuary); they consecrated the LORD'S house during eight days, and on the sixteenth day of the first month, they had finished." (2 Chron. 29:17)  
*(The Temple was Not Fully Consecrated Until After the Day Assigned for the Feast of Unleavened Bread had Passed.)*
- (c) Hezekiah Rededicates the Temple to the Lord. "Thus the service of the house of the LORD was reestablished. Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced over what God had reestablished for the people, and at how suddenly this had been done." (2 Chron. 29:35b-36)

- (3) King Hezekiah's Passover Celebration at the Restored Temple
- (a) This Passover was Celebrated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Month (*Iyar*) Instead of the 1<sup>st</sup> Month (*Abib/Nisan*) as Specified by Law. "The king, his princes, and the entire assembly in Jerusalem had agreed to celebrate the **Passover** during the second month, for they could not celebrate it at the time of the restoration: the Priests had not sanctified themselves in sufficient numbers, and the people were not gathered at Jerusalem." (2 Chron. 30:2-3)  
*(The Month of Abib/Nisan Begins the Sacred Year in Which the Lord Schedules Divine Appointments [Feasts], Passover being the First. Rather than Waiting for an Entire Year Before Keeping the Lord's Appointments, Hezekiah Orders this Passover Held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Month, Which is Permitted by Law for People Who are Unclean & Unable to Celebrate Passover in the 1<sup>st</sup> Month. Num. 9:8-13)*
- (b) Hezekiah's Invitation. "Hezekiah sent a message to all Israel and Judah, .... that they should come to the house of the LORD in Jerusalem to celebrate the **Passover** in honor of the LORD, the God of Israel." (2 Chron. 30:1)  
*(In Addition to the Citizens of Judah, Hezekiah Also Invites Israelites Remaining in the Land Occupied by Assyria, in an Attempt to Reunite them with the Lord.)*
- "... they issued a decree to be proclaimed throughout all Israel .... that everyone should come to Jerusalem to celebrate the **Passover** in honor of the LORD, the God of Israel; for not many had kept it in the manner prescribed." (2 Chron. 30:4-5)
  - "Accordingly the couriers, with the letters written by the king and his princes, traversed all Israel and Judah, and at the king's command they said: 'Israelites, return to the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, that he may return to you, the remnant left from the hands of the Assyrian kings.'" (2 Chron. 30:6)
  - "For when you return to the LORD, your brethren and your children will find mercy with their captors and return to this land; for merciful and compassionate is the LORD, your God, and he will not turn away his face from you if you return to him." (2 Chron. 30:9)
  - Many Israelites Scoff at the Invitation, but Some Travel to Jerusalem to Attend Passover
  - People of Judah Attend the Celebration
- (c) Celebration of Passover. "Thus many people gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the **feast of Unleavened Bread** (*Pilgrim Feast*) in the second month; it was a very great assembly." (2 Chron. 30:13)
- Paschal Lamb Slaughtered. "They slaughtered the **Passover on the fourteenth day of the second month**. The Priests and Levites, touched with shame, sanctified themselves and

brought holocausts into the house of the LORD.”  
(2 Chron. 30:15)

- Intercession for Visiting Israelites. “The greater part of the (*Israelite*) people, .... had not cleansed themselves. Nevertheless they ate the **Passover**, contrary to the prescription; for Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, ‘May the LORD, who is good, grant pardon to everyone who has resolved to seek God, the LORD, the God of his fathers, though he be not clean as holiness requires.’ The LORD heard Hezekiah and spared the people.” (2 Chron. 30:18-20)
  - Feast of Unleavened Bread. “Thus the Israelites who were in Jerusalem celebrated the **feast of Unleavened Bread** with great rejoicing for (*The Required*) seven days, and the Levites and the Priests sang the praises of the LORD day after day....” (2 Chron. 30:21)
  - Celebration Continued an Additional 7 Days. “And when they had completed the seven days of **festival**, slaying peace offerings and singing praises to the LORD, the God of their fathers, the whole assembly agreed to celebrate another seven days. With joy, therefore, they continued the festivity seven days longer.” (2 Chron. 30:22b-23)
  - “There was great rejoicing in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon, son of David, King of Israel, there had not been the like in the city.” (2 Chron. 30:26)
- (4) King Hezekiah Reinstates Sacred/Religious Laws
- (a) “Hezekiah reestablished the classes of the Priests and the Levites according to their former classification, assigning to each Priest and Levite his proper service, .... From his own wealth the king allotted a portion for holocausts, those of morning and evening and those on **sabbaths, new moons and festivals**, as prescribed in the law of the LORD.” (2 Chron. 31:2-3)
  - (b) “He (*King Hezekiah*) also commanded the people living in Jerusalem to provide the support of the Priests and Levites, that they might devote themselves entirely to the law of the LORD.”
    - People Brought: “.... in great quantities, the best of their grain, wine, oil and honey, and all the produce of the fields; they gave a generous tithe of everything. Israelites and Judahites living in other cities of Judah also brought in tithes of oxen, sheep, and things that had been consecrated to the LORD, their God; these they brought in and set out in heaps.
    - “It was in the third month (*Sivan: Month the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost is Celebrated*) that they began to establish these heaps, and they completed them in the seventh month (*Tishrei: Month the Festival of Booths/Tabernacles is Celebrated*).” (2 Chron. 31:4-7)
    - Hezekiah Built Store Houses in Temple Area for the Surplus

*Later in Hezekiah’s Reign, Assyria Invaded Judah Threatening its Destruction and Insulting the Lord God in Front of Jerusalem. Hezekiah, Whose Forces*

were Greatly Outnumbered, Prays at the Temple. The Lord Dispatches an Angel Who Killed 185,000 Assyrian Soldiers in One Night, Proving Supremacy Over the Pagan Gods of Assyria as Well as those King Ahaz Revered. The Assyrians Retreated to their Homeland in Disgrace.

c) King Josiah's Magnificent Passover

(1) Background

*After King Hezekiah's Death, Judah Falls into Apostasy During the Reigns of His Son Manasseh (696-642 BC) & Grandson Amon (642-640 BC). They Participated in Idolatrous Worship & Occult Practices, Desecrating & Profaning the Temple in Jerusalem.*  
2 Kings 21; 2 Chron. 33

*King Amon was Succeeded by His Son Josiah (640-609 BC) as King of Judah. Josiah is 8 Years Old When He was Enthroned.*  
2 Kings 22:1 – 23:30; 2 Chron. 34 - 35

- (2) King Josiah Destroys Idolatry & Occult from Judah. "In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still a youth, he began to seek after the God of his forefather David, and in his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the sacred poles and the carved and molten images." (2 Chron. 34:3)
- (3) King Josiah Cleanses & Restores the Temple. "In the eighteenth year of his reign, in order to cleanse the temple as well as the land, he sent Shaphan, ...(& Others)... to restore the house of the LORD, his God." (2 Chron. 34:8)
- (4) King Josiah Reinstates the Laws of Moses
- (a) Priest Hilkiah Finds Book of the Law ("*Books of Moses*" / "*Torah*") While Restoring the Temple
- Gives the Book to Shaphan
  - Shaphan Reads the Book to King Josiah
    - With its Prescribed Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts
    - With its Blessings for Obedience & Curses for Disobedience
  - King Repents for All of Judah
- (b) Josiah Calls an Assembly at the Temple
- Reads the Torah to the Community
  - Makes a Covenant with the Lord to Keep His Commandments & Observe His Laws
    - Commits All Judah to His Covenant
- (c) Josiah Reinstates Temple Worship
- Reappoints Priests to their Assigned Duties
  - Orders Priests & Levites Sanctified & Consecrated to Lord
  - Orders Ark of the Covenant Returned to its Rightful Place in the Temple (*Apparently the Ark was Removed When the Temple was Being Desecrated*)
  - Commands the Celebration of Passover. "The king issued a command to all the people to observe the **Passover of the LORD, their God**, as it was prescribed in that book of the covenant." (2 Kings 23:21)

- (5) Preparations for Passover
- (a) Josiah Orders Passover Sacrifice. “Slay the **Passover** sacrifice, sanctify yourselves, and be at the disposition of your brethren, that all may be carried out according to the word of the LORD given through Moses.” (2 Chron. 35:6)
  - (b) Contributions of Passover Victims
    - “Josiah contributed to the common people a flock of lambs and kids, thirty thousand in number, each to serve as a **Passover** victim for any who were present, and also three thousand oxen; these were from the king’s property.
    - “His princes also gave a free-will gift to the people, the Priests and the Levites. .... prefects of the house of God, gave to the Priests two thousand six hundred **Passover** victims together with three hundred oxen.
    - “... the rulers of the Levites, contributed to the Levites five thousand **Passover** victims, together with five hundred oxen.” (2 Chron. 35:7-9)
  - (c) “When the service had been arranged, the Priests took their places, as did the Levites in their classes according to the king’s command.” (2 Chron. 35:10)
- (6) Passover Celebrated
- (a) Paschal Sacrifice. “Josiah celebrated in Jerusalem a **Passover** to honor the LORD; the **Passover sacrifice** was slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first month.” (2 Chron. 35:1)
    - “The **Passover sacrifice** was slaughtered, whereupon the Priests sprinkled some of the blood and the Levites proceeded to the skinning. They separated what was destined for the holocaust and gave it to various groups of the ancestral houses of the common people to offer to the LORD, as is prescribed in the book of Moses. They did the same with the oxen.” (2 Chron. 35:11-12)
  - (b) Passover Supper Served
    - “They (*Levites*) cooked the **Passover** on the fire as prescribed, and also cooked the sacred meals in pots, caldrons and pans, then brought them quickly to all the common people. Afterward they prepared the **Passover** for themselves and for the Priests. Indeed the Priests, the sons of Aaron, were busy offering holocausts and the fatty portions until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves and for the Priests, the sons of Aaron.” (2 Chron. 35:13-14)
    - Levite Musicians Sing Praises to the Lord
    - Levite Gatekeepers Served at their Posts
  - (c) “Thus the entire service of the LORD was arranged that day so that the **Passover** could be celebrated and the holocausts offered on the altar of the LORD, as King Josiah had commanded.” (2 Chron. 35:16)
  - (d) Feast of Unleavened Bread Observed. “The Israelites who were

present on that occasion kept the **Passover** and the **feast of the Unleavened Bread** for seven days.” (2 Chron. 35:17)

- (e) “No **Passover** such as this had been observed during the period when the Judges ruled Israel, or during the entire period of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah, until the eighteenth year of king Josiah, when this **Passover of the LORD** was kept in Jerusalem. (2 Kings 23:22-23)

*Judah Returned to Idolatry After King Josiah’s Death.*

*Judah Continued to Decline into Idolatry, and was Eventually Conquered by Babylon in 586 BC. Babylon Destroyed Jerusalem with its Temple, Taking the People into Captivity. Some of the People Escaped into Egypt, which Later Fell Under Babylonian Domination. Only Pheasants Remained in the Promise Land to Cultivate it for their Conquerors.*

- “All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: ‘Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths (**Shemitahs**), during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled.’”  
2 Chron. 36:21

*Babylon Conquered Assyria, Ruling Over All their Territories, Including the Entire Promise Land with its Inhabitants.*

*Babylon was Conquered by the Medo-Persian Empire in 539 BC. The Middle East, Including the Entire Promise Land with its Inhabitants, as Well as God’s Chosen People in Exile, Came Under Persian Dominion.*

- f. Remnant of Jews Return to the Promise Land Ezra 1 - 6  
 1) Jews Return to Jerusalem & Rebuild the Temple  
 a) Persian King Cyrus Decrees that the Temple of the Lord be Rebuilt in Jerusalem (539 BC) Ezra 1  
*(Cyrus Responds to a 150 Year Old Prophecy Naming Him. “I (Lord God) say of Cyrus: My shepherd, who fulfills my every wish; He shall say of Jerusalem, ‘Let her be rebuilt,’ and of the temple, ‘Let its foundations be laid.’” Isa. 44:28.)*

Comment. Decrees issued by Persian Kings were irrevocable remaining in effect throughout succeeding generations.

- (1) Releases Jews to Return to Jerusalem to Rebuild their Temple  
 (2) Provides Materials for the Temple  
 (a) Orders His Subjects to Contribute to the Temple  
 (b) Returns the Sacred Vessels Plundered by Babylon  
 (c) Entrusts the Materials to Zerubbabel, Prince of Judah  
 b) Zerubbabel Leads Jews Back to Jerusalem Ezra 2  
 c) Jews Rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem Ezra 3 - 6  
 (1) Altar of Sacrifice Rebuilt First Ezra 3:1-6  
 (a) “Now when the seventh month (*Tishrei*) came, after the Israelites had settled in their cities, the people gathered at Jerusalem as one man.”  
 • Priest Jeshua, Zerubbabel & Other Jews “... replaced the altar on its foundations and offered holocausts to the LORD on it, both morning and evening.”



*Heaven, where God's Chosen People ritualistically approach Him on His Appointed Days.*

- e) Jews Celebrate Passover in the Rebuilt Temple      Ezra 6:19-22  
*(Jews Celebrate Passover After the Temple was Dedicated)*
- (1) “The exiles kept the **Passover** on the fourteenth day of the first month (Nisan).
  - (2) Paschal Lambs Slaughtered. “The Levites, every one of whom had purified himself for the occasion, sacrificed the **Passover** for the rest of the exiles, for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.
  - (3) Passover Supper. “The Israelites who had returned from the exile partook of it together with all those who had separated themselves from the uncleanness of the peoples of the land to join them in seeking the LORD, the God of Israel.
  - (4) Feast of Unleavened Bread. “They joyfully kept the **feast of Unleavened Bread** for seven days, for the LORD had filled them with joy by making the king of Assyria (\*) favorable to them, so that he gave them help in their work on the house of God, the God of Israel.” (\* Darius was Also King Over Assyria.)

*After the Remnant were Resettled in Judea, there was a Plot to Annihilate All Jews within the Persian Empire. This Occurred in the 12<sup>th</sup> Year (i.e. 474/473 BC) of the Reign of King Xerxes I (aka Ahasuerus). This Plot was Averted by His Queen Esther, and is Celebrated in the Feast of Lots (“Purim”) (See Section F.2 Below).*

- 2) Establishing & Securing the People of God  
*The Jews Living in the Promise Land at this Time are Exposed to and Influenced by the Pagan Religions & Cultures Surrounding them, Who Threatened them, their Beliefs & Way of Life.*

*The Lord Raises Up 2 Leaders to Establish His People Under the Law and Secure them from their Enemies (Physical & Spiritual). The First is the Priest-Scribe Ezra Who Corrects & Trains the People in the Law. The Second is Nehemiah Who Secures the City of Jerusalem, its People and the Temple from Pagan Attacks.*

- a) Ezra's Migration to Jerusalem      Ezra 7 - 10  
*Ezra is a Priest Well-Versed in the Laws of Moses (Torah).*
- (1) Ezra Leads a Later Migration from Babylon to Judah      Ezra 7 - 8
    - (a) Persian King Artaxerxes I Decrees Ezra as His Envoy to Judah
      - Escorting Jews Who Wish to Return to Promise Land
      - Reestablish Laws of the Lord God of Israel
      - Carrying Contributions from King, His Officials & People
      - Authorizing Ezra to Appoint Judges & Administer Justice in Judah
    - (b) Ezra & Jews Leave Babylon & Arrive in Jerusalem  
*(Ezra Arrives in Jerusalem in 7<sup>th</sup> Year of Artaxerxes' Reign [i.e. 458/457 BC], About 58 Years After Dedication of the Temple.)*
  - (2) Consecration of Jews in Jerusalem      Ezra 9 - 10
    - (a) Ezra Receives a Report that Jews Intermarried with Pagan

- Gentiles. (*Such Unions are Forbidden by the Law [e.g. Ex. 34:11-16; Deut. 7:1-4], Since they Undermine Fidelity to the Lord Eventually Leading God's People into Idolatry.*)
- (b) Ezra Mortifies Himself & Prays, Interceding for God's People
- (c) People Acknowledge their Guilt; Pledge to Dissolve Such Marriages, Separate Themselves from Pagans & Return to Lord
- b) Nehemiah's Journey to Jerusalem Neh. 1 - 7  
*Nehemiah Served as Cupbearer for Persian King Artaxerxes I.*
- (1) Nehemiah in Persian Capital of Susa
- (a) Receives a Report from Jerusalem
- Jews are in Distress & Under Reproach
  - City's Walls are Breached & Gates Destroyed, Leaving Jews Vulnerable to Attack (*Physically & Spiritually*)
- (2) Nehemiah Obtains King's Authorization to Go to Jerusalem & Rebuild City Walls (*Fortifications*)
- (a) King Provides Letters of Accommodation to His Governors & Officials on the Way
- (3) Nehemiah Departs Susa & Arrives in Jerusalem  
(*20<sup>th</sup> Year of Artaxerxes' Reign [i.e. 445/444 BC], About 12 Years After Ezra's Arrival in Jerusalem.*)
- (a) Finds City Walls in Ruins & Gates in Ashes
- (4) Nehemiah Organizes Resident Jews
- (a) Workmen to Rebuild Walls & Gates
- (b) Security to Protect Workmen & Walls from Armed Resistance
- (5) Completion of Work. "The wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul (*6<sup>th</sup> Month*); it had taken fifty-two days." (*Neh. 6:15*)
- (6) Securing Jerusalem. "When the wall had been rebuilt, I had the doors set up, and the gatekeepers (and the singers and the Levites) were put in charge of them." (*Neh. 7:1*)
- c) Establishment of the Law Neh. 8 - 12
- (1) Jews Assemble Before Jerusalem's Water Gate
- (a) Call for Ezra to Read them the Law
- (2) Ezra Stands on Platform & Reads Book of the Law (*Torah*) Out Loud
- (a) "On the first day of the seventh month (**Rosh Hashanah**), therefore, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, .... he read out of the book from daybreak till midday, .... all the people listened attentively to the book of the law." (*Neh. 8:2-3*)
- (b) Interprets the Law So People Understand it
- (3) People Weep When they Hear the Law  
(*Rosh Hashanah is a Time of Repentance When Jews Acknowledge their Sins & Seek the Lord's Forgiveness.*)
- (4) Ezra Encourages People: "Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, .... for today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!" (*Neh. 8:9c-10*)
- (5) Jews Celebrate **Feast of Booths/Tabernacles** (*Sukkot*)  
(*Sukkot Celebrates Jews Living in the Promise Land*)
- (a) "On the second day, the family heads of the whole people and

also the priests and the Levites gathered around Ezra the scribe and examined the words of the law more closely. They found it written in the law prescribed by the LORD through Moses that the Israelites must dwell in booths during the **feast** of the seventh month (*Tishrei*); and that they should have this proclamation made throughout their cities and in Jerusalem: ‘Go out into the hill country and bring in branches of olive trees, oleasters, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees, to make booths, as the law prescribes.’” (*Neh. 8:13-15*)

- (b) People Gather Materials, Make Booths & Dwell Within them
- (c) “Ezra read from the book of the law of God day after day, from the first day to the last. They kept the **feast** for seven days, and the solemn assembly on the eighth day, as was required.” (*Neh. 8:18*)
- (6) Confession of Faith
  - (a) “On the twenty-fourth day of this month (*Day Following Sukkot*), the Israelites gathered together fasting and in sackcloth, their heads covered with dust.” (*Neh. 9:1*)
    - Reading from the Book (Torah)
    - Confessing their Sins & their Forefathers’ Guilt
  - (b) People Confess their Lord as the Eternal Living God
- (7) Ezra Publicly Acknowledges the Lord as Creator. “It is you, O LORD, you are the only one; you made the heavens, the highest heavens and all their host, the earth and all that is upon it, the seas and all that is in them. To all of them you give life, and the heavenly hosts bow down before you.” (*Neh. 9:6*)
  - (a) Acknowledges the Lord as God of their Forefather Abraham
  - (b) Acknowledges the Lord as Israel’s Deliverer from Bondage in Egypt
  - (c) Acknowledges the Lord Who Gave Israel His Laws (Torah). “.... On Mount Sinai you came down, you spoke with them from heaven; You gave them just ordinances, firm laws, good statutes, and commandments; Your **holy sabbath** you made known to them, by the hand of Moses your servant.” (*Neh. 9:13-14*)
  - (d) Recalls Israel’s Unfaithfulness & Rebellion in Spite of the Lord’s Blessings
  - (e) Pleads for the Lord’s Mercy: “Now, therefore, O our God, great, mighty, and awesome God, you who in your mercy preserve the covenant,.... you have been just, for you kept faith while we have done evil.” (*Neh. 9:32-33*)
    - The Lord Brought them Back to the Promise Land, Subject to Foreign Rule (*Where they Must Rely on the Lord’s Favor for Survival*)
- (8) Jews Make a Pact with the Lord, Pledging Faithfulness & Obedience
  - (a) Including Observance of the Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts
    - “When the peoples of the land bring in merchandise or any kind of grain for sale on the **sabbath day**, we will not buy from them on the **sabbath** or on any other holyday.

- “We will forgo (*Obey*) the **seventh year** (*Shemitah*), as well as every kind of debt.
  - “We impose these commandments on ourselves: to give a third of a shekel each year for the service of the house of our God, for the showbread, for the daily cereal offering, for the daily holocaust, for the **sabbaths, new moons, and festivals**, for the holy offerings, for sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for every service of the house of our God.” (*Neh. 10:32-34*)
  - “We have agreed to bring each year to the house of the LORD the **first fruits of our fields** (*i.e. Grains*) (***Feast of First Fruits & Feast of Pentecost***) **and of our fruit trees** (*Sukkot*), of whatever kind” (*Neh. 10:36*)
- (9) Jerusalem Secured as a Jewish City
- (a) Jewish Leaders with 10% of the Remnant Live in Jerusalem
  - (b) Dedication of the City Walls
- d) Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem Neh. 13  
*Nehemiah Returns to King Artaxerxes I in 32<sup>nd</sup> Year of His Reign (i.e. 433/432 BC), After Being Gone About 12 Years. He Learns that Jews are Violating the Laws in Jerusalem & Returns to Correct them.*
- (1) Nehemiah Reforms the Temple from Misuse
  - (2) Nehemiah Restores Sabbath Observances
    - (a) Jews Working on Sabbath. “.... men in Judah were treading the winepresses on the **sabbath**; that they were bringing in sheaves of grain, loading them on their asses, together with wine, grapes, figs, and every other kind of burden, and bringing them to Jerusalem on the **sabbath day**. I warned them to sell none of these victuals.” (*Neh. 13:15*)
    - (b) Gentiles Conducting Business with Jews on Sabbath
    - (c) Nehemiah Confronts Jews: “.... What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the **sabbath day**? Did not your fathers act in this same way, with the result that our God has brought all this evil upon us and upon this city? Would you add to the wrath against Israel by once more profaning the **sabbath**?” (*Neh. 13:17-18*)
    - (d) Nehemiah Secures Jerusalem for the Sabbath to be Observed
      - “When the shadows were falling on the gates of Jerusalem before the **sabbath**, I ordered the doors to be closed and forbade them to be reopened till after the **sabbath**. I posted some of my own men at the gates so that no burden might enter on the **sabbath day**.” (*Neh. 13:19*)
      - “Then I ordered the Levites to purify themselves and to go and watch the gates, so **that the sabbath day might be kept holy.....**” (*Neh. 13:22*)
  - (3) Nehemiah Enforces Separation from Pagan People/Culture
    - (a) Including Dissolution of Mixed Marriages

## 2. Feast of Lots (“Purim”)

Book of Esther

*The Feast of Lots (Purim) is Celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Days of the 12<sup>th</sup> Month (Adar) of the Jewish Calendar. It Commemorates the Jews Being Delivered from a Plot to Annihilate them Throughout the Persian Empire.*

### a. Background

*Esther was Raised by Her Cousin Mordecai, a Devout Jew. She Became a Favored Wife of King Xerxes I (aka Ahasuerus) and Served as His Queen. She Did Not Divulge Her Jewish Lineage to the King or Any of His Court, as Mordecai Advised.*

### b. Plot to Annihilate Jews

#### 1) King Appoints Haman as Prime Minister & People Bow Down Before Him

##### a) Mordecai Refuses to Bow Before Haman

(1) He’s a Jew that Would Not Compromise His Beliefs

##### b) Haman Becomes Enraged and, Since Other Jews May Likewise Refuse, Plots to Eliminate them from the Empire:

(1) “In the first month, Nisan, in the twelfth year (i.e. 474/473 BC) of King Ahasuerus, **the pur, or lot**, was cast in Haman’s presence to determine the day and the month for the destruction of Mordecai’s people on a single day, and the lot fell on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, Adar (Day of the Pur or Lot).” (Esther 3:7)

#### 2) Haman Issues a Royal Decree to Annihilate the Jews

a) Decree Disseminated throughout the Empire. “... on the thirteenth day of the first month (Day Before Passover Lamb is Slaughtered) ... Letters were sent by couriers to all the royal provinces, that **all the Jews**, young and old, including women and children, **should be killed**, destroyed, wiped out in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, Adar, and that their goods should be seized as spoil.” (Esther 3:12-13)

#### 3) Mordecai Seeks Esther’s Intervention to Save Her People.

##### a) She Reveals that She is a Jew to the King, Subject to the Pur

(1) When King Asks Who’s Responsible, She Exposes Haman

##### b) King Orders Haman Hanged on Gallows Prepared for Mordecai

##### c) Esther Reveals Her Relationship with Mordecai

##### d) King Appoints Mordecai as Prime Minister

#### 4) King Authorizes Mordecai to Issue Another Decree. (Since Royal Decrees Can Not be Revoked, a New Decree is Issued Allowing Jews to Defend Themselves.)

a) Decree Disseminated throughout the Empire. “... on the twenty-third day of the third month, Sivan, ....”

b) Decree Authorizes “... Jews in each and every city to group together and defend their lives, and to kill, destroy, wipe out, along with their wives and children, every armed group of any nation or province which should attack them, and to seize their goods as spoil throughout the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on a single day, the thirteenth of the twelfth month, Adar (i.e. Day of the Pur).” (Esther 8:9 & 11-12)

#### 5) The Jews Successfully Defend Themselves on Day of the Pur

a) “... On the fourteenth of the month (Day Following the Pur) they rested, and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.” (Esther 9:17)

### c. Feast of Lots (Purim)

#### 1) Mordecai Establishes **Feast of Lots (Purim)** to Commemorate these Events

a) “Mordecai recorded these events and sent letters to all the Jews, both near and far, in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. He ordered them to

celebrate every year both the fourteenth and the fifteenth of the month of Adar as the days on which the Jews obtained rest from their enemies and as the month which was turned for them from sorrow into joy, from mourning into festivity. They were to observe these days with feasting and gladness, sending food to one another and gifts to the poor. The Jews took upon themselves for the future this observance which they instituted at the written direction of Mordecai.” (*Esther 9:20-23*)

b) Queen Esther Officially Confirms Celebration of Purim

*Alexander the Great Later Conquered Persia, Occupying the Promise Land in 333 BC. After Alexander’s Death, His Empire was Divided Among His Generals. Ptolemy Ruled Egypt, Cyrene, Cyprus & the Land of Israel; and Seleucus Ruled Babylon then Syria and Asia Minor. The Promise Land Became a Battlefield in a Series of Wars Between Ptolemaic and Seleucid Empires. Israel was Ceded to Seleucid King Antiochus III in 200/199 BC.*

3. **Feast of Dedication (“Hanukkah”)**

*The Feast of Dedication is Celebrated for 8 Days Starting on the 25<sup>th</sup> Day of the 9<sup>th</sup> Month (“Chislev” or “Kislev”) of the Jewish Calendar. It Commemorates the Rededication of the Second Temple After its Desecration by Foreign Occupiers.*

a. **Background**

*The Seleucid King Antiochus IV – Epiphanes Severely Persecuted the Jews, Attempting to Eradicate Judaism & Assimilate them into Greek/Pagan Culture. He Ordered Jews, Under Penalty of Death: “to prohibit holocausts, sacrifices, and libations in the sanctuary, to profane the sabbaths and feast days, .... to leave their sons uncircumcised, and to let themselves be defiled with every kind of impurity and abomination.” (*1 Macc. 1:45-48*). He Plundered, Desecrated & Profaned the Temple in Jerusalem.*

*Judas Maccabeus, from Priestly House of Aaron, Leads a Revolt Against Antiochus IV – Epiphanes and His Coalition of Forces, Defeats them Liberating Jerusalem. He then Restores & Rededicates the Temple.*

b. **Restoration & Rededication of the Temple** 1 Macc. 4:36-61; 2 Macc. 10:1-9

1) **Judas Maccabeus Orders the Temple Purified & Restored**

a) **Priests Restore & Purify the Temple**

- (1) Remove All Pagan Idols & Abominable Images
- (2) Replace the Desecrated Altar with a New Altar of Sacrifice
- (3) Repair & Purify Sanctuary Courts
- (4) Manufacture New Sacred Vessels
- (5) Bring the Lampstand (Menorah), Table of Showbread & Altar of Incense into the Temple

(a) “Then they burned incense on the altar and lighted the lamps on the lampstand, and these illuminated the temple. They also put loaves on the table and hung up curtains. (*1 Macc. 4:50-51*)

(b) “... with fire struck from flint, they offered sacrifice for the first time in two years, burned incense, and lighted lamps. They also set out the showbread.” (*2 Macc. 10:3*)

2) **Rededication of the Temple (165 BC)**

a) **Sacrifices Offered to the Lord on the New Altar**

- (1) “Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, that is, the month of Chislev (Kislev), in the (*Secular*) year one hundred and forty-eight (*i.e. 165 BC*), they arose and offered sacrifice according to the law on the new altar of holocausts that they had made. On the anniversary of the day on which the Gentiles had defiled it, on that very day it was reconsecrated with songs, harps, flutes, and cymbals.” (*1 Macc. 4:52-54*)
- (2) “On the anniversary of the day on which the temple had been profaned by the Gentiles, that is, the twenty-fifth of the same month Chislev (Kislev), the purification of the temple took place.
  - (a) “The Jews celebrated joyfully for eight days as on the feast of Booths, remembering how, a little while before, they had spent the feast of Booths living like wild animals in caves on the mountains. (*Faithful Jews were Unable to Celebrate Feast of Booths While they were Fugitives & Temple in Pagan Hands.*)
  - (b) “Carrying rods entwined with leaves, green branches and palms, they sang hymns of grateful praise to him who had brought about the purification of his own Place.” (*2 Macc. 10:5-7*)
- b) People Prostrate Themselves & Praise the Lord
- c) Dedication Celebrated for 8 Days. “For eight days they celebrated the dedication of the altar and joyfully offered holocausts and sacrifices of deliverance and praise.” (*1 Macc. 4:56*)
- 3) **Feast of Dedication (“Hanukkah”)** Established.
  - a) “Then Judas and his brothers and the entire congregation of Israel decreed that the days of the dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness on the anniversary every year for eight days, from the twenty-fifth day of the month Chislev (Kislev).” (*1 Macc. 1:59*)
  - b) “By public edict and decree they prescribed that the whole Jewish nation should celebrate these days every year.” (*2 Macc. 10:8*)
- 4) **Traditional Practices.** *Priests Must Refill the Temple Lamps with Oil Every Day to Keep them Burning (Lev. 24:1-4), Since that was their Capacity.*

*Its is Believed that When the Temple was Rededicated there was Only Enough Oil for the Temple Lamps to Burn One Day, but they Continued Burning 8 Days. This is Celebrated Using a Special Hanukkah Lampstand Having a Center Shaft Candle (Called “Shamash” or “Servant Candle”), with 4 Candles on 2 of its Sides (Unlike the 7 Lamp Menorah Specified for the Temple Re: Ex. 25:31-39). The Shamash is Lit at the Beginning of Hanukkah then Used to Light One of the Other Candles Each Day Until All 8 are Burning.*

### **Postscript**

*Rome Later Conquered the Promise Land in 63 BC, Subsequently Appointing King Herod (The Great) to Rule that Region Under their Authority. King Herod Expands and Enhances the Second Temple, where Sacrifices are Offered and the Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts Observed as Prescribed by the Laws of Moses and Subsequent Traditions.*

*Roman Legions Sack Jerusalem, Destroy the Temple and Disperse the Jewish People in 70 AD to Quell a Rebellion. The Jews Continue to Observe their Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts Without the Temple, its Priesthood and Prescribed Sacrifices & Offerings.*

**APPENDIX A**  
**HEBREW / JEWISH SACRED CALENDAR**  
 (5775 to 5776)

References to Gregorian (Western Calendar) 2015 - 2016

Jewish Day Begins at Sundown.

Jewish Month Begins on New Moon.

*Ordained Feast Days (Lev. 23).*

The Order of Months in Hebrew/Jewish Sacred Calendar Begins with the Month of Israel's Deliverance from Egypt (*Re: Ex. 12:1-2*).

<b><u>Month No.</u></b>	<b><u>Month Name</u></b>	<b><u>No. Days</u></b>	<b><u>Reference to Western Calendar</u></b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Nisan (Originally Abib) 5775 <i>14<sup>th</sup> Day - Feast of Passover ("Pesach")</i> <i>15<sup>th</sup> Day - Feast of Unleavened Bread ("Hag HaMatzot")</i> <i>Day Following Sabbath - Feast of First Fruits ("Yom HaBikkurim")</i>	30	Mar. 21 - Apr. 19, 2015
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Iyar 5775	29	Apr. 20 - May 18, 2015
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sivan 5775 <i>50<sup>th</sup> Day After First Fruits - Feast of Weeks / Pentecost ("Shavuot")</i>	30	May 19 - Jun. 17, 2015
4 <sup>th</sup>	Tammuz 5775	29	Jun. 18 - Jul. 16, 2015
5 <sup>th</sup>	Av 5775	30	Jul. 17 - Aug. 15, 2015
6 <sup>th</sup>	Elul 5775	29	Aug. 16 - Sept. 13, 2015
7 <sup>th</sup>	Tishrei 5776 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Day - Feast of Trumpets ("Yom Teruah") / New Year ("Rosh Hashanah")</i> <i>10<sup>th</sup> Day - Day of Atonement ("Yom Kippur")</i> <i>15<sup>th</sup> Day - Feast of Booths ("Sukkot")</i>	30	Sept. 14 - Oct. 13, 2015
8 <sup>th</sup>	Cheshvan 5776	30	Oct. 14 - Nov. 12, 2015
9 <sup>th</sup>	Kislev 5776	30	Nov. 13 - Dec. 12, 2015
10 <sup>th</sup>	Tevet 5776	29	Dec. 13, 2015 - Jan. 10, 2016
11 <sup>th</sup>	Shevat 5776	30	Jan. 11 - Feb. 9, 2016
12 <sup>th</sup>	Adar I 5776	30	Feb. 10 - Mar. 10, 2016
*	Adar II 5776	29	Mar. 11 - Apr. 8, 2016

\* The Jewish Year of 12 Moon Cycles is 354 Days Long. To Keep its Seasons Consistent with the Solar Calendar of 365.25 days, a 13<sup>th</sup> Month is Periodically Added Known as Adar II ("Shanah Me'uberet" meaning "Pregnant Year"). 5776 is a Pregnant Year.

