

# Prophetic Celebration: The Feast of Tabernacles

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God reveals His magnificent plan for redeeming a lost world, far from Him because of sin. Often, this plan is communicated through prophetic pictures to help us better understand how that plan will play out—and one of the most profound is outlined in His feasts.

## The Lord's Feasts

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The feasts—Sabbath, Passover/Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and Tabernacles—are found primarily in Leviticus 23, Numbers 28 and Deuteronomy, but they undergird all of Scripture. The most logical place to start when first learning about them is in Leviticus 23:1–2, where God says:

“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations these are My feasts’” (Lev. 23:2, NKJV).

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Many assume the feasts involve a grand celebration with plenty of food, and although this is true for some of them, the Hebrew word “feast” means “appointment.” These holy “convocations” or “gatherings” were special times throughout the year when God wanted to meet with His people and be in their midst. Though the Jewish people have been keeping these

feasts for millennia, and though they are sometimes referred to as the “feasts of Israel” or “the Jewish feasts,” God made it clear at the end of Leviticus 23:2: They are His appointments.

The apostle Paul explains that these festivals are merely a “shadow of things to come,” but their “reality” or “substance” is Christ (Col. 2:16–17). This means *all* the feasts are important for believers today to understand. Each one points to an aspect of Jesus’ redemptive work, and all together, they paint a picture of God’s plan of salvation over all time.

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