



PARASHAT EMOR

פרשת אמור

Leviticus 21:1-24:23

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

## The Seven Feasts of YHVH

### Great Discoveries In This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 21:1 Laws of the Holiness for the Priests
- 22:1 Respecting the Set-Apart Things of YHVH; Who May Eat the Offerings
- 22:19 Animals to Be Offered Are to Be Defect-Free
- 23:1 Sacred Festivals/Set-Apart Times
- 23:3 Shabbat (Sabbath)
- 23:4 Pesach (Passover)
- 23:9 The Omer ([Barley] Sheaf)
- 23:15 The Omer Count and Shavuot (Pentecost or Feast of Weeks)
- 23:23 Yom Teruah (Day of Trumpets)
- 23:26 Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
- 23:33 Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret (Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day)
- 24:1 The Menorah: To Be Kept Burning With Pure, Pressed, Clear Olive Oil Perpetually
- 24:5 The Showbread: Two Stacks of Six Loaves Replaced Each Shabbat Perpetually
- 24:10 The Blasphemer: A Rebellious Son Blasphemes the Name of YHVH and Is Stoned
- 24:17 The Penalty for Hurting Someone Else: An Eye for an Eye, Tooth for Tooth, etc.

### Exploring This Week's Parashah

#### 1 Why Study and Celebrate the Feasts of YHVH?

YHVH's seven yearly feasts are like anniversaries of important historical events that happened to Israel—YHVH's people—in the past. Studying these things help us to understand our own spiritual journey (1 Corinthians 10:1-6,11).

The feasts also point/ed to future events that are/were yet to happen (Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 10:1). For example, Passover reminded the Israelites of the time in Egypt when they put the blood of the sacrificed lamb on the door posts of their homes and the death angel passed over them. But it also pointed to the time when Yeshua, the "Lamb" of Elohim, would die on the cross shedding his blood for our sins, so that we would not have to die for our own sins.

In general, the spring feasts (Passover, Unleavened Bread and Pentecost) were fulfilled by the events surrounding Yeshua's first coming two thousands years ago. Likewise, the fall feasts (Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles, the Eighth Day) prophetically (something that points to future events) point to events that will happen before, during and after Yeshua's second coming.

All the biblical feasts point to Yeshua. The name Yeshua means "salvation" and the feasts represent the spiritual steps that we must take to go from being a sinner to becoming a saint. For example:

- **Passover** (Pesach) points to our being saved from our sins by the blood of Yeshua the Lamb of Elohim that he shed when he died on the cross.
- **The Feast of Unleavened Bread** (Hag HaMatzot) points to our need to leave the sinfulness of spiritual "Egypt" (or this world) and to put sin out of our lives.
- **The Feast of Weeks** or Pentecost (Shavuot) shows us that by following YHVH's teachings and instructions in righteousness (his Torah) we will not sin, and by being empowered by Elohim's Spirit living in our hearts and minds, we will have the strength and ability to follow his Torah-laws and to not sin.
- **The Day of Trumpets/Shofar Blasts** or Day of the Awakening Blast (Yom Teruah) teaches us that Yeshua is coming again and we need to get ready for him. At his second coming, the saints will be resurrected and will receive their glorified spirit-bodies.
- **The Day of Atonement** (Yom Kippur) points to the actual day when Yeshua will return to this earth and judge his enemies (all those who are living on the earth at the time and refuse to submit to him).
- **The Feast of Tabernacles** (Hag HaSukkot) points to the one thousand year-long period (after the second coming of Yeshua) called the Millennium where Yeshua will rule over this earth, and when he, along with the saints who will be kings and priest, will teach the people of earth the ways of YHVH.
- **The Eighth Day** (Shemini Atzeret) points to the time at the end of the Millennium when the New Jerusalem will descend from heaven and when glorified men will live with YHVH in that spiritual city from heaven forever.

The Scriptures call the feasts "appointed times" that the people of YHVH are commanded to observe. They are times when YHVH will meet with his people (Leviticus 23:1-2, 4). It is at these festivals or commanded assemblies that YHVH teaches his people about his wonderful plan of salvation or redemption of the world through Yeshua the Messiah.

The feasts are in the Bible, which is the inspired Word of Elohim (2 Timothy 3:16), and man is commanded to obey everything in the Word of Elohim (Matthew 4:4).

The feasts give us a physical pattern on earth of spiritual things that are in heaven (Hebrews 8:1-2, 5; 9:8-9, 23; Exodus 25:8-9, 40; 26:30; Numbers 8:4; Ezekiel 43:1-6, 10-12). We as



Happy Anniversary!

physical beings need physical examples to follow (like the feasts) to help us to understand spiritual truths (1 Corinthians 2:9-13).

## 2 YHVH's Seven Feasts: A More Detailed Look

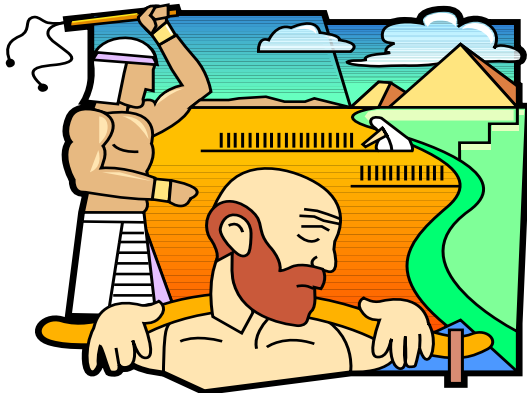
As we have mentioned above, YHVH's seven feasts are related to the seven steps you and I must take to enter into a blessed and eternal (forever) parent-child relationship with YHVH Elohim—our Creator and Heavenly Father. Knowing and following YHVH will result in a blessed and abundant life during your time as a physical human on this earth. More importantly, understanding and keeping the feasts will lead to eternal life in YHVH's spiritual kingdom, which will last forever. Understanding each of the seven feasts, like following the clues on a map that leads to a chest of buried treasure, will help lead you to a place in YHVH's kingdom in the New Jerusalem in the New Heaven and New Earth.



### 1) Passover (Pesach)

The first feast or step in YHVH's plan of salvation is Pesach, which occurs in the early spring of the year when the earth is awakening after the long and dead winter season.

At the time when the flowers were beginning to bloom and the leaves were sprouting on the trees in the early spring, the birth of the nation of Israel was occurring long ago. The children of Israel had been enslaved in Egypt for many years, and they could not free themselves from the death grip of Pharaoh and his armies. YHVH heard the Israelites' cries of anguish, and told them to kill a lamb and smear its blood on the door posts of their homes if they wanted to be saved from YHVH's judgment against the sinful Egyptians. The Israelites had faith in YHVH's promise and obeyed him. On Passover,



YHVH brought judgment upon the Egyptians when he went throughout the land of Egypt killing their firstborn. However, when he would see the blood on the Israelites' door posts he would "pass over" their homes and spare them from his judgment against sin.

Though the Israelites were just as sinful as the Egyptians and like their slave masters also deserved to die for their sins, YHVH had mercy and grace on them because of the lamb's blood, while the Egyptians suffered YHVH's judgment against sin because they were not "under" the blood of the lamb.

With Egypt all but destroyed due to YHVH's judgments, Israel was free to leave that heathen nation. This is a picture of the spiritual journey you and I are on in our trek out of our spiritual Egypt of this world.

Spiritually one must leave sinfulness, which is represented by Egypt and is a place of spiritual oppression and slavery, death, darkness, paganism and false religion. The world is the realm or kingdom of Satan, who is the prince of death. One cannot leave the kingdom of darkness on one's own strength. All humans will die in their sins unless someone who has defeated sin and death delivers us. One cannot free oneself from slavery to lust, greed, addictions, anger, pride, fear and the love of money by one's own strength. A greater power than these must deliver us from these sins that keep humans in its death grip.

The lamb whose blood was smeared on the Israelites' doors causing the YHVH to pass over the Israelites' homes is a prophetic picture of Yeshua's death on the cross. When

we have faith in his shed blood and accept the fact that he paid the death penalty price for our sins, we can be delivered from the power of death, sin, the devil and the world (Colossians 2:12-15).

After the first Passover, it was time for the newly freed Israelites to leave Egypt. This takes us to the next step along the path of salvation.

## 2) Days of Unleavened Bread (Hag HaMatzot)

The Israelites left Egypt on the first day of this seven-day long festival. Leaving Egypt was a relatively simple process, but now began the process of "getting the sinfulness of Egypt out of their hearts and minds."

Israel had been enslaved in Egypt for generations. They acted like Egyptians, looked like them, thought like them, dressed and ate like them and had the same values. But now that YHVH had delivered Israel from Egypt, it was time to leave that pagan nation behind along with all of its ungodly ways. Israel had to become the people of YHVH, which meant they had to become different from the pagan society of which they had previously been a part and to which they had been enslaved. Now Israel was a free people—free to serve YHVH and to experience the life of freedom that obeying him offered. They no longer had to be slaves to sin, for now they could follow the righteous laws of Elohim, which would show them how to live without sinning.



For you and me, Israel's leaving Egypt is a picture of our being saved by the blood of Yeshua, the Lamb of Elohim, and coming out of the world or leaving worldly ways and lifestyles. As Israel had to become a new and set-apart (holy) people to YHVH by leaving the worldly and pagan ways of Egypt, so we must do the same. When we become YHVH's people we become a new spiritual person in him (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20), and we must leave our worldly, carnal and ungodly ways. This is called dying to self and involves overcoming all the

sinful habits in our lives, which can be a life-long process. This is what we mean when we say "putting Egypt or the world or sinfulness (pictured by leaven) out of us (the spiritual houses of our lives)."

Getting rid of the sin in our lives is illustrated during this feast by YHVH's command to remove all the physical leavening from our homes. Leavening is a type of sin and pride, since yeast or leavening causes bread to rise and to puff up. The sin of pride and hypocrisy leads one to believe that one is a good person when in reality he is a sinner on the path to death and separation from YHVH.

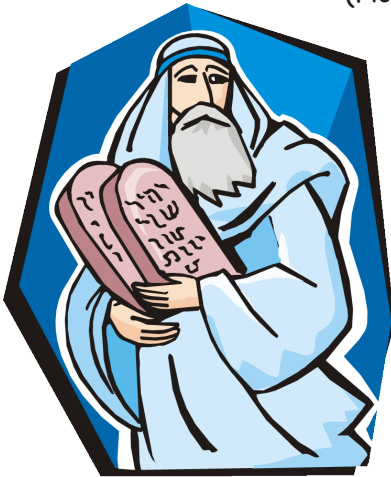
Searching for all the leavening (bread crumbs, etc) in all the nooks and crannies of our homes, and then putting it in the garbage can or burning it is a picture of how we are to search for all the sin in our lives and to remove it far away.

But we cannot get rid of some sin easily. We have grown used to it being in our lives. Sometimes the sin is in how we think, feel, or how we talk and act. These habits and thought patterns are not always easy to get rid of. We need help from above to accomplish this difficult task. This takes us to the next step in our walk.

## 3) The Feast of Weeks, Feast of the Harvest of First Fruits or Pentecost (Shavuot)

This is the third of the seven festivals of YHVH and occurs in the late spring of the year.

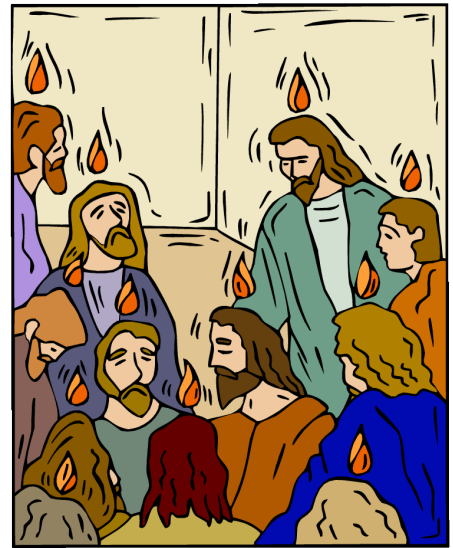
Humans are not able to remove sin from their own lives by their own efforts anymore than one can pull oneself up by one's own bootstraps. Sin is too much a part of our mind, will and emotions. Therefore, we need the powerful help of YHVH's Set-Apart (Holy) Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) in our lives to bring hidden sin to light



and to help us to overcome it. The Ruach will help to transform our hearts and minds so that we WANT TO obey YHVH more than we want to sin. How does this occur? It is a miracle that YHVH does in our hearts and minds by his Spirit when we put our trusting faith in Yeshua.

But we have to do our part also. He didn't just bring his people out of Egypt and expect them to wander aimlessly in the wilderness only to die there. He brought them out of the sinfulness of Egypt to be his set-apart (holy/kadosh) people. To be YHVH's people, they had to follow his instructions in righteousness (YHVH's Torah), learn his ways and his laws so that they wouldn't sin. YHVH led Israel out of Egypt and brought them to Mount Sinai where he gave them his Torah—his instructions in righteousness, his Word of life.

We too must learn the Word of YHVH and little-by-little bring our lives into agreement with that Word or with the life of Yeshua—the Word of YHVH made flesh (John 1:14; Romans 8:29). This is pictured by the children of Israel receiving YHVH's words or instructions on how to live a holy or sanctified life (by following YHVH instructions contained in the Torah-law) at Mount Sinai during the Feast of Weeks. This was repeated in the time of Yeshua's disciples on the Day of Pentecost as Yeshua promised to send the Comforter (the Set-Apart Spirit) to live inside of believers helping them to live godly lives and aiding them at arriving at the truth of YHVH (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). This promise was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost/Feast of Weeks in Acts 2.



Additionally, the Set-Apart Spirit came upon Yeshua's early followers to bless them with divine gifts and miraculous power so that they would have supernatural help to be able go into all the world and to preach the gospel, to advance the kingdom of heaven, to make disciples and to gather in the lost sheep of the house of Israel. What was that kingdom of Elohim that the disciples were preaching? It was the message that YHVH is establishing his kingdom upon this earth in the hearts of his people one person at a time. Yeshua is the Ruler over that kingdom and is King of kings and Lord of lords with the resurrected saints of Yeshua being kings and priests under him.

This sets the stage for the next step in the plan of salvation for mankind. The redeemed (saved) of Yeshua must prepare for Yeshua's return to this earth and the establishment of his world-ruling kingdom during the Millennium.

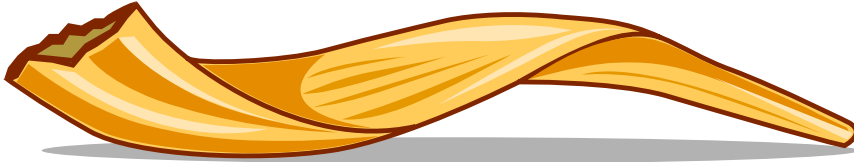
#### 4) The Day of the Awakening Blast (Yom Teruah or commonly called Rosh Hoshana)

This is the fourth feast of YHVH Elohim and hence the fourth step in his plan of salvation.

Yom Teruah occurs in the late summer or early fall season of the year. The three spring

feasts all relate to the work Yeshua accomplished on the earth at his first coming, while the fall feasts (of which Yom Teruah is the first) picture the work he will do on earth prior to and after his second coming.

The days leading up to this feast picture the beginning of the great tribulation (a time of great trials and suffering for all humans) that is to come upon this earth just before the return of Yeshua the Messiah. The tribulation will help to prepare the saints for their coming Messiah by causing their hearts to become totally focused on Yeshua. This will be a time when worldly or lukewarm believers will have to choose whether to follow and to obey Yeshua and his Torah with their whole hearts or not.



On the actual Day of the Awakening Blast, if our understanding is correct, the righteous dead will come back to life (called the resurrection

of the dead) and the saints who are alive will receive their glorified spirit bodies at the sound of the last trumpet or shofar blast and meet Yeshua in heaven, where they will prepare to return with him to this earth (1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Revelation 11:14-18 and 12:10).

But the big event has not happened yet—the second coming. That's the next step.

#### 5) The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

This fifth of the seven festivals of YHVH occurs ten days after the Day of the Awakening Blast.

This day pictures when the end of the world as we now know it (at the end of man's 6000 years upon earth where he has been living in sin and rebellion against YHVH) will come to an end. This is the time when YHVH pours out his final punishment (called the wrath of Elohim, or the great and terrible day of YHVH) upon the wicked and godless sinners who have refused to repent of their sins and follow the Elohim of the Bible and his Son, Messiah Yeshua. This period will end with the famous Battle of Armageddon at which time Yeshua the Messiah the Conquering King will return to earth accompanied by his saints to defeat his enemies. After this, he will set up his kingdom upon the earth for 1000 years (the Millennium). All men will follow Torah and worship YHVH-Elohim or be punished. During this time, Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit.

But what happens at the end of the thousand years? What do the saints have to look forward to after that?

#### 6) The Feast of Tabernacles/Booths (Sukkot or Succot)

This festival of YHVH occurs in the early fall of the year after the fall harvest has been gathered in. This points to the fact that many people will be saved just before and during the 1000-year long Millennium and will be "harvested" into YHVH's kingdom to become his spiritual sons and daughters.

This festival is a time of great rejoicing and merriment and is often referred to simply as "the feast." YHVH commanded his people to celebrate it for seven days. It is a picture of the 1000 year reign of King Yeshua on earth (called the Messianic Age or Millennium) from his headquarters in Jerusalem. This will be literally a time of paradise



on earth.

### 7) The Eighth Day (Shemini Atzeret)

This is the seventh and final feast of YHVH and occurs the very next day after the last or seventh day of Sukkot.

Eight is the biblical number of new beginnings and this day pictures what occurs after the Messianic Age or Millennium and after man's 7000 years on this earth. It is at this time that eternity (life forever) in YHVH's kingdom begins. This is the time of the New Heaven and the New Earth; the time when New Jerusalem comes down from heaven. We find this time period described in Revelation 21 and 22.

Scripture does not give many details about eternity but just enough to make it look really good so that we will want to be a part of YHVH's forever spiritual kingdom. That is why we need to press onward and to overcome sin with Yeshua's help so that we will be deemed worthy to be participants in his glorious and everlasting kingdom.



This will literally be a time of heaven on earth and will last forever and ever with YHVH Elohim and gloried spirit men living in perfect harmony and love together.

## 3 Let's Dig into Leviticus 23



(a) Scripture uses the term "feasts of YHVH" in Leviticus 23:2 and 4. To whom therefore do the feasts belong and from whom did they come: YHVH or the Jews?

The word for feast is the Hebrew word "moed" or for feasts (plural) it is "moedim." Scripture refers to the feasts/moedim of YHVH as being "in their season, which means they are "appointed times." An appointed time is something you have to do—you have to be there, since YHVH has commanded it.



(b) Read Leviticus 23:1-4. What does YHVH command his people to do with regard to his moedim?

The meaning of this word is telling us that YHVH's feasts fall on specific days each season and each year. This means that YHVH, not men, determines when they are to be, and that they are to be according to YHVH's divine biblical calendar, not some man-made calendar. Moed also means that YHVH's feasts are times for meetings. In a sense, they are like birthdays or anniversaries that occur each year at the same time and involve people getting together to meet and celebrate something. As we learned above, YHVH's feasts are not just anniversaries of things that happened long ago, but are anniversaries of things that are yet to come. For example, The Day of the Awakening Blast is like celebrating a future birthday of the saints of YHVH, for it is on this day that they will be resurrected and receive their glorified spirit bodies.



(c) What are we to do on YHVH's feasts? Read Leviticus 23:2 and 3 where you will find words like "holy convocation." In the Hebrew, these two words mean "a divine

appointment, summons or invitation, a sacred or commanded assembly." Who is offering the invitation to these appointed times: man or YHVH? Who is ordering us to come to or summoning us to a commanded assembly or meeting: man or YHVH? YHVH is commanding man to keep these feasts at the right time and the right place. If the Creator of the universe tells us to do something, do you think it might be a good idea to obey him?

There is another word that Scripture uses to describe many of YHVH's feasts. It is the Hebrew words "chag" or "chagag." In our English Bibles, these two related words are usually translated as "feast/s" also, so it is easy to confuse them with the Hebrew word moed. Moed and chag are, however, separate words with different meanings. You will find these two words (chag and chagag) in Exodus 12:14; 13:6; 23:15; Leviticus 23:6 in reference to Passover to Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost and Tabernacle in Exodus 23:14; to Pentecost and Tabernacles in Exodus 23:15, and to Tabernacles in Leviticus 23:34,39. The word chag is a fun word and comes from the Hebrew word chagag. These two words are related to each other in the same way that our English word dancing or dancers come from the word dance. Chag and chagag literally mean "to go somewhere to a special place and to celebrate by dancing joyfully in a circle."



**(d)** What does this tell you about how YHVH's feasts should be kept and what mood his people are to be in during these times?



**(e)** Are the feasts something that YHVH's people no longer need to celebrate? For how long did YHVH expect his people to keep his feasts? (Read Leviticus 23:14,21,31,41.) What does the word "forever" mean? The commands to keep YHVH's feasts are found in the Torah (Genesis to Deuteronomy), which is called "the law." What did Yeshua tell his disciples and followers in Matthew 5:17-19 about the commands in the law? Yeshua said,

"Think not that I am come to destroy the Torah, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Are you a disciple or follower of Yeshua? If so, then are YHVH's feasts for you? Also what did Yeshua say about those who love him? (Read John 14:15.) "Commandments" in biblical Hebraic thought is always a reference to YHVH's Torah.



**(f)** What are some things YHVH commands his people to do and NOT to do on his set-apart feasts? Can we work at our jobs on YHVH's feasts? (Read Leviticus 23:7,8,21,25,28,30,31,35,36.)

Scripture calls YHVH's feasts "Sabbaths," since they are similar to the weekly, seventh-day Sabbath in that we are not to work on these days, but are to focus our attention on seeking YHVH and meeting together with other followers of YHVH to learn about him and to worship him. (Read Exodus 31:13; Leviticus 19:3,30; 26:2.)



**(g)** Did the believers after the time of Yeshua celebrate YHVH's feasts? Read the following passage:

- Acts 2:1 — Feast of Weeks/Pentecost
- Acts 18:21 — a reference to either Passover/Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, or Tabernacles
- Acts 20:6 — Unleavened Bread



- Acts 20:16 — Pentecost
- 1Corinthians 5:7-8 — Unleavened Bread
- Acts. 27:29 — the Day of Atonement
- Acts 21:24 — Paul faithfully kept YHVH's Torah-law, which includes YHVH's feasts.

