

Woodland Baptist Church
Morning Worship, April 1, 2018
The Feast of Trumpets

This morning I'd like to do something a bit different with you to celebrate Easter. I'd like you to open your Bibles to the book of Leviticus 23 and look at the Feast structure that the Lord God commanded.

When we leave today, we want to be more prepared than ever for the Second Coming of Christ. Let's prepare for this by looking at the natural order of things set by God illustrated by the Festivals.

Now we are obviously not going to read and expound the entire chapter of Leviticus 23, we simply do not have time to do that this morning. What we are going to do, is a brief survey of each Spring Festival and their significance and finish with the first fall festival, the festival of Trumpets.

First, let us hear from the mouth of Paul in his letter to Corinth.

1 Corinthians 15:3-7 - 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

When we look at Leviticus 23, we notice immediately the Sabbath Feast which happened weekly.

Sabbath Feast - this was held weekly, every seventh day. This was appointed by God during the six days of creation, on the 7th he rested, therefore setting the pattern for His creation, meaning us, to have rest. We celebrate the Sabbath. In our case as Christians, the pattern was set by our early brethren, to celebrate the first day of the week, Sunday, in honor of our Lord's resurrection from the dead. Christ taught several times in his word that he was the "Lord of the Sabbath."

Spring Feasts - 4 - Fulfilled

Passover (fulfilled Christ's Crucifixion)- we remember this feast - one of the easiest ones to remember - Israel was in bondage to Egypt in slavery; through the process of the 10 plagues, Moses delivered Israel. Most noteworthy is the 10th plague, death of the first born. The instruction was for Israel to take an unblemished lamb, slaughter it and smear the blood of the lamb over the door post of the exterior of their home and the death angel would "passover" their home.

Pointed to the Messiah as our Passover lamb ([1 Corinthians 5:7](#)) whose blood would be shed for our sins. Jesus was crucified on the day of preparation for the Passover at the same hour that the lambs were being slaughtered for the Passover meal that evening ([John 19:14](#)).

Unleavened Bread (fulfilled in Christ's sinlessness) - this feast followed immediately from Passover, which also pointed back to the exodus from Egypt, as they were instructed by God to "eat unleavened bread for seven days."

The unleavened bread pointed to the Messiah's sinless life (as leaven is a picture of sin in the Bible), making Him the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus' body was in the grave during the first days of this feast, like a kernel of wheat planted and waiting to burst forth as the bread of life.

Firstfruits (fulfilled in Christ's Resurrection) - this was a sacrifice made at the beginning of the harvest in thanksgiving to the God; the Jews were to bring the "sheaf of the first fruits of their harvest to the priest."

Pointed to the Messiah's resurrection as the first fruits of the righteous. Jesus was resurrected on this very day, which is one of the reasons that Paul refers to him in 1 Corinthians 15:20 as the "first fruits from the dead."

Weeks (Fulfilled in the Birth of the Church, Christ's Spirit) - "16 You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the Lord." This sacrifice was brought to the priest, again, in obedience and thanksgiving for the Lord's provision.

Occurred fifty days after the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and pointed to the great harvest of souls and the gift of the Holy Spirit for both Jew and Gentile, who would be brought into the kingdom of God during the Church Age (see Acts 2). The Church was actually established on this day when God poured out His Holy Spirit and 3,000 Jews responded to Peter's great sermon and his first proclamation of the gospel.

Fall Feasts - 3 - Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles

Trumpets - very simple feast as instructed in Scripture, “In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. 25 You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the Lord.”

The first of the fall feasts. Many believe this day points to the Rapture of the Church when the Messiah Jesus will appear in the heavens as He comes for His bride, the Church. The Rapture is always associated in Scripture with the blowing of a loud trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:52).

When will this happen? We do not know - but we know the signs that Jesus told us.

Matthew 24:3-14 - 3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” 4 And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58