

We have looked at **Tabernacle structure and sacrifices.**

- And this is all about **Sacred Space**

Today we are going to look at the major Festivals and Holidays

- And these **"Holy Days"** → Is where we get our word **"Holiday"** from.
- The Jews organized their lives around the major Festivals and Holy Days.

As this section was about Sacred Space ...

- This section is about **Sacred Time.**

RITUAL FEASTS

1. **Passover** (1/14)
2. **Unleavened Bread** [Flat Bread] (1/15-21)
3. **Fruit Fruits**
4. **Weeks/ Pentecost/ Feast of Harvest** (3/???)
5. **Trumpets** (7/1)
6. **Day of Atonement** (7/10)
7. **Tabernacles/ Booths/ Ingathering** (7/15-21)

They were partially **grouped together**

- As with the sacrifices there is some overlap.

Of the seven there were three great feasts that brought all the people together.

- **Passover**
- **Weeks/ Pentecost**
- **Tabernacles**

Deuteronomy 16:16-17 ¹⁶ Three times a year **all your men must appear before YHWH your God at the place he will choose:**

at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles.

No one should appear before the LORD empty-handed:

¹⁷ **Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way YHWH your God has blessed you.**

Everything was symbolic and served some form of purpose.

The Feasts were tied to the agricultural rhythm of the land.

- Keeping people Focused on their need for God.
- As well as Reminding them to be grateful for God's provisions.

Each of these three festivals as well as the others ...

- Over time developed their own character ...
- As well as explanation as to why they were to be kept.

The Spirit of all the Festivals were ...

- A sense of celebration, togetherness and sacrifice.
- And embodied the belief that ...
- No true celebration of YHWH's goodness could exist for an individual alone.
- His goodness was meant to be for all people.
- And the feasts created an opportunity to celebrate it.

1. PASSOVER

- Lev. 23:4–8; Ex 12:14–20; Nu 28:16–25; Dt 16:1–8
- Passover was the Yearly Freedom & Spring Festival
- And Included the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- It was to be Celebrated at the full moon in the first month of the year.

The Purpose of the Feast was ...

- To Remember that their freedom came through sacrifice.

So, on the 10th of Nisan day of the month ...

- Every family chose a one-year-old male lamb [Tāmîm] without blemish.

This Lamb was killed at the twilight on the 14th of Nisan.

- Why 4 days later? [4 days = 400 years of slavery???]
- And its blood was sprinkled over the two doorposts and the lintel ...
- Of the house where it was eaten.
- Slides van angel of death passing over.

On the following day, the 15th ...

- The Feast Flat-Bread began.

During this feast, the first grain of the year ...

- Was consumed without yeast ...

- Reminding them of their hasty departure from Egypt.
- EXAMPLE with flat bread.

The feast lasted seven days

- Through which they could only eat unleavened bread.
- And on the 1st day of the feast as well as the last ...
- They were to hold a sacred assembly.

So you had ...

10th – Choose lamb

14th – Sprinkle Blood

15th – Feast of Unleavened bread - Sacred Assembly

22nd – 2nd Sacred Assembly

During their time of exile in Babylon it was celebrated as a yearly Freedom Festival

- During the time of the exile they
 1. They Looked **BACK** to the great act of God liberating them out of Egypt.
 2. Looked **AHEAD** to another great act of liberation.
- Where God would bring about his new world [Olam Ha-ba]

What does it mean for us today?

- Communion – Lord's supper.
- Weekly rhythm and reminder.
- Look past, redeemed from slavery.
- Look at present, what we are a part of.
- Look ahead to the world to come.

FEAST OF 1st FRUIT/ GRAIN (Lev. 23:9-14)

The term refers to the 1st Produce of various Harvests. (Explain through drawing?)

- Of which the 1st Portion was dedicated to God.

Had to bring the priest a sheaf of the 1st grain.

- He is to then wave the sheaf before the Lord. [Wave Offering]
- So that it will be accepted on your behalf.

When the sheaf was waved ...

- You were to also Sacrifice a Burnt Offering ...

- As well as a Grain Offering, [a gift by fire] ...
- As well as a Drink Offering.
- That would be a Pleasing Aroma.
- As well as a Drink Offering.

You are not to eat any bread or grain till this is done.

- Again, Acknowledging that the Harvest is from God.

This was a time of ...

1. Great rejoicing of what was to come.
2. Rededicating their crops and lives to YHWH.

This idea spills over into the New Testament ...

Romans 8:22–24 ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

“Creation” is groaning, Waiting for something Better ...

- Something more glorious than what it is currently experiencing.

²³ Not only so ...

Not only is creation waiting for something better.

... but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

So, just as the first grain was anticipating something greater.

- So, creation is anticipating something greater.

And just as creation is anticipating something greater ...

- We ourselves who have the first fruit of the Spirit ...
- Are anticipating something greater.

What is that something greater?

- Our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

We have a gap between first receiving the Holy Spirit at baptism ...

- And then the redemption of our bodies in new creation.

And in the middle there is the hard part.

- What we have historically called the land between.

US?

- Should this be celebrated on your Spiritual B'day?