

Marking Time by Remembering the Appointed Time

Leviticus 23:1-44

January 26, 2014

Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

- A. Children's Sermon: Times – Day, Year, Week
- B. **Purification** (Lev. 11-16); **Consecration** (Lev. 17-22); **Communion** (Lev. 23-27)
- C. Annual Sacred Assemblies (Lev. 23)

Leviticus 23:1, 44

¹ *The Lord spoke to Moses*, saying... (5X)

⁴⁴ *Thus Moses declared* to the people of Israel the appointed feasts of the Lord.

HCSB Study Bible – Lev. 23:1- 44

“God set aside a sacred period that included festivals and holy days ... These special days would ... help them remember His acts of creation, deliverance, protection, and provision.”

Key Idea

God appointed feasts and holy days to remind Israel of His acts of creation, deliverance, protection, and provision; and to announce Jesus to them.

II. The Four Main Themes in the Chapter

- A. Feasts/Times? (Tent of Meeting)

Leviticus 23:2

“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the **appointed feasts** (times) **of the LORD** that you shall proclaim as *holy convocations*; they are my **appointed feasts** (times; word for “feasts” e.g. v.6).

Genesis 1:14

And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years...”

Word Biblical Commentary - “a time holding special significance.”

B. "...of the LORD" (set *by*... or set *for*)

C. "Holy Convocations"/"Sacred Assemblies"

HCSB Study Bible – Lev. 23:2

"The expression sacred assemblies occurs 11 times in chapter 23 and 8 times elsewhere in the Torah. A sacred assembly was a time during which the people were to lay aside their usual work to focus on the worship of Yahweh. The eight days that were designated sacred assemblies were the first and seventh days of Unleavened Bread (Lv 23:7- 8), the Festival of Weeks (v. 21), the first day of the seventh month (v. 24), the Day of Atonement (v. 27), the first and eighth days of Booths (v. 35- 36), and the Sabbath."

D. The Sabbath "Rest"

Leviticus 23:3–4

³ "Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a **Sabbath** of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath *to the Lord* in *all your dwelling places*."

⁴ "***These are the appointed feasts*** (times) of the Lord, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them."

1. Creation "Rest"
2. New Creation

III. The Appointed Times of the LORD (Part 1)

A. Rescue/New Creation (Lev. 23:5–8)

Leviticus 23:5–6

⁵ In the ***first month***, on the *fourteenth day* of the month at twilight, is the Lord's **Passover**. ⁶ And on the *fifteenth day* of the same month is the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** to the Lord; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. ... (no ordinary work)

HCSB Study Bible – Lev 23:5

"The Passover was celebrated in the first month, Abib (later called Nisan; March- April)."

1. Exodus (Angel of Death; Break with Past)
2. Cross (Death of Jesus; New Creation)

B. The Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9–14)

Leviticus 23:10–11

“...*When you come into the land that I give you* and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the **firstfruits** of your harvest to the priest,¹¹ and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may be accepted. **On the day after the Sabbath** the priest shall wave it. ... (Burt offering; Grain Offering X2; No Eating)

1. “Firstfruit” of God’s Promised Provision
2. Resurrection

“It is of profound significance that the Lord Jesus Christ, who died at the time of the Passover, rose from the dead on ‘**the day after the Sabbath**’ to become the ‘first fruits’ of those who sleep in Jesus (1 Cor. 15:20).”¹ (Bold Mine)

1 Corinthians 15:20

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the *firstfruits* of those who have fallen asleep.

IV. Application

- A. The Appointed Times Point to the Appointed Time

John 13:1

Now before the Feast of the *Passover*, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father...

- B. Marking Time Like Christians

“We will define our time by some system. The year is an inescapable year. Who is the Lord over it? How do we mark our days? Because we live in time, the rhythms of that time will either be Christian or not. To reject the one is to embrace the other.”²

¹ **Eveson, P. H.** (2007). *The Beauty of Holiness: The Book of Leviticus Simply Explained*. Welwyn Commentary Series (318). Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

² **Wilson, Douglas** (2012-11-16). *God Rest Ye Merry: Why Christmas is the Foundation for Everything* (Kindle Locations 839-841). . Kindle Edition.

1. The Lord's Day

“The Sabbath is not Sunday. Sunday is a day set aside to commemorate the beginning of the new creation with the resurrection of Christ. This is why from the days of the early church it was called “the Lord's day.” And while the early church met frequently and whenever possible during the week, including attending synagogue services and temple festivals, it eventually became practical to set a specific time for believers in Jesus to meet to exercise corporate memory and share the faith or to participate in the means of grace (Hartley, 394).”³

2. The Christian Calendar

C. Jesus is Our Sabbath Rest (The Law was a Schoolmaster)

Hebrews 4:8–10

⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a ***Sabbath rest*** for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

Colossians 2:16–17

¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a ***festival*** or a new moon or a ***Sabbath***. ¹⁷ *These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.*

Key Idea

We enter God's rest, God's feast by remembering and believing in the savior He sent.

³ **Ross, A. P.** (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (405). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.