

Festivals of the Lord

The Church of God, International (Philippines)

Bible Study

April 4, 2015

We love festivals

Irrespective of
culture and religion,
there will always be
occasions for
merriment,
recollection and
fellowshipping.

Festivals are seasons of thanksgiving,
celebration and great rejoicing.

These events can either be man-made
or God ordained.

Examples of man-made festivals

Independence Day

Thanksgiving

As professing Christians, what are the Holy days of God that you know?

Christmas

Sto. Nino Festival

Easter

Lent

Black Nazarene

Three Kings

Immaculate Conception

All Saints' Day

What if I tell you that these festivals
are only man-made, would you still
observe them?

What if we tell you that God has a set of festivals that He personally ordained for worship which has nothing to do with the holidays we just mentioned, would you be interested to know them?

What if we tell you that Jesus, the apostles and all the saints kept these God ordained festivals, would you keep them also?

What if we tell you that these are the
commanded festivals of the Lord, will you
observe them?

Meantime, do you know what are some of the highlights of Christianity, and the things you believe in?

The 7 major tenets of Christianity are:

1. Justification: That Jesus Christ our Savior came to die for us. We are justified by His blood.
2. Conversion: New life in Christ
3. Sanctification: Receiving the Holy Spirit

4. 2nd advent: The second coming of Christ
5. Incarceration of Satan: Satan thrown into the bottomless pit
6. Millennium: The 1000 year reign of Christ
7. Judgment: The Day of Judgment of the righteous and the unrighteous

Why the Feasts?

Why did God ordain these festivals and command His people to keep them?

Definitely, these festivals are not made
for God, they are meant for us.

They are constant reminders of His love, and they are signs between God and His children.

Now, let us go to Leviticus 23.
Leviticus 23 lists all the festivals of the
Lord. God commands us to keep
them holy and to proclaim a holy
convocation on the appointed time.

Leviticus 23

- (1) The Lord said to Moses,
- (2) “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.
- (3) “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 the Lord.

Leviticus 23

- (4) ““These are the Lord’s appointed festivals, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times:
- (5) The **Lord’s Passover** begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month.
- (6) On the fifteenth day of that month **the Lord’s Festival of Unleavened Bread begins**; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast.

Leviticus 23

- (7) On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work.
- (8) For seven days present a food offering to the Lord. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work.’”

Leviticus 23

(9) The Lord said to Moses,

(10) “Speak to the Israelites and say to them:

‘When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest.

(11) He is to wave the sheaf before the Lord so it will be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath.

Leviticus 23

- (12) On the day you wave the sheaf, you must sacrifice as a burnt offering to the Lord a lamb a year old without defect,
- (13) together with its grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with olive oil—a food offering presented to the Lord, a pleasing aroma—and its drink offering of a quarter of a hin of wine.
- (14) You must not eat any bread, or roasted or new grain, until the very day you bring this offering to your God. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live.

Leviticus 23

- (15) “From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks.
- (16) Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the Lord.
- (17) From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the Lord.

Leviticus 23

- (18) Present with this bread seven male lambs, each a year old and without defect, one young bull and two rams. They will be a burnt offering to the Lord, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings—a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the Lord.
- (19) Then sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering and two lambs, each a year old, for a fellowship offering.

Leviticus 23

- (20) The priest is to wave the two lambs before the Lord as a wave offering, together with the bread of the firstfruits. They are a sacred offering to the Lord for the priest.
- (21) On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly and do no regular work. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live.
- (22) ““When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God.””

Leviticus 23

(23) The Lord said to Moses,

(24) “Say to the Israelites: ‘On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of sabbath rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with **trumpet** blasts.’”

(25) Do no regular work, but present a food offering to the Lord.’”

Leviticus 23

(26) The Lord said to Moses,

(27) “The tenth day of this seventh month is the **Day of Atonement**. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves,[d] and present a food offering to the Lord.

(28) Do not do any work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the Lord your God.

(29) Those who do not deny themselves on that day must be cut off from their people.

Leviticus 23

(30) I will destroy from among their people anyone who does any work on that day.

(31) You shall do no work at all. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live.

(32) It is a day of sabbath rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your sabbath.”

Leviticus 23

(33) The Lord said to Moses,

(34) “Say to the Israelites: ‘On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the Lord’s **Festival of Tabernacles** begins, and it lasts for seven days.

(35) The first day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work.

Leviticus 23

(36) For seven days present food offerings to the Lord, and on the **eighth day** hold a sacred assembly and present a food offering to the Lord. It is the closing special assembly; do no regular work.

Leviticus 23

- (37) (“These are the Lord’s appointed festivals, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies for bringing food offerings to the Lord—the burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings required for each day.
- (38) These offerings are in addition to those for the Lord’s Sabbaths and in addition to your gifts and whatever you have vowed and all the freewill offerings you give to the Lord.)

Leviticus 23

(39) “So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the Lord for seven days; the first day is a day of sabbath rest, and the eighth day also is a day of sabbath rest.

(40) On the first day you are to take branches from luxuriant trees—from palms, willows and other leafy trees—and rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days.

Leviticus 23

(41) Celebrate this as a festival to the Lord for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month.

(42) Live in temporary shelters for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in such shelters

Leviticus 23

(43) so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

(44) So Moses announced to the Israelites the appointed **festivals of the Lord.**

But then you will say; these are old, ancient Jewish festivals, why should New Testament believers keep them?

The answer is because these festivals are God's festivals, and they are to remain forever; and Jesus, the apostles and the saints kept them.

Colossians 2:17

(17) These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

The Feast days of God are not ancient but are prophetic in nature. They are a blow-by-blow account of God's plan of salvation.

This plan is anchored on the typology of ancient Israel. God used the historical experience of the exodus to vividly illustrate His saving power to the Israelites, and even with us today.

The festivals of the Lord portray a powerful message of hope and deliverance for the Children of God.

The Israelites actually lived through it and were able to experience it firsthand.

Through them, God was drawing on their experience as an illustration of the spiritual salvation He is working out for humanity.

Particulars	Passover	Unleavened Bread	Pentecost	Trumpets	Atonement	Tabernacles	Last Great Day
Israelites	The blood of the lamb saved the first-born of Israel	Liberation from bondage They left Egypt in haste towards a new life	God appeared to them and gave them the Law	Jewish civil new year– A new beginning	Proclamation of liberty and restoration	40 years of wandering	Possession of the promised land

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews asserts that the Jews knew the spiritual truths of God

Hebrews 4:2

(2) For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed.

The problem lies in their unbelief. They did not wholeheartedly believe the gospel; but they knew the spiritual significance of the Feast Days.

As Paul said: “they are shadows of things that are coming.”

The Jews knew the prophecies and they too knew what each festival represents. They drew on their national historical experience and projects forward to a future fulfillment.

They are not fully unaware of the truth.
The scripture says that Abraham saw
Christ's day and he was glad.

John 8:56

(56) Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”

The Jews were looking for the following appearances

1. A Prophet like Moses (Deut 18:15);
2. Joel's prophecy of the pouring out of God's spirit on the day Pentecost; (Joel 2:28-32)
3. Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of the Messiah;
4. Zechariah's prophecy of the millennium (Zech 14) and
5. Daniel's prophecy of a day of judgment (Daniel 7:22).

1. A Prophet like Moses

Deuteronomy 18:15

(15) The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.

2. Joel's prophecy of the pouring out of God's spirit on the day Pentecost

Joel 2:28-31

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. ³² And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved;

3. Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of the Messiah

Isaiah 9:6

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders. ^[L]_[SEP] And he will be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.”

4. Zechariah's prophecy of the millennium

Zechariah 14:16-18

Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. 17 If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain. 18 If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The Lord will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.

5. Daniel's prophecy of a day of judgment

Daniel 7:22

Until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

All the festivals to be fulfilled by Christ

Paul said in Colossians 2:17: “These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”

All the festivals of God
are shadows of the real
things. The real thing
and substance is Jesus
Christ.

Yes, all the festivals
point to Christ and He
will fulfill each and
every prophecy
foreshadowed by the
Feast Days.

Luke 24:44

(44) He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

Jesus fulfilled every festival as follows

Particulars	Passover	Unleavened Bread	Pentecost	Trumpets	Atonement	Tabernacles	Last Great Day
Jesus Christ	Lamb of God	Bread of life	Head of the Church	Jesus' second coming	Marry the Church	Reign as King of kings and Lord of lords	Handover the kingdom to the Father

Christian Impact

Christ's fulfillment of the prophecies has tremendous impact on mankind. It is the only way mankind can attain salvation.

Jesus paid all our sins that we may have life and have it more abundantly. By abundant life He meant eternal life. For a true believer this is what happens.

Particulars	Passover	Unleavened Bread	Pentecost	Trumpets	Atonement	Tabernacles	Last Great Day
Believers/ Christians	Justification: Forgiveness of sin through the blood of Christ	Conversion: New life in Christ	Sanctification: Pouring out and in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit	Reward of the saints: Resurrection to eternal life	At-one with Christ	Millennium reign with Christ for 1,000 years	Day of judgment

Prophecies

The Annual Feast Days are not only God's step-by-step plan of salvation; they are prophecies laid out for us.

And when we see them fulfilled before our very eyes, it will strengthen our belief and we will eventually be saved.

Of the 3 seasons of the Feast one has been fulfilled, one is being fulfilled and one is yet to be fulfilled.

The Passover was fulfilled by Christ,
as Paul said the Passover is killed -
referring to the sacrifice of Christ.

We are now in the season of the Feast of Weeks waiting for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Prophecy is knowledge. With knowledge comes understanding. With understanding comes wisdom. With wisdom comes power.

If we know and understand things that others don't, then we are in a superior position. One of the most superior knowledge is to know the future.

Just imagine, what would you do if you knew what tomorrow, next week, next month or next year is going to be like?

What will happen will determine how
you live your life today, wouldn't it?

Would you alter and change your life for the better? If you see an opportunity, would you not rather grab it with both hands and cling to it with your whole being?

There is a television series called the *Early Edition*. In the series, the protagonist receives an early copy of tomorrow's newspaper today. With the knowledge of what events would transpire that day, he makes every effort to prevent disasters from happening.

What if this information were available to you? Would it change your life? With great knowledge comes great responsibility.

Isaiah 46: 10

(10) I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

Amos 3: 6

(6) When a trumpet sounds in a city,
do not the people tremble? When
disaster comes to a city, has not the
Lord caused it?

God's people ought to have this gift
of knowing the future.

God has revealed the future to His people so that we may be aware, be prepared and be ready to act accordingly in response to the coming events.

With such advance information, we shall be able to conduct our lives according to God's plan, will and purpose; and as result, we will achieve our destiny.

The Feast Days are keys and guides to understanding biblical prophecies. In fact, the Feast Days are both prophecies and promises.

We know what will happen
blow-by-blow in the future.

We know the sequence of events that will unfold, and we know the ultimate plan of God.

We know how the human saga is going to be played out and how it is going to end.

Knowing, understanding and internalizing the biblical prophecy laid out in the seven Annual Feast Days of God is like living in the world in reverse.

We know with certainty what the future holds. We know with certainty that these things will happen as if we are going back to the future.

We know the future. We know and we look forward to the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and The Last Great Day.

In John 5:19-20 we are told that all the things that Jesus did comes from the Father. And that includes the Festivals as well.

Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

Particulars	Passover	Unleavened Bread	Pentecost	Trumpets	Atonement	Tabernacles	Last Great Day
The Father	Sent Jesus Christ as the savior of the world	Gives life to anyone who believes in the Son	Sends the holy spirit	Sends Christ for the second time	Puts all authority in His Son	Millennial reign of Christ The Kingdom of His Son	Jesus Christ hands over the Kingdom to the Father that all may be in all

Consider the Following

1. Passover – John 3:16. Jesus was sent by the Father and He is the Lamb of God John 1:29.
2. Days of Unleavened Bread – John 6:35 Jesus is the bread that comes from heaven and the Life Giver is the Father John 17:2.
3. Pentecost – The Father gives the Holy Spirit – John 14:26 and Acts 2:33
4. Feast of Trumpets – The much awaited return of Christ - Mark 13:32; and the resurrection of the saints– John 5:21; 6:40 resurrection is from the Father.
5. Atonement - all authority given to Christ to put everything under his feet – 1 Corinthians 15:28
6. Feast of Tabernacles – The millennial reign of Christ. Colossians 1:13 and Revelation 11:15 and 20:4-6
7. Last Great Day – Jesus hands over the Kingdom to the Father – 1 Corinthians 15:24 and 28.

1. Passover

John 3:16

(16) For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1. Passover

Jesus was sent by the Father and He is the Lamb of God.

John 1:29

(29) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the **Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**”

2. Days of Unleavened Bread

John 6:35

(35) Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

2. Days of Unleavened Bread

Jesus is the bread that comes from heaven and the Life Giver is the Father

John 17:2.

(2) For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him

3. Pentecost

The Father gives the Holy Spirit

John 14:26

(26) But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

4. Feast of Trumpets

The much awaited return of Christ...

Mark 13:32

(32) “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

4. Feast of Trumpets

...resurrection is from the Father.

John 6:40

(40) For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

5. Atonement

All authority given to Christ to put
everything under his feet

1 Corinthians 15:28

(28) When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

6. Feast of Tabernacles

The millennial reign of Christ.

Colossians 1:13

(13) For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

6. Feast of Tabernacles

Revelation 11:15

(15) The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

6. Feast of Tabernacles

Revelation 20:4-6

(4) I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

6. Feast of Tabernacles

Revelation 20:4-6

(5) (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

(6) Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

7. Last Great Day

Jesus hands over the Kingdom to the Father

1 Corinthians 15:24

(24) Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

7. Last Great Day

1 Corinthians 15:28

(28) When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

Particulars	Passover	Unleavened Bread	Pentecost	Trumpets	Atonement	Tabernacles	Last Great Day
Israelites	The blood of the lamb saved the first-born of Israel	Liberation from bondage They left Egypt in haste towards a new life	God appeared to them and gave them the Law	Jewish civil new year– A new beginning	Proclamation of liberty and restoration	40 years of wandering	Possession of the promised land
Christians	Justification: Forgiveness of sin through the blood of Christ	Conversion: New life in Christ	Sanctification : Pouring out and in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit	Justification: Forgiveness of sin through the blood of Christ	Reward of the saints: Resurrection to eternal life	At-one with Christ	Millennium reign with Christ for 1,000 years
Jesus Christ	Lamb of God	Bread of life	Head of the Church	Jesus' second coming	Marry the Church	Reign as King of kings and Lord of lords	Handover the kingdom to the Father
The Father	Sent Jesus Christ as the savior of the world	Gives life to anyone who believes in the Son	Sends the holy spirit	Sends Christ for the second time	Puts all authority in His Son	Millennial reign of Christ The Kingdom of His Son	Jesus Christ hands over the Kingdom to the Father that all may be in all

Summation

God has a plan.

Ephesians 1:1-3

- (1) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:
- (2) Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (3) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

This plan is being executed and being
accomplished by His One and Only
Begotten Son.

When you look at the Feast days, they are God's festivals for us so that we will always remember that God has loved us from the very beginning.

1 John 4:8-11

(8) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

(9) This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 4:8-11

(10) This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

(11) Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

The festivals of God are Holy.
They are God's appointed feasts.

We are to keep them holy, and
proclaim a holy convocation when
their season comes.

Today, is such a day. Today is the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Yesterday was the day of Passover.

1,984 years ago, Jesus shed His blood for you. He is our Passover. John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God.

1 Corinthians 5:7

Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. **For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.**

These are God's
true appointed feasts.

We hope you keep them faithfully.

The up-coming Feast is the Last Day
of the Feast of the Unleavened
Bread. It is on 10th of April. You are
invited and welcome to celebrate
God's Feast with us – here at EDSA
Shangri-la Hotel at 10am.