

THE SEVEN FEAST DAYS OF THE LORD (LEVITICUS 23:4-34)

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Around 3,500 years ago, in Leviticus chapter 23 God instructed Moses to set up a group of seven Holy Days called Feast Days. The Lord said to Moses, "These are the Feast of the Lord, even Holy Convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons." (Lev. 23:4)

According to the Prophet William Branham, these Feast Days were to be a type, or shadow, of seven great and important events that were to take place during seven church ages that were still in the future.

QUOTE: FUTURE HOME PAGE

31 "There are seven great feast days that were a type of the seven church ages." (Typed things to happen during the seven church ages) (End quote)

QUOTE: RISING OF THE SUN

PAGE 13 "I would like to read a little scripture here for you, it might help you a little. It's found in the book of Leviticus the 23rd chapter, 9-11. Listen close to the Levitical law (it was) God speaking to Moses. Listen! All these things are types now-----." (End quote)

Scattered through out his messages, Brother Branham taught what each one of these Feast Days typed. Although the teaching was in the messages, I had not seen it until I read a book entitled "Armageddon and the 21st Century." It was by a Jewish Brother named Colin Deal. I took the information in his book to our Prophet's message and found certain statements that, to me, confirmed our Jewish Brother's teaching. Let's start our study of these most important Feast Days.

To save space, I will ask you to read Leviticus 25:1-37. Having now read the scriptures I will name each Feast Day, give it's location in the scripture, show it's fulfillment in the New Testament, and state some of what our Prophet said about each one. (Only the first four Feast Days have been fulfilled. The last three are still future.)

Let me also say, that much material must be left out due to lack of space. I can only hope to spark your interest toward further study, as we give the highlights.

THE FIRST FEAST DAY THE FEAST OF PASSOVER (LEV. 23:5)

The feast that God commanded here to be set up had it's beginning in Exodus 12:1-14, where the israelites were told to kill a perfect lamb on the 14th day of the month (Abib), then display it's blood on the doorpost of their houses. Without question, this Feast Day type's the Death of our Lord on the cross.

It is very important to notice that His death took place on the exact date that the Old Testament Feast Day, The Feast of Passover, was commanded to be held. The Romans killed Jesus on The Passover Feast Day. Not only did Jesus die as the fulfillment of this Feast Day, but He died on the right date, the 14th day of the month.

Matt.26:1-2 "And it came to pass when Jesus Had finished all these sayings, He said unto His disciples, ye know that after two days is the FEAST OF PASSOVER, and the Son of Man is betrayed to be crucified."

QUOTE: THE INDICTMENT PAGE 15 "They gathered at the greatest, holiest Feast day they have got, the PASSOVER, and there, in that time, the most religious people, and at the most religious feast, at the most religious place, hanged Him on a tree." (End quote)

And so we see, that the Lord Jesus died on the same day that all other Passover Lambs were killed, the 14th day of Abib. (Same as our April) The type was fulfilled, even to the date.

THE SECOND FEAST DAY THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD (LEV. 23:6)

Lev. 23:6 "And on the 15th day of the same month is the FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD unto the Lord. Seven days ye must eat unleavened bread."

At this point it is helpful to understand that the first three Feast Days were held in a three day period, one right after the other. They were ordained of God to be held thus because they were His types of the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus, which also happened in a three day period.

The Passover Feast was on the 14th, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was held on the 15th, and the Feast of First Fruits was on "The morrow after the Sabbath" which was the 16th. We are going to see that Jesus died on the 14th, was buried on the 15th, and was resurrected on the 16th. All three dates corresponding to the dates given hundreds of years before Leviticus.

We are now looking at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which typed the Burial of the Lord. Brother Branham, and the scriptures, teach that Jesus was the Unleavened Bread.

QUOTE: GOD'S ONLY PROVIDED WAY OF WORSHIP PAGE 30 "Now then, with Him (Jesus) in view, we see all denominations and creeds are left behind, for He is the pure unchangeable word of God which is the UNLEAVENED BREAD." (End quote)

The question before us then is, "How does this Feast Day type the BURIAL of the Lord?" Brother Branham explains it in the following statement.

QUOTE: GOD'S ONLY PROVIDED PLACE OF WORSHIP PAGE 21-22. "Notice, in here He said, "Seven days shall you eat this unleavened bread." Now bread is a type. (A type of Jesus the Word)" PAGE 22 "Now we notice here, seven days, that's for every church age. Now that Masterpiece had to die—. Now notice again— we find here that all seven days that

this bread was to be eaten, through the seven church ages—it had to die and go INTO THE GROUND. (Jesus, who was the fulfillment of the type, had to die and be buried).” (End quote)

The Prophet said Jesus, The Unleavened Bread, had to die and be buried, showing the spiritual truth that by His DEATH and BURIAL, the bread had been given and was ready to be eaten. That is, the word concerning His sacrifice could now be received by faith. His BURIAL proved that the sacrifice was real and complete, and His Body-Word could now be partaken of.

Was His body laid in the grave on the right date, in order to fulfill the type of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In other words, was He buried on the 15th day of Abib, which is the date God set in the Old Testament for this Feast.

Luke 22:1-2 “Now the FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD drew near, which is called the Passover. And the Chief Priest and the Scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people.

The Jewish way of keeping time was that their day ended at 6:00 P.M. on the 14th, as the 15th day started.

This scripture in Luke is confusing unless we consider this Jewish way of time keeping. Luke said, “The Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover.” In a true sense, it could be said that The Feast of Unleavened Bread took place on the day of the Passover, because one day ended at 6:00 P.M. as another one started. Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover Lamb must be killed. But wait! According to Leviticus, the Passover was on the 14th and the Unleavened Bread was on the 15th.

In one sense, the Passover was on the same day as the Feast of Unleavened Bread, with one day ending at 6:00 P.M. and the other starting then. But in a stricter sense, they were not the same day because the DATE changed at 6:00 in the evening. All scripture is true and cannot be proven wrong.

Notice in Mark 14:1 “After two days was the Feast of Passover and of Unleavened Bread—.” Here again we see that they were on the same day in one sense, but in another sense the date

was different. The two days blended together at 6:00 in the evening.

These things are important because we are showing that Jesus was buried on the same day He was crucified, but after 6:00 P.M., which called for a date change, actually making His Burial to have been on the 15th. He was buried at the beginning of the 15th day which was the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

The Lord Jesus was nailed to cross at 9:00 A.M. (Mark 15: 25). He was taken down sometime after 3:00 P.M. (Mark 15:34). So, there was time for Joseph of Armatheia to beg the body from Pilate, take it down from the cross, prepare it for burial, and lay it in the tomb around sundown, the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. (Please read Luke 23:50-54)

Since our Prophet said that Jesus was the Unleavened Bread, it seems to this writer that the scriptures bear out the fact that He was buried on the right date to fulfill His Old Testament type of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

In 1st. Cor. 5:7-8 Paul is teaching on this Feast of Unleavened Bread. “Purge out therefore the old leaven (sin) that you may be a new lump, as you are UNLEAVENED. (Redeemed and without sin) For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the Feast (of Unleavened Bread) not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the Unleavened Bread of sincerity and truth.” Today, you and I keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread by our Faith in the sacrifice of His flesh Body for our sins.

THE THIRD FEAST DAY THE FEAST OF FIRST FRUITS (LEV. 23:9-11)

This feast day was God’s type of the RESURRECTION of our Lord Jesus. He types the resurrection with grain in the field. “When you find the first sheaf that ripens, cut it and take it to the Priest. He will then wave it before the Lord to be accepted for you.”

This grain that ripened first, was God’s type of Jesus being the first One up from the dead. 1st Cor. 15:20-23 “But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept. Verse 23 “But every man in his own order. CHRIST THE FIRST FRUITS, afterwards, they that are Christ’s at His coming.”

QUOTE: RISING OF THE SUN PAGE 14 (Brother Branham reads the scripture) “And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you, on the morrow after the Sabbath the Priest shall wave it.” Did you notice in this Memorial, (The Feast of First Fruits) to wave it on the first day of the week. (Sunday) If there be any holy ritual it should come forth on the Sabbath, which was the seventh day of the week, which is Saturday. (But He said) Not on the Sabbath, but on the first day, which we call Sunday. Notice! It was the first corn (grain) of God’s wheat that had been raised from the dead and He was THE FIRST FRUITS of them that slept—And it was a sign. (Type)” (End quote)

The Lord Jesus Christ was the First Fruits Sheaf, and the Old Testament Sheaf waving at the Feast of First Fruits was His type. He fulfilled His type on the exact date when He resurrected on the “day after the morrow” which was Sunday. According to Lev. 23:11 the Feast of First Fruits had to be held on “the morrow after the Sabbath”, which was Sunday, or the first day of the week. Mark 16:9 “Now when Jesus was risen early, the FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene—.” And so, He fulfilled His type on the right date.

We believe that the Prophet typed the first three Feast Days of Lev. 23 with the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. It seems clear enough from the scriptures that the three events took place on the same dates that Moses was given to hold the first three Feast Days.

Let us now move on to the Fourth Feast Day. The Feast of Pentecost, and see if the New Testament fulfillment has occurred, and if so, was it also on the date corresponding to the one given to Moses in Leviticus.

**THE FOURTH FEAST DAY
THE FEAST OF PENTECOST
(LEV. 23:15-16)**

VERSE 16, "Even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall ye number **FIFTY DAYS**—." The word Pentecost means FIFTY, and in 1st Cor. 16:8, Paul called this **Fourth Feast Day PENTECOST**. "But I will tarry at Ephesus until **PENTECOST**."

It is important to understand what Paul is talking about here. He was not speaking of staying in Ephesus until the Holy Ghost was poured out in the upper room. This was already history.

Paul knew that the Fourth Feast Day was tied in with the Third Feast Day, or that is, it was connected with the waving of the Sheaf. Our scripture says, "you shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought **THE SHEAF** of the wave offering, seven Sabbaths shall be complete. Even unto the morrow after the Seventh Sabbath shall you number **FIFTY DAYS**, and you shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord." (That is to say, you shall hold another Feast Day.) (Lev. 23:14-16)

Paul called this Fourth Feast Day **PENTECOST**, because it was to be held fifty days after the Third Feast Day. In Leviticus, God told Moses that they must count fifty days from the day the Sheaf was Waved, then hold another Feast Day, which was the Fourth Feast.

We believe that Brother Branham taught that this Fourth Feast Day was a type of the Holy Ghost being poured out in the upper room, in New Testament days.

QUOTE: REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST PAGE 778 "But on the fifth day was the day of Pentecost and the legal Owner (Christ) came down among them. It was a filling of the Holy Ghost. See HE COULDN'T HOLD IT OVER FIFTY DAYS. You read that over in Leviticus in the laws there." (End quote)

What did the Prophet mean when he said "God couldn't hold back the outpouring of the Holy over fifty days. He was telling us that the Old Testament type of the **Feast of Pentecost** had to be fulfilled exactly, even to the right date. From the **Feast of First Fruits**, to the **Feast of Pentecost** had to be fifty days. This was to show us that from the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, to the outpouring of the Holy Ghost in the upper room, had to be 50 days.

Is this what actually happened? We know He was on Earth forty days after He arose. Acts 1:3 "To whom also He showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them **forty days**—."

On the day He ascended, which was the fortieth day. He instructed His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem for power on high. The Scripture bears out that the same day the Disciples returned from the place of ascension they went into the upper room. There they waited **ten days** and on the tenth day the New Testament fulfillment of the **Feast of Pentecost** was carried out, the Holy Ghost came.

Forty days plus ten days makes fifty days. Acts 2:1-2 "And when the **DAY OF PENTECOST** was fully come (or when the day of the **Feast of Pentecost** was fully come) they were all with one accord in one place, and suddenly there came a sound from heaven—."

In reviewing what we have seen so far, an amazing fact comes to the front. In the book of Leviticus, God gave Moses the exact dates on which to hold these four Feast Days. By the Prophet's message, and the scriptures, we have seen that in New Testament days the fulfillment of these four Feast day types took place on the exact dates given to Moses hundreds of years earlier. This is indeed a remarkable thing, and it is made even more so by the fact that Brother Branham said that the Fifth Feast Day, the **Feast of Trumpets**, types the **RAPTURE OF THE BRIDE**. A date was set for it also!

Let it be said that I am not setting a date for the rapture. I only intend to give the scriptures and what a Prophet said concerning these scriptures.

**THE FIFTH FEAST DAY
THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS
(LEV.23:24)**

Let us first establish the fact that the Prophet said this Feast of Trumpets types the Rapture.

QUOTE: RAPTURE PAGE 32 "The first thing is a shout, then a voice and then a TRUMPET. (Here he is making reference to 1st Thess. 4:16) The shout is a messenger getting the people ready. The second is a voice of the resurrection, the same voice that called Lazarus from the grave. **THE NEXT IS WHAT? A TRUMPET!** The third thing is a TRUMPET, which always, at the **Feast of Trumpets** (In the Old Testament) is

calling the people to the Feast. **AND THAT WILL BE THE BRIDES SUPPER. THE LAMBS SUPPER WITH THE BRIDE, IN THE SKY**— That's the thing that takes place friends. (End quote)

QUOTE: FEAST OF TRUMPETS PAGE 42 "I told you I would bring back (explain) this **GREAT TRUMPET**, not trumpets, but **FEAST OF TRUMPETS**. Under the **GREAT TRUMPET**, **THE COMING OF THE LORD, TO ANNOUNCE JOSEPH RETURNING**." (End quote)

I can only conclude, from the preceding statements, that he is saying that the Feast of Trumpets types the Rapture. In studying the message, **FEAST OF TRUMPETS**, it helps to understand that Brother Branham speaks of two different sets of trumpets. One set in Rev. 8:6 has to do with the plagues turned loose on the Jews, but the **GREAT TRUMPET** has to do with the **LAST trumpet** that sounded during a thirty day period of celebrating the **Feast of Trumpets** in the Old Testament.

1st Cor. 15:51-52 (Paul speaks of this **LAST TRUMPET**) "Behold I show you a mystery, we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **AT THE LAST TRUMP**. For the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

In Old Testament days, the celebration of **Feast of Trumpets** actually started 30 days before the date given to Moses. Lev. 23:24 gives the date as "In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of Trumpets, an Holy convocation." This seventh month was Tishri, corresponding to our late September or early October.

Now, to what trumpet was Paul referring when he said "the **Last trumpet?**" This fifth Feast day, is such a High and Holy day that preparation for it actually begins a month early. Each day throughout this month a trumpet is blown. The **LAST TRUMP** is sounded on the actual date that was given for the Feast. This **LAST TRUMP** is the final trumpet to be sounded in a series of thirty days of trumpet blowing. This seems to be the **LAST TRUMP** referred to by Paul. This Feast day is still celebrated in Israel and is known as Rosh Hashanah.

What, then, will be the New

Testament fulfillment of this Old Testament type? It seems to this writer that the Apostle Paul gives the answer in 1st Thess. 4:15-17. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the Voice of the Arch Angel, AND WITH THE TRUMP OF GOD. And the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then, we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

If the first four Feast Days were fulfilled exactly according to God's dates given in Leviticus, is it possible that this fifth Feast date will also be fulfilled on the right date? If this could possibly be right, then what year would it occur? These are deep mysteries.

**THE SIXTH FEAST DAY
THE FEAST OF ATONEMENT
(LEV. 23:26-28)**

God said to Israel "You shall hold a Feast Day and call it the Feast of Atonement." Today, in Jewry, it is known as Yom Kipper. The meaning of the word "Atonement" is "a reconciliation of God with sinners." This day in the Old Testament was the only day that the High Priest could enter into the Holy of Holies. This most Holy day was used for their annual cleansing from sin.

The Jews have not as yet accepted Jesus as Messiah. 3,500 hundred years ago God knew they would reject Him. And so, 3,500 hundred years ago God told Moses that they were to hold a "Feast of Atonement" every year. This Feast Day would point to the day when the Jews would be reconciled to God. We know this day is still in the future. It will happen after the rapture and during the tribulation, at the preaching of the two Prophets of Rev. 11:3. Brother Branham understood what this Feast of Atonement stood for.

QUOTE: FEAST OF TRUMPETS
PAGE 34 "The Sabbaths are over and ready for the Jews to be called." (The Sabbaths, or the seven church ages, are over and the Bride is ready to go up, then the Jews will be called.) "Where to? (Where will they be called?) "To the Feast of Atonement! Oh church! Don't you see that? They are called to The Feast of Atonement! Why? To recognize the Atonement. Not no more chickens and geese (Sacrificed) but the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world. Israel is going to know that!" (End quote)

In this statement the Prophet explains what this Feast of Atonement represents. It was the annual cleansing from sin. The day is fast arriving when Israel will be cleansed from her sin of unbelief in Jesus Christ. This will be the New Testament fulfillment of the Old Testament Feast of Atonement, the day the Jews accept Jesus, or receive their Atonement, and are cleansed from their sins.

Yes, God set a date for this Feast Day. Lev. 23:27 says "Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a Day of Atonement." After the days of affliction, the Day of Atonement is observed on the tenth day of Tishri. The scripture does say that Israel will be saved in ONE day. (Zech. 3:9) Could this be the day their blinded eyes are opened and 144,000 are called out?

**THE SEVENTH FEAST DAY
THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES
(LEV. 23:33-34)**

"The 15th day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles, for seven days unto the Lord."

I will let Bro. Branham explain what this last Feast Day type represents, and also, what takes place after the Millennium.

QUOTE: THE FUTURE HOME
PAGE 32 "Notice, it was also upon this

eight day, last day, FEAST DAY OF THE TABERNACLE, notice, after that, after the last Feast Day, after the last church age, after the last complete seven days upon the Earth, after the Millennium that this Holy Convocation comes." (Here he speaks of an eight day that comes after the Feast of Tabernacles. He is typing the last Feast Day with the Millennium, then saying there is coming another Holy Convocation, which will be an eighth day, according to the scriptures.) "Remember, this is Feast of Tabernacles, gathering places. Amen! We are in the Millennium (during the Feast of Tabernacles) the Bible said they shall build houses, they shall inhabit. But in the New Earth (The eighth day after Millennium) He has already went away and prepared the place, it's built. We have nothing to do with the building of it. Amen! Eternal! (End quote)

Zechariah said that after Jesus takes over the Earth in the Millennium, that the Old Testament type of the Feast of Tabernacles will be fulfilled. Zechariah 14:16 "And it shall come to pass that everyone that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem (In the battle of Armageddon) shall even go up from year to year to worship the King the Lord of Hosts, AND TO KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES."

Zechariah, in speaking of the Millennium, said that for one thousand years the Feast of Tabernacles would continue to be observed. Our Prophet said we are in the Millennium during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Three Feast Days remain in the future. The next one on God's calendar is Feast of Trumpets. There can be no question concerning these last three being fulfilled. They will be. The question is, "Will they happen on the same dates as their Old Testament types, AS WERE THE FIRST FOUR?"

The hour is very late little Bride, it is soul searching time!

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