
THE MYSTERIES OF GOD

OVERVIEW OF THE FESTIVALS

Beginning a new Bible study is always exciting! We are thrilled to have you along on this journey. The process of learning can bring transformation to your life and create a longing and hunger to know more intimately the God of all Creation. Within the ancient festivals you will be challenged with learning a truth so thrilling that it could change your relationship with the LORD.

At times, when the material is new to you, a study may seem difficult and a bit overwhelming. It reminds us of the Israelites following God in the wilderness as they grumbled to Moses about bringing them into the desert to “starve this entire assembly to death.” They cried out to Moses, and God gave them manna from heaven. Each morning the hungry wanderers went out and gathered their daily portion. Scripture tells us that some gathered little and others gathered much, but at the end of the day each had received just the right portion. So, each day let God’s Word be like a precious gem discovered, and let it become your daily portion of manna. Whether you gather little or you gather much, God can make each portion just the right amount.

You will see from the ancient writings that the festivals were intricately designed for all God’s people. They can renew your passion and covenant relationship with Him. Just as you remember and celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and holidays with family and friends, so too, you will see how God has ordained special days to write on your calendar.

Week 1

Memory Verse for the Week

“All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Day 1

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A JOURNEY INTO THE FESTIVALS OF THE LORD

To have a more meaningful time of discovery in God’s Word, it is crucial that the dividing line between the Old and New Testament is dissolved. Therefore, you can begin to see Jesus from the very beginning to the very end—from Genesis to Revelation.

1. Write out the foundational truth from John 1:1-3.

We pray that God will reveal Himself to you so you will know without a doubt that Jesus the Messiah is the fulfillment of all God’s plans and intentions. Before you continue, take a moment to ask the Father to make known His special message to you.

► **Prayer for the day:**

Father, You are the Architect of divine revelation. I know You have given me all good things to learn in your amazing Word. Remind me throughout the day that all You have written in Your Word is for my benefit. Open my eyes to what You want to teach me in Your festivals and give me passion to seek You in a deeper way. Amen.

**Week 1 • Day 1**

If you were a Jewish child you would learn from the time you were little that God created the whole world from His Word—known as the Torah. The Torah (pronounced toe'-raw) is the first five books of the Old Testament and is also called the books of Moses. Torah scholars in Israel say it is actually called "The Way," as it contains "The Way" to live. Moses received these most holy words from God while on the Mountain of God, Mount Sinai. As you study the festivals you will be exploring God's Torah:

| Book | Hebrew Name | Meaning |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Genesis | B'reisheet | in the beginning |
| Exodus | Sh'mot | these are the names |
| Leviticus | VaYikra | and He called |
| Numbers | B'Midbar | in the wilderness |
| Deuteronomy | D'varim | these are the words |

The children learn and understand that God used the Hebrew alphabet to form the world and each letter was important in His design. Every word and every nuance is imperative to know and understand. In Hebrew each letter has three aspects: a sound, a number, and a musical note. Now think about this—*God could have sung the universe into existence through the combination of those letters and notes!*

2. What does Matthew 5:18 say about the incredible value God places on each letter and stroke of His Word?
 - a. What do you think this verse means even for us today?

As you delve into this exciting study it will help you to remember that the depth of God's Truth is greater than you could ever imagine. As it unfolds, you will see how the Word of God is like layers just waiting to be peeled back. Every word has a meaning, every letter an assignment.

History and prophecy hold hands to paint the picture of God's redemption plan for mankind. Let's begin by looking at what the Word says about His set dates and times.

3. What does God say about His appointed times in Ecclesiastes 3:1, 14?

Each of the seven yearly festivals ordained in Leviticus 23 unfold at the appointed time of God, revealing His prophetic and redemptive events that lead to the fulfillment of Messiah's first and second coming. This reason alone is enough for studying and understanding the festivals of the LORD, but through these mysteries He also provides the way to live, honor and worship Him in obedience and truth.



4. List the festivals in Leviticus 23 and write one or two unique points about each.

Celebrated Weekly:

a. Verse 3

Celebrated Yearly:

b. Verses 4-5

c. Verses 6-8

d. Verses 9-14

e. Verses 15-22

f. Verses 23-25

g. Verses 26-32

h. Verses 33-44

Week 1 • Day 1

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OF GOD

Historic and Messianic Application of the Feasts

| Feasts | Historical application | Messianic application |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Pesach/Passover | Israel's deliverance out of Egyptian bondage | Death of Jesus on the Cross |
| 2. Hag Hamatzah/ Unleavened Bread | Crossing the Red Sea and destruction of the enemy | The Burial of Jesus |
| 3. Bikkurim/First Fruits | Victory over the enemy | Resurrection of Jesus |
| 4. Shavuot/Pentecost | Giving the Torah (the Law) on Mount Sinai | Pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2) |
| 5. Yom T'ruah/Trumpets | Blowing the Shofar/Jewish New Year–Repentance | The possible Rapture of believers |
| 6. Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement | High Priest enters the Holy of Holies | The closing of the gates; Messiah's possible Second Coming/Judgment of the Nations |
| 7. Sukkot /Tabernacles | Remembrance of the wilderness journey and joyful thanksgiving for the bountiful harvest safely gathered in | The Messianic Era/Marriage Supper of the Lamb/ Millennium |

**Week 1 • Day 1**

The festivals are appointed times or seasons (*moed*), sacred assemblies, holy rehearsals and festive celebrations planned and prepared by God. He refers to them as "Mine," "My appointed times" and "The LORD'S feasts." These very special days on God's calendar are crucial to understand as they are both historic and prophetic. You will see through this study that the first four festivals have already been prophetically fulfilled and the last three are awaiting God's fulfillment.

"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope." Romans 15:4

In the Hebrew language these appointed times or festivals are called "*Qudesh Miqra*," which means "Holy Rehearsals."

5. Why are rehearsals necessary?
 - a. When does a dress rehearsal usually take place?

Think about the cost and how much goes into preparing for a very special day such as a wedding. Even a surprise birthday party takes hours of planning for every detail.

6. What are some of the important people, events or dates you celebrate?
 - a. How do you prepare for these important dates?
 - b. Why do you celebrate these?

The plan of God was laid out before the foundation of the world. Just as the dates we have set on our calendar are important to us, how much greater emphasis should be put on understanding the dates that God has set to meet with each one of us. Upon recognizing the amount of preparation we do for an earthly event, how much more do you think the LORD delights when we seek to know what He has placed in His Word? Within the inspired Scriptures, the festivals chart out the clear message of salvation and the sovereignty of God's amazing plan.