

Message #43**Leviticus 23:26-44**

It has been accurately observed that the mystery of the N.T. Church Age is not seen any place in the O.T. This is absolutely true. However, if one carefully reads Leviticus 23, one realizes that there was something sacred about the “first day” of the week (23:7, 11, 16, **35, 36, 39**).

HOLY, GODLY PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE WHO WORSHIP GOD ON HIS PRESCRIBED DAYS IN HIS PRESCRIBED WAYS.

One cannot be holy in God’s estimation by worshipping the way he wants, when he wants. To be holy requires worshipping God on God’s terms, not our terms.

We are losing some of the sacredness of the first day of the week.

The holier we become, the more serious we will be about worship on the first day of the week.

WORSHIP DAY #1 – The Day of Atonement . **23:26-32**

Fact #1 – The Day of Atonement was celebrated on an exact day. **23:27a**

This day was not left up for grabs; it was to be celebrated on exactly the 10th day of the seventh month. R. Laird Harris says there seems to be no good reason why this particular day was chosen, other than it was the day selected by God (p. 628).

Fact #2 – The Day of Atonement was to be a day of holy convocation for God’s people. **23:27b**

It was a day when they would assemble themselves together to focus on the holy things of God.

Fact #3 – The Day of Atonement was a day for God’s people to humble their souls.
23:27c, 29, 32

This was not to be a day when people focused arrogantly on themselves, but a day to focus humbly on God. So many people go to church thinking what I can get out of this, when they ought to be thinking this is a day to truly focus my attention on God, not me.

Fact #4 – The Day of Atonement was a day that featured the presentation of an offering. **23:27d**

This was a burnt offering for atonement for sin. It was carefully described in Leviticus 16.

The only way one is able to worship God is through a blood sacrifice.

Fact #5 – The Day of Atonement was a day that emphatically stressed no work. **23:28, 31, 32**

One must wonder why there is such an intense emphasis on the fact that there was to be no work? **The reason is because God is demanding that His people realize that sins are not atoned for by works, but by blood.**

Fact #6 – The Day of Atonement featured serious warning. **23:29-30**

(Warning #1) – If one did not humble himself, he would be cut off. **23:29**

If a person refuses to humble himself to God, he will eventually lose.

(Warning #2) – If one does any work, he will be destroyed. **23:30**

Let me say this another way—if a person does not cease from relying upon his works for salvation, he will burn in hell.

Fact #7 – The Day of Atonement is always and forever a day of complete rest. **23:31-32**

The day of your salvation is the day you completely trust in and rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ to save you.

WORSHIP DAY #2 – The festival of Booths. **23:33-44**

The Festival of Booths was a festival established by God that required the Israelites to make tent-like booths out of leaves and branches of trees and live in them for one week, reflecting on the fact that God was the One who brought Israel out of Egypt to a promised land. It was a festival in which God's people specifically reflected on the wonderful blessings of God. In fact, of all the festivals, this is the **only** one that was a festival of rejoicing (**Lev. 23:40**).

Fact #1 – It was to begin on a specific day—the 15th of the seventh month. **23:34a**

Fact #2 – It was a day of holy convocation. **23:35a**

Fact #3 – It was to be a festival of no laborious work. **23:35b** – Emphasis on the pure grace of God.

Fact #4 – It was a festival that featured offerings every day. **23:36-38** – Seven straight days of offerings and more on the eighth day.

Fact #5 – It was a festival that occurred after the crops and fruit had been gathered. **23:39**
Rejoicing comes when one realizes the blessings of God.

Fact #6 – On the first day of the festival, the booths were to be built from leafy trees and branches. **23:40** – These principles are still taught in the mountain survival courses.

Fact #7 – This festival was to be celebrated throughout all generations of Israel. **23:41-44**

Israel has not done this. She has flat out rebelled against this feast. There were times in Scripture when it was celebrated, during the days of Ezra and Nehemiah (Ezra 3:4; Neh. 8:14-17). There will come a day when Israel will celebrate this in the Millennium (Zech. 14:16, 18, 19). But for now she lives in rebellion. How about us? Are we serious about God's special worship days?