

The Spiritual Discipline of Celebration

The seven feasts are given in Leviticus 23.

“It was a night of watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the LORD by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.”

- Exodus 12:42

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts....” - Exodus 3:1

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.”

- Exodus 4:5

“I will make breath enter you and you will come to life” - Ezekiel 37:5

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. - 1Corinthians 15:20-23

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ - John 7:37:38

“⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.” - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

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Common Name	Hebrew Name	Season	Activities	Theme	Fulfillment
Passover	Pesach	Spring	Sacrificing Passover Lamb	Protection from Angel of Death Deliverance from Slavery in Egypt	Jesus dies on Passover as the lamb whose blood protects believers from God's judgment. Jesus delivers us from slavery to sin and death
Unleavened Bread	Matzot	Spring	Remove Leaven Live without leaven for seven days	Getting rid of sin (leaven)	Jesus' body is without sin, a perfect sacrifice. Believers live "unleavened" lives in response.
Firstfruits	Bikkurim	1st Sunday after Passover	Bring firstfruits offering of barley to temple	Celebrating first fruit of barley harvest	Jesus' resurrection was on firstfruits. He is the firstfruits of those risen from the dead.
Pentecost	Shavuot	50 days after Passover	Celebration in temple Bringing sacrifices of wheat Read Ezekiel 1-2	First of wheat harvest Celebration of covenant of law on Mount Sinai	The Spirit is given and first harvest of souls takes place. Holy Spirit writes law on believers' hearts.
Feast of Trumpets	Rosh Hashanah	Fall	Blowing of shofar Confess sin for ten days	Celebration of New Year Anointing God as King	Dead shall rise at final trumpet. Christ returns to reign as King.
Day of Atonement	Yom Kippur	Fall	High Priest atones for sin	Atonement for sin Scapegoat	Jesus becomes our atoning sacrifice at the final judgment.
Feast of Tabernacles (Ingathering)	Sukkot	Fall	Living in booths Dwelling with God in wilderness	Celebration of harvest Water pouring ceremony (last day)	All God's people are gathered into new heaven and new earth to dwell with him forever. Jesus promises living water of the Spirit.