

Holiness omsirkel slide.

We have looked at Tabernacle structure and sacrifices.

- And this is all about Sacred Space

On this side we have the Feast and Holy Days

- That is all about Sacred Time

## RITUAL FEASTS

1. Passover
2. Unleavened Bread [Flat Bread]
3. First Fruits
4. Weeks/ Pentecost/ Feast of Harvest
5. Trumpets
6. Day of Atonement
7. Tabernacles/ Booths/ Ingathering

They were partially grouped together – die groepering hakkies.

- As with the sacrifices there is some overlap.

## FEAST OF WEEKS

Lev. 23:15-22; Num. 28:26-31; Deut. 16:9-12

Seven weeks after you made the “wave offering”

- 49 days = 7 Sabbaths
- +1

It is to be a sacred assembly

The waving of the sheaf before the Lord at “first fruits” (close of Passover) ...

- Anticipated the greater harvest especially of wheat ...
- That was to follow in the summer.

By now <sup>[7 weeks later]</sup> the Barley harvest had already come in ...

- And now with the more important Wheat harvest ...
- Came the culmination of the Grain harvest ...
- The full celebration of YHWH’s goodness. (In speech bubble)

In other words, When Yahweh gives prosperity, it is time to celebrate.

All this was expressed by

- The elevation (waving) of the two loaves of bread ...
- Symbolizing the first fruits of harvest - In speech Bubble.

Along with that would be ...

- Seven 1-year old male lambs without defect.
- One young bull and two rams
- They will be a burn offering ...
- Along with the grain offerings and drink offerings.
- An Aroma pleasing to the Lord.

Purpose?

1. It evoked the sense of Thanksgiving and Gratitude for God's activity in Creation.
2. By the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC the fest was associated with
  - Reminded them of the Covenant and giving of the Torah to Moses on Sinai
  - 49 day slide from Egypt to Sinai.
  - Pentecost

What does this mean for us?

- Sacred Time
- Reflect on God's Activity. (Speech bubble).
- Celebration of the gift of the New Torah (Speech bubble).

## FEAST OF TRUMPETS

(Lev. 23:23-25, Num 29:1-6)

Marked the beginning of a New Agricultural Year.

- Trumpets Announced the Feast
- Had to have a sacred assembly.

Make a number of Offerings

- Burnt Offering
- Grain Offering

- Sin Offering
  - Food Offering
  - Present food offerings to YHWH.
- 
- That would be a pleasing aroma to YHWH.

It Began Israel's Most Sacred Month which included ...

- The Day of Atonement and
- The Feast of Booths/ Tabernacles.

Why the trumpet blast?

Back in Exodus 19 when God was about to give the Israelites the 10 Commandments.

- He asked Moses to call them together at the foot of Sinai in 3 day's time.
- And call them together by a large trumpet call.

Exodus 19:12–13 <sup>12</sup> Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death ... [\[Sacred Space\]](#)

<sup>13</sup> ... Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain."

<sup>16</sup> On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled.

<sup>17</sup> Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

<sup>18</sup> Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently.

<sup>19</sup> As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

Picture of people next to Sinai with God's presence on it

This awe-inspiring event ...

- Was to be stamped forever upon the memory of the people of Israel.

And most likely every year, at the Feast of Trumpets ...

- Those same-sounding trumpet blasts reminded Israel
- That they were a people under covenant ...
- A nation who had accepted the responsibilities of being God's people.

So the Purpose of the feast of Trumpets were ...

1. The dedication of the new agricultural year to God for His provision
2. Reminding them of their covenant commitment ...
3. Preparing them for the Day of Atonement ...

What does this mean for us?

- Maybe we need to have some Sacred Time in January ...
- Reminding us that we are People under Covenant? In speech bubble.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 <sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

We enter each new year with lots of hopes and dreams.

- Loose weight, get fit etc.

But also need to ask ...

- In what way can I expand the garden and bear his image into it?
- n Tekening van n dude met n "idea" bubble bo sy kop en n "expanding garden" tekening op sy regeter kant.

## DAY OF ATONEMENT

Lev. 23:26–32, Lev. 16:2–34; Nu 29:7–11

- This was the great annual HOLY day at which Confession of sin was made
- And forgiveness was available through Atonement.

## THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Lev. 23:33–43pp—Nu 29:12–39; Dt 16:13–17

- Also called Feast of Booths or Ingathering

This major **Autumn Festival** ...

- **Marked the Ingathering of the grape and vine harvest.**

The grapes that were taken in at this time ...

- Required particular care in handling and storage.
- And it was also sensible to protect the ripened yield.

Therefore, the poor and rich together went out **to find leafy trees** ...

- **Tekening van Booth**
- In which they would stay during this time.

And because the feast was at the “turn” of the year ...

- **They were reminded to look forward as well as backward.**
- **Pyltjie agter toe end an voorentoe, met die “Booth/ tent” bo dit.**

**Looking Backward** the feast reminded them ...

- Of **Their humble past.**
- Of **God’s covenant love and faithfulness.**
- Through **Preserving them for 40 years in the desert.**
- **As well as giving them this Great ingathering of grapes and olives.**

**Looking Forward**

1. **The Promised Messianic age**
2. **When all nations will flow to this city to worship YHWH.**

This feast to was an occasion for communal and festive joy.

- With the tabernacle right in the centre of it viewed as the House of Joy.

**It was during this feast ...**

- **That Solomon dedicated the temple to God in 1 Kings 8.**
- **Torah had to read every 7 years.**

In later Rabbinic times ...

- This festival was closed out with a celebration called ...
- **Simḥat Torah** <sup>[sim-kat]</sup> = **“Joy of the Law”**

**Tabernacles became the feast to end all feasts and ...**

- **Represents the full flowering of God’s promises ...**
- **Through Israel, to all the nations.**

What does this mean for us today?

- Again, we maybe we need some sacred time
- Tekening van dude met sacred time?

Look back:

- How God has sustained us

Present

- The tent is not our home

Future

- Looking forward to the world to come

## CONCLUSION

Through the feasts, Yahweh's faithfulness in the past ...

- Became the ritual basis for the hope they held for the future.

Communal acts such as shared sacrifices ...

- Festive meals, prayers, singing and dancing ...
- Renewed their sense of belonging.

The Feasts reminded them that this was not an individualist effort.

- And that everything that they had ...
- Was because of God's covenant faithfulness.