

HOLY DAYS & ASSEMBLIES

God sanctified other days besides the Sabbath day for us to come together and worship him. These special days help us to understand and remember God's plan for our salvation and deliverance. The feasts of the Lord and the Day of Atonement are holy days and are to be kept as the Sabbath (Leviticus Chapter 23).

The Passover is the first of the yearly feast days. On the Passover we eat unleavened bread for seven days. It begins on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month. The Passover helps us to remember Christ's sacrifice for us when he walked the earth. The unleavened bread represents his body, and the wine (grape juice), represents the new testament in his blood, which he shed for the remission of sins, (Matthew 26:26-29, John 6:35&53-58, Matthew 12:40).

Pentecost or the Feast of Harvest is celebrated 50 days after the Passover. It is always kept on the first day of the week. It represents the beginning of the harvest, the harvest of the first fruits. The first fruit of the harvest are 144,000 Israelites. When the Lord pours out his spirit on the 144,000 it signals that the harvest of God's people has begun (Revelations 14:1-4).

The Day of Trumpets occurs on the first day of the seventh month. The trumpet represents the voice of the Lord as he calls his children to come out of darkness into the light of the truth. Christ said "my sheep will hear

my voice". The everlasting gospel will be preached to all nations, and God will remove the veil of ignorance from his people. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of God, (**Zephaniah 2:1-3, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Lev 23:23-25**).

Atonement is the most solemn day of the year. It is held on the tenth day of the seventh month. We worship God with prayer and fasting. Fasting represents a life of resisting sin and overcoming Satan. We are encouraged to fast often to increase our faith, but on the Day of Atonement, God commanded all to come before him with fasting and prayers for a full twenty four hours. The day of Atonement points to the great day at the times of restitutions of all things when Christ will take his blood and wash away the sins from our record books. Then we will be one with God and can be received into heaven, (Hebrews 9:26-28, Lev 23:27-32).

The Feast of Tabernacles is kept for eight days, starting on the fifteenth day of the seventh month. It points to the harvest of all of God's saints, including the first resurrection. When Christ returns he is going to gather all of his saints. When Christ returns he will come to Mt Olives, splitting it apart with a great earthquake. He will bring a beautiful city and place of refuge and place it right where Mt Olives used to be. This beautiful city is the tabernacle of God on earth, (Lev 23:33-44, Isaiah 2:2-3, Isaiah 4:3-6, Zechariah 14:4-11 & 16-19).

We acknowledge two days not found in the books of Moses. One of these is the *Feast of Dedication*, which commemorated the restoration and cleansing of the temple. God will one day cleanse the lies and restore the truth that is hidden from the world. Purim was celebrated because of the

great victory Israel was given against those who would destroy them. One day we will also be given a great victory.

We acknowledge the *Wisdom of God* and choose one day during the year to especially honor her. We are thankful that God has given us knowledge of the hidden mystery of the mother of the universe and of her role in our salvation, (Proverbs 3:13-20, Proverbs 8:1-36, Proverbs 9:1-3)

We also observe the **New Moon**. The New Moon is not a holy day unless it occurs on a Sabbath. It is a time to come together and worship God, thanking him for his many blessings, (**Is 66:22-23**).