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BIBLE STUDY

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**HOLY CONVOCATIONS**

**Leviticus 23:1-13**

***Leviticus 23:1 "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,"***

***Leviticus 23:2 "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, [Concerning] the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim [to be] holy convocations, [even] these [are] my feasts."***

These feasts are really days set aside as holy days. I believe this includes the daily, weekly, monthly, as well as special feast days. Some of the festivals, or feasts, that quickly come to mind are the feast of trumpets, passover, feast of unleavened bread, pentecost, day of atonement, and feast of tabernacles. Of course, there were daily offerings, sabbath, and new moon festivals. These were times to remember the blessings God has bestowed upon His people. These are very holy times. All people who worship choose days that are important to keep holy. Each one of these festivals are recognized for a separate reason, which we will cover in these lessons. These are not times we have chosen as holy days, but days God has chosen as holy days.

***Leviticus 23:3 "Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day [is] the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work [therein]: it [is] the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings."***

In six days God created the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested. This set the pattern for the time of work and the time of rest to be observed on this earth. Convocation, in the Scripture above, means public gathering. Sabbath, in the Scripture above, means intermission. God established this intermission from work for the good of man, as well as having a day set aside to worship Him. Jesus explains this in

***Mark 2:27 "And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:"***

The Sabbath Moses spoke of here, was to be observed from sunset Friday until sunset Saturday. This was observed on the last day of the week, or the 7th day.

***Leviticus 23:4 "These [are] the feasts of the LORD, [even] holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons."***

This is not speaking of just sabbath, but is speaking of all the festivals, as well. When we were in Israel, the beginning of Sabbath was proclaimed by three blasts on the ram's horn. These holy times were to be observed by all, not just the high priest and the priests.

***Leviticus 23:5 "In the fourteenth [day] of the first month at even [is] the LORD'S passover."***

The first month of their religious year was Nisan which is approximately the same as our April. I say approximately, because they did not observe the same time as we do today to change a month. Every complete change of the moon proclaimed a new month. Their months were about 28 days long. The LORD's passover was a time to remember the night in Egypt, when death passed over the Hebrew's homes which had the blood of the lamb over the door. In all of Egypt, those who did not have the blood over the door, lost the first born of both man and beast. To remember this special night, each passover, Jewesh families eat the passover supper. The animal is roasted and they eat bitter herbs and unleavened bread with the meal. We go into this in greater detail in other lessons. I would like to say that we Christians have a passover Lamb. His name was Jesus Christ our LORD. When we are washed in His blood, we receive eternal life. Jesus, not only ate Passover with the disciples, but was in fact the Passover Lamb Himself. Both His eating and His being the Passover Lamb occurred between sunset and the next sunset. Both things occurred on the day passover was celebrated.

***Leviticus 23:6 "And on the fifteenth day of the same month [is] the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread."***

The unleavened bread symbolized the body of Jesus which was without sin. Unleavened means free from sin. Jesus is the Bread. Jesus took our sin on His body that we might receive His righteousness. This feast of unleavened bread was an extension of eating unleavened bread of the passover. Unleavened bread continued 7 days beyond passover. We have been reminded that 7 means spiritually complete. The unleavened bread of the passover was eaten in a ceremonial meal. The week of unleavened bread is to be observed even in ordinary meals eaten that week.

***Leviticus 23:7 "In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein."***

This time of separation from work and the things of the world gave them a time when they could remember that God had made them His people, and they were to live holy lives. This unleavened bread reminded them of the necessity to live without sin.

***Leviticus 23:8 "But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day [is] an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work [therein]."***

We remember, from previous lessons, that offerings made by fire showed total dedication to God. Notice the beginning and the end of this week were holy days. We must not only begin with God, but we must end with Him, as well.

***Leviticus 23:9 "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,"***

***Leviticus 23:10 "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:"***

It appears that firstfruits of the grain were to be offered in conjunction with unleavened bread. The first and best of the harvest was chosen, and put in a sheaf, and brought, and waved before the Lord. No one was to eat any of the harvest, until the first had been given to God. This would be dedicating the whole crop to God. It is interesting to note, that no crop which had been fertilized or artificially watered would be acceptable for this firstfruit offering. God had promised His people that their crops would do well, as long as they worshipped Him alone.

***Leviticus 23:11 "And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it."***

This sheaf of grain that was offered was showing that all the crop really belonged to God. It is through the blessings of God, that bountiful crops are produced. Any farmer will tell you, that by the grace of God, they have a good crop. The persons {usually three men} who went and brought in the sheaf of grain were not breaking the sabbath. It was permissible to go and get the sheaf for the offering in the temple. Actually passover, unleavened bread, and firstfruits of the harvest happened approximately the same time. Jesus was the Passover Lamb, Jesus was the Unleavened Bread, and He is the First Fruits of God's harvest.

***Leviticus 23:12 "And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD."***

We have gone into this more fully in another lesson, but I will touch on just a few things here. Of course, the fact that this is a he lamb is because it shadows the body of Jesus, and therefore must be a male. A male lamb that is one year old has never been with a female lamb. This indicates the fact that Jesus never married. This was a burnt offering showing that Jesus paid it all for us. All of these offerings, here, seem to overlap. That is exactly what Jesus did for all of us in that one offering of Himself. Jesus did not just fulfill one or two of these offerings, but He fulfilled them every one, in the perfect sacrifice of Himself. This sacrifice of Himself was to do away with all other sacrifices. His sacrifice was for all time for everyone who would believe and accept Him as our sacrifice.

***Leviticus 23:13 "And the meat offering thereof [shall be] two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD [for] a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof [shall be] of wine, the fourth [part] of an hin."***

We touched on this, also, in an earlier lesson, but I would like to remind all of us of just a few highlights of this. The meat offering did not contain flesh, but was made up of the elements used in making bread. Jesus is the Bread of Life. This was called a meat offering, because it shadowed the flesh of Jesus. This is one of the few places where the drink offering is mentioned. This wine symbolizes the blood of Jesus. The Bread symbolizes His body.

***John 6:53 "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."***

***Matthew 26:26-28***

***28 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed [it], and brake [it], and gave [it] to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body."***

***27 "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;"***

***28 "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."***

We have said this before, but it is very important to remember that God is a Spirit. If God was the author of the Bible, as I believe He was, then the only way to truly understand the Bible is through the Spirit.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What were the feasts of the LORD called in verse 2?

2. Name some of the holy days.

3. What were the people to remember in these festivals?

4. Who decided which days were holy?

5. \_\_\_ days shall work be done.

6. What is the 7th day?

7. What set the pattern for 6 days of work and one day for rest?

8. What does convocation mean?

9. What does sabbath mean?

10. What did Jesus say about the sabbath in Mark?

11. In recent years in Jerusalem, how is sabbath proclaimed?

12. Who was to observe these holy times?

13. When is the LORD's passover to be observed?

14. What was the first month of the religious year for the Jews?

15. What signaled a new month?

16. What did passover remind them of?

17. What were they to eat at passover?

18. Who is the Christian's Passover Lamb?

19. How does Jesus save our lives?

20. How could Jesus eat the passover supper and be the Passover Lamb ?

21. When did unleavened bread officially begin?

22. What does unleavened mean?

23. What does the number 7 mean spiritually?

24. What did this time of rest allow them to do?

25. When did firstfruits occur?

26. What was offered as firstfruits?

27. What peculiarity did the crop where the sheaf of grain was taken

have?
28. What was to be done with the sheaf of grain?
29. How are bountiful crops produced?
30. What three festivals happened about the same time?
31. What was to be offered at the same time as the sheaf being heaved

 unto the LORD?

32. Why must the lamb that was offered be a he?

33. What was meant by this lamb being under one year of age?

34. Is it correct to sacrifice now? Why?

35. What was peculiar about the meat offering?

36. Why then, was it called a meat offering?

37. Quote John chapter 6 verse 53.

38. How does the author believe is the only way to truly understand

the Bible?