

The Biblical Feasts

A STUDY OF THE TIMES OF WORSHIP
OF OUR CREATOR

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Dedicated to the Generations to Come

*All the ends of the world
Shall remember and turn to YHVH,
And all the families of the nations
Shall worship before You.
For the kingdom is YHVHs,
And He rules over the nations.*

*All the prosperous of the earth
Shall eat and worship;
All those who go down to the dust
Shall bow before Him,
Even he who cannot keep himself alive.*

*A posterity shall serve Him.
It will be recounted of YHVH to the next generation,
They will come and declare His righteousness
to a people who will be born,
That He has done this (Psalm 22:27-31, NKJV).*

The Calendar

Scripture tells us that everything in the Bible points to our Messiah, Yeshua.¹

For Christ is the *telos* of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (Romans 10:4).

The Greek word *telos* means “the point aimed at” or “the goal.” Just as a telescope points us to the stars, the Law was given so that we would be pointed to Him.

These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me (Luke 24:44).

For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me (John 5:46).

The Law of Moses, or the books of Torah, tell us about some special days in God’s calendar, days when He wants to meet with us. You can find all of the feasts mentioned in Leviticus 23, but they are also

¹ Yeshua is the Hebrew spelling of Jesus.

mentioned in hundreds of other places, in both the Old and New Testaments!

In this book, I want to help you study the Bible for yourself, so that you will know exactly what God tells us about these special times. I hope you will discover, as our family did, that each of these special days points us to Yeshua, our Messiah.

We will start each chapter with a Scripture study that you can do alone, with your family, or with a study group. After each Scripture study, we'll provide you with more resources to help you get ideas and learn about various traditions.

Before telling us about the lights YHVH² created on the fourth day, the book of Genesis begins by telling us *why* He created them – so that's where we'll start, too.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years" (Genesis 1:14).

² YHVH is usually translated as "the LORD" in our English Bibles. There are a variety of pronunciations of this Hebrew word; our family pronounces it "Yehovah."

Study It from Scripture

Look up each of the following words in *Strong's Hebrew Dictionary* or online at <http://biblehub.com>. Give the Hebrew word, the Strong's number, and the definition. You may wish to look at related Hebrew root words to expand your understanding of the words. Note: The following words are based upon the King James Version.

created (Genesis 1:1) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

lights (Genesis 1:14) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

firmament (Genesis 1:14) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

heaven (Genesis 1:14) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

divide (Genesis 1:14) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

day (Genesis 1:14) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

night (Genesis 1:14) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

signs (Genesis 1:14) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

seasons (Genesis 1:14) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

years (Genesis 1:14) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

earth (Genesis 1:15) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

light (Genesis 1:3, 15) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

stars (Genesis 1:16) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

evening (Genesis 1:19) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

morning (Genesis 1:19) Hebrew word _____
Strong's # _____
Definition _____

month (1 Kings 6:1) Hebrew word _____
 Strong's # _____
 Definition _____

month (1 Kings 6:1) *the word is used twice in this verse, but the Hebrew uses two different words

Hebrew word _____
 Strong's # _____
 Definition _____

Why did YHVH create the sun, moon, and stars on the fourth day?

- Read Jeremiah 31:35-36. What are the ordinances of the moon and of the stars? How long will those ordinances last?

- Read Genesis 8:22. What things are listed that will not cease? See also Psalm 74:16-17.

- Who is the only one who has permission to change times and seasons? See Daniel 2:21.

Who else will try? See Daniel 7:24-25.

After we read about each day of creation, we read that “the evening and the morning” constitute a day. (See Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 31.)

- According to Genesis 1:14, each full day is divided up into what two parts? What did you learn that these words mean in Hebrew? What does it mean to divide them?

- Read Psalm 104:20-23. How do we know how long a day is? When does a day begin and end? What heavenly bodies are involved in this?

What is a sign?

Look up the following verses, and make a list of when signs were given:

- ❑ Genesis 9:12-17. Where was the sign placed?

- ❑ Exodus 13:3-10. What month was it (verse 4)?
How many days was it (verses 6-7)?
How often was it (verse 10)?

- ❑ Exodus 31:12-17. What day is it (verse 15)?
See also Ezekiel 20:11-12.

- ❑ Deuteronomy 13:1-5. Should we trust all signs in the sky?
How do we know which ones we should not listen to (verses 2-3)?
See also Isaiah 44:23-26.

- ❑ Joshua 10:12-14. What two heavenly bodies were used in this sign?
How long did it last?

- ❑ 2 Kings 20:1-11. What heavenly body was used in this sign (verses 9-10)?
See also 2 Chronicles 32:24, 31 and Isaiah 38:7-8. How many degrees on the sundial did the shadow go back?

- Psalm 65:8. Who can see the wonders (*tokens, KJV, or signs*) of YHVH?

See also verse 5. What two signs in the heavens are mentioned?

- Isaiah 7:14. To whom is this referring?

Read also Matthew 2:1-12.

- Isaiah 66:19-24. What heavenly signs and feast days are mentioned in these verses?

- Jeremiah 10:1-16. What pagan holiday is referred to in verses 3-4?

What does verse 2 say?

What are seasons?

- What is the Hebrew word for seasons in Genesis 1:14?

Read Leviticus 23. What words in this chapter are the same as “seasons” in Genesis 1?

- Leviticus 23:3. What day of the week is this?
- Leviticus 23:4-5. What is the date?
- Leviticus 23:6-8. What is the date?

- Leviticus 23:9-15. What is the date?
- Leviticus 23:15-21. What is the date?
- Leviticus 23:24-25. What is the date?
- Leviticus 23:27-32. What is the date?
When does it start and end (see verse 32)?
- Leviticus 23:34-36, 39-43. What is the date?
- Psalm 104:19. What heavenly body determines *moedim*?

In this verse, what does the sun do, to show the beginning of the *moedim*?

 CHAPTER 2

Sabbath

The very first “feast” (or *moedim*, in Hebrew) that is mentioned in Leviticus 23 is the Sabbath. Because the Sabbath occurs every seven days, many of us have never thought of Saturday as a special day on which we are to worship God.

And YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of YHVH, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.

'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 YHVH in all your dwellings'" (Leviticus 23:1-3).

Study It from Scripture

What is the first time the Sabbath is mentioned in Scripture?

- Read Genesis 2:1-3.
- What did God do on the seventh day? (verse 2)

1. He _____ His work.
2. He _____ from all
His work.

What two things did God do to the Sabbath? (verse 3)

- 1.
- 2.

What work was He resting from? (verse 3)

What is the fourth commandment of Scripture?

Read Exodus 20:8-11.

What does God tell His people to do with the Sabbath?
(verse 8 – first word)

How do we remember the Sabbath? (verse 8)

How many days are we commanded to work? (verse 9)

What day of the week is the Sabbath? (verse 10)

Who is not to do any work on the Sabbath? (verse 10)

Why is the seventh day the Sabbath? (verse 11)

What two things did God do the Sabbath? (end of verse 11)

- 1.
- 2.

The Ten Commandments are repeated again in Deuteronomy.

Read Deuteronomy 5:12-15.

What does God tell His people to do with the Sabbath? (verse
12 – first word)

- How and why are we to do this? (verse 12)
- What are we to remember? (verse 15)
- How is this different from what we are told to remember in Exodus 20:8-11?

Therefore, the fourth commandment tells us to remember two things:

1. Creation
2. Redemption

When does the Sabbath begin and end?

- According to God, what constitutes a day? (Genesis 1:5)

Extra Research: *Our days are reckoned from midnight to midnight. When did this begin?*

<http://www.ancientsites.com/aw/Article/1120774>

- When does God reckon a new day to start?
 - At evening (sunset)?
 - At midnight?
 - At morning (sunrise)?
- Read Leviticus 23:32. How long did this ceremonial Sabbath last?

The Sabbath starts at sundown on our 6th day (Friday) and lasts until sundown on our 7th day (Saturday).

What should the Sabbath be like?

- Read Leviticus 23:3.
- How many days may we work?
- The seventh day is a Sabbath of _____.

Extra Research:

- What Hebrew word is used for “Sabbath” in this verse? What does it mean?*
- What Hebrew word is used for “rest” in this verse? What does it mean?*
- Are either of these words used back in Genesis 2:1-3?*
- The Sabbath is also a day of _____.

(Some translations say “holy convocation,” where others say things like “sacred assembly.”)

Extra Research:

- What Hebrew word is used for “convocation” or “assembly” in this verse? What does it mean?*
- On the Sabbath, you are not to do any _____.
- The Sabbath was to apply to the people of God in what locations?

Of what is the Sabbath a sign?

- Read Ezekiel 20:12.
- Why did God give His people Sabbaths?
 - "... so they would know

_____."

- Read also Ezekiel 20:20.
- Read Exodus 31:13. For how many generations would the Sabbath be a sign?
- Read Exodus 31:17. The Sabbath would be a sign between God and Israel for how long?

Was the Sabbath just for the Jews?

- Read Mark 2:27. Who did Yeshua say the Sabbath was made for?
- Read Isaiah 66:22-23. In the future, who will still be recognizing the Sabbath? (verse 23)
- Sabbath was instituted at Creation. Was this before or after Abraham?
- What command did Cain break? (Genesis 4:8, Exodus 20:13)
- What sin did Joseph have knowledge of? (Genesis 39:9, Exodus 20:14)
- What did Abraham keep? (Genesis 26:5)
- What were the Israelites to gather on the sixth day? (Exodus 16:4-5) Why?

- Read Exodus 16:22-28. Was this *before* or *after* the Ten Commandments were given at Sinai? (See Exodus 19-20.)

How was the New Testament church taught?

- Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. How much of Scripture is useful for teaching us?

Note that the New Testament had not yet been compiled when 2 Timothy was written. What "Scripture" would Paul have been referring to?

- Read Luke 24:27. What was used to explain the Scriptures?
- Read Acts 17:2. What did Paul use to reason with people?
- Read Acts 18:28. What did Paul use to prove his argument?

On what day did the first-century believers worship?

Common Passage #1:

- Read Acts 20:7-8. What had they come together to do?
- What does it mean to "break bread"?

Compare to the meal eaten in Luke 24:28-30, and see that this was not necessarily a communion service.

- What were burning in the upstairs room?
- What time of day was it?
- What day of the week was it?

- Remember that the Biblical day started at what time?

- The believers here had gathered for a meal on what we now call Saturday evening. Why were they meeting? (Who was preparing to leave? See Acts 20:11.)

- Do you think that this passage is describing a weekly occurrence for the believers in this location, or was this a special circumstance?

Common Passage #2:

- Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.
- What two things does Paul say to do with your offerings?
 - 1.
 - 2.
- Were the people to bring their offerings to the church on the first day of the week?
- Were these people **giving** on the first day, or saving from their earnings on the first day?
- Do you think this passage is describing a change of worship from the seventh day to the first day of the week?

Sabbath-Day Examples

- Mark 1:21. What did Yeshua do on the Sabbath?
- Mark 6:2. What did Yeshua do on the Sabbath?
- Luke 4:16. What did Yeshua do on the Sabbath?
- Luke 4:31. What did Yeshua do on the Sabbath?
- Luke 13:10. What did Yeshua do on the Sabbath?
- Acts 13:13-15. What did Paul and his companions do on the Sabbath?
- Acts 15:21. When is Moses to be taught? Acts 16:31. What did Paul and his companions do on the Sabbath?
- Acts 17:2. What did Paul and his companions do on the Sabbath?
- Acts 18:4. What did Paul and his companions do on the Sabbath?

The Bible says that we are not under law, but under grace? Doesn't that do away with our having to keep the Sabbath?

- Though no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law, of what does the law make us conscious?
(Romans 3:20)
- What is sin? (1 John 3:4)
- Shall we sin because we not under law but under grace? (Romans 6:15)

- What two things do we have the option of being slaves to? (Romans 6:16)
- What do we uphold, instead of nullify, by faith? (Romans 3:31)
- Read Matthew 5:17-19. What did the Savior come to fulfill and not to abolish? (verse 17)
- What will disappear before the least part of the law is changed? (verse 18)
- Who will be called “least” and “great” in the kingdom of heaven? (verse 19)

Yeshua rose on the first day. Doesn't that make Sunday holy?

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:20. Because Yeshua rose from the dead, he is called the _____.
- Read Leviticus 23:10-14. What were the people to bring as an offering? (verse 10)
- On what day of the week did they bring this offering? (verse 11)

This special feast was celebrated on the first Sunday after Passover each year (see Leviticus 23:5-8). As you remember, Yeshua rose from the dead on the first Sunday after Passover, on the Feast of Firstfruits.

- For how long were the people of God to celebrate the Feast of Firstfruits? (verse 14)

- According to 1 Corinthians 15:20, who is symbolized in the Feast of Firstfruits?
- Did the celebration of Firstfruits nullify the weekly Sabbath commanded by God in Leviticus 23:3?

Isn't Sunday called the "Lord's Day"?

- Revelation 1:10. On what day was John in the Spirit and receive the prophecy given in this book?
- Mark 2:28. What does Yeshua call himself?

What day is YHVH's?

- Exodus 20:10
- Leviticus 19:3
- Deuteronomy 5:14
- Nehemiah 9:14
- Isaiah 56:4
- Isaiah 58:13
- Ezekiel 20:11-12, 19-20

Doesn't the Bible say that it doesn't matter what day we worship, as long as we are each convinced in our own mind?

- Read Romans 14:1, 5-6. What type of matters is Paul discussing? (verse 1)
- Read 1 John 3:4. What is sin?

- ❑ Does Scripture consider the Sabbath to be a “disputable matter”?

Extra Research: *What might Paul have been referring to in Romans 14:5-6?*

- ❑ Read Colossians 2:16-17.
- ❑ What were Sabbaths (and other set-apart days) a “shadow” of?
- ❑ What was the reality (“body” KJV)?
- ❑ Are others to judge us in regards to a Sabbath? What does this mean?
- ❑ Read Hebrews 10:1. What were the things in the law a shadow of?

Each special feast listed in Leviticus 23, including the Sabbath, was established to help us **remember** Messiah and what He has done for us.

- ❑ Read more about this in Exodus 12:24-27, Deuteronomy 5:15, and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

These “remembrances” do not save us; rather, they are “shadows” which point to Messiah and continually remind us of His redemption.

- ❑ Read Deuteronomy 4:8-9. How long are we to be careful not to forget?

Didn't Yeshua break the Sabbath?

- Read Mark 2:23-28.
- Who accused Yeshua of doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath? (verse 24)
- Read Deuteronomy 4:2. What are we to be careful not to do?

- Read 1 Samuel 15:22. What is better than sacrifice?
- Read Isaiah 58:1-14. What are some ways of keeping Sabbath that are pleasing to God?

- Read Matthew 23:1-7, 23-28. Were these Pharisees pleasing God?
- In Mark 2:23-28, the Pharisees were accusing Yeshua of not keeping their own traditions, not the laws of God. Why did God institute Sabbath? (verse 27)
- Read John 15:10. Did Yeshua always obey His Father's commands?
- What will we do if we love God?
 - John 14:15
 - John 14:21
 - 1 John 5:2-3
- Read 1 John 2:3-6. How do we know that we have come to know him?

- Read Matthew 15:3-9. Which are more important: God's commands or man's traditions?
- Read Jeremiah 16:19-21. What have we inherited?

Extra Research:

- Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12.*
 - Compare to Daniel 7:25.*
 - Compare to Revelation 13.*
-
- Read John 8:28-36. How can we distinguish a true disciple, one who has been set free?

Ideas for Celebrating the Sabbath

Several friends have asked me to tell about what a normal Sabbath is like in our home, so I thought I'd do that in two parts. First, I'll tell what we do on Friday evenings, and then I'll share what we do on Saturdays.

Basic Principles

The Bible doesn't tell us very many specific things about Sabbath, so I don't want to add to YHVH's commands by saying things the Bible doesn't. So at the very beginning, I want you to know that most of these things are just nice traditions. They are helpful if you need ideas, but always remember that they are only traditions, not commands.

So what *does* the Bible command?

“Remember the Sabbath day by **keeping it holy**. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to YHVH your God. **On it you shall not do any work**, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days YHVH made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore YHVH blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy” (Exodus 20:8-11).

First, we are to keep the seventh day “holy,” **which means to make it set apart**. This day is to be special, different from all days, and most of all, set apart **to** YHVH.

The primary way we do this is to not work. YHVH is very clear that we are not to work, nor are we to do anything that requires someone else to work.

There is a lot of debate about what the word “work” means. By looking at the rest of the verses in Scripture that talk about work, in our home we interpret it to mean doing things that could have been done ahead, during the other six days.

“Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; ***even during the plowing season and harvest you must rest***” (Exodus 34:21).

For instance, we don’t work our jobs. Instead, we trust that by obeying YHVH and ceasing from our work one day out of each week, He will supply our financial needs. He is always the source of our income. We should never say that our own skills or abilities caused us to increase in wealth. When we rest on the seventh day, *even when things still remain on our to-do lists*, we acknowledge that all things are in His control and power and that He will take care of us.

“Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to YHVH. So ***bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil***. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning” (Exodus 16:23).

We are to plan ahead, and Scripture is clear that cooking is considered “work” and is one of the things we should do ahead of time.

Friday is often called “Preparation Day” (Mark 15:42) because on this day, we think through all the work that might need to be done for

the next *two* days, and we get it done before sunset. Most importantly, we make sure that we've prepared our food ahead of time.

“Do not light a fire in any of your dwellings on the **Sabbath** day” (Exodus 35:3).

In our modern kitchens, it doesn't require any work to turn a knob on a stove to light a fire or turn on a burner. However, we try to prepare our meals ahead, so that we are able to truly rest on the Sabbath.

In Bible times, homes were heated by a fire. When we were camping this summer, we discovered how difficult it is to collect firewood and kindle a new fire. These are all things that should be done before sunset on Friday evening. However, we don't see it as wrong to keep an already-lit fire going for warmth, as long as all the wood has been collected and is ready next to the fire, so that no work of preparation is needed.

Here again we see the principle that the Sabbath is a set-apart day. We should think ahead all through the week, so that we are *ready* to rest on the seventh day.

“When the neighboring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on the Sabbath, **we will not buy from them on the Sabbath** or on any holy day” (*Nehemiah 10:31*).

We are not to buy or sell on the Sabbath. This is YHVH's holy day, so we don't host garage sales or take advantage of clearance deals on

Saturdays. We also plan ahead and make sure that our vehicles are filled with gas and that we have the food and other supplies we need in the house. We should not go out to eat at restaurants. All of these things require others to work on our behalf, which is why we should not do them.

“Do not bring a load out of your houses or do any work on the Sabbath, but keep the Sabbath day holy, as I commanded your ancestors” (Jeremiah 17:22).

This is pretty clear, but it has affected us a few times when we’ve been moving or traveling. Sometimes it feels like we will be penalized for obeying God, especially when help is only available on a Saturday. However, we have found that God always provides. It has been fun to take note of the special ways He takes care of us.

“There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to YHVH” (Leviticus 23:3).

I’ll talk more about this below, but one of the reasons we are to stop our work is so that we can assemble with others. The Sabbath isn’t all about putting our feet up and eating bon-bons all day. Rather, it’s a day set apart **to YHVH**.

Making the Sabbath Special

*If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath
and from doing as you please on my holy day,
**if you call the Sabbath a delight
and YHVH's holy day honorable,**
and if you honor it by not going your own way
and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,
then you will find your joy in YHVH,
and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the
land
and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.”
For the mouth of YHVH has spoken (Isaiah 58:13-14).*

We set aside our own pursuits on this day, but we also try to make the Sabbath delightful. We can do this by changing into nicer clothes on Friday evenings, making our homes clean, having a nice meal, inviting friends and family to celebrate with us, singing and enjoying each other, and most of all, by studying and discussing Scripture and worshipping YHVH through prayer.

Traditions have arisen over the past few thousand years, and these traditions vary based on location and culture. Judaism has codified some of her traditions in the oral Torah (called the *Talmud*), as “fences” to help her people guard the Sabbath and make it holy.

Yet they are still traditions. It’s okay to have traditions, by the way. Traditions help families and nations have a unique identify. Much of the time, traditions are just practical. (For instance, covering a loaf of bread keeps it from drying out. Washing hands before a meal is just good sanitation.)

Traditions are often filled with beautiful object lessons and teaching tools, too. That's fun when you have children!

Traditions are fine — until they become “the commands of men.”

*And the Pharisees and the scribes asked [Yeshua], “Why do your disciples not walk **according to the tradition of the elders**, but eat with defiled hands?”*

And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

*“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;
in vain do they worship me, **teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**”*

*You **leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.**” And he said to them, “You have a fine way of **rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!** (Mark 7:5-9, ESV)*

Moses warns us that we'll be tempted to “add to” the commands of God:

***“You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHVH your God that I command you”** (Deuteronomy 4:2, ESV).*

So it is with these thoughts in mind that I share the special Sabbath prayers and blessings that we *often* do in the Elliott home on *Erev Shabbat*, or Friday evening, the eve of Shabbat. They are just traditions! Some of them are adopted from Judaism. Some are just

adopted from others whose homes we've been in on *Erev Shabbat*. Some are just made up by the Elliotts!

We don't do these every week. We have small children still, and some weeks they're too tired. (Some weeks Dad and Mom are too tired!) Sometimes we have guests who would feel uncomfortable with all of this, so we'll just pray a prayer of blessing over the food like we did in our Baptist days. And sometimes, Dad reaches back into his "pastor days" and gets even more long-winded than what you see here.

But if you're wondering how to make the Sabbath special in your home, maybe you'll get some ideas.

Before Sunset on Friday

Friday is certainly "Preparation Day" at our house, and since sometimes in the winter the sun sets quite early, we get moving on our day as early as we can. We have a very short school day today, if any, so that we can prepare for Sabbath.

First we clean the house, especially since we enjoy having company over for dinner on *Erev Shabbat*. We have a list of chores on the refrigerator, and even the kids help (so that Mom doesn't arrive at sunset utterly exhausted).

- Bathrooms cleaned
- Garbages out
- Dust
- Shake rugs
- Vacuum and sweep

- Desk declutter
- Bedrooms cleaned
- Toys put away
- Kitchen appliances wiped

Next we make sure we're ready for fellowship with other believers on Saturday.

- Baths for everyone
- Diaper bag packed
- Clothes picked out
- Bibles and coloring in a bag
- Shoes by the door
- Cell phones charged
- The van's gas tank filled with gas

Kitchen prep takes a large portion of the afternoon.

- My daughter makes *challah* for dinner tonight, and my son mixes up grape juice with sugar and seltzer. Another daughter has the job of putting butter out to soften or mixing herbs and oil to dunk our *challah* into.
 - *Challah* is a traditional Jewish Sabbath bread that is braided into three or more strands. We braid ours to help us remember that on the Sabbath, we should fold our arms in rest.³

³ My *challah* recipe is at <http://homeschoolingtorah.com/annes-challah-recipe>.

- ❑ We make a breakfast cake and an egg bake to enjoy tomorrow morning. We also make a few pots of coffee and keep it warm in a thermos.
- ❑ We prepare a slow-cooker dinner to eat with others in our fellowship tomorrow. During the summer months, we also make sure that there are leftovers and cold cuts for sandwiches on Saturday evening, plus snacks, olives, pickles, and desserts. (We certainly don't starve on Sabbath!)
- ❑ We prepare a special Friday-evening dinner and dessert. By this point, the house smells *so good!*

Shortly before sunset, we prepare the dining room.

- ❑ We set the table and make it pretty, but we use paper plates, so that we won't have a lot of cleanup work to do on Sabbath. On the few occasions where our meal needs a sturdy, real plate, we just stack the dishes in the sink and leave them for after sundown on Saturday night.
- ❑ We place little booklets on each plate, filled with prayers, blessings, and songs for the Sabbath day.
 - *You can download the booklet we use here: [Word format](#) | [PDF format](#)*
- ❑ I try to plan a "creation" and "redemption" activity to do with my kids each Sabbath, since Scripture says that we are to remember these two biblical themes on Sabbath.

After Sunset on Friday

Now the sun has gone down. I usually get on Facebook and wish my friends “Shabbat shalom,” which means “Sabbath peace” and is a traditional Sabbath greeting. If dinner is still finishing up in the oven, I sit down and put my feet up for a minute.

If we’re having friends over, they usually arrive a little after dark, and we hug and gather around the table.

We place the *challah* bread on the table and fill the crystal goblets with juice. We say a prayer of blessing to begin the Sabbath, and then Kraig blesses each of the children and me, too. Then we all recite Psalm 1 as a blessing over him.

Next Kraig reads several passages that reiterate the command to rest on the Sabbath, so that we are continuously reminded why we’re setting the day apart.

He then prays several prayers of *kiddush*, or setting aside the day. We give thanks for what YHVH has provided by blessing the grape juice and the bread, eating a little of each. These are also a beautiful picture to us of Yeshua our Messiah, who was the bread of life and who shed His blood for our redemption.

We usually sing several songs together, and then I say, “Let the celebration begin!” We all take our plates into the kitchen and dish up dinner buffet style. We play some happy music in the background. We enjoy dessert. (My favorite is cheesecake!) We talk and laugh.

We have several blessings and songs for after dinner, then we play games and talk, often for hours. Sometimes we gather around the piano and sing. This is so fun!

It is amazing to me how the conversation very naturally drifts to things from the Scriptures. There is never a worry that we won't have anything to talk about, or that the only thing we have in common with our company is the weather. This is precious fellowship indeed!

And like I said: These are just *traditions*. If we're tired, we have leftovers or pizza (purchased before sunset), and we just say a quick pray of thanks for the food – and *rest!*

Assembling on the Sabbath

The most basic principle of Sabbath is that we are to rest. However, in our family, we have decided that there is more to rest than just sleeping in a little later, not cooking, and avoiding working our jobs.

In Leviticus 23:3, YHWH instructed the Israelites,

“There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, ***a day of sacred assembly***. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to YHWH.”

A very important aspect of Sabbath is making it “a day of sacred assembly.” In fact, we have found that meeting with other believers

once a week is extremely important to feeling rested by the end of Sabbath.

I realize that many families don't know any other people who rest on Sabbath, so you might not have anyone to assemble with. Others cannot find a fellowship with which they agree doctrinally.

However, the *ideal* situation is to assemble with others.

“So Messiah himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Messiah may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Messiah. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Messiah. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:11-16).

These verses tell us that we need the entire body of Messiah:

- We need prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.
- So that we will be equipped for works of service.
- So that the Body of believers in Yeshua will be built up.
- So that we will reach unity in the faith and in knowledge.
- So that we will become mature.

- ❑ So that we won't be deceived (as infants, tossed by the waves, blown here and there by every wind of doctrine).

Have you ever noticed any of these problems among believers? I have, too! Scripture says these problems won't happen when the Body is functioning correctly.

Scripture teaches that this is a local body, not the worldwide body of believers. In other words, listening to teachings on the Internet is *NOT* the same thing as assembling with believers on the Sabbath day.

Titus 2:1-15 tells us that younger men need older men, younger women need older women, and so on. In other words, we need to brush up against the humanity and problems of people, so that we learn how to interact properly with others and so that we *grow up* and mature in our ability to love others.

*“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **not giving up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25).*

We can look at the book of 1 Corinthians for a manual on how to behave when we assemble together. Chapter 14 is especially appropriate, so be sure to read it.

“When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up” (1 Corinthians 14:26).

So what does our family do on Saturday? Well, we sleep in a little bit longer, then we have breakfast, which we prepared ahead of time.

Next we load up our Bibles, some crayons, a crock-pot filled with lunch plus a plate of dessert and some drinks, a container of paper plates, our electric piano, and a bag of quiet toys. We jump in the van and drive into the city where several of us families rent a room in a community center.

We start with music and prayers. My husband gives a short teaching on that week’s Torah portion.⁴ By then it’s lunchtime, so we all share our food together. After lunch, we have another short prayer time and recite some traditional blessings together. The kids go into the next-door room to play while we grownups sit and talk Scripture and life.

It’s awesome. I highly recommend it.

⁴ His teachings are available at <http://solelsabbathfellowship.com>.

New Months and New Years

Aviv barley plays an important role in Scripture, helping us know when a year begins on God's calendar, and thereby determining when each of the rest of the feasts in Leviticus 23 will take place. Let's learn what Scripture says about the aviv barley and how it applies to our lives.

These are the feasts of YHVH, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times (Leviticus 23:4).

Study It from Scripture

What Is Aviv Barley?

The Hebrew word *aviv* is first used in Exodus 9:31-32, which is talking about the plague of hail that YHVH sent upon Egypt:

"The flax and the barley were struck down, for the barley was ***in the ear [aviv]*** and the flax was in bud. But the wheat and the emmer were not struck down, for they are late in coming up." (Exodus 9:31-32, ESV).

- ❑ Look up the definition of *aviv*, or “in the ear” (Strong’s #024).
- ❑ Learn more about *aviv* barley at http://www.karaite-korner.org/abib_faq.shtml.

See images of barley at various stages of development:

- ❑ http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/scseidaho/growstage/growth_stage_index.htm
- ❑ http://www.karaitejudaism.org/aviv_search_1.htm
(These images are from 2008.)
- ❑ http://www.karaitejudaism.org/aviv_2007.htm
(These images are from 2007.)
- ❑ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFfIKimiBjs>
(These images are from 2013.)
- ❑ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hebrew-in-Israel/277694812286028>
(These images are from 2014.)

Agriculture in Israel

- ❑ Learn more about agriculture in Israel:
 - <http://www.bible.gen.nz/amos/culture/agriculture.htm>
 - <http://www.bible-archaeology.info/agriculture.htm>⁵

⁵ We recommend parental supervision on this link. It has good information, but use caution clicking any other links.

- <http://www.Messianiananswers.net/dictionary/agriculture.html>
 - http://www.bible-history.com/geography/seasons_months_israel.html
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_Israel
 - http://www.myjewishlearning.com/israel/Contemporary_Life/Society_and_Religious_Issues/Agriculture.shtml
- ❑ What is the weather like in Israel?
- http://www.ims.gov.il/IMSENG/ALL_TAHAZIT/HOMEPAGE.HTM
 - <http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/aboutisrael/land/pages/the%20land-%20geography%20and%20climate.aspx>
 - <http://www.jpost.com/Enviro-Tech/Israel-experiencing-unprecedented-drought-conditions-341003> (drought in spring 2014)
- ❑ At what time of year does barley become ripe?
When does wheat become ripe?
What other crops are commonly harvested in Israel, and when do they become ripe?

Aviv and the Feasts of YHVH

- ❑ *Aviv* is mentioned in the following Scripture passages. Read each one, and discuss how it is related to the biblical calendar and to *moedim* (appointed times, or the feasts of YHVH):
 - Exodus 12:1-2
 - Exodus 13:4
 - Exodus 23:15
 - Exodus 34:18
 - Leviticus 2:14
 - Deuteronomy 16:1

- ❑ Read the following websites for more explanation:
 - <http://www.nazareneisrael.org/aviv-barley-and-the-head-of-the-year-2/>
 - <http://www.nazareneisrael.org/aviv-barley-basics/>
 - <http://www.nazareneisrael.org/the-wave-sheaf-in-the-sabbath-year/>

- ❑ How is the Feast of First Fruits related to *aviv* barley?
 - Read Leviticus 23:9-14.
 - What was to be done with the first grain that was harvested? (Leviticus 23:10)

 - According to Leviticus 2:14, what was a grain offering to consist of?

- According to Leviticus 2:1, 4, 11, and 14, in what different ways could grain be offered to YHVH?
- What was not to be done until an offering was brought to God? (Leviticus 23:14)
For how long was this to be an ordinance?

Fun with Barley

Unleavened bread made with barley:

- <http://cookingfinland.blogspot.com/2011/02/easiest-bread-ever-unleavened-barley.html>
- <http://anumma.com/blog/2010/3/19/barley-flour-pita-and-oven-spring.html>
- <http://cedarringmama.wordpress.com/2012/04/10/barley-cakes>
- <http://www.thefreshloaf.com/node/4646/Yeshua-bread-historic-bread-baking>

(The comments to this post are very interesting and filled with more links.)

Other barley recipes:

- <http://www.tarladal.com/recipes-using-barley-184?pageindex=1>
- <http://www.yummly.com/recipes/cracked-barley>

Passover

The Old Testament says that God redeemed (or purchased) the people of Israel for His very own. In Exodus, He redeemed them from slavery in Egypt by the spilled blood of the Passover Lambs. This is a picture of His ultimate redemption of His people from the slavery of sin by the blood of His Son Yeshua.

On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is YHVH's Passover (Leviticus 23:5).

Study It from Scripture

What is the first time Passover is mentioned in Scripture?

Read Exodus 12:1-2.

1. What month of the year was it? the _____ month
2. Read Exodus 9:31-32. What crops were ready to be harvested?

What was each man to do on the 10th day of the month?
(verse 3)

- What was going to be done with the lamb? (See the end of verse 4.)
- If a family was too small for a whole lamb, what should they do? (verse 4)
- What kind of animal was to be chosen? (verse 5)
 1. How old?
 2. Male or female?
 3. Without _____
 4. A sh _____ or a
g _____
- What were they to do with the lamb from the 10th day to the 14th day? (verses 3 and 6)
- At what time of day was the lamb to be killed? (verse 6)
 1. Look up these Hebrew words in a Strong's concordance:
 - in (Strong's #996) _____
 - the evening (Strong's #6153)

 2. Read Exodus 12:6 in several English translations.
- Where were they to put the blood? (verse 7)
- How were they to cook the meat? (verse 8)

- ❑ What two things were they to eat with the meat? (verse 8)
 - 1.
 - 2.
- ❑ How were they *not* to eat the meat? (verse 9)
 - 1.
 - 2.
- ❑ What were they to do with leftovers? (verse 10)
- ❑ How were they to be dressed when they ate it? (verse 11)
- ❑ At what speed were they to eat it? (verse 11)
- ❑ The first mention of YHVH's "passover" is at the end of verse 11. Look up the Hebrew word in a Strong's concordance:
 - passover (Strong'e #6453)

- ❑ What was YHVH planning to do on that night? (verses 12-13)

"When I see the blood, I will pass over you..."

Passover as a Commemoration

- For how long is this day to be remembered? (verse 14)
 1. Look up these Hebrew words in a Strong's concordance:
 - memorial (Strong's #2146)

 - feast (Strong's #2282)

 - throughout your generations (Strong's #1755)

 - ordinance (Strong's #2708)

 - for ever (Strong's #5769)

 2. Read Exodus 12:14 in several English translations.
- What is to be eaten? (verse 15)
- For how many days is it to be eaten? (verse 15)
- What is to be done on the seventh day? (verse 15)
- What would happen if someone ate yeast? (verse 15)?

- What was to be held on the first day of the feast? (verse 16)

- What was to be held on the seventh day? (verse 16)
 1. Looking at a calendar, what day of the first month was the Passover? _____
 2. What day of the month was the first day of unleavened bread? _____
 3. What day of the month was the seventh day of unleavened bread? _____

- What is the only work that could be done on the first and seventh days of the feast? (verse 16)

- Why was the feast to be held? (verse 17)

- For how long was the feast to be held? (verse 17)

- On what days was unleavened bread to be eaten? (verse 18)

Compare your answer to the calendar you looked at previously.

- What command and warning is repeated in verse 19?

- Did this command apply only to the children of Israel? (verse 19)

- What was not to be eaten? (verse 20)

- What *was* to be eaten? (verse 20)

- Did this command apply only to those living in the land of Israel? (verse 20)

The Celebration of the First Passover

- What did the Israelites use to apply the blood to their doorposts? (verse 22)

- Where were they to stay until morning? (verse 22)

- For how long were these instructions to be obeyed? (verse 24)

- What were the Israelites to do after they entered the land that YHVH promised to give them? (verse 25)

- What was the Passover called in verses 26-27?

- Look up this Hebrew word in a Strong's concordance:
(Strong's #5656) _____

- ❑ Why were they to observe this service? (verses 26-27)

- ❑ Continue to read Exodus 12:28-42.
 - What did the children of Israel do? (verse 28)

 - What did the people do with their bread dough?
(verse 34)

 - Who went with the Israelites? (verse 38)

 - What did they do with the bread dough they took
with them? (verse 39)
Why was the bread unleavened?

 - What did the Israelites do on that night? (verse 42)
Why?

- ❑ Who was not to eat of the Passover? (verse 43)

- ❑ What must be done if a foreign slave wanted to eat of the
Passover? (verse 44)

- Where was the Passover to be eaten? (verse 46)

- What was not to happen to any of the bones of the sacrificed lamb? (verse 46)

- If a foreigner wanted to eat the Passover, what must be done to all the males in his house? (verse 48)

- What applied the same to all people? (verse 49)

The Commands Given Again

- What belongs to YHVH? (Exodus 13:1-2)

- What did YHVH's mighty hand do? (verse 3)

- What was not to be eaten? (verse 3)

- What month was it? (verse 4)

- When they arrived in Canaan, what were they to do?
(verse 5)

- For how many days were they to eat bread without leaven?
(verse 6)

- What was to be done on the seventh day? (verse 6)

- Where was leaven not to be seen? (verse 7)

- What was to be told to their sons? (verse 8)

- What was Passover to be like? (verse 9)
 - A _____ on your

 - A _____ on your

 - That _____

 - Why?

- For how long is this day to be remembered? (verse 10)
 - Look up the Hebrew words in a Strong's concordance:
 - ordinance (Strong's #2708)

 - season (Strong's #4150)

- Read Exodus 13:11-15. What belongs to YHVH?
- Why did Pharaoh's firstborn son die?
- What is repeated in verse 16?

Other Mentions of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

- Read Exodus 34:18-20. List the commands:
 - How many days?
 - Eat what?
 - At what time?
 - Why at that time?
 - What belonged to YHVH?

- ❑ Read Leviticus 23:4-8. List the commands:
 - When did Passover begin? (verse 5)
 - When did the Feast of Unleavened Bread begin? (verse 6)
 - For how many days was bread to be made without leaven? (verse 6)
 - What happened on the first day of the Feast? (verse 7)
 - What was to be offered for seven days? (verse 8)
 - What happened on the seventh day of the Feast? (verse 8)

- ❑ Read Numbers 9:1-14. List the commands:
 - When did YHVH speak to Moses this time? (verse 1)
 - When was Passover to be celebrated? (verse 3)
 - Some of the people were unclean and could not bring a sacrifice to the Tabernacle. When were they to celebrate the Passover? (verses 6-11)

□ Read Numbers 28:16-25. List the commands:

- When was the Passover celebrated? (verse 16)

- When did the Feast of Unleavened Bread begin?
(verse 17)
- What was to be eaten for seven days? (verse 17)

- What was to happen on the first day of the feast?
(verse 18)
- What offerings were made in the Tabernacle? (verses 19-22)
 - Burnt offering:
 - Two _____
 - One _____
 - Seven _____
 - Grain offering:
 - With the bull:
 - _____
 - _____
 - With the ram:
 - _____
 - _____

- With each lamb:

- Sin offering to make atonement:

- These are in addition to

- What was to happen on the seventh day of the feast?
(verse 25)

Read Numbers 33:3. When did the Israelites leave Egypt?

Read Deuteronomy 16:1-8. List the commands:

- When was the Passover to be celebrated? (verse 1)
- What was to be sacrificed? (verse 2)
- Where was this sacrifice to be made? (verse 2)
- What was not to be eaten? (verse 3)

- What was to be eaten for seven days? (verse 3)
- What was this bread called? (verse 3)
the bread of _____
- How long were they to remember the departure from Egypt? (verse 3)
- What was not to be found for seven days? (verse 4)
- Where was it not to be found? (verse 4)
- What was to be done with the meat before morning? (verse 4)
- Where was the Passover only to be sacrificed? (verses 5-6)
- On what date and time was the Passover to be sacrificed? (verse 6)
Why at this time?
- Where was the meat to be roasted and eaten? (verse 7)
- What were they to do in the morning? (verse 7)
- What was to be done for the next six days? (verse 8)

- What was to be done on the seventh day? (verse 8)
- Read Deuteronomy 16:16-17. List the commands:
 - How many times a year were all men to appear before YHVH?
 - Where were they to appear?
 - What were they to bring with them?

Other Records of Passover Celebrations

- Read Joshua 5:1-12.
 - What did they do to all the males before Passover?
 - What day had they crossed over the Jordan River?
(See Joshua 4:19.)
 - When did they celebrate the Passover? (Joshua 5:10)
 - What did they eat the day after Passover? (verse 11)
- Read 2 Kings 22:1-13 and 23:21-23.
 - How long had it been since Passover had been observed?

- This account is also recorded in 2 Chronicles 35:1-19.
- ❑ Read 2 Chronicles 30:1-27.
 - How was the Feast celebrated? (verse 21)

- ❑ Read Ezra 6:16-22.
 - How did they celebrate? (verse 22)

The Passover in the Times of Yeshua and the Apostles

- ❑ Read Luke 2:41-42. What did Yeshua's parents do each year?

- ❑ Read John 2:2 and 23. What was Yeshua in the habit of doing?

- ❑ Read Mark 14:1. At what time of year did Yeshua die?

- ❑ Read Acts 20:1-6. Who celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Why was Paul in a hurry? (Acts 20:16)

Symbolism of the Passover

❑ Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8.

1. What does yeast picture? (verse 6)
2. What does the Messiah picture? (verse 7)
3. How are we to keep the Feast? (verse 8)

❑ Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-32.

1. What does the bread symbolize? (verses 23-24)
2. Who are we to remember when we eat it? (verse 24)
3. What does the cup symbolize? (verse 25)
4. Who are we to remember when we drink it? (verse 25)
5. What do we proclaim when we eat and drink of it? (verse 26)
For how long?
6. What should we do before eating it and drinking of it? (verses 27-32)

Passover in the Future

- Read Ezekiel 45:21-25.
 - Is the celebration of the feast in the future temple the same or different from YHVH's original commands?

How We Are to Observe Passover

- Read Deuteronomy 4:2. How are we to keep YHVH's commands?
- Read Deuteronomy 12:32. How are we to keep YHVH's commands?
- Is there anything wrong with adding traditions which are not in the Torah? See Matthew 15:6-8.

- How do we fall into error? See Matthew 22:29.

- Read Colossians 2:16-17. Should we let others judge us because we keep Passover?
What is Passover a picture ("shadow") of?
What does this tell you should be the focus of your celebrations?

What Have You Learned?

- What month of the year is Passover to be celebrated?

- What are we to remember on the 10th day of the month?

- Where is the only place that Passover lambs are to be sacrificed?

- What is not to be found in our homes for seven days?

- What is to be eaten for seven days?

- What is special about the first and seventh days?

- Why is Passover to be celebrated?

Review the verses read in this study. Write down the specific ways your family is going to celebrate Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread this year.

Passover Studies by Other Authors:

- From Schalk and Elsa Klee:
 - <http://www.setapartpeople.com/celebrate-pesach-feast-unleavened-bread>
- From Christine Miller:
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/how-we-celebrate-passover>
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/when-we-celebrate-passover>
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/why-we-celebrate-passover>
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/our-passover-celebration>

Passover Seders We Recommend:

Our family has done many things since 2006, when we first celebrated Passover (*Pesach*). We have kept it very simple, just acting out each thing in the story of the Exodus and being sure we included every element listed in the Torah. We have also done full Jewish Seders. Here are some of the resources we have used, although there are many other wonderful resources besides these:

- Our congregation's haggadah (Passover seder) is available here:
 - <http://solelsabbathfellowship.com/category/downloads/>
- We have used the Passover Seder by Robin Sampson most. You can purchase it online here. We print a copy for each person who can read.
 - <http://heartofwisdom.com/biblical/holidays/2013/03/06/messianic-passover-haggadah>
- Our first year, we followed the very simple recommendations in the book *Celebrating Biblical Feasts*, by Martha Zimmerman. This was probably my favorite Passover so far!
- Schalk and Elsa Klee have written a Messianic-Jewish Seder with a strong emphasis on Messiah:
 - <http://www.setapartpeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Haggadah-English-2014.pdf>

Online Resources

- Messianic Passover Seder Ideas from Heart of Wisdom (Robin Sampson)
 - <http://heartofwisdom.com/biblical/holidays/2016/03/07/messianic-passover-seder/>
- Passover Lapbook from Heart of Wisdom (Robin Sampson)
 - <http://heartofwisdom.com/biblical/holidays/2015/04/01/passover-lapbook/>
- Passover Menus from Christine Miller
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/passover-menus/>
- 6 Tips to Having the Best Passover Seder
 - <http://www.joyofkosher.com/2013/03/6-tips-to-having-the-best-seder-ever/>
- Unleavened Bread Recipes
 - <http://www.nazareneisrael.org/articles/calendar/unleavened-bread-recipes/>

Crafts and Fun Activities

- Ten Plagues Crafts – Boils
 - <http://www.sundayschoolcrafts.net/the-10-plagues-of-egypt-boils-craft.php>
- Passover Bag of Plagues
 - <http://www.marthastewart.com/270407/passover-bag-of-plagues>
- 8 Fun Crafts to Get Kids Ready for Passover
 - <http://www.popsugar.com/moms/Passover-Crafts-Kids-28726633>
- The Feasts of the Farming Year (printable)
 - <http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/feasts.htm>
- Anne’s Pinterest Board for Biblical Holidays
 - <https://www.pinterest.com/elliottanne/biblical-holidays/>

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

Immediately following the Passover night, the children of Israel left

And it came to pass at midnight that YHVH struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, “Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve YHVH as you have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also.”

And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders (Exodus 12:29-34).

Just as the people took their dough before it was leavened, God instituted a week of remembrance, where we are to eat unleavened bread each day and remember how He redeemed His people.

And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to YHVH; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. 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 YHVH for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.” (Leviticus 23:6-8).

Study It from Scripture

What is the chronology of the week of Yeshua’s death and resurrection? And why is it so important to know when Yeshua died and rose again?

- The rabbis taught that the Messiah would declare Himself with 3 specific miracles:
 1. Healing a leper
 2. Casting out a demon from someone who could not speak
 3. Healing a blind man⁶
- Read Matthew 8:1-4. Whom did Yeshua heal?
- Read Matthew 9:27-34. Whom did Yeshua heal?

⁶ Source: <http://www.letusreason.org/Juda5.htm>

- ❑ Read Matthew 12:22-24. Whom did Yeshua heal?

- ❑ Read Matthew 12:13-16, 23. Who did the people believe Yeshua was?

- ❑ Read Matthew 12:38-42. What is the only sign that Yeshua would give to prove who He was?
 1. How many days?
 2. How many nights?
 3. Where would the Son of Man (Messiah) be?

- ❑ Read John 2:18-22. What miraculous sign did Yeshua give?
How many days?

- ❑ Read Mark 14:55-64. Why was Yeshua condemned to death?

- ❑ Read Matthew 27:62-66. What were the chief priests and Pharisees worried would happen?

- ❑ Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. Was Yeshua's resurrection a deception?
How many people were witnesses to His resurrection?

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Why is the resurrection of Messiah so important?

In the Bible, we will see that it is common in Israel for there to be 12 hours of day (sunlight) and 4 watches of the night (darkness).

- Read John 11:9.
- How many hours are in a day?

- When does the sunlight-day begin? (at sunrise, which is the beginning of the “first hour.”)

- If the sunlight-day begins at sunrise at 6:00 A.M., what is the 3rd hour of the day?
 What is the 6th hour?
 What is the 9th hour?⁷

From your study of Passover and the Unleavened Bread, answer the following questions:

- What was to happen on the 10th day of the first month? (Exodus 12:4-6)

⁷ The third hour would be 9:00 A.M., the sixth hour would be Noon, and the ninth hour would be 3:00 P.M.

- ❑ What was to happen on the 14th day of the month, “between the evenings,” or in the afternoon of the 14th day? (Exodus 12:6, Leviticus 23:5)

- ❑ What was to happen beginning on the 15th day of the month, at sunset? (Leviticus 23:6)

- ❑ What were the people not to do on that 15th day of the month? (Leviticus 23:7)

From your study of Passover, write the numbers 1-15 on the days of the first month of the year for **this year**. (Write a 1 on the day that was the first day, 2 on the second day, etc.)

- Color the 15th day yellow. This is the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is a Sabbath, a day of rest.
- Color the 14th day red. This is the day on which the Passover sacrifice is made, late in the afternoon (almost to the 15th day). Because it comes before a Sabbath, it is a “Preparation Day” (similar to the 6th day of every week, before the 7th-day Sabbath).

This Year _____

Sun-day	Mon-day	Tues-day	Wednes-day	Thurs-day	Friday	Sab-bath

We will now begin to construct a similar calendar for the year in which Yeshua died. The Catholic church teaches that Yeshua was crucified on a Friday (“Good Friday”) and rose again on a Sunday morning (“Easter”). We will see if Scripture upholds this view.

The Year Yeshua Died and Rose Again

Sun-day	Mon-day	Tues-day	Wednes-day	Thurs-day	Friday	Sab-bath
*						

- Read Matthew 28:1.⁸ When did Mary Magdalene and Mary go to the tomb?
- It was the _____ day of the week.
 - Time of day: _____
 - It was after the _____
 - Read Matthew 28:5-7. Had Yeshua already risen from the dead?

⁸ If you have several people in your family, you may wish to assign one person to read all the verses from Matthew, another to read all the verses from Mark, etc. If you are doing this study by yourself, you may wish to place bookmarks in the last chapters of each of the four gospels. ©

- Read Mark 16:1-3. When did the women go to the tomb?
 - According to verse 2, it was the _____ day of the week.
 - Time of day: _____
 - Read Mark 16:6. Had Yeshua already risen from the dead?

- Read Luke 24:1-3. When did the women go to the tomb?
 - It was the _____ day of the week.
 - Time of day: _____
 - Had Yeshua already risen from the dead?

- Read John 20:1-2. When did Mary Magdalene go to the tomb?
 - It was the _____ day of the week.
 - Time of day: _____
 - Did she find Yeshua's body in the tomb?

- On the chart above, decorate the first day of the week that we've marked with * to let you know that Yeshua had *already* risen by this morning.

You can already begin to see that Yeshua couldn't have died on a Friday if He was to prove He was Messiah by being in the grave for three days and three nights. However, let's check it further.

- Read Matthew 27:47-61.
 - Where was Yeshua's body placed?
 - Who wrapped His body for burial?

- ❑ Read Matthew 27:62.
 - What was the next day called?
 - On the calendar chart above, put a small PD in the corner of any days that would have been a “Preparation Day” before a Sabbath.
- ❑ Read Mark 15:42-47.
 - Who wrapped Yeshua’s body and laid it in a tomb?
- ❑ According to Mark 15:42, what day was it?
- ❑ Read Luke 23:50-56.
 - According to verse 54, what day was it?
 - What was about to begin?
 - According to verse 56, what did they do on the Sabbath?
- ❑ Read John 19:28-31.
 - On what day did Yeshua die?
 - What was the next day?
 - What kind of Sabbath was this?
 - This word (special, high, etc.) in Greek is Strong’s #3173. What does it mean?
- ❑ Read Leviticus 23:7. What were the people not allowed to do on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (the 15th day)?

- ❑ Read Mark 16:1 again.
 - What did the women do when the Sabbath was over?
 - Were Jews allowed to buy spices on a Sabbath day?
- ❑ Read Mark 16:2 again.
 - At what time of day did they go to the tomb?
 - Would stores have been open yet?

Therefore, what Sabbath day would Mark 16:1 have been referring to? The special (high) Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Now that you see that there were **two** Sabbaths after Yeshua's death. The first Sabbath was a special (high) Sabbath, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

- ❑ What day of the first month does this Sabbath fall upon? (See Leviticus 23:6-7, if needed)
- ❑ On the calendar above, color yellow the 15th day of the month of the year Yeshua died and rose again. Check that it meets this criterion:
 - There was a non-Sabbath day after it on which the women could buy spices.
- ❑ On the calendar above, color red the 14th day of the month, on which the Passover sacrifice was made, late in the afternoon (almost to the 15th day).
- ❑ Because the 14th day came before a Sabbath, it is a "Preparation Day." Put a small PD in the corner of the 14th day.

Was Yeshua the Messiah?

- For how many days and nights was He in the grave?
- Review Matthew 12:40. For how many days must Yeshua be in the grave?
- On the calendar above, place a 3 on the Sabbath before the first day of the week, a 2 on the day before that, and a 1 on the day before that. Your 1 should be on the day you colored yellow.
- For how many nights must Yeshua be in the grave?
- Read Matthew 27:57. What time was it when Joseph came to get the body of Yeshua?
- Read Mark 15:42. What time was it?
- Read Luke 23:54. What time was it, if the Sabbath was about to begin?
- Read John 19:42. What day was it when Yeshua was laid in the tomb?
- On what day of the month did Yeshua die? Mark a cross on the 14th day of your calendar above.
- According to Matthew 12:40, do we start counting the 3 days and 3 nights from the moment Yeshua died? No, we are to keep track of how many days He was _____
_____.
- Because Yeshua wasn't placed into the tomb until almost sunset, place a 1 that overlaps days 14-15 on the calendar.

This 1 symbolizes Yeshua's first night in the tomb. You may wish to use a different color to number this, so that you'll see the difference between this and the numbers used to count the days. Place a 2 and a 3 on the other nights in which He was in the tomb.

The Resurrection of Yeshua

- According to your calendar, Yeshua must not have risen from the dead until when?
- According to your study of the Feast of First Fruits, on what day of the week does this Feast always fall? (You may wish to review in Leviticus 23:9-11, 15-16.) _____
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23. What is the Messiah called?
- On what Feast day did Yeshua rise again?
- When does a new day begin, according to Scripture?
- Was Yeshua still in the tomb when Mary Magdalene arrived early in the morning on the first day of the week? (See John 20:1.)
- Therefore, when did Yeshua rise from the dead?
- Mark Yeshua's resurrection on your calendar above.

Who was Yeshua?

- John 1:29
- Revelation 13:8
- 1 Corinthians 5:7

Why did Yeshua die?

- Read 1 Peter 2:24. Why was he hung on a tree?

- Read Romans 5:12. How did death come into the world?

- Read Romans 6:23. What is the penalty for sin?

- Read 1 John 3:4. What is sin?

- Read Romans 3:23. How many people have sinned?
Have you sinned?
- Read Genesis 3:15. After the sin of Adam and Eve, what curse did YHVH place on the serpent?

- Read Genesis 15:4-6. What promise was made to Abraham?

- Read Galatians 3:16. What “seed” of Abraham was promised to come?

- Read Romans 4:18-25. According to verse 25, why did Yeshua die and why was He resurrected?

- Read Romans 10:9-12. According to verse 9, how can we be saved from the penalty of sin?

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Write a few sentences telling what this means to you:

Scripture says so much more about Passover and our wonderful savior and Messiah! Use the space below to record other things you learn from Scripture this year:

The Feast of First Fruits

We personally believe that the Feast of First Fruits is one of the most neglected of all the feasts. However, this feast represents the resurrection of our Messiah and promises our own resurrection! It only makes sense that our enemy would like to keep this feast hidden and has sought to replace it with Easter.

Many families are fearful of this feast because it takes place on a Sunday and because Christianity celebrates Easter on this day.

Regardless, the Feast of First Fruits is still an appointed time of YHVH! He wants to meet with you on this day, Sunday or not, and He has so much hope to give you through this feast. I urge all of us to claim it for our mighty King!

And YHVH 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 YHVH, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. 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 YHVH. Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to YHVH, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. You shall eat neither bread

Studies by Other Authors:

- From Anne Elliott:
 - Should We Celebrate Easter?
 - <http://anneelliott.com/2010/04/should-we-celebrate-easter>
 - Thoughts on the Resurrection
 - <http://anneelliott.com/2013/03/thoughts-on-the-resurrection>
 - New Birth
 - <http://anneelliott.com/2013/06/new-birth>
- The Significance of Understanding First Fruits (Schalk and Elsa Klee)
 - <http://www.setapartpeople.com/significance-understanding-fruits>
- From Christine Miller:
 - Messiah, the Firstfruits from the Dead
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/christ-the-firstfruits-from-the-dead>
 - 1 Corinthians 15 – The Firstfruits Harvest
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/1-corinthians-15-the-firstfruits-harvest>

- The Wavesheaf Ceremony (Harold Smith)
 - http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/Further_Research/Holy%20Days/wavesheaf.pdf
- *God's Festivals in Scripture and History. Volume I: The Spring Festivals*, Samuele Bacchiocchi
- The Resurrection of Messiah (Hoshana Rabbah)
 - <https://www.hoshanarabbah.org/pdfs/firstfruits.pdf>
- Nisan 17 Odds: One in 783,864,876,960,000,000 (Robin Sampson)
 - http://heartofwisdom.com/biblical_holidays/2010/03/01/nisan-17-odds-one-in-783864876960000000/
- Yeshua' Resurrection in First Fruits (Robin Sampson)
 - http://heartofwisdom.com/biblical_holidays/2010/04/03/jesus-resurrection-in-first-fruits-free-guide/

How to Celebrate

In our home, we celebrate the resurrection of Yeshua on the Feast of First Fruits, we give a monetary offering in remembrance of the tithes given in Israel, and we have yummy food and enjoy each other. Scripture does not say that this is a sabbath from work.

- Firstfruits Menu (Christine Miller)
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/first-fruits-menus>

When we were growing up, my parents would remind us each day of the events of Yeshua's death and resurrection during the week leading up to "Resurrection Sunday." I still think this is a good idea to do with our children.

Counting the Omer

Scripture commands us to count 50 days from First Fruits to Shavuot (Pentecost). We have found this to be one of our favorite times of the year!

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 YHVH (Leviticus 23:15-16).

Study It from Scripture

Begin your study by reading the following Scripture passages:

- ❑ Read Leviticus 23:9-16.
 - According to verse 11, on what day is the sheaf of grain to be waved before YHVH?

- According to verse 15, how many weeks are to be counted off?
- When is the count to start?

- According to verse 16, how many days are to be counted off?
- On what day does the count end?

Studies by Other Authors:

- What is an “omer”? (wikipedia)
 - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omer_\(unit\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omer_(unit))
- Yeshua’ Resurrection in First Fruits (Robin Sampson)
 - http://heartofwisdom.com/biblical_holidays/2010/04/03/jesus-resurrection-in-first-fruits-free-guide
- Counting the Omer (Christine Miller)
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/counting-the-omer>
- How to Count the Omer (Schalk and Elsa Klee) – Explains the use of the word “omer” and “sheaf,” which is great for school children to learn.
 - <http://www.setapartpeople.com/shavuot>
- Sefirat HaOmer (Hebrew4Christians)
 - http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Spring_Holidays/Sefirat_HaOmer/sefirat_haomer.html

How to Celebrate

The only command in Scripture is to *count* the days between the Feast of First Fruits and the Feast of Shavuot (Pentecost). In traditional Judaism, a blessing and official count is said each evening at sunset. In our home, we usually wait to officially count until morning, when we start our school day and have our Torah time together. There are many ways to enjoy counting, but remember that none of these are required! (However, with children, it's just fun...)

- ❑ Our first year, we placed stickers on a chart, counting up to 50.
- ❑ One year, we pasted little pieces of barley onto a chart, counting up to 50.
- ❑ Mom would forget to count, so when we heard of the idea to add candy to our count, we found a great way to ensure that no child would ever let us forget again. 😊 Since we have seven children, we let each person have a piece of special candy one day each week. (We chose especially yummy candy, so it was a real treat...) Over the 49 days, each child got a turn 7 times. On the 50th day, we gave nice gifts to each other, to help make Shavuot a special day. What other children get presents in early summer (wink, wink)? The Torah is so fun for children!

- ❑ A few years ago, we started reading a short passage from the Psalms each day of counting the omer. We found that if we had started to slack on our daily Torah time (which tends to happen this time of the homeschooling year), these short readings (combined with candy reminders) helped us get back in a good habit again.
- ❑ You might enjoy the omer-counting chart available from Torah Sisters:
 - <http://torahsisters.com/product-category/free-stuff/>

The Feast of Weeks

Shavuot, or the feast of weeks, is not a very well-known feast about Christians. (Shavuot is pronounced *shah-voo-OAT*.) Most of us know it by its Greek name, *Pentecost*, but we don't know much about it except that it's sometimes called "the birthday of the Church" because the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples that day, baptizing them with flames of fire. That's an odd story, but most of us don't really know much else.

Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to YHVH. 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 YHVH.

And 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 YHVH, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to YHVH. 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 YHVH, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to YHVH 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 gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am YHVH your God.’” (Leviticus 23:16-22).

Study It from Scripture

Begin your study by reading the following Scripture passages:

Names for Shavuot

Exodus 34:22

- What is the Hebrew word for “weeks” in this verse?

What does it mean?

Exodus 23:16

Deuteronomy 18:16

- ❑ Acts 2:1
 - What is the meaning of the Greek word *Pentecost*?
(Use a Strong's concordance.)

What is required on this feast?

- Exodus 23:17
- Exodus 34:23
- Leviticus 23:15-21
- Deuteronomy 16:10-11
- Deuteronomy 16:16

Do the math:

- ❑ Read Leviticus 23:17. Research: How much flour is two-tenths of an ephah?
How large would a loaf of bread be if it were made with this much flour?

Symbolism at Shavuot:

- ❑ YHVH gave the covenant of Torah to Israel at Sinai, traditionally 50 days after they left Egypt. Therefore, the Feast of Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah.
- ❑ The *Ruach Ha Chodesh* (Holy Spirit, pronounced *roo-ack hah ko-DESH*) was given 50 days after Yeshua's resurrection, as recorded in Acts 2.
 - Read Acts 2 together.
 - Also see Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Studies by Other Authors:

- Pictures and explanation at the Temple Institute's website
 - <https://www.templeinstitute.org/shavuoth/opening.htm>
- Shavuot by Robin Sampson
 - <http://heartofwisdom.com/biblical/holidays/2013/05/16/shavuot-or-pentecost-by-dr-john-garr>
- Study of Shavuot by Hoshana Rabbah
 - <https://www.hoshanarabbah.org/pdfs/shavuot.pdf>
- What Are You Proclaiming on Shavuot? by Schalk and Elsa Klee
 - <http://www.setapartpeople.com/sins-fathers-spiritual-warfare-part-3>
- The Harvest Festivals by Christine Miller
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/the-harvest-festivals-firstfruits-weeks-tabernacles-1-corinthians-15>

How to Celebrate

One of the primary ways we should celebrate Shavuot is by going up to Jerusalem. If the Temple were standing, it would be a command for all Israelite men to go to Jerusalem three times a year to offer sacrifices.

Opinions vary about what we should do now that the Temple has been destroyed and Israel is dispersed. For instance, Schalk and Elsa Klee present a case that we should make every effort to obediently go to Jerusalem 3 times per year, even in this period of time. On the other time, other authors note that even the Apostle Paul did not always go up to Jerusalem for Shavuot while he was on his missionary journeys (see Galatians 2:1).⁹

We look forward to the return of Yeshua and the ability to keep Torah properly. Until then, the following things can make this feast day special. Remember that no regular work (for business, as in buying, selling, or working for income) should be done on this day.

- Give gifts.

⁹ See also <https://lambsservant.wordpress.com/2016/11/11/the-jerusalem-debate-eleven-objections>.

- ❑ Menu ideas from Christine Miller
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/weeks-menus>
- ❑ Jewish Traditions:
 - Stay up from dusk to dawn and study Torah together, to commemorate the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai approximately 50 days after leaving Egypt.
 - Read the Ten Commandments together.
 - Read the book of Ruth.
 - Play a game to review the content of each of the books of the Bible.
 - Serve two loaves of wheat bread to commemorate offering at Temple.
 - Dance and rejoice (Deuteronomy 16:11).
 - Menu items include dairy foods, foods made with honey (Psalm 19:10), cheese blintzes served hot with sour cream and applesauce, and cheesecake with fruit sauce.
- ❑ Worksheets:
 - Shavuot Coloring Pages
 - <http://www.aish.com/h/sh/f/115476939.html>
 - Coloring for Pentecost (Acts 2)
 - <http://www.sermons4kids.com/pentecost-colorpg.htm>

- Activity Sheets for Pentecost
 - <http://www.dltk-bible.com/jesus/pentecost-activities.htm>

CHAPTER 9

The Feast of Trumpets

The Feast of Trumpets, or the Day of Shouting (*Yom Teruah*), is the beginning of the fall feasts of God. The beginning of the seventh month is announced by the blowing of trumpets, as a way to get the attention of all God's people.

Then YHVH 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 YHVH'" (Leviticus 23:23-25).

Study It from Scripture

Read the following Scripture passages to learn about the Feast of Trumpets:

- Leviticus 23:23-25
- Numbers 10:1-10
- Numbers 29:1-6
- Psalm 81

- Isaiah 27:13
- Zechariah 9:14
- Nehemiah 8:1-3

What have you learned about this feast?

Studies by Other Authors:

- About Yom T'ruah (Feast of Trumpets)
 - <http://www.setapartpeople.com/yom-truah>
- Is Yom T'ruah the same as Rosh Hashanah?
 - <http://www.setapartpeople.com/yom-truah-rosh-hashanah>
- The Prophetic Significance of Yom T'ruah
 - <http://www.setapartpeople.com/prophetic-significance-yom-truah>
- An Overview of Feast of Trumpets
 - <http://www.annieshomepage.com/trumpets.html>
- How the Day of Shouting Became Rosh Hashanah
 - <https://www.nehemiaswall.com/yom-teruah-day-shouting-became-rosh-hashanah>

Activities

- Fun Crafts and Activities from Torah School
 - <https://torahschool.wordpress.com/2010/09/07/yom-teruah-feast-of-trumpets/>
- How to Sound a Shofar
 - <http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Sound-a-Shofar/>

Menu Ideas

- ❑ Menu ideas from Christine Miller
 - <http://www.alittleperspective.com/feast-of-trumpets-2/>
-

Fun Music

- ❑ Bugler's Holiday
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkYcKfgFNmM>
- ❑ The Trumpet Shall Sound (about 1:40 in; your kids will laugh at the fashions)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-JdoGIJ3yA>
- ❑ Blow the Trumpet in Zion
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcpexpefVzE>

The Day of Atonement

Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, is the most set-apart Sabbath of the year. It is a day in which we are to do no work, and we are command to afflict ourselves, which almost all agree means to fast from food for the entire 24 hours.

And YHVH 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 YHVH. And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before YHVH your God. 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. 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.” (Leviticus 23:26-32).

While Scripture says that **“whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it”** (James 2:10, ESV), this is also the day of At-One-Ment, when our Messiah Yeshua went as priest before God in the heavenly tabernacle and offered a once-for-all atonement for our sins (Hebrews 9:10).

Adults wrestle with the concepts of judgment and mercy, law and grace on this day. And it's good to do so, as we search our hearts for hidden sin and repent humbly before our Creator.

But it's also a teaching day for the children! (All the feasts are...)

Study It from Scripture

Read Leviticus 16:1-34.

- How can you see pictures of Yeshua in this passage?

- Read Romans 3:21-26. Who is our propitiation (atoning sacrifice)?

- Read Romans 5:9-11. How does Yeshua's sacrifice reconcile us to God?

- For how long are sacrifices on Yom Kippur to be made (verse 34)?
Why are they not made today?¹⁰

Read Numbers 29:7-11.

- What are we to do when we become aware of our sin?
See 1 John 1:9.

¹⁰ Because the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70.

- ❑ Read Hebrews 10:1-18. If the sacrifices on Yom Kippur were only a “shadow,” why were they offered?

- ❑ See Hebrews 10:3. Where is the real temple and the once-for-all atonement made?¹¹

Read Isaiah 57:14-58:14.

- ❑ Whom does YHVH revive? (See Isaiah 57:15.)

- ❑ Does YHVH care about outward fasting?
What are other things that show a righteous heart?

Read Hosea 14:1-9.

- ❑ Verse 2 says to “render the calves of our lips,” or to pay with sacrifices what our lips have vowed. What do you think this means? See also 1 Samuel 15:22.

- ❑ Verse 6 says “as the olive tree.” Read Romans 11:17-21 and see how an olive tree is also mentioned.
Whom should we not be arrogant against?¹²
Why not? (See verse 21.)

¹¹ In heaven, by Yeshua. See Hebrews 9:24.

¹² God

Read Joel 2:12-32.

- ❑ Peter quotes these verses in Acts 2:17-21. Did he think that these verses were already fulfilled?

How to Celebrate Yom Kippur

Here are some ways we observe Yom Kippur in our home, although many of these are traditions and certainly not commands.

Should We Fast?

It is traditional to fast from food on the Yom Kippur, although there is some disagreement on whether the Scriptures say we must abstain from food, or whether we should simply abstain from *all work*, just as on the weekly Sabbath.

You will want to carefully read Leviticus 16 and Leviticus 23:26-32 for yourself and determine how your family will interpret these verses.

Here are some opinions from other authors:

- ❑ <http://www.setapartpeople.com/fasting-yom-kippurim>
- ❑ <http://www.alittleperspective.com/affliction-on-the-day-of-atonement>
- ❑ <http://www.alittleperspective.com/the-isaiah-58-chiastic-structure-and-the-day-of-atonement>
- ❑ <http://www.onetorahforall.com/Studies2015/The-DayOfAtonements.html>

In the Evening

In the evening, as Yom Kippur is beginning, it is traditional to read the story of Jonah aloud, so we do this with our children on this night. We talk about how the people of Nineveh repented, how Jonah's heart wasn't obedient even though his actions were, and about the loving mercy of our Abba Father.

Family Bible Study

During the day, we take time to do the following fun study on the biblical Day of Atonement! If you don't have a congregation where you can attend services, this will give you something special to do at home.

Memory Verses – “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Yeshua Messiah, by whom we have now received the atonement” (Romans 5:10-11, KJV).

Vocabulary to learn – reconciliation, atonement, mercy, grace, restitution, forgiveness

Tabernacle – I found that it's so much easier to explain the Day of Atonement to my children if we first construct a tabernacle together, then act out the Day of Atonement as we read aloud Leviticus 16.

You can do like we did and make your own tabernacle out of construction paper, being sure to include each of these things:

- Brazen Altar
- Laver
- Table of Showbread

- Altar of Incense
- Golden Lampstand
- Ark of the Covenant with Mercy Seat
- Aaron and another man to lead a goat into the wilderness
- Two goats, a ram, and a bull

You can see a diagram of the layout of this furniture at <http://www.biblenews1.com/grace/gracea.htm>.

You can use scraps of poster board or cardboard. You might have scraps of fabric that could be used for the tents, etc.

- If you're feeling overwhelmed by this project, consider spending \$10 before Yom Kippur for a paper tabernacle online. A good option is available at www.christianbook.com/paper-model-of-the-tabernacle/9781596360280/pd/360283.*
- Read how one mom studied the tabernacle with her children at <http://sbees.blogspot.com/2008/04/building-tabernacle.html>.

Share your testimony – Tell someone else about the atonement that has been given to you! Write down some simple things you could say.

Bible Drill –

- Exodus 29:36
- Exodus 30:10
- Leviticus 1:4
- Leviticus 16:34
- Numbers 8:21

- ❑ 2 Samuel 21:3
- ❑ 1 Chronicles 6:49
- ❑ Nehemiah 10:33

Coloring –

- ❑ <http://www.akidsheart.com/holidays/days/yom.htm>
- ❑ <http://www.torahtots.com/holidays/yomkipur/yomkclr.htm>

In the Afternoon

I try to take some time by myself to get alone with God and my Bible. I can seek His face in prayer and repentance, both for myself and for my nation and my forefathers. Here is a good article you can read to prepare for this time:

- ❑ <http://www.setapartpeople.com/yom-kippurim-a-call-of-repentance-to-the-nation>

To Close the Day

We found that a wonderful way to close the Day of Atonement is to gather around the piano in the evening and sing every song we could think of that had to do with the atonement, such as “Power in the Blood,” “Lord, Have Mercy,” “Since I Have Been Redeemed,” and even “Amazing Grace.”

Breaking the Fast – Light “break-fast” foods really do taste wonderful on this evening! While you eat, start planning your *sukkah*! (How fun!) If you were able to travel to Israel, you’d start packing!

The Feast of Tabernacles

The most joyful week of the year comes at *Sukkot*, the feast of *sukkahs*, or tents. Just as the children of Israel lived in tents in the wilderness, God also asks us to live in tents (or *sukkahs*) for a week each year. Just as we commemorate His blessings by living in these “tabernacles,” we also remember that Yeshua our Messiah came and “tabernacle among us” (John 1:14).

Then YHVH 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 YHVH. On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it. For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to YHVH. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to YHVH. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it.

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

‘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 YHVH 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 YHVH your God for seven days. You shall keep it as a feast to YHVH 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 YHVH your God.” (Leviticus 23:33-43).

Study It from Scripture

Read Leviticus 23:33–23:44.

- On what day does the Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) begin? (See Leviticus 23:34-35.)
- On what day does it end? (Leviticus 23:34-35)
- What is special about the first day and eighth day?
- For how many days were they to live in booths? (See Leviticus 23:42.)

Read Deuteronomy 16:13-15.

- From verse 15, look up the meaning of the Hebrew word for “keep a solemn feast” (KJV), which is *châgag* (Strong’s #2287).

- After reading these verses, how do you think we should keep this feast?
- We'll soon read about the sacrifices and offerings that were presented for the nation of Israel during *Sukkot*. What else was to be offered in addition to these? (Leviticus 23:38 says that these were in addition to the gifts and offerings of the people.)

Read Numbers 29:12–38.

- What offerings were presented for all the people of Israel?
- Count how many bulls were offered in total. _____
- Read Genesis 10. How many people groups are listed in total? _____

Read Deuteronomy 16:16-17 and Deuteronomy 14:22-27.

- Where were the men of Israel to go to celebrate *Sukkot*?

What other offerings were to be brought?

- According to Deuteronomy 16:14 and Deuteronomy 14:27, who was to be remembered at the feast? How?

Read Zechariah 14:1–21.

- In this future prophecy, what feast day will be celebrated?

Who will celebrate it?

Where will they celebrate it?

- Read Isaiah 66:18-24. How is this passage similar to Zechariah 14?

Read John 1:1-14.

- According to John 1:14, who came to dwell among us?

Look up the meaning of the Greek word for “dwelt” (KJV), which is *skēnoō* (Strong's #4637).

- According to verse 1, who was Yeshua?
- According to verse 14, how long do you think He intended to live among us, at least this first time He came to Earth? (Hint: Are *tents* or *booths* intended to be permanent homes?)

See John 7:33.

Read John 7.

- What feast did Yeshua celebrate in John 7?
- What are some of the events that happened in this chapter?

Read Nehemiah 8.

- From Nehemiah 8, what are some of the ways the people celebrated *Sukkot* after returning to Israel from Babylon?

- How long had it been since the people celebrated it like this? (See verse 17.)

Read Psalm 19.

- Psalm 19 would be a nice passage to read together on the 8th day of *Sukkot*. Some families like to give candy to their children in remembrance of the Torah, since Psalm 19:10 says it is sweeter than honey.
- What are some other descriptions of the Torah from this Psalm?

- How could you incorporate some of this symbolism into your celebration of *Sukkot*?

Studies by Other Authors

The following links contain a *multitude* of ideas for ways to celebrate Sukkot with your family!

- ❑ <http://www.onetorahforall.com/Studies2015/TheFeastOfSukkot.html>
- ❑ <http://www.setapartpeople.com/category/appointed-times/sukkot-feasts>
- ❑ <http://heartofwisdom.com/biblicalholidays/category/fall-holidays/>
- ❑ <http://www.alittleperspective.com/studies-for-the-feast-of-tabernacles/>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Anne Elliott is a wife of over 22 years and a mother of seven children.

She is the author of numerous books (available at <http://FoundationsPress.com>) and blogs regularly at <http://AnneElliott.com>.

She is also the author of homeschooling curriculum based upon the Torah, available at <http://HomeschoolingTorah.com>.

Anne and her family live in Michigan, where her husband is helping to start a Sabbath-keeping congregation (<http://SoleSabbathFellowship.com>).

When Anne isn't writing, she enjoys playing the piano, reading books, coding websites, and cuddling with her cat and dog.