DATES WITH GOD

Leviticus 23

Main theme: Through these Special Dates ("Moedim") on God's calendar, God expresses His sovereign plans and purposes to redeem the world through His Son.

The goal in learning about the Jewish Feasts is to connect us with:

- 1. The **JEWISH** roots of our faith.
- 2. The **JEWISH** Messiah.
- 3. The **JEWISH** people.

Spring Feasts

Jesus died on the Date of **PASSOVER**. (1 Cor. 5:7)
Jesus was raised on the Date of **FIRSTFRUITS**. (1 Cor. 15:20; Rom. 4:25)
The Holy Spirit was given on the Date of **SHAVUOT/PENTECOST**. (Acts 2)

Fall Feasts

The Date of **TRUMPETS** is associated with the Rapture of the church.

(1 Thess. 4:16-17)

The Day of **ATONEMENT** foreshadows Israel's National Salvation.

(Zech. 12-13; Rom. 11:26)

The Date of **TABERNACLES** anticipates the millennial reign of Christ.

(Zech. 14:6: Rev. 20)





FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

- 1. It's easy to miss the forest from the trees. It's easy to rush through holiday traditions and miss the meaning, the major themes. Can you think of times in your life when you went through the motions of church, holidays, and missed opportunities for fellowship with the Lord?
- 2. What is the significance of the Feasts of the Lord for Israel and the Jewish people today? Is it just Jewish culture, or is God still speaking through these dates to the Jewish people? (Luke 24:44-48; Hebrews 1:1-2).
- 3. Jesus observed the Feasts of the Lord. Is it important for Christians today to know about these Feast days? Why or why not? (Gal. 4:4-5; Luke 2:22-24; Luke 2:41-42; John 7:2,14; Luke 22:7-13; John 10:22-23; Matt. 5:17-18; John 4:22; 1 Cor. 9:19-23)
- 4. Why do you think some Christians feel threatened by observance of Jewish holidays and Jewish traditions (kosher, sabbath)? Is there a difference between Jewish believers and Gentile believers as it relates to observing the Feasts of the Lord? What are some pitfalls to avoid in relating to fellow believers who hold to different convictions regarding observance of these things? (Col. 2:16-17; Acts 15:1-35; Acts 16:1-5)
- 5. In his first coming, Jesus fulfilled the Spring Feasts (Passover, Firstfruits, and Shavuot) literally on the very dates of the Holy Days. If the Fall Feasts point to his second coming, does that mean we can know the day when Jesus will return? Why or why not? Is it important to know when the Lord will return? Why or why not? (Matt. 24:36; Acts 1:7–8; 1 Thess. 5:1–5; 1 Chronicles 12:32)
- 6. What is the theme of Trumpets? Atonement? Tabernacles? How can Christians engage with the Lord on these days? How can these holidays be used in proclaiming the gospel to our Jewish friends? (1 Cor. 9:19–23)

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now.... Come further up, come further in!"

— C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle