

## **Sabbath – Shabbat**

**When:** Weekly, on the seventh day of the week

**How:** A time to rest from and to remember.

**Why:** To keep the day holy and provide rest for God's people, while gathering with other believers to worship, study, and pray.

**Reference:** Genesis 2:1-3 and Exodus 20:11

## **Passover – Pesach**

**When:** Nisan 14 in the evening (March and April)

**How:** during the time of the Tabernacle and Temple, the children of Israel sacrificed a lamb and then shared a special meal with their family.

**Why:** To remember how God delivered the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt through Moses. As believers we also remember how Jesus delivered us from our bondage to sin and set us free to live a life of loving God and loving others.

**Reference:** Leviticus 23:4-5

## **Unleavened Bread – Chag HaMatzot**

**When:** Nisan 15-21 (March and April)

**How:** Avoid eating foods with leavening (yeast) for seven days while resting on the first and seventh day.

**Why:** To remember how the children of Israel left Egypt so quickly that they did not have time to let their bread rise and had to make unleavened bread for food.

**Reference:** Leviticus 23:6-8

## **Feast of First Fruits**

**When:** Nisan 16 (March and April)

**How:** After the children of Israel entered the Promised Land, each year they brought the first fruits of the spring harvest (like barley) to the Lord and offered them along with other offerings at the Temple.

**Why:** To help the children of Israel remember to give thanks to God for the first fruits of the harvest and to show they trusted Him to bring in the rest of the harvest.

**Reference:** Leviticus 23:9-14

### **Pentecost – Shavuot – Feast of Weeks**

**When:** 50 days after the Feast of First Fruits and 50 days after Easter (May or June)

**How:** Like the celebration of the First Fruits, the children of Israel brought the first fruits of the summer harvest (like wheat) to the Lord and offered them along with other offerings at the Temple. When harvesting the rest of their crops, they were instructed to leave the corners of the field so the poor could harvest them.

**Why:** To thank the Lord for the harvest, remember how God had provided for them by giving to the poor. By tradition, this was the day the Lord gave Moses the Law. Pentecost is also a day of rest for the people. As believers we remember this day as the day the Holy Spirit was given to believers after the resurrection of Jesus.

**Reference:** Leviticus 23:15-22

### **Feast of Trumpets – Rosh Hashanah**

**When:** Tishrei 1 (September or October)

**How:** To gathering, rest, and memorial blowing of trumpets, offering at the Temple.

**Why:** By tradition, this marks the beginning of the days of repentance leading up to the Day of Atonement.

**Reference:** Leviticus 23:22-25

### **Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur**

**When:** Tishrei 10

**How:** To gather, rest and fast for the day (afflicting your soul).

**Why:** During the time of the Tabernacle and Temple, the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies to make atonement before the Lord for himself, his family, and the people. Jesus made atonement for us, once for all, in the heavenly Temple.

**Reference:** Leviticus 23:26-32, Hebrews 9:11-15

### **Feast of Tabernacles – Succoth – Feast of Booths**

**When:** Tishrei 15-22

**How:** Gather branches from various types of trees, rejoice before the Lord, gather as a congregation and rest. This holiday is celebrated by building temporary booths (tents) and living in them for seven days.

**Why:** To remember how the children of Israel lived in booths after they left Egypt.

**Reference:** Leviticus 23:33-44

These holidays are ones instituted by God but there are also two other holidays mentioned in Scripture that were instituted men and celebrated by God's people, Purim and Hanukkah.

### **Purim**

**When:** Adar 14 and 15 (February or March)

**How:** With feasting, joy, and by sending gifts to one another.

**Why:** Remembering how God delivered the Jewish people in Ancient Persia through Esther, the Jewish Queen of Persia.

**Reference:** Esther 1-10

### **Feast of Dedication – Hanukkah – Feast of Lights**

**When:** Kislev 25 – Tevet 2 (December)

**How:** Lighting candles, in a special candle holder, for eight days.

**Why:** To remember the rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees, after it was defiled by the Greeks. God performed a miracle; one day of holy oil for the lamp stand in the Temple, lasted eight days, allowing time for more oil to be purified.

**Reference:** Hanukkah is referenced in John 10:22 and the history is found in the Apocryphal books of 1 and 2 Maccabees.

Like Purim and Hanukkah, as Christians, we have holidays we celebrate to commemorate events related to the life of Jesus—Christmas and Easter.

### **Christmas – Christ's Mass**

**When:** December 25 (on the Gregorian Calendar)

**How:** To gather to celebrate and worship and exchange gifts.

**Why:** Remember the birth of Jesus, the coming of the promised Messiah.

**Reference:** Matthew 1 and Luke 2

### **Easter – Resurrection Day**

**When:** the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the spring equinox

**How:** gathering and reflecting

**Why:** to celebrate that Jesus rose from the grave and conquered death

**Reference:** Luke 24:3-8, Mark 16:5-7