

Feasts of Israel

Deuteronomy 16:16

Seven major feasts, plus Sabbaths, established by God in His Law that the Israelites were required to observe. **Leviticus 23** lists them all.

Three feasts in spring, three feasts in fall, one in summer

Three required all male Israelites to "appear before the Lord." - **Exodus 23:17**

Calendar

11 days short each year

First 7 months always same number of days

These months include all three mandatory feasts

The Sabbath

Leviticus 23:3 - Exodus 20:8-11

Every 7th day of every week, day of rest to remember God's work of creation/providence for man.

Sabbath Year Every 7th year - Rest the land - **Leviticus 25:1-7**

Jubilee Year Every 50th year - Rest the land - **Leviticus 25:8-17**

Passover

Leviticus 23:5 - Exodus 12:1-14; 13:3-10; 23:15; 34:18

14th 1st month (Nisan/Abib, corresponds to our April)

1 yr old unblemished lamb slain & eaten in haste with loins girded, sandals on feet, & staff in hand to recall hasty flight from Egypt.

Commemorative of redemption and how God passed over Israelite homes sparing their firstborn as He struck the 1st born of Egyptians. - **Exodus 12:24-27**

Unleavened Bread - required

Leviticus 23:6-8 - Exodus 12:15-20

Began day after Passover, 15th 1st month (Nisan/Abib), lasted 7 days.

Remove leaven completely from house, eat unleavened bread, offer sacrifices followed by a sabbath day of rest.

Purpose was to recall their flight from Egypt when there was no time to leaven bread. It was symbolic of Israel's reformation from slavery's bondage into the covenant people of God.

First Fruits

Leviticus 23:9-14

Celebrated on 16th 1st month (Nisan/Abib), with Unleavened Bread.

Priest waved sheave of fresh harvest offered sacrifice

Marked new beginning, resurrection, commemorated God's goodness.

Weeks / Harvest / Pentecost - required

Leviticus 23:15-21 - Exodus 23:16; 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:9-12

6th 3rd month (Sivan, our June)

50 days from First Fruits, 7 weeks

Offerings, sacrifices reminded of God's blessings, freedom from slavery.

tradition - Law @ Sinai - "nation under God." Time of rebirth.

Trumpets (New Year's Day)

Leviticus 23:23-25 - Numbers 29:1-6

1st 7th month (Tishri, corresponding to our September/October).

Long trumpet blasts from ram's horn (shofar) signaled coming of good tidings and day of rest.

Time of reflection as they anticipated coming Day of Atonement.

Upon returning to Israel, Nehemiah forbid mourning on this day - **Nehemiah 8:2,9**

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

Leviticus 23:26-32 - Numbers 29:7-11

10th day of 7th month (Tishri, our October)

Day of humility, fasting, sacrifice, no work

Leviticus 16:7-10,15-22

One goat slaughtered, its blood sprinkled on the mercy seat of ark & on altar. It was the only time of the year the high priest allowed into the Holy of Holies.

The other goat, the scapegoat, bore the sins of Israel as it was released into the wilderness.

Day of cleansing, reconciliation for people & priests.

Tabernacles (Booths, The Ingathering) - required

Leviticus 23:33-36,39-43 - Exodus 23:16; 34:22; Numbers 29:12-40

15th 7th month (Tishri, our October) lasting 7 days + one more day of rest.

Various daily sacrifices along with construction of temporary shelters

Commemorated Israelites living in temporary shelters (booths or tents) as they journeyed through the wilderness to the Promised Land.

Reminded of how God provided for His people. *Deuteronomy 16:13-15*

Since rain in Israel usually stopped in March, it was a prayer that God would send the "early rains" in October & November to bring refreshment & prevent famine. Note *Zechariah 14:16-19*

Last feast of the year and though marked by more sacrifices than any other, was a joyful, festive time since it reminded the Israelites that God alone was the source of life, blessing, & restoration.

Hannukah (Chanukkah)

25th 9th month (Kislev, Our November/December)

Dedication - (Maccabees)

Purim

14th 12th/13th month (Adar/AdarII, OurFebruary/March/April)

Deliverance - (Esther)

ZekeFlores