

# Bible Trek Ministries

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## JESUS CHRIST AND THE JEWISH FESTIVALS

*The festivals are God's blueprint for mankind. There are two Hebrew words for festival: moed for "**appointed time**" or mikah for "**rehearsal**" the words used in the Jewish festivals incorporate both meanings. **In other words, the Jews had "appointed times" to "rehearse" the coming of messiah.***

The 7 festivals not only celebrated historical facts, but they also corresponded to agricultural seasons.

The two seasons had:

- 1) 4 spring festivals- former rain
- 2) 3 fall festivals- latter rain

The 4 spring festivals are:

- 1) **Passover**- commemorates slaying of the lamb and escape from slavery in Egypt
- 2) **Festival of unleavened bread**- exodus from Egypt
- 3) **Festival of first fruits**- crossing of the Red Sea
- 4) **Shavaut or Pentecost**- receiving of the Torah

The 3 fall festivals are:

- 1) **FEAST OF TRUMPETS OR ROSH HASHANAH** -Jewish new year or calling to repentance
- 2) **YOM KIPPUR**-day of atonement-holiest day of the year

3) **FEAST OF TABERNACLES** -the time when God dwelled among his people in the wilderness (God provided for all their needs)

In each of these festivals God showed the Israelites a different aspect of the Messiah.

**Example:** in the **PASSOVER** God showed the Israelites that the slaying of an innocent lamb's blood would deliver them from the plague of death and from slavery.

**Example:** **FEAST OF THE FIRST FRUITS** commemorated the day that the Israelites went down into the depths of the Red Sea but emerged alive on the other side.

***How can we see the Messiah - Jesus, in each of these 7 festivals?***

The **4 spring festivals** or "**former rain**" point to the first appearance of Jesus, The Suffering Messiah of Psalms 22, and Isaiah 53.

The **3 fall festivals** or "**latter rain**" point to the 2nd appearance of Jesus, The Conquering Messiah (Isaiah 9:6-7) yet to come.

*in Hosea 6:3 "... And he shall come into us as the rain as the **latter** and **former** rain unto the earth."*

**Jesus Christ the Messiah fulfilled each of the 4 spring festivals at the appointed time on the exact day and moment!!**

**Passover - Jesus Dies on Passover**

The first Passover lamb delivered the Israelites in Egypt from the plague of death and slavery under Pharaoh. 1500 years later on the exact day at the exact hour Jesus the Messiah delivered the people from eternal death and the slavery of sin. In the temple *at the appointed hour*, the High Priest slew the lamb and cried "**it is finished**" Jesus was proclaiming the same words on the cross as he died at the exact same moment at...*the appointed time*.

## **Festival of unleavened bread – Jesus is buried**

This festival begins at sunset immediately following Passover. During this feast three pieces of matzoth are placed in a unity bag. The middle piece of matzoth is removed from the bag and broken. Half of the broken matzoth is placed back in the bag and half is wrapped in linen and buried. The children try to steal this and hold it for ransom from their father. The meal can not continue until the father has retrieved this matzoth from where it has been buried. Like the piece of matzoth , Jesus body was broken or destroyed wrapped in a linen cloth, buried in a grave until his father would retrieve it. Thereby *keeping the appointment* 1500 years later.

## **Festival of the first fruits – Jesus resurrects**

The children of Israel traveled three days into the wilderness. All hope was lost as the Egyptians cornered them at the Red Sea. Death was imminent but God opened a way of salvation through the midst of the dark sea. Israel went down into the sea and climbed out alive on the other side-a resurrected people. Again, Jesus kept *the appointed time* as he lay in the grave for three days and came out alive never to die again. Jesus became the first fruits of all who would rise from the dead.

## **Shavuot or Pentecost – The arrival of the Holy Spirit**

*On the 50th day* after coming up alive out of the sea, God told them to approach Mt. Sinai where he would reveal himself to them through the Torah. Fire was seen on the mountain , the wind roared, the ground shook and the voice of God brought forth the Torah. One Jewish commentary on Exodus (Rabbah 5.9) states that "when God gave the Torah on Sinai, he displayed untold marvels to Israel with his voice. What happened? God spoke and the voice reverberated throughout the world... It says, and all the people witnessed the thunderings (Exo. 20:15). Note

that it does not say "the thunder" but " the thunderings". Wherefore, R. Johanan said that God's voice split into seventy languages, so that all the nations should understand. When each nation heard the voice in their own vernacular, their souls departed (they were in fear) save Israel, who heard but who were not hurt..." Another Jewish writing "the Madras Says" by Rabbi Moshi Weissman states: " ...on the occasion of the giving of the Torah the children of Israel not only heard the Lords voice but actually saw the sound waves as they emerged from the Lord's mouth. They visualized them as a fiery substance. Each commandment that left the Lord's mouth traveled around the entire camp and then came back to every Jew individually asking him, "do you accept upon yourself this commandment with all Jewish law pertaining to it?" Every Jew answered "yes" after each commandment. Finally, the fiery substance which they saw, engraved itself on the tablets." This became ***THE MOSAIC COVENANT.***

Now 1500 years later God *kept his appointment* to reveal himself through a group of people that he empowered to be his witnesses. What was first seen on the mountain (the fire, wind, and tongues) would now be observed in the New believers. God would now write his law upon the hearts of men. This was ***THE NEW COVENANT.***

As the spring festivals or appointments were fulfilled literally to the day by Jesus in his 1st coming, so we can look forward to and expect that Jesus will not fail to keep the fall festivals or ***appointments*** in his 2nd coming.

***FEAST OF THE TRUMPETS*** - The Rapture of the Church (called the Bride of Christ) - wedding of the Messiah.

***YOM KIPPUR*** - the physical second coming of The Messiah to Earth

***FEAST OF TABERNACLES*** - God will again dwell among his people for 1000 years.