

Israel's Holy Days

The Feasts of Israel are a reminder of the incredible order of the universe as designed by God.

The children of Israel knew that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is a God of salvation. Therefore, the Holy Days and festivals have deep spiritual meaning – meaning that finds its fulfillment in the life and ministry of Jesus the Messiah.

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	PESACH	HAMATZOT	HABIKKURIM	SHAVUOT
Holy Day:	<i>Feast of Passover</i>	<i>Feast of Unleavened Bread</i>	<i>Feast of First Fruits</i>	<i>Feast of Weeks, Pentecost</i>
Scriptural Basis:	Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Leviticus 23:5	Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Leviticus 23:6-8	Leviticus 23:9-14	Deuteronomy 16:9-12; Leviticus 23:15-21
Time Observed:	14 th of Nisan (March/April)	15 th of Nisan – lasts seven days (March/April)	16 th of Nisan (March/April)	Begins 50 days after Passover (May/June)
Purpose:	Celebrates the Exodus of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt.	Commemorates the use of unleavened bread at Passover.	Celebrates the faithfulness of the Lord with a grain offering from the first harvest of the spring.	Offering of two loaves of leavened bread – the fruit of the sheaf offered on First Fruits.
Messianic Fulfillment:	The blood of Jesus the Messiah fulfills, once and for all, the innocent sacrifice of the Passover Lamb (Matthew 26:28).	Leaven (or yeast) in the Scriptures is a symbol of sin (Mark 8:15).	Jesus was raised from the dead on the Feast of First Fruits (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).	The Holy Spirit was given to the first believers on the Feast of Shavuot (Acts 2:1-4).
Believer's Application:	The blood of Jesus cleanses believers from sin in the sight of God (Hebrews 9:15).	We must be careful of how we live in this world – in obedience to God and not as the rest of the world lives (1 Corinthians 5:7).	Rejoice in the first fruit offering – our Messiah – Who draws all men to Himself (John 12:23-24, 32).	Jewish and Gentile believers are one; the harvest of the one sheaf – Jesus the Messiah – so we should live together in unity (Psalm 133:1; Ephesians 3:6).

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ROSH HAsHANAH	YOM KIPPUR	SUKKOT	HANUKKAH	PURIM
Feast of Trumpets	Day of Atonement	Feast of Tabernacles	Feast of Dedication, Lights	Feast of Lots
Leviticus 23:23-25; Numbers 29:1-6	Leviticus 16, 23:26-32; Numbers 29:7-11	Leviticus 23:33-36, 39-43; Numbers 29:12-34	Mentioned in John 10:22-23, but not in the Old Testament	The Book of Esther
1 st of Tishrei – celebrated as two days (September/October)	10 th of Tishrei (September/October)	15 th of Tishrei – lasts seven days (September/October)	25 th of Kislev – lasts eight days (December)	15 th of Adar (February/March)
Draws attention to the upcoming time of repentance. Prepares Israel for the Day of Atonement.	Provides atonement for the sins of the nation of Israel. Teaches Israel the scope of God's forgiveness through the offering of the scapegoat.	Reminds Israel of God's provision during the wilderness wanderings. Reminds Israel of God's faithfulness through the cycle of harvests.	Commemorates Israel's victory over Antiochus Epiphanes in 164 BC. Remembers the rededication of the Temple after it was desecrated by their enemy.	Reminder of God's providence and supernatural intervention for Israel through His servants. Recalls God's miraculous delivery of His people from Haman.
The return of Messiah Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16).	Jesus our High Priest offered a sacrifice for sin once for all – the fulfillment of the Yom Kippur offering (Hebrews 10:11-14).	Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's presence with man (John 1:14).	Jesus said: "I am the light of the world..." (John 8:12).	Although Purim is not mentioned in the New Testament, God's provision in Messiah is the ultimate intervention in human affairs.
Spiritual renewal comes through daily repentance. Listen for the call of the shofar (trumpet) at the coming of Messiah – be prepared for His return (Matthew 24:31; 1 John 3:2-3).	The death of Jesus tore down the veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies (Hebrews 10:19-20). Therefore, we are forgiven and have access to God as never before (Romans 5:1).	This Festival will be observed in the Kingdom (Zechariah 14:16-19). It points to the day when the presence of God will tabernacle with humanity forever (Revelation 21:3).	The Spirit of God now dwells in those who trust in the Lord. Therefore, our lives should reveal His presence (Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Hebrews 9:11-14).	Trust in the Lord in adversity (Matthew 10:18ff).

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