Refreshed IN THE WORD
For thy word hath quickened me
PSALM 119:50

Torah Studies

Connecting the Torah and Jesus

STUDY 24

God’s Appointed Times and Jesus

Day 24 · Leviticus 23

Walk through the sacred calendar of Leviticus 23. Discover remembrance, rest, gratitude, and the connections the New Testament makes to Jesus.

For personal reading and study with friends

King James Version · Complete Scripture passages

Read and share online

Read one section at a time. Take turns reading the verses aloud, discuss the questions, and choose one practical response. Every passage referenced in the teaching is included in full.

Let’s begin together

Father, help us remember Your faithfulness and make room to worship. As we read Your appointed times, open our eyes to Jesus. In His name, amen.

Leviticus 23 gives Israel times to gather, rest, remember, and rejoice. A holy convocation is a gathering set apart for God. These celebrations had real meaning in Israel’s covenant life. We will follow the connections Scripture itself makes, without inventing hidden dates or secret predictions.

Main truth: Remembering God’s works helps us live with gratitude, and the New Testament directs our hope to Jesus.

1. Stop, gather, and remember

Leviticus 23:1-3

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.

3 Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

The weekly Sabbath gave Israel a rhythm of work and rest before God. The people were more than their labor. Time belonged to the Lord too. Our daily schedules also reveal what matters to us. We need room to listen, worship, and receive life as God’s gift.

2. Passover and a life made new

Leviticus 23:4-8

4 These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD’s passover.

6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were set at the beginning of Israel's calendar. Unleavened bread is bread made without yeast. The days included worship gatherings and offerings. These repeated times helped the community remember together, rather than leaving faith only to private memory.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Paul explicitly calls Christ our Passover sacrifice. He uses the picture of removing old yeast to call the church away from evil and toward sincerity and truth. The connection to Jesus leads to a changed life. Remembering His sacrifice should affect how we speak and act.

3. The first part of the harvest

Leviticus 23:9-14

9 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

12 And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.

13 And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.

14 And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

Israel brought the first sheaf of the harvest to God before enjoying the new grain. A sheaf is a bundle of harvested stalks. This first gift acknowledged that the harvest came from Him. The people learned to receive with gratitude instead of acting as though they produced everything alone.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.

Paul calls the risen Christ the firstfruits of those who have died. Jesus' resurrection is the beginning and promise of the resurrection of those who belong to Him. Our hope is not simply a better mood today. It rests in the living Savior and the future God promises.

4. Gratitude makes room for others

Leviticus 23:15-22

15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

17 Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baken with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.

18 And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be for a burnt offering unto the LORD, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, even an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto the LORD.

19 Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings.

20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.

21 And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

22 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

After counting fifty days, Israel brought another harvest offering and gathered before God. Notice the command about leaving grain for poor people and foreigners. Celebration and generosity belong together. A full table should help us remember the person who does not have enough to eat.

5. A call to attention and humility

Leviticus 23:23-25

23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

25 Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

The trumpet memorial marked a sacred gathering in the seventh month. The text gives Israel a time to stop ordinary work and honor God. It does not supply a modern date for the return of Jesus. We can listen to its call to take God seriously without creating a prediction.

Leviticus 23:26-32

26 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

29 For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

30 And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

31 Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

32 It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.

The Day of Atonement called the people to humble themselves and rest while atonement was made. Atonement addresses sin and impurity so people can approach God in the way He provides. This was a serious day of dependence on His provision, not a display of personal achievement.

6. Remember God's care and come to Jesus

Leviticus 23:33-44

33 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

35 On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.

37 These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day:

38 Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD.

39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath.

40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

44 And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

At the Feast of Tabernacles, Israel lived in temporary shelters and rejoiced before the Lord. The shelters reminded later generations of life after the rescue from Egypt. Remembering simple shelters could teach a settled family that its security still came from God.

John 7:2

2 Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.

John identifies the festival setting as the Feast of Tabernacles. Later in that same chapter, Jesus makes this invitation.

John 7:37-39

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus invites thirsty people to come to Him and believe. John explains that He is speaking about the Spirit believers would receive. The festival's remembrance of God's care becomes the setting for an invitation to trust Jesus for the life only He can give.

Talk it over with friends

1. Why do people need repeated times to remember God’s works?

2. Which connections to Jesus are stated directly in the New Testament passages?

3. How could gratitude make your next gathering more generous?

Put it into practice

Set aside a time to remember one way God has cared for you. Share that memory with someone, and include a practical gift of food, time, or help for a person in need.

A verse to carry with you

1 Corinthians 15:20

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Jesus is risen, and our hope rests in Him.

Let’s pray together

Father, thank You for Your faithful care. Teach us to remember, rest, rejoice, and give. Keep our hope rooted in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Fill us with Your Spirit and make our gratitude visible in love. In Jesus’ name, amen.

I love you, my friends.

Scripture and sources

Scripture text was checked against the King James Version published by eBible.org. The complete verses are reproduced with their historical wording. Verse numbers and layout are adapted for reading; editorial footnotes are omitted. Tap any Scripture reference to view its source.

Bible edition and text