

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

LEVITICUS 23

There are some very important dates coming up I hope are on your calendar...

September 25 is CC Stone Mountain's 25th birthday celebration. We're going to have a big day. We'll spend both the morning and evening reflecting on God's faithfulness in the past - and His will for the future... all in a festive atmosphere.

October 22 is another important date. The World Series of MLB will begin. And the Atlanta Braves will be playing a feeble American League opponent.

On **November 11-13** the CC Marriage Conference will be held in Hiawassee.

And **December 25** is Christmas Day. You don't want to miss Christmas day!

There are few other notable days I didn't mention – *Thanksgiving, the Ladies Christmas Tea, Parkview vs. Brookwood, my daughter's birthday, etc. etc.*

But here's my point just as we've marked dates on the calendar so has God.

In Leviticus 23 God publishes His calendar. He establishes a few special days.

When God created the universe He established a continuum of space, mass, and time – *and He is Lord over all three*. He has jurisdiction over all *space*. He is sovereign over all *matter*. And God is the author of all *time*. Every second that ticks off

the clock belongs to God. And we are as responsible to Him for how we use time, as we are how we occupy space and how we employ matter.

In ancient Israel God set up signposts to remind His people of His Lordship over space, mass, and time. His Lordship over space was seen in His **ownership**. All land belonged to God. - His sovereignty over matter was seen in the **offerings**. A portion of the harvest, the material abundance, was given as an offering to the Lord. - And His Lordship over time was seen in the **observance** of holy days.

Guys, we're all living on borrowed time. Every second of your life belongs to God - and He calls us all to give back a portion of the time He's given to us.

Thus, the Hebrews were called by God to set aside various feast days to celebrate God's goodness and blessing – special days of worship and rest. And the feasts God appointed were all cyclical - they occurred at different intervals...

The **Sabbath** was a once a week celebration.

The feast of the **new moon** occurred monthly. The Jewish calendar was a lunar calendar, not a solar calendar. It was based on a 30 day cycle, and every so often an extra month was added to readjust it to our path around the sun.

There were seven annual feasts - four were in the spring, and three were in the fall of the year... The spring feasts were **Unleavened Bread – Passover - Feast of First fruits - and the Feast of Weeks**. The fall feasts included: **The Feast of**

Trumpets - the Day of Atonement - and the Feast of Tabernacles.

There were also two wintertime feasts – **Hanukah**, or Feast of Lights (which comes in December), and **Purim** (which is in our February / March). Purim springs from the days of Queen Esther - Hanukah from the time between the Old and New Testaments. Both feasts were added later by the Jews - and though they certainly give praise and thanks to God - they were not a part of God's original calendar.

In addition to the feasts there was also a **Sabbath year** - one year in seven.

And every fiftieth year also had a special significance – it was the **Jubilee**.

In 23:1-2 God prefaces all the feasts, “**And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.'**”

The Hebrew word translated “*feast*” means “*appointment*”. These were God's appointments with His people. *God blocked out His calendar for them, and He expects His people to block out their calendar for Him.* You don't snub God!

Guys, we should pull out our calendar, and set aside times that we too can spend with God... *a weekly Sabbath - meaningful holiday celebrations - timely get-aways - spiritual retreats – even an annual Bible conference.* God says to Moses, “**these are My feasts.**” When God makes an appointment with us let's keep it!

There's a saying I heard many years ago that's stuck with me. It's saved me from bouts with burn out. You'll want to write it down... **"The bow that is always bent ceases to shoot straight."** If you never relax the string - if you keep constant stress and tension on the bow it will eventually warp, and be unable to aim.

The same is true of the human psyche. Our bodies and minds and spirits need frequent intervals of rest and rejuvenation in order to operate at optimal levels.

It's now been proven medically a night's sleep alone does not meet man's need for rest. During the day our body breathes in 30 ounces of oxygen, but exhales 31 ounces. We end up 1 ounce short. *At night we breathe back more oxygen than we use, but not enough to make up for what we lost. We recover 5/6th of an ounce – which means each day we end up 1/6th short. A night's rest does not replenish the day's work.* By the time six days elapse we're 6/6th, or a full ounce short.

If we work the next day we never recover, but if we take the seventh day off we save the ounce of oxygen we need to balance our system, and catch ourselves up

This is why Jesus said in Mark 2:27, **"The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."** And not only the Sabbath, but all the Levitical feasts were wonderful gifts from God. They were intended by God for man's benefit.

We as Gentile believers no longer celebrate the same feast days as the Old Testament Hebrews, nevertheless we can learn from the principle. We too need to set aside weekly and annual intervals to rest, refresh and refocus spiritually.

The first appointment God mentions is the weekly Sabbath. Respect for the Sabbath was the fourth of the ten commandments. Verse 3, “Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.”

Notice the flow of the verse – “*six days shall work be done... BUT on the Sabbath you shall do no work...*” The Sabbath is a contrast. The Hebrew word “*Sabbat*” means “*intermission*”, and that’s what the Sabbath is – it’s a break in the daily routine. It’s the *rest-stop* in the *rat race* - the time-out in the big game.

One author writes, “On the Sabbath *everyday* gives way to *holiday*, and the Jewish world rests.” Six days are given to work, but a 7th is set aside to remember why you work. It’s a day to remind yourself of the reason you do what you do the rest of the week. It’s a time to regroup, restore, refocus, and rejuvenate.

The Sabbath is a day to emphasize two activities: *to pray and to play*. It’s a day to enjoy God’s blessings, and as you do, make sure you say thanks!

Today we use the term “*holidays*” - the combination of two English words “*holy*” and “*days*”. And “*holidays*” were originally “*holy days*”. They were days marked as holy - set aside for the worship of God and the celebration of His wonderful works.

The problem with our Sabbaths today is how we spend them. We go to Disney World, or Six Flags – and when we

come home we're more exhausted than before we left. A trip to Six Flags is not exactly what I'd call "*a holy convocation*".

Sometimes we take our Sabbaths, and do work of another sort – labor *in the yard* - toil *on the car* - remodel the *bathroom*. We find other ways to stress out.

Verse 3 tells us the Sabbath is set aside for a "**solemn**", or *serious rest*. *It's not a day for inactivity...* just do something that rejuvenates, rather than drains.

Hey, if you make an appointment to see a pastor for counseling, but while you explain your problem, the pastor works on a model airplane - you'd be ticked off.

This is how God feels when He makes an appointment with us, only to have us ignore or neglect Him. We need to set aside times to strengthen our grip on God.

Verse 4, "**These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD's Passover.**" Take note, the Hebrew day began at twilight - at sundown. God wanted the day to begin with rest - *not* end with rest.

God's plan is for us to gain our strength from Him - then begin our work.

According to verse 5 the spring feasts begin with "**the LORD's Passover.**"

On the eve of Israel's exit from Egypt God gave Moses directions for how to celebrate **Passover**. Exodus 12 tells us the festivities revolved around a meal...

The Hebrew families ate bitter herbs which were a reminder of their 400 years of Egyptian bondage. Roasted lamb recalled the lamb's blood that was spread on the doorposts and thresholds of the house – the blood that caused death to pass over the house. The unleavened bread spoke of the faith of the Hebrews in God's promise. Their exodus the next morning provided no time for the bread to rise.

Verse 4 tells us the Passover is celebrated on the 14th day of the first month on the Jewish calendar, or Nisan. It's the first month of a new year since it symbolizes a new start for Israel. On our calendar Passover occurs late March / early April.

Today, Passover, or as Jews call it *Pesach*, is the most observed of all the feasts. A 1990 survey said 80% of Jews worldwide attend a Passover Seder.

And remember, Jesus was crucified on Passover, or Nisan 14th. 1 Corinthians 5:7 tells us, “**For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**” Jesus is our Passover lamb. When His blood is spread on the doorposts and threshold of our heart the judgment of God *passes over* us, and we're delivered from our sin.

On the night of the Passover, just before He was crucified, Jesus gave new meaning to this age-old celebration. He took the unleavened bread and wine and called it “**My body, My blood**”. Jesus took a 1500 year old tradition and gave it a revolutionary new meaning. Tonight, you can have a new start in Christ.

Verse 6 mentions the next spring feast, the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**.

“And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.”

Leaven is a type of sin, so following their deliverance from Egypt they were to spend seven days ridding themselves of that which represented sin.

Hey, when Jesus delivers us He takes us *just as we are, and right where we're at*. Leaven in your life doesn't stop Jesus from forgiving you, setting you free, and making you His child... You don't have to clean up before you can come to Jesus.

But once you belong to Him you'll want to get rid of leaven in your life. You'll want to please God. **A believer isn't sinless, but he'll sin less and less and less.**

“On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The 7th day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.”

Notice the first and last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread was a special Sabbath. And for those of us who believe Jesus was crucified on Thursday – not Friday – this helps explain why the disciples were rushed to bury the body. The next day was the Sabbath – but it was not Saturday – it was a special Sabbath.

There were two Sabbaths that week. John 19:31 makes the same implication.

A Thursday crucifixion allows you to take Jesus words in Matthew 12:40 quite literally, “As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” The only way Jesus was buried for 72 hours is if Passover occurred on a Thursday.

Verse 9 discusses the third spring feast which was the **Feast of Firstfruits**.

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.” We’re still in the midst of the Feast of Unleavened Bread... On the day after the Sabbath which followed Passover...

The priest brought the initial yield of the barley harvest and offered it to God. This was a way of saying thanks to God for providing their needs. And it’s exactly what we do when we tithe our income. We give back to God the first fruits – not the leftovers – but the very first of the harvest – because of all He’s given to us.

And notice, the priest made his offering in an interesting way...

He waved a bundle of barley up and down, then side to side – a vertical motion then a horizontal motion – in essence, he was drawing a cross. The wave offering was a picture of

Jesus... *but there's even a clearer picture of Jesus in this feast...*

Jesus was resurrected on the day after the Sabbath – which came after the Passover. Resurrection Sunday was also the Jewish Feast of Firstfruits.

1 Corinthians 15:23 calls Jesus the “**firstfruits**” of the resurrection. He was the initial yield of God’s future harvest. Jesus was the first to overcome death, and inherit an incorruptible body. Jesus is the first of the harvest that’s still future.

Verse 12, “**And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah (or a fifth of a bushel) of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin (which is a quart and a half).**”

You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.”

The last of the spring feasts was the **Feast of Weeks**. The Hebrew name for it is “*Shavuot*” or “*weeks*”. It’s a joyous time. People decorate their homes with fresh flowers. For some reason cheesecakes are associated with the Feast of Weeks.

As I mentioned earlier the Hebrew word that’s typically translated “*feast*” means “*appointment*” - but another Hebrew word, “*haggim*”, can also be rendered, “*feast*”. “*Haggim*”

means “*to be giddy, to dance, to celebrate*”. And it was used of three feasts... *Unleavened Bread, Weeks, and Tabernacles* – the same three feasts God ordered to be celebrated in Jerusalem. These were to be happy times...

Verse 15, “**And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.**” The Greek word translated “*fifty*” is the word “*Pentecost*”, which is the name of this in the New Testament.

On our calendar today the Feast of Pentecost occurs in late May – early June.

“You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the LORD.”

Pentecost or Weeks celebrated the end of the spring harvest.

During the Feast of Weeks the priest would bring two loaves of grain to the Lord – and unlike at Passover - these loaves were baked with leaven.

It’s fascinating that in the same year Jesus fulfilled the Passover by becoming our sacrifice – and the Feast of Firstfruits by rising from the dead to begin an end time harvest. Likewise Jesus fulfilled the symbolism associated with Pentecost...

It was during Pentecost that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the believers meeting in the upper room at Jerusalem - and a harvest of souls began – 3000 the first day. Flames of

fire appeared on the heads of the disciples in the Upper Room.

And two loaves were presented to God that day – *Jews and Gentiles*. And they were unleavened loaves - God accepted them even though stained with sin.

It's also interesting, that Jewish tradition states the Law was given to Moses 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits. Pentecost was considered the anniversary of the giving of the Law to Moses. And I think it's no coincidence that God, the Lawgiver, began to write His law in the hearts of men, by the Spirit, on the day of Pentecost.

On the anniversary of the Old Covenant a New Covenant was put into affect.

And on that day, “You shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be as a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD. Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering. The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs.

They shall be holy to the LORD for the priest. And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you

gather any gleanings from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God."

Note the special emphasis on the poor at the Feast of Pentecost.

Perhaps this directed the actions of the first Church. In Acts 2 the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, and in the spirit of Pentecost, we're told they "sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need."

When you're filled with the Spirit you become concerned with needy people.

These were the spring feasts - Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, and Pentecost. And they were all fulfilled by our Lord Jesus in His *first coming*

Three fall feasts come next... And all three occur in the same month, the seventh month of Tishri – the equivalent of our September / October.

The first fall feast was the **Feast of Trumpets**... Verse 23, "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD."

Today the Jews call the Feast of Trumpets, "*Rosh Hashannah*" or "*the head of the year*". Before their exodus from Egypt the Jewish year began in Tishri, and for civil purposes they maintained that distinction. *Nisan* was the first

month of the year for *religious purposes*. *Tishri* was the first month for *secular purposes*.

On the Feast of Trumpets the priest blew his shofar, or ram's horn, and the blast called the workers of the harvest out of the fields to the Tabernacle, for a holy convocation. The Feast of Trumpets marked the end of the fall harvest.

Jewish tradition says that *The Feast of Trumpets* is *the birthday of the world*.

It's not only the Jewish New Year, but it marks the beginning of creation. The Jews observe it by taking a moral inventory of the past year. Rather than celebrate New Years with a party they repent of their sins, and resolve to make a fresh start.

The rabbis teach that Abraham sacrificed his son, Isaac, on Rosh Hashannah. And since God provided a ram instead, the priest blows a ram's horn.

And speaking of the ram's horn, in case you wondered what sound it makes there were three... *a long plain note, three broken notes, and nine short blasts*. I brought my shofar with me tonight. The shofar is the oldest wind instrument.

I'm going to demonstrate the three sounds of the shofar.
(play) (all together)

Next came the **Day of Atonement**, or as it was called, *Yom Kippur*.

In Hebrew "*Yom*" means "*day*", and "*Kippur*" means "*covering or atonement*" – this was the day the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies, and sprinkled blood on the

mercyseat. On this day the sin of the nation was covered for another year.

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year on the Hebrew calendar.

Verse 26, “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.”

The rabbis understood the phrase “afflict your souls” as a command to fast from food. Yom Kippur was a solemn day spent in confession and repentance.

Here’s a sign that reads, “Caution: Yom Kippur”. It signifies a fast.

Verse 28, “And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.”

The people did no work, because this was the day the Priest worked for them. On this day the sacrifices and rituals we discussed in Leviticus 16 took place...

This was the one day of the year the High Priest entered the inner sanctum of the Tabernacle, where the glory of God was visibly present. He sprinkled blood on the lid of the Ark, or mercyseat - he then exited the Tabernacle - laid hands on the head of the scapegoat - confessed the sins of the people - then the goat was led off into the wilderness to never return. It was all a vivid demonstration to the nation of Israel that God had not only forgiven, but forgotten their sin.

I hope you realize that when God forgives He forgets. I love Jeremiah 31:34, the Lord says, “I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Verse 29, “For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.”

This was not a day to work! The High Priest did the work for you. All you did was believe and trust in what He'd done. *And this is a picture for us...*

When you come to Jesus you stop trying to earn God's favor with your good works. You rely on the completed sacrifice of our High Priest, Jesus Christ.

And whenever I think of the Jewish observance of Yom Kippur I flash back to October 6, 1965. Sandy Koufax, a Los Angeles Dodger, a Jew, and my favorite player, refused to pitch in the World Series because of the Day of Atonement.

And instantly Koufax became a hero to Jewish mamas all across America.

At the time someone summed up Jewish history, “Three thousand years of beautiful tradition: from Moses to Sandy Koufax.” That's taking it a bit too far.

Verse 32 says, “It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your

sabbath." The Jewish rabbis say the *Day of Atonement* is actually over when you see the first three stars in the night sky.

It's sad what's happened today to the Jewish Day of Atonement.

Jesus is the fulfilment of this feast. In 1 John 2:2 He's called our "*propitiation*", or literally, "*mercyseat*". He's also our scapegoat. Confess your sin, trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and God will forgive and forget your sin once and for all.

God wanted the Jews to use the day to cultivate a heart of repentance. It was a day for them to humble themselves. It was a reminder of their need for a sacrifice.

But over the years the Jews have confused the meaning of Yom Kippur. Today, it's treated the opposite of how God intended. It's a substitute for sacrifice – not a reminder. Jews believed their fasting and afflicting is itself payment for their sin. They even use the day to remind God of their own good works. How tragic.

Remember Leviticus 17:11, "*it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.*"

The final fall feast is the **Feast of Tabernacles...**

Verse 33, "*Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it.'*"

If you were a Jewish businessman you might as well realize you're won't get a lot of work done in the month of Tishri. The month was packed with holidays.

“For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.

On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it.” A special ceremony took place on the eighth day.

It was the same ritual that in John 7, Jesus hijacked, and used to extend an important invitation. We'll talk about it in a minute. *It was the day God shouted.*

Verse 37 is a summary statement of all the feasts...

“These are the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day - besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD.”

He goes back to the Feast of Tabernacles in verse 39, “Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest.

And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy

trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. So Moses declared to the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

This is why the feast is also called “Sukkoth”... it means *“booths or tents.”*

Sukkoth was the fun feast. For a week Hebrew families lived outdoors in tents.

They gathered sticks and leaves and twigs and thatched together a hut. Even today observant Jews spend the feast in booths they set up in their backyard. The Feast of Tabernacles was a celebration of God’s provision for Israel during their wilderness wanderings. For forty years they lived in makeshift booths, rather than permanent homes. And God met their need every day. Manna in the AM, and quail at night. For 40 years their sandals never wore out.

My boys go through a pair of shoes every few months.

For forty years God gave the Hebrews victory over their enemies. He even brought water from the rock, and quenched the people’s thirst.

In the days of Jesus' earthly ministry, a particular miracle was commemorated in the Temple on the Feast of Tabernacles. The priest would gather water from the Pool of Siloam - marched around the altar seven times - then pour the water out on the altar. It was during this ritual that Jesus made an astounding statement...

Just as the priest was about to douse the altar – Jesus stood, and according to John 7:37, He shouted, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” *It was the day God shouted.* Jesus wanted us to hear loud and clear that He alone is the rock in our wilderness that can to satisfy and quench our spiritual thirst.

Now here's where the plot thickens - if the spring feasts were all prophetic of Jesus' *first coming*, is it possible the fall feasts speak of His *second coming*?

It's interesting that during the summer months there were no feasts.

And prophetically that may be where we are right now. God is working primarily with the Church - not Israel. For the Hebrews it's summertime. But the Scripture is clear - at the end of the age - God will return to Israel and accomplish His plans.

And how will God's end time work begin... with the sound of a shofar...

1 Thessalonians 4:16 tells us, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with *the trumpet of God.*”

And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” God’s prophetic plan kicks off with the rapture.

Remember on the Feast of Trumpets, the priest blew the shofar to call the workers out the fields. The harvest was over. This sounds like the rapture...

Remember, Jesus fulfilled Passover on the day of Passover. He became first fruits of the resurrection on the Feast of Firstfruits. Pentecost was also fulfilled on Pentecost. *Could Jesus likewise fulfill the Feast of Trumpets on the exact day?*

This year Rosh Hashanah occurs at sundown on October 3. No man knows the day or the hour, but as we approach October 3-5 I’ll do so with extra anticipation.

On the Day of Atonement the High Priest came out of the Holy of Holies and appeared to the people to let them know the sacrifice had been accepted. This is what happens when Jesus returns to the earth at the end of the Great Tribulation.

The High Priest will leave the Holy of Holies and shows Himself to the nation. It could be that the day Jesus returns to earth is literally on the Day of Atonement.

And the Feast of Tabernacles would be prophetic of the Kingdom Age – when again God will supernaturally supply His people just as He did in the wilderness.

The Millennium will be a period of great rejoicing. In fact, Zechariah 14:16 tells us during Jesus’ 1000 year reign all the

nations will come up to Jerusalem once a year to worship the King... *and keep what feast?... the Feast of Tabernacles.*

Granted, it's speculation - but if the four spring feasts were prophetic of Jesus' first advent - it's possible the three final fall feasts are prophetic of His second.

The rapture could happen at the *Feast of Trumpets...* October 3-5 this year.

The second coming on the *Day of Atonement...* This is at least 7 years away.

And the Kingdom age could commence with the *Feast of Tabernacles.*

There you have the feasts of Israel... four spring - three fall - seven in all.

God is not only the God of space and matter. He is also the God of time. Make sure you put God at the head of your calendar and honor Him with your time.