

# The Holy Days and God's Plan

*This lesson is rather "meaty" for young children, so you may want to read it to them in stages. Some referenced scriptures and footnotes are included to support the text, but for more information please see the versions of this lesson for older children.*

The Holy Days are very special. We all look forward to them - especially the Feast of Tabernacles! But WHY do we keep them?

Well, it's because God tells us to! He wants us to keep the Feasts because they teach us about His Plan to make us part of His "Family"!<sup>1</sup> God tells us about these Holy Days in the Bible.<sup>2</sup>

## The Sabbath

The first Holy Day God tells us about is the Sabbath. It's a weekly Holy Day (Leviticus 23:3). God made the Sabbath by resting on it. Then He blessed it and made it holy (Genesis 2:1-3). And He tells us to keep it holy by resting on it (Exodus 20:8-11). So that's what we do! We don't do our normal work on this day. We rest and go to Church services instead. This is what God wants us to do on all of the Holy Days.<sup>3</sup>

The Sabbath looks back to Creation. It reminds us that God started His Plan by creating everything. And it looks forward to the Millennium<sup>4</sup> - the time when God's Kingdom will be on this earth and we can be part of His Family!

## Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread

The next Feast God tells us about is the Passover (Leviticus 23:4-5). It reminds us that Jesus is our Saviour (1 John 4:14). It's because of Him

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<sup>1</sup> The Bible reveals that God is creating a "family" and that His Plan is to make us part of that family. 2 Peter 1:4 explains that God wants us to share in His divine nature. John 1:12; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Hebrews 2:10-11 and 1 John 3:2 reveal the "family" relationship He wants to have with us. He wants us to be His children - His sons and daughters.

<sup>2</sup> Colossians 2:16-17 tells us that the Holy Days are a shadow - or picture - of things to come.

<sup>3</sup> God says in Leviticus 23:1-2 that these days are "holy convocations". A convocation is a meeting or an assembly where God's people gather to hear instruction from God's Word (see, for example, Nehemiah 8; Matthew 13:53-54; Luke 4:16-21; Acts 13:13-16).

<sup>4</sup> At that time, the whole world will enter a kind of "Sabbath rest" (Hebrews 4:1, 4-11; Isaiah 11:1-10).

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that we can live forever! (John 3:16-17). We'll learn more about Jesus and His important part in God's Plan in future lessons.<sup>5</sup>

Right after the Passover are the Days of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6-8). During these days we put leaven<sup>6</sup> out of our homes and eat unleavened bread. This reminds us that God doesn't want us to sin.<sup>7</sup> It reminds us to stop breaking God's Law and doing things that are wrong (1 John 3:4-6). It reminds us that God wants us to live His Way of Life (1 Corinthians 5:6-8) - the only way of life that will make us truly happy!

### The Day of Pentecost

After the Days of Unleavened Bread comes the Feast of Weeks - or Day of Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-22; Acts 2:1-4). This Holy Day pictures God giving us His Holy Spirit.<sup>8</sup> God's Spirit is His power.<sup>9</sup> It helps us live God's Way of Life - something we have to do if we want to be in God's Kingdom. You see, people who don't live God's Way of Life won't be there! (Romans 8:12-13; see also 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Revelation 22:12-14, *NKJ*).

### The Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement

The next Holy Day is the Feast of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25). This pictures the return of Jesus Christ. He will come back to set up God's Kingdom on this earth (Matthew 24:30-31; Revelation 11:15; Revelation 19:11-16). At that time, all those people who live God's Way of Life and have God's Spirit in them will become part of God's Family (Romans 8:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

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<sup>5</sup> See the versions of this lesson for older children - and "The Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread" and "The Day of Pentecost" lessons in the Holy Day series.

<sup>6</sup> Bread, cake, cookies, etc - anything containing a leavening agent (yeast, baking soda, baking powder) to make it rise.

<sup>7</sup> Leaven is used as a type of sin in the Bible (among other things) - see 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, for example.

<sup>8</sup> You'll find more about what Pentecost pictures in the lessons mentioned in footnote 4.

<sup>9</sup> This is a simplified explanation! You'll find more information about the Holy Spirit in "The Day of Pentecost" lesson and in the series of lessons for older teens.

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Before Jesus sets up God's Kingdom on this earth, He will remove Satan so he can't deceive people any more (Revelation 20:1-3). Then the whole world can be "at-one" with God. This is what the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32) - the fast day<sup>10</sup> - pictures.

### The Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day

Finally we come to the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day (Leviticus 23:33-43). The Feast of Tabernacles pictures the Millennium - the time when Jesus is King over the earth for a thousand years. It will be a wonderful time of peace and happiness (Isaiah 2:2-4; Isaiah 11:6-9; Isaiah 35:3-10).

The Last Great Day pictures the time when ALL of the people who never knew about God's Plan will be brought back to life.<sup>11</sup> This will be their chance to learn about Jesus and how He is their Saviour. This will be their chance to learn about God's Way of Life and decide whether they are going to obey Him or not (Revelation 20:11-13).<sup>12</sup>

Hopefully, most people WILL decide to obey God, because the Bible says that those who don't will be burned up in a Lake of Fire! (Revelation 20:14-15). But everyone who decides to obey God, and accepts Jesus to be their Saviour and King, will be changed from a human to a spirit being. Then they will live for ever and ever in God's Kingdom and be part of God's very own family! How wonderful it will be when it all comes true!

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<sup>10</sup> The day when your parents don't eat or drink.

<sup>11</sup> These will be all of the people who lived from the time of Adam until Christ's return, who God *didn't* call and who weren't changed to spirit at Christ's return or during the Millennium.

<sup>12</sup> 1 Timothy 2:3-4 reveals that God's desire is for everyone to be saved and come to understand His truth - and this is the opportunity for those who weren't called during their own lifetime.