

# God's Calendar

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Leviticus 23.

B. The Old Testament feasts were precisely laid out because they were on God's calendar or program of events.

C. God is moving along in His program as planned.

D. The feasts were not mere holidays but they were designed to teach a truth that God wanted to impart to His people—a basic truth that humanity needs to know.

## II. The Sabbath.

A. God created the Sabbath for man.

B. Sabbath means rest and is a reference to the secret of life—man was meant to operate out of rest. (Hebrews 4)

1. Everything does not depend on you.

2. You observe the Sabbath when you depend on God to accomplish what you must.

## III. The Passover.

A. This was the beginning of the year for God's people.

B. The Passover was God's graphic way of teaching that the basis of salvation is rest in someone else's labor to solve the problem of our inherent evil.

C. Christ is the ultimate Passover dying in our place.

## IV. Feast of the Unleavened Bread.

A. Leaven is a symbol of that which swells the head up—there is a principle within us that wants to be self-sufficient.

B. There are several forms of leaven.

1. Hypocrisy—that is, pretending.

2. Rationalism—the feeling that everything is natural.

3. Materialism—living for pleasure, status and prestige.

## V. The Feast of First Fruits.

- A. Christ is the first fruits of the harvest. (I Corinthians 15)
- B. The nature of God's work is life out of death.
- C. This was to take place on Sunday—the day of resurrection.

#### VI. Pentecost.

- A. It was fifty days after the Feast of the Unleavened.
- B. This marks the giving of the Spirit—a beginning of a new work where Gentiles and Jews are united and where the Holy Spirit takes up residence in people still sinful.
- C. After Pentecost there was to be an open door to the Gentiles.

#### VII. The Feast of Trumpets.

- A. This is yet to be fulfilled.
- B. This describes how the world is to end—with a time of terrible trouble.
- C. The next event in God's program is the sounding of a trumpet and the Coming of the Son of God where all are gathered.
- D. There will then be one final gathering after this.

#### VIII. The Day of Atonement.

- A. It is to be a time of self-judgment—affliction of spirit.
- B. It is described in detail in Zechariah 14 for the Jews.
- C. For the Christian, this comes at the judgment seat of Christ.

#### IX. The Feast of Booths.

- A. This pictures the Millennium where all is restored.
- B. Rejoicing will be the whole experience of men on the earth.
- C. The secret is the return of the nation of Israel. (Romans 11)
- D. God is at work to bring us along this pathway.
  - 1. The worst form of evil is self-righteousness.
  - 2. God will find some way to bring us before Him with no merit of our own resulting in joy within ourselves.

**Application questions:**

1. What kind of leaven threatens a congregation? Where have you seen this in your own life?

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2. Trace God's program through the feasts—how is the gospel, God's good news demonstrated through the program in total?

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3. How does God combat the self-righteousness of man through His program? Explain.

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