

FEASTS: God's Appointed Times (Leviticus 23)

Fulfillment in Christ & Prophetic Horizon

Spring Feasts — Fulfilled in Christ's First Coming

1. **Passover (Pesach)** – Lev 23:5; Exod 12

- **What it is:** Remembering Israel's deliverance from Egypt by the blood of the lamb.
 - **In Christ:** Jesus is explicitly called "*our Passover Lamb*" (1 Cor 5:7). His crucifixion occurred during Passover (John 19:14).
 - **Fulfillment:** Fulfilled at the Cross — the Lamb slain for the sins of the world (John 1:29).
 - **Future/Millennial?** The sacrifice aspect is finished ("once for all" Heb 10:10). But the memorial meal may continue as remembrance (Luke 22:19), and Ezekiel 45:21 suggests a future **Passover remembrance in the millennial Temple**.
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2. **Unleavened Bread (Chag HaMatzot)** – Lev 23:6–8

- **What it is:** Seven-day feast removing all leaven (symbol of sin/corruption).
- **In Christ:** His sinless body lay in the grave; He was the Unleavened One (2 Cor 5:21).
- **Fulfillment:** His burial — the "bread from heaven" without corruption (Acts 2:27).

- **Future?** Believers “keep the feast...with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (1 Cor 5:8). Symbolically continues in our sanctification.
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3. Firstfruits (Reshit Katzir) – Lev 23:9–14

- **What it is:** Offering the first sheaf of barley harvest, thanksgiving for new life.
 - **In Christ:** Paul calls Jesus “*the firstfruits of those who sleep*” (1 Cor 15:20).
 - **Fulfillment:** His resurrection on Firstfruits, the pledge of our resurrection.
 - **Future?** Ongoing — the full harvest (resurrection of believers) is still to come at His return.
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4. Pentecost (Shavuot, Feast of Weeks) – Lev 23:15–22

- **What it is:** 50 days after Firstfruits; a wheat harvest feast, with two leavened loaves waved before God. Later linked in Jewish tradition to Sinai/Torah-giving.
 - **In Christ:** The Spirit was poured out at Pentecost (Acts 2). The two loaves (with leaven!) picture Jews and Gentiles made one in Messiah despite imperfection.
 - **Fulfillment:** Fulfilled in the **giving of the Spirit**.
 - **Future?** Continues until the full harvest of nations is gathered (Matt 24:14; Rev 7:9).
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Fall Feasts — Awaiting Fulfillment in Christ's Second Coming

5. **Trumpets** (Yom Teruah / Rosh Hashanah) – Lev 23:23–25

- **What it is:** Day of trumpet blasts, awakening, preparation for judgment.
 - **In Christ:** Associated with the final trumpet, resurrection, and gathering (1 Thess 4:16; 1 Cor 15:52).
 - **Fulfillment: Not yet fulfilled.** Likely tied to Christ's second coming and resurrection.
 - **Future/Millennial?** Will inaugurate His return, possibly rehearsed annually in the millennial reign (cf. Ezek 40–48 calendar).
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6. **Day of Atonement** (Yom Kippur) – Lev 16; Lev 23:26–32

- **What it is:** Solemn fast, priest enters Holy of Holies, blood for sins of Israel.
 - **In Christ:** Jesus is our High Priest (Heb 9:11–12), entering once with His own blood. His atonement is already accomplished.
 - **Fulfillment:** Fulfilled spiritually, but **Israel's national atonement awaits:** "In that day...they will look on Me whom they pierced" (Zech 12:10; Rom 11:26–27).
 - **Future?** Yes — final reconciliation of Israel, and possibly memorial Yom Kippur in millennial Temple (Ezek 45:18–20).
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7. **Feast of Booths** (Sukkot, Tabernacles) – Lev 23:33–43

- **What it is:** Joyful, week-long feast of harvest, living in booths to remember God dwelling with Israel in the wilderness.
 - **In Christ:** “The Word became flesh and *tabernacled* among us” (John 1:14). Jesus identified Himself with the Sukkot water and light rituals (John 7–8).
 - **Fulfillment:** Will be fulfilled in the Kingdom when God dwells with man (Rev 21:3).
 - **Future/Millennial?** Explicit: “*All nations...shall go up year after year to worship...and to keep the Feast of Booths*” (Zech 14:16–19).
 - **New Jerusalem:** ultimate fulfillment — eternal dwelling of God with His people.
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Other Commemorations (Post-Torah)

Purim (Esther 9:27–28)

- **What it is:** Celebration of deliverance in Persia.
- **In Christ:** Points to God’s providential deliverance of His people.
- **Future?** Continues as a memorial; not prophetic in the same sense.

Hanukkah (John 10:22; 1 Macc 4:59)

- **What it is:** Festival of Dedication, Temple rededicated after Antiochus.
 - **In Christ:** Jesus attended; He is the true Temple light (John 8:12).
 - **Future?** Possibly honored as memorial, **but not commanded in Torah.**
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Prophetic Timeline of the Feasts

- **Spring Feasts** = Christ's **first coming** (fulfilled).
 - **Pentecost** = **Spirit age**, ongoing.
 - **Fall Feasts** = Christ's **second coming**, final judgment, restoration, kingdom.
 - **Millennial reign** = at least **Sukkot** (Zech 14), possibly others as memorials (Ezek 45).
 - **New Jerusalem** = ultimate Sukkot — God dwelling with His people (Rev 21:3).
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Summary Verdict:

- **Yes, we keep God's feasts** — fulfilled in Messiah, rehearsed today, prophetically pointing to His future work.
 - **Fulfilled:** Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost.
 - **Future/Prophetic:** Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Booths.
 - **Millennial:** Sukkot (explicit), others possibly in Ezekiel's Temple.
 - **New Jerusalem:** eternal Tabernacle of God with His people.
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