

A large, stylized number '7' that serves as a graphic element. The top horizontal bar of the '7' contains a red drop, a white dove, and a scroll with text. The diagonal stem of the '7' contains a rainbow, a blue shell, a red drop, and a yellow lemon. The top right corner of the '7' contains three red apples and wheat stalks.

THE **7** FEASTS OF ISRAEL

**DISCOVER GOD'S RHYTHMS OF REDEMPTION
THROUGH THE FEASTS OF ISRAEL.**

A blue logo consisting of a stylized star or flower shape with a central vertical element.

THE Friends of Israel
GOSPEL MINISTRY

Prophecy Conference

speakers



Jim Showers
Executive Director

Jim is the executive director and president. He earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Baptist Bible Seminary. Jim leads bi-annual tours to Israel, teaches God's Word at our conferences, and leads the overall strategic vision for the ministry.



Chris Katulka
Radio Host
The Friends of Israel Today

Chris is the assistant director of North American Ministries and the host of *The Friends of Israel Today* radio program. He earned his Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary. Chris writes for *Israel My Glory* magazine, leads trips to Israel, and adjunct teaches at Word of Life Bible Institute.



Mike Stallard
Director
International Ministries

Mike is the director of International Ministries. He earned his Master of Divinity from Liberty Baptist Seminary and his Master of Sacred Theology and Doctor of Philosophy from Dallas Theological Seminary. Mike oversees The Friends of Israel's work around the globe and teaches God's Word in churches, schools, and conferences.



Steve Herzig
Director
North American Ministries

Steve is the director of North American Ministries. Steve earned bachelor's degrees from Kent State University and Cairn University. He has authored two books, speaks at our conferences, writes for *Israel My Glory*, and has strengthened our relationships with Jewish communities.



Dan Price
Assistant Director
International Ministries

Dan is the assistant director of International Ministries. He earned his Master of Divinity from Baptist Bible Seminary. Dan aids our field representatives throughout the world, speaks at our conferences, and writes for *Israel My Glory* magazine.

table of contents

4	Jewish Holiday Calendar
10	Feast of Passover
12	Feast of Unleavened Bread
14	Feast of Firstfruits
16	The Seven Biblical Feasts Chart
18	Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)
20	Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)
22	Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
24	Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)
26	Notes

Jewish Holiday Calendar

RHYTHM & REMINDER

- I. Calendars - The Timekeepers of Life
 - A. We use a Gregorian calendar
 - 1. First used in 1582 by order of Pope Gregory XIII
 - a. 366.24219 days long
 - i. Corrected the flaw of the Julian calendar
 - B. Older lunar calendar system - months begin on new moon
 - 1. 29 ½ day cycle, alternating 29 or 30 day months
 - C. Jewish Calendar is a lunisolar calendar
 - 1. Combines both the lunar and solar calendars
 - a. Has 12, 29- or 30-day-long months
 - b. A 13th month added every two or three years
 - c. Corrected gap between the lunar year (354 days) and solar year (365 days)

Jewish Month	Length in Days	Date	Holiday	Gregorian Month
Nisan	30	Nisan 14	Passover	Mar/Apr
		Nisan 14–21	Unleavened Bread	
		Nisan 16	Firstfruits	
Iyar	29			Apr/May
Sivan	30	Sivan 6	Weeks	May/Jun
Tammuz	29			Jun/Jul
Av	30			Jul/Aug
Elul	29			Aug/Sep

JIM SHOWERS

Tishri	30	Tishri 1 Tishri 10 Tishri 15-20	Trumpets Atonement Tabernacles	Sep/Oct
Heshvan	29 or 30			Oct/Nov
Kislev	29 or 30	Kislev 25- Tevet 2/3	Hanukkah	Nov/Dec
Tevet	29			Dec/Jan
Shevat	30			Jan/Feb
Adar	29	Adar 15	Purim	Feb/Mar

2. Jewish day begins at sundown and ends at sundown
 - a. Days of creation are marked by evening and morning
3. Two Jewish New Years
 - a. Nisan 1 (1st) – two weeks before Passover, Ex. 12:2
 - i. Religious – marks the start of the Exodus month
 - aa. Month of Israel's redemption (1st month)
 - b. Tishri 1 (7th) – 10 days before Day of Atonement
 - i. Civil – associated with agricultural ingathering
 - aa. Begins 10-day trial of mankind
4. Jewish Calendar is used for religious observance
 - a. It is the official calendar of the State of Israel
 - b. Current year is 5,782 since creation

II. Calendars – Rhythm and Reminder

- A. Calendars become part of our lives and identity
 1. Rhythm that marks seasons
 - a. Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter

Jewish Holiday Calendar

RHYTHM & REMINDER

- b. Planting, Growth, Harvest, and Rest
- 2. Seasons remind us of important events, holidays
- B. Jewish Calendar has a unique rhythm to life
 - 1. Designed to remind man of his dependence on God
 - a. Redemption and restoration come through God
 - i. It is His plan and He does the work
 - b. Importance of a personal relationship with God
 - 2. Based on divine overarching cycles or patterns of life
 - a. Time is not seen as linear but as cyclical
 - i. These cycles become the rhythm of Jewish life
 - 3. Hebrew word for "year," *shanah*, shares the same root as the words "repeat" and "change"
 - a. Repetition – reminder of ongoing prophetic events of redemptive history
 - b. Change – events of the fathers are signs for children
 - i. Life changes as time progresses closer to the coming Day of Redemption
 - c. God's way of reminding was done through rhythm
 - i. Focus of the rhythm was King Yahweh

III. God's Design of Rhythm and Reminder

- A. Begins with cycles of seven – six and one
 - 1. Seven signifies God's perfection and completion
 - a. Earth – created in six days and rest on seventh
 - 2. Sabbath – First feast established by God
 - a. Day of rest – ceasing work, Gen. 2:2-3; Ex. 20:8-11
 - i. "Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy"

JIM SHOWERS

- b. It is a time to stop, rejoice, and reflect on God
 - i. Sabbath is a gift from God – no work!
- B. God also established a Sabbath Year
 - 1. Rest the land every seven years, Lev. 25:1-7
 - a. No planting, harvesting, and selling
 - i. Natural yield could be taken by anyone
 - b. God provides extra harvest in the sixth year
- C. Jubilee Year every 50th year
 - 1. Following seven cycles of Sabbath Years (49 years)
 - a. Year of Jubilee (50th year), Lev. 25:8-17
 - i. Liberty is proclaimed throughout all the land
 - ii. God provides liberty to those who are indebted
 - 2. Second Sabbath Year in a row
 - a. All indebtedness is forgiven
 - b. Slaves are freed and land reverts to the owners

IV. Rhythm and Reminder of the Jewish Feasts Cycle

- A. Dual aspect of the Jewish calendar
 - 1. Calendar is divided into two equal parts
 - a. Exactly six months apart
 - 2. Feasts center on redemptive rituals
 - a. Both feast cycles end with harvests
- B. Both represent different aspects of God's redemptive plan
 - 1. Spring Feasts – First Coming of Christ
 - a. Suffering Servant, Lamb of God, Messiah Son of Joseph
 - 2. Fall Feasts – Second Coming of Christ

Jewish Holiday Calendar

RHYTHM & REMINDER

- a. Conquering King, Lion of Judah, Messiah Son of David
- C. God established seven feasts for Israel
 - 1. God's fixed times and sacred occasions, Lev. 23:1-2
 - a. To be celebrated by the whole community of Israel
 - i. Rhythm of life guided by the entire society
 - 2. Seven feasts foreshadow the major events in Christ's life
 - a. His redemptive work from Calvary to the Kingdom
 - 3. Feasts' timing is related to Israel's agricultural seasons
 - a. Four in the spring relate to Christ's First Coming
 - i. Relate to grain harvest season
 - b. Three in the fall relate to Christ's Second Coming
 - i. Relate to fruit harvest season
- D. Spring Feasts
 - 1. Passover (Pesach) – Redemption from God
 - 2. Unleavened Bread (Pesach) – Sanctification
 - 3. Firstfruits (Bikkurim) – Resurrection Victory
 - 4. Weeks (Shavuot/Pentecost) – A New Beginning
- E. Fall Feasts
 - 1. Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) – Israel's Regathering
 - 2. Atonement (Yom Kippur) – Israel's Spiritual Awakening
 - 3. Tabernacles (Sukkot) – Millennial Kingdom
- F. Three of the feasts are pilgrim festivals, Ex. 23:14
 - 1. Jewish men made a pilgrimage to the Temple
 - a. Two in the spring – Feasts of Passover and Weeks
 - b. One in the fall – Feast of Sukkot

JIM SHOWERS

V. Importance of the Rhythm and Reminder of the Feasts

- A. The rhythm uniquely identifies the Jewish people
 - 1. Jewish feasts are the basic guideposts for Jewish time
 - a. Connect Jewish people with community and God
- B. Reminders of sacredness in a less than sacred world
 - 1. Continual reminder of God's plan to provide redemption and restoration
 - a. It goes through Israel in the person of Jesus Christ
 - 2. Paul said Israel's feasts were shadows, Col. 2:16–17
 - a. Which prophetically point to the person and work of Messiah
 - 3. This study of the 7 Feasts of Israel will look at these shadows
 - a. How they prophetically point to Christ
- C. Rhythm of the feasts was God's way of teaching the gospel in the Old Testament
 - 1. God rebuked Israel for keeping the requirements of the feasts, Isa. 1:13–14
 - a. But disregarding their heart relationship with Him
 - 2. Outward observance wasn't sufficient
 - a. God also requires we trust in Him with our hearts
 - i. For His salvation
 - 3. Man makes the same mistake today
 - a. Keeping religious rites or holidays to gain acceptance
 - i. But not surrendering his heart to God
- D. Are you trusting in rituals?
 - 1. Or, are you trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - a. God says, if you trust in Jesus Christ, you will be saved!

Feast of Passover

REDEMPTION THROUGH GOD

I. Scripture Texts

- A. Exodus 12:1-14
- B. Leviticus 23:5
- C. Deuteronomy 16:16
- D. Matthew 26:26-30
- E. 1 Corinthians 5:7
- F. Ezekiel 45:21-24

II. The Only Passover in Egypt

III. Passover During the Time of the Temples

IV. Passover Today

STEVE HERZIG

V. Jesus' Last Passover and Institution of Communion (Mt. 26:26-30)

VI. Passover With the Ruling King (Ezek. 45:21-24)

Feast of Unleavened Bread

HOLINESS BEFORE GOD

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a seven-day festival that directly follows the night of Passover. It's a moment designated by God to remember when He delivered the Israelites from Egypt—from bondage into freedom (Dt. 16:1, 3). But all liberated people have to decide how they will live in light of their freedom: Will they abuse freedom to fulfill their own self-ambitions, or will they take advantage of liberty to serve the holy, living God? God calls His people to be holy as He is holy—and of all Israel's feasts, none symbolizes the holy living to which God calls us more than the Feast of Unleavened Bread. "You shall be holy, for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1:16).

I. The History and Observance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

II. The Feast of Unleavened Bread in Prophecy

CHRIS KATULKA

III. The Feast of Unleavened Bread for Us

Feast of Firstfruits

RESURRECTION VICTORY OVER DEATH

I. Introduction

A. Definition of “firstfruits”

B. Alignment of various firstfruits

C. The general principle (Prov. 3:9)

II. Is the festival of Firstfruits a separate festival?

A. Relationship to Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:4-14)

B. Relationship to the Feast of Weeks (Lev. 23:15-18)

C. Does it really matter?

III. Other Uses of the Term “Firstfruits”

A. Israel as firstfruits to God (Jer. 2:3)

B. The ancestors of the Israelites as firstfruits (Hos. 9:10)

MIKE STALLARD

C. Christians in the Church Age as firstfruits of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:23)

D. Various Christians as firstfruits unto God (Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:15; Jas. 1:18)

IV. Christ as the firstfruits of resurrection

A. What does this mean?

B. 1 Cor. 15:23 in context

C. Conclusions: Implications for believers

1. Job 19:25-27
2. Dan. 12:2
3. John 14:19
4. 1 Thess. 4:13-18
5. Rev. 20:4-6
6. Rev. 21:4
7. Rev. 22:5



THE SEVEN BIBLICAL FEASTS

Based on Leviticus 23:4–43

by Tom Simcox

Of all
Israel.
the Te
one da
Unleav
as well

Pesach

Bikkurim

Shavuot

1

Passover

v. 5

Ex. 12:1–46

PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

REDEMPTION

“Christ, our Passover”
(1 Cor. 5:7)

2

Unleavened Bread

vv. 6–8

Ex. 23:14–15

- Pilgrimage festival.
- All males had to appear before God. (Dt. 16:16)

PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

SANCTIFICATION

Speaks of holiness.
Jesus had no sin.
(2 Cor. 5:21;
1 Pet. 1:19)

3

Firstfruits

vv. 9–14

Ex. 23:16, 19

PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

RESURRECTION

Jesus arose.
(1 Cor. 15:20–28)

4

Feast of Pentecost

vv. 15–17

Ex. 34:22

- Pilgrimage festival.
- All males had to appear before God. (Dt. 16:16)

PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

A NEW BE

The birth of the church
replaced the Law
(Ac

MARCH/APRIL

NISAN 14

NISAN 15–21

FIRST DAY AFTER
THE SABBATH

2021: Mar 27–Apr 4 • 2022: Apr 15–23

Today Passover and Unleavened Bread are celebrated together for eight days, and Firstfruits is not actively celebrated. Passover is the first of the seven biblical feasts.

MAY/JUNE

SIVAN

2021: May 15–22
2022: Jun 4–11

Today it is celebrated as the birthday of Israel and the giving of the Law through Moses.

the holidays celebrated throughout history, only these seven were given by God to His people. It is interesting to note that all Jewish men were required to present themselves before God in temple in Jerusalem for Unleavened Bread. Because Passover preceded Unleavened Bread by only one day, they likely arrived before Passover. And because they were supposed to remain in Jerusalem for Unleavened Bread and were not allowed to travel on the Sabbath, they probably remained for Firstfruits. Firstfruits was to be held “on the day after the Sabbath” (Lev. 23:11), meaning Sunday.

4

4 Weeks of Weeks Feast

5-22

4:22

ge festival.
had to
before God.
(5)

SIGNIFICANCE

GINNING

day of the
. Grace
es Law.
ts 2)

Rosh Hashanah

5

Trumpets

vv. 23-25

Num. 29:1-6

PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

ISRAEL'S REGATHERING

(Ezek. 37:1-28)

Yom Kippur

6

Day of Atonement

vv. 26-32

Lev. 16:1-34

PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

(Zech. 12:1-13:2)

Sukkot

7

Tabernacles

vv. 33-43

Dt. 16:13

- Pilgrimage festival.
- All males had to appear before God. (Dt. 16:16)

PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

(Isa. 2:1-4)

JUNE

N 16-17

ay 16-18
une 4-6

celebrated as
y of national
ne giving of
ough Moses.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

TISHREI 1

2021: Sept 6-8
2022: Sept 25-27

Today it is celebrated as Rosh Hashanah. It commemorates the creation of the world and begins the civil new year.

TISHREI 10

2021: Sept 15-16
2022: Oct 4-5

This day addressed Israel's national sin. In Temple times, it was the only day the holy of holies could be entered, and then by the high priest alone.

TISHREI 15

2021: Sept 20-27
2022: Oct 9-16

It commemorates Israel's wilderness wanderings. Today Jewish people build outdoor booths (sukkot) and dine in them. This feast is addressed in John 7:37-39.

Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)

A NEW BEGINNING

I. Introduction

A. Names and Texts

1. Exodus 34:22 - Shavuot (Hebrew for "weeks")
2. Exodus 23:16 - Feast of Harvest
3. Numbers 28:26 - Day of Firstfruits
4. Acts 2:1 - Pentecost (Greek for "fiftieth")

- B. The Feast of Shavuot reminds us that what we know of God's provision is only the beginning of what He's planned!

II. Four Beginnings of Shavuot

A. Shavuot celebrated the beginning of the _____ (Lev. 23:15-22)

1. 5 biblical elements of Shavuot
 - a. _____ 7 weeks (vv. 15-16)
 - b. Rejoice bringing a personal _____ offering (v. 16; Dt. 16:10)
 - c. Offer communal _____ at the Temple (v. 17)
_____ (v. 21)
 - d. Leave the _____ of your harvest uncut (v. 22)
2. Significance: Trust in God's _____

B. Shavuot commemorates the beginning of _____ (Ex. 31:18)

1. Today Shavuot is remembered as the day God gave Moses the Law at Sinai

DAN PRICE

2. The central focus of Shavuot for Jewish people today is _____

- C. Shavuot foreshadowed the beginning of the _____ (Acts 2)
 1. Individual Christians are called as God's firstfruits from the dead (1 Cor. 15:20–22)
 2. The church is also the firstfruit of God's _____ of souls (Jas. 1:18)
 - a. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 took place on Shavuot
 - b. We are in the season of spiritual harvest (Jn. 4:35)

- D. Shavuot is only the beginning of God's eternal _____ (Rom. 8:22–23)
 1. The "firstfruit" imagery in the NT should remind us of Shavuot and God's provision
 2. The indwelling of the _____ is only the firstfruit of what God has in store for us

Feast of Trumpets

(Rosh Hashanah)

ISRAEL'S REGATHERING

I. Feast of Trumpets

- A. Special trumpets
- B. Shofar (ram's horn)
- C. Two silver trumpets – Numbers 10:2
- D. Leviticus 23:23–25
- E. Numbers 29:1–6

II. Rosh Hashanah

- A. Only occurrence of the term in the Bible - Ezekiel 40:1 - beginning of the year
 - 1. Rosh = head or chief
 - 2. Hashanah = the year
 - 3. Rosh Hashanah = head or first of the year
- B. Different "New Year"
 - 1. Passover, Nisan 14 – Start of the religious new year (spring)
 - 2. Rosh Hashanah, Tishri 1 – Start of the civil new year (fall)
- C. The traditional 10 days of penitence between Rosh Hashanah and the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:27)

III. Other Uses of Trumpets

- A. Commemoration at each festival or feast - Numbers 10:10
- B. Dedication of the first Temple (Solomon's Temple) - 2 Chronicles 7:6
- C. Dedication of the second Temple - Ezra 3 (during the Feast of Trumpets)
- D. Dedication of offerings - 2 Chronicles 29:27
- E. Bring in the New Moon, first day of month - Leviticus 23:24; Psalm 81:3
- F. Call to assembly - Judges 3:27; 6:34
- G. Sounding of an alarm - Jeremiah 6:1

MIKE STALLARD

- H. Call to battle - Numbers 10:9; Joshua 6 (Joshua); Judges 7 (Gideon),
- I. For music as part of praise & worship – 1 Chronicles 13:8; Psalm 150:3

IV. End-Times Passages With Trumpets

A. Old Testament

1. Regathering of Jewish people to Jerusalem – Isaiah 27:13
2. Announcing the Day of the Lord – Joel 2:1

B. New Testament

1. Second Coming of Christ to Earth - Matthew 24:31
2. Rapture of the Church before the Tribulation - 1 Corinthians 15:52
3. Rapture of the Church before the Tribulation - 1 Thessalonians 4:16
4. Seven Trumpets in the Book of Revelation - Revelation 8:2–11:19

V. Significance for Christians

- A. Remember that every passage has application for us today (2 Tim. 3:16–17)
- B. Remember that God cares about your future even if you don't
- C. If God keeps His promises to Israel, will He keep His promises to Christians (compare Amos 9:11–16 and Rom. 8:28–39)? To YOU? We must accept the land and national promises for the nation of Israel.
- D. Remember the significance of spiritual restoration. All who enter God's coming earthly Kingdom must have personal faith in Messiah Jesus. Where do you stand?

Day of Atonement

(Yom Kippur)

ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The most sacred day in the Jewish High Holy Days is the Day of Atonement. It's a day of substitution and covering when Israel's sins were forgiven after they were transferred to a scapegoat. The scapegoat is a perfect depiction of the Messiah who would bring a once-for-all atonement. Even the prophet Isaiah saw Jesus so clearly that he was inspired to write, "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53: 5, 6).

I. The History and Observance of the Day of Atonement

II. The Day of Atonement in Prophecy

CHRIS KATULKA

III. The Day of Atonement for Us

Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)

GOD'S COMING KINGDOM

- I. Introduction - The Bible presents the history of Sukkot as a description of what it means for God to dwell with humans

II. When God dwells with us:

A. He _____ everything we need (Sukkot in the Hebrew Scriptures)

1. Leviticus 23's five biblical elements
2. Remember that God still _____
3. Remember that God _____ with you

B. He lives _____ and _____ us (Sukkot in the New Testament)

1. John 7's extra-biblical traditions:
 - a. _____ (living water)
 - i. Exodus 17:6-7; Numbers 20:2-13; Psalm 42:1-2; 63:1
 - ii. Jeremiah 2:13
 - b. Water-drawing ceremony notes:
2. Jesus says He's _____ among them (Jn. 7:37)
3. Jesus says God will live _____ them (7:38-39)
4. Jesus says God will _____ out of them (7:38)

DAN PRICE

- C. He makes a permanent _____ with us. (Sukkot in Prophecy)
1. Sukkot pictures the final harvest of God in the _____ and last _____ (Isa. 27:12-13; Hos. 6:11; Joel 3:13; Mal. 4:1-2; Mt. 13:39; Rev. 14:15)
 2. Sukkot will be celebrated in the _____ when Jesus reigns and the Spirit is poured out (Ezek. 37:27-28; Isa. 32:15; 59:21; Ezek. 11:19; 36:27; 37:14, 27-28; 39:29; 44:3; Joel 2:28-29; Zech. 12:10; 14:16-19)
 3. Sukkot is a picture of the _____ (Rev. 21-22)

notes

notes