

# Holidays and Holy Days – Fall 2019

## Week 5: NT Fulfillment of Sabbatical Year and Jubilee

- **Holidays and Holy Days**

- Part 1: OT Feasts and Holy Days (weeks 1-4 ... handouts for 1-3)
- **Part 2: NT Fulfillment (Week 5 - TODAY)**
- Part 3: Church Practice (Week 6 – Nov. 24 )
- Part 4: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany (Week 7-10 – Dec. 1,15,22,29)

- **Spiritual Life Cycles**

- **Daily** ~ Morning and Evening
- **Weekly** ~ Work and Rest
- **Yearly** ~ Feasts
- **7 / 50 years** ~ Sabbatical / Jubilee

- **In General, How does Christ Fulfill the OT Feasts and Holy Days?**

- Feasts and Holy Days are a Shadow of Reality, of Christ (Heb. 10:1-4)
- Specific Fulfillment of Details
- Fulfillment of Signs, Types and Patterns

## The Seven Feasts of the Lord

'These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.' Col 2:17

The Spring Feasts (fulfilled @ Jesus' first coming)				The Autumn (Fall) Feasts (fulfilled @ Jesus' second coming)		
Passover	Unleavened Bread	FirstFruits	Pentecost	Trumpets	Atonement	Tabernacles
Crucifixion Of Jesus	Burial Of Jesus	Resurrection Of Jesus	Coming of the Holy Spirit	Rapture & Resurrection Of Believers	Second Coming Of Jesus	Messianic Kingdom Age
Nisan 14	Nisan 15-22	Nisan 17	Sivan 7	Tishri 1	Tishri 10	Tishri 15-22
Exodus 12 Matt 26:17-27	Lev 23:6-8 I Cor 5:7-8	Lev 23:9-14 I Cor 15:20-23	Lev 23:15-22 Acts 1 & 2	Lev 23:23-25 1 Cor 15:51-52	Lev 23:26-32 Matt 24:29-30	Lev 23:33-44 Rev 20:1-6

Feast Gap Period (fulfilled by Church Age)

**'The Days of Awe'**
  
 Time of Jacob's trouble

- **Sabbatical (Sabbath) Year**

- **Definition:** the biblical prescription that every seventh year the land must lie uncultivated, based on the assumption that the land does not actually belong to any one person to dispose of at will, but to God himself. Fruit that grows on its own in the Sabbatical Year was to be left for the poor and the wild animals (Exod. 23:10–11; Lev. 25:1–7). In addition, ‘every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor’ (Deut. 15:2). This remission of debts is designed to provide the means to correct social inequities. It was an Old Babylonian custom for kings to declare a remission of debts and obligations.

The observance of the Sabbatical Year in Second Temple times (late fifth century B.C.- A.D. 70) is attested in Neh. 10:32 and 1 Macc. 6:49, 53, and Julius Caesar confirmed the Jews’ exemption from taxes in the Sabbatical Year (Josephus Antiquities 14.202). Hillel instituted the prozbul (a decree of exemption or exception) to allow debts to carry through the Sabbatical Year. After the Jewish revolt (A.D. 66-74) and the Bar-Kochba war (A.D. 132-135), the tax exemption was cancelled and rabbinic legislation became more lenient. Rabbinic law still requires the observance of the Sabbatical Year in modern Israel<sup>1</sup>

- **Key OT Passages:** Exodus 23:10-12 ; Leviticus 25:1-7 ; Deuteronomy 15:1-2; Deuteronomy 31:9-13 ... also Leviticus 26: 27-39 (34-35) ; 2 Chronicles 36:17-23 (21)
- **Key Practices:**
  - Every 7 years
  - Year of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the Lord
  - Land lie uncultivated (no sowing or working land or reaping) ... but people and animals are allowed to eat from what grows naturally ... thus provision especially for the poor
  - Release of debts ... (note: similar principle in Deuteronomy 31 for the release of slaves after 7 years – also says you may not hold back because 7<sup>th</sup> year is near, and that you must not send out brother or sister empty-handed)
  - Reading of the Law during the Feast of Tabernacles

---

<sup>1</sup> Achtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). In Harper’s Bible dictionary (1st ed., p. 889). San Francisco: Harper & Row

- **Year of Jubilee**

- **Definition:** a joyful shout or clangour of trumpets, the name of the great semi-centennial festival of the Hebrews. It lasted for a year. During this year the land was to be fallow, and the Israelites were only permitted to gather the spontaneous produce of the fields (Lev. 25:11, 12). All landed property during that year reverted to its original owner (13–34; 27:16–24), and all who were slaves were set free (25:39–54), and all debts were remitted.<sup>2</sup>
- **Key OT Passages:** Leviticus 25:9-55 ; Isaiah 58 ... also Isaiah 27:13 ; Zechariah 9:11-14
- **Key Practices:**
  - Every 50 years (the year after 7 cycles of Sabbatical years)
  - Holy year, year of rest, year consecrated to the Lord
  - Blowing of the Trumpets on the Day of Atonement sounds beginning
  - Land is fallow – no sowing or reaping (2 years before God will give triple harvest ... man and animals can eat what grows naturally)
  - Property reverts to original, tribal / clan ownership as at settling of the land
  - Slaves set free
  - Debts Canceled

- **Larger Themes / Lessons about God and His People**

- **Lordship**
- **Redemption / Restoration**
- **Preventing Oppression / Emphasis on Equality**
- **Rest**
- **Faith**
- **Obedience**
- **Hope**

---

<sup>2</sup> Easton, M. G. (1893). In [Easton's Bible dictionary](#). New York: Harper & Brothers.

- **Christ's Fulfillment**

- No direct reference in NT to Sabbatical Year or to Year of Jubilee!
- **Luke 4:16-21** (Isaiah 61:1-2) ~ uses language of Jubilee, applied to Jesus' announcing its fulfillment in Him and in His Kingdom
- Jesus' ministry of setting people free ... free from demons, sickness and death, and ultimately free from sin
- Jesus also calming creation and setting it aright

- **Future Hope for God's People**

- **Romans 8:18-25** ~ all creation groans, as do all God's people, for the redemption that is coming, to be set free from our bondage to corruption, the freedom of the glory of the Children of God!
- **Galatians 3:23-29** ~ Were captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming of faith ... In Christ all sons of God through faith ... no Jew or Greek, Slave or Free, Male or Female ... All one in Christ, and now Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise
- **Hebrews 4:1-13** ~ there remains a sabbath rest for God's people ... therefore do not fail to enter it!
- **Revelation 21** ~ there is a new heaven and earth coming, and a new Jerusalem ... all perfect, without corruption or bondage ... names of the 12 tribes inscribed on its gates ... without tears or sorrow ... also without temple, sun, moon because Glory of God is present there with man always!

- **Current Day Practice**

- **Lordship**
- **Redemption / Restoration**
- **Preventing Oppression / Emphasis on Equality**
- **Rest**
- **Faith**
- **Obedience**
- **Hope**

**Next 2 Sunday Mornings:** Missions Conference Seminars

**In 3 Weeks:** Early Church Practices / Church Calendar .... **Then** Advent, Christmas and Epiphany!