

20230226 The festivals that the LORD has appointed

Christ in the Feasts of the LORD series Part 1

(Leviticus 23:1-4)

¹ The LORD said to Moses,

² "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the LORD, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.

³ There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the LORD."

⁴ These are the LORD's appointed festivals, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times:

The reality of God found in Christ

Colossians 2:16-17

¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.

¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; **the reality, however, is found in Christ.**"

The root of the problems in the world: Our sin

Romans 5:12

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.

From John 14

Spiritual insight #1: Spending a lot of time with Jesus does not guarantee that we would know Him correctly.

Spiritual insight #2: If we try to find God by focusing on the problems in this world, we will never see Him because the problems do not represent the character of God.

But, when we see what Jesus did for those who were in suffering with the problems in life when He came into this world, and when we understand why Jesus had to die on the cross for the sin of the whole world as the sacrificial lamb of God, and when we realize the necessity of His resurrection that was witnessed and proved through the history, then we see how lovely, how beautiful, and how wonderful our God is in wonder and amazement!

God's visual aids for His people: Religious laws and rituals in the Old Testament

John 5:39

³⁹ You study the Scriptures (talking about the Old Testament) diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about Me.

Among all the visual aids in the Old Testament, there are some that God put more clarity and emphasis upon so that the character of the reality of God was revealed more clearly and apparently. Those are **the feasts of the LORD** in the book of Leviticus, chapter 23.

Three very important characteristics of the feasts of the LORD from Leviticus 23:1-4

1. The feasts are the LORD's feasts.

As we get to know the LORD's feasts, we get to know His character better. And as we get to know His character better, there comes our stronger faith in our God who loves and cares for us every day, every moment.

2. The feasts are appointed times.

John 4:22

²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

God's saving grace is manifested in sequence for individuals and for the world:

1. First, there is God's calling,
2. Then, there is God's saving power for those who are willing to listen to His calling,
3. And then, there is the separation from the world, which is holiness onto the LORD
4. And, there is the empowerment by the baptism of the Spirit of God for those obeying Him,
5. Then, there is the gathering of God's people.
6. And finally, there is the eternal presence of God and our joy in His presence.

3. The feasts invite us to God's rest.

Genesis 2:3

³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from **all the work of creating that he had done.**

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you **rest.**

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest** for your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."