The Feasts of YHVH

The Spring Feasts of YHVH
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• So far in this Passover series, we have looked at:
  • Introduction to Threshold Covenants
  • Passover as a Threshold Covenant
  • “Twilight” Versus “Between the Evenings”
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• In this presentation, we will take a closer look at the Spring Feasts of YHVH.
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• Leviticus 23 presents the appointed times (moedim) of YHVH.

• The following chart shows the moedim, and indicates which ones are feasts and which ones have holy convocations.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appointed Times (Moedim) Leviticus 23</th>
<th>Holy Convocations (Miqraei Kodesh)</th>
<th>Feast (Chag) Deut. 16:16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shabbat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesach (Passover)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chag HaMatzot (UB)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yes – HaMatzot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom HaBikkurim (Firstfruits)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chag HaShavuot (Pentecost)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes – HaShavuot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom Teruah (Trumpets)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom HaKippurim (Atonements)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chag HaSukkot (Tabernacles)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes – HaSukkot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom Shemini Atzeret (8th day assembly)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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• We can look at the feasts in a couple of ways:
  • As a concentric structure
  • As a parallel
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- Pesach (Passover)
  - Chag HaMatzot (Unleavened Bread)
  - Yom HaBikkurim (Firstfruits)
    - Chag HaShavuot (Pentecost)
    - Yom Teruah (Trumpets)
  - Yom HaKippurim (Atonements)
- Chag HaSukkot (Tabernacles)
- Yom Shemini Atzeret (8th day assembly)

Pesach and Shemini Atzeret are days that begin and end the moedim.

HaMatzot and Ha Sukkot are 7-day feasts.

HaBikkurim and HaKippurim are single-day appointed times.

HaShavuot and Yom Teruah are days of announcements.
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- The following chart shows thematic parallels of the spring and fall feasts of YHVH combined with information based on:
  - Scripture
  - Previous teaching
  - Jewish customs
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring Feasts</th>
<th>Fall Feasts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Moon of Nisan (Spring)</td>
<td>Yom Teruah (Trumpets) – New Moon of Tishrei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection of seh (Nisan 10)</td>
<td>Yom HaKippurim (Atonements)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of its examination (Nisan 10-14)</td>
<td>Days of Awe (Tishrei 1-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesach (Passover)</td>
<td>Battle of Armageddon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Death of the seh between the evenings.</td>
<td>• Death of the beast’s armies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chag HaMatzot (Unleavened Bread)</td>
<td>• Beast and false prophet cast into the lake of fire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Death of Egyptian firstborn.</td>
<td>Chag HaSukkot (Tabernacles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Betrothal; Threshold Covenant</td>
<td>• Wedding Supper of the Lamb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom HaBikkurim (Firstfruits)</td>
<td>1(^{st}) Resurrection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chag HaShavuot (Pentecost)</td>
<td>Yom Shemini Atzeret (8(^{th}) day assembly)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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• The primary factors that determine the moedim are based on:
  • Genesis 1:14: Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons (תֵּלָהְמָנְשֵׂדְיָם, ul-moadim), and for days and years.

  • This means the primary factors for determining all of the moedim (seasons, appointed times), including spring are the sun, moon, and stars.
    • All 3 types of celestial bodies operate together help determine the seasons and therefore, YHVH’s appointed times.
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• **Moon:** The new moon determines the time of a new month.

• **Sun:** Appears to move through the constellations like a clock to determine the specific month of the year.
  - The rate at which the sun moves through the constellations is different in a regular year versus a leap year. The sun should be between 0-30 degrees of right ascension by the 15th of Nisan.

• **Stars:** Function like the numbers of the month.
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• The next couples of charts are taken from the New Moon Series.

• These show what the suns position should be during each month of the year. This was determined during research for the New Moon Series.

• See part 5, A Calendar for YHVH’s People for full details.
The Spring Feasts of YHWH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hebrew Months</th>
<th>$30^\circ$ of Rt. Ascension</th>
<th>Regular Year</th>
<th>Leap Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nisan</td>
<td>0-30</td>
<td>0-15</td>
<td>15-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Iyyar</td>
<td>30-60</td>
<td>30-45</td>
<td>45-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sivan</td>
<td>60-90</td>
<td>58-75</td>
<td>75-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tamuz</td>
<td>90-120</td>
<td>85-105</td>
<td>105-120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Av</td>
<td>120-150</td>
<td>116-135</td>
<td>134-150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Elul</td>
<td>150-180</td>
<td><strong>142-180</strong></td>
<td><strong>150-165</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The classical zodiac originated in the neo-Babylonian period (~6-7 century BCE). Originally, the 12 signs were arbitrary $30^\circ$ degree segments. Precession has caused a shift in all of the constellations.
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• By Tishrei, it is very evident that the sun is extremely delayed in leap years as it moves through the constellations, and it will be necessary to add a second month of Adar so that Nisan will be between 0-30 degrees of right ascension for the beginning of spring.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Hebrew Months</th>
<th>30° of Rt. Ascension</th>
<th>Regular Year</th>
<th>Leap Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tishrei</td>
<td>180-210</td>
<td>180-210</td>
<td>165-180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cheshvan</td>
<td>210-240</td>
<td>210-240</td>
<td>195-210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kislev</td>
<td>240-270</td>
<td>240-270</td>
<td>225-240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tevet</td>
<td>270-300</td>
<td>270-300</td>
<td>225-270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sh’vat</td>
<td>300-330</td>
<td>300-330</td>
<td>285-300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Adar (I)</td>
<td>330-360</td>
<td>330-345</td>
<td>315-330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Adar (II)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>345-360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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• Deuteronomy 16:1 – Observe the month of Abib (spring), and keep the Passover to the YHVH, for in the month of ha-Abib (spring), for in that month, God brought you out of Egypt.

• Exodus 13:4 – On this day, you are going out in the month of the Abib (spring).

• Exodus 23:15; 34:18 – You are to keep the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, at the time appointed in the month of the Abib (spring), which is when you came out of Egypt.
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• Based on these verses, it is necessary to determine the timing of all of the appointed times (moedim) for the year by determine spring.
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• Believers should consider the first new moon of Nisan as when spring begins.

• However...
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• There are two methods today by which the world determines spring today:
  • A 3-month set: March, April, May
  • The equinox: The point where the plane of the celestial sphere crosses the equatorial plane:
    • Northern Hemisphere (where Israel is situated): March
    • Southern Hemisphere: September
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• According to Kiddush HaChodesh, Chapter 4:
  • The Feast of Unleavened Bread, also known as Passover, needed to take place after the March equinox and preferably in the same lunar month as the March equinox.
  • If the spring equinox fell on what would be Nisan 16th or later, they would add an additional month causing a leap year.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• The Jews also used secondary factors to confirm the presence of spring.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

- The secondary factors for determining spring are:
  - The fruit trees have bloomed.
  - The barley was ripe enough to be parched in 2 of 3 places: Judea, Transjordan, and Galilee.
The present day Zadok code/rating system describes barley rated as a double-digit number.

- The first number (on the left) is the principal stage of maturation.
  - Primary stages are coded from 0-9.
- The second number (on the right) is the secondary stage of maturation.
  - Secondary stages are also coded 0-9, but not all primary stages have 9 secondary stages.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• These are the last stages of barley development:
  • **85 = Soft dough, head green in color.**
  • **87 = Hard dough, head losing its green color and is acquiring enough starch so that the grain can be parched.**
  • **89 = Approximate physiological maturity.**
  • **91 = When barely kernel is hard but difficult to divide with the thumb**
  • **92 = When barley kernel can’t be divided with the thumb and is fully ready for harvest.**
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• In 2019, the conjunction of the moon was March 6th. If we consider the new crescent moon and start of Nisan to be March 7th, Passover would’ve been March 20th.

• It turns out the equinox was March 20th (Nisan 14th), making this a historical day if the barley was also aviv in Israel.

• By March 21st (Nisan 15th), the sun was now within the 0-30 degrees of right ascension, and the fruit trees were in bloom.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• In Israel, by the time of the new moon in March 2019, there was a debate between several barley inspectors over whether or not there was enough wild aviv barley.

• Pictures clearly provided enough proof that there was plenty of wild aviv barley to make more than enough ground flour for a firstfruit offering.

• Yet many people were afraid or unsure of what to do. Many still chose to follow the Hillel II calendar, while others chose to declare a regular year.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• All this being said, the position of the sun against the backdrop of the constellations by Nisan 15th, as well as the appearance of the new moon at the start of the month, is sufficient to determine spring.

• When the celestial bodies are in their proper place, YHVH does the rest to see that the fruit trees are in bloom and the barley is aviv.
• With these things in mind, let’s begin to go through the texts related to the Spring Feasts.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• Pesach - Passover
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• Pesach - Leviticus 23:5

• On the fourteenth day of the first month between the evenings is the Lord's Passover.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• Pesach - Numbers 9:2-3

  • Let the children of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time. 3 On the fourteenth day of this month, between the evenings, you shall keep it at its appointed time.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

- There are 3 things we need to understand from these verses:
  - The date of the Passover is Nisan 14th.
  - This is the date of YHVH’s Passover/Threshold Covenant with His people.
  - In other words, this date was when the Hebrews performed their portion of the threshold covenant with YHVH by slaughtering their seh at their thresholds between solar noon and sunset, as well as by applying its blood to the lintels and doorposts of their homes.
And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner (נֵכָר, nechar – one from another nation) shall eat it.

But every man's servant (עֶבֶד, eved) who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it.

A sojourner (תושב, toshav – permanent dweller in the land, not part of Israel) and a hired servant (שָכִיyr, sakhyir – worked for an Israelite for wages) shall not eat it.
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• Exodus 12:43-49 (continued):
  
  • 46 In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones.
  
  • 47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• Exodus 12:43-49 (continued):

• 48 And when a stranger (גֵּר, ger - sojourner) dwells (יָגַר, yagur; sojourns) with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised,

• and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native (כְּאֶזְרָח, ce-ezrach) of the land.

• For no uncircumcised person shall eat it.
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• These verses tell us that Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are for people who choose to be in covenant with YHVH, as well as their children and servants who are living in their households, as long as they are circumcised.

• It is not for foreigners or people who choose not to be in covenant with YHVH.
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• Exodus 12:43-49 (continued):

• 49 One law shall be for the native-born (לָאֶזְרָח, la-ezrach) and for the stranger (וְלַגְרֵר, ve-la-ger) who dwells among you.
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• Instead of slaying an actual *seh*, I suggest for Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread that we place a long red scarf or ribbon over our doorway as a yearly renewal and reminder of the threshold covenant we have with YHVH.
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• As we move through the rest of the text for the spring feasts, we are going to look at their required offerings.

• Even though we do not bring these offerings to YHVH today because there is no temple, we need to start learning what kinds of offerings were required for the day when there will be a temple.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

- Chag HaMatzot – Feast of Unleavened Bread
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• Chag HaMatzot - Leviticus 23:6-8:
  • And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.
  • 7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.
  • 8 But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days.
  • The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it."
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• There are 3 things we need to understand from these verses:
  • The Chag HaMatzot (Feasts of Unleavened Bread) takes place from Nisan 15th - 21st.
  • Unleavened bread must be eaten during the period beginning on Nisan 15th – 21st. This is from sunset at the end of the 14th until sunset at the end of the 21st.
  • An offering by fire is to be made to YHVH for 7 days.
  • There shall be no servile (business) work done on Nisan 15th or 21st.
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- The offerings are not listed in Leviticus 23, but they are listed in Numbers 28:19-24:
- And you shall present an offering made by fire as a burnt offering to the Lord:
- two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year.
- Be sure they are without blemish.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• The offerings are not listed in Leviticus 23, but they are listed in Numbers 28:19-24 (continued):
  • 20 Their grain offering shall be of fine flour mixed with oil:
  • three-tenths of an ephah you shall offer for a bull,
  • and two-tenths for a ram;
  • 21 you shall offer one-tenth of an ephah for each of the seven lambs;
  • 22 also one goat as a sin offering, to make atonement for you.
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• The offerings are not listed in Leviticus 23, but they are listed in Numbers 28:19-24 (continued):

• 23 You shall offer these besides the burnt offering of the morning, which is for a regular burnt offering.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• The offerings are not listed in Leviticus 23, but they are listed in Numbers 28:19-24 (continued):

• 24 In this manner you shall offer the food of the offering made by fire daily for seven days, as a sweet aroma to the Lord;

• it shall be offered besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.
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• Yom HaBikkurim - Day of Firstfruits
And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf (עֶֹמֶר, omer) of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf (עֶֹמֶר, omer) before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it."
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• Yom HaBikkurim - Leviticus 23:9-14 (continued):

  • 12 And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf (עֶֹמֶר, omer), a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord.

  • 13 Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the Lord, for a sweet aroma;

  • and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin.
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- Firstfruits - Leviticus 23:9-14 (continued):
  - You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God;
  - it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.
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• According to Alfred Edersheim in *The Temple, its Ministry and Services*, Chapter 13:

• Delegates from the Sanhedrin marked the spot where the first sheaf was to be reaped from by tying the barley together in bundles while it was still standing. This was usually done in the sheltered Ashes-valley across Kedron.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• According to Alfred Edersheim in *The Temple, its Ministry and Services*, Chapter 13:

  • The barley had to be grown in an ordinary field in Palestine. It could not be grown in a garden or orchard. The soil could not have been manured or artificially watered.

  • The field was ploughed in autumn and sowed 70 days before the Passover; this equates to roughly January 8th. Therefore, this was domestic barley, not wild.
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• According to Alfred Edersheim in *The Temple, its Ministry and Services*, Chapter 13 (continued):

• They cut down about one ephah or ten omers of barley. The ears of barely were thrashed to purge the barley from the bran. The barley kernels were parched and then ground in a barley mill.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• According to Alfred Edersheim in *The Temple, its Ministry and Services*, Chapter 13 (continued):

  • Even though ten omers of barley were cut down, only one omer of ground flour was mixed with a log of oil, and a handful of frankincense was put on it.

  • This **OMER OF FINE FLOUR, NOT a SHEAF OF BARLEY**, was waved before YHVH, and a handful of that was taken and burned on the altar according to Leviticus 2:14-16.
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• Leviticus 2:14-16

• If you offer a grain offering of your *firstfruits* to the Lord, you shall offer for the grain offering of your *firstfruits* green heads of grain (אָבִיב, aviv) roasted on the fire, grain beaten from full heads.

• 15 And you shall put oil on it, and lay frankincense on it. It is a grain offering.

• 16 Then the priest shall burn the memorial portion: part of its beaten grain and part of its oil, with all the frankincense, as an offering made by fire to the Lord.
There is a difference of opinion as to which Sabbath the firstfruits offering should be waved by the priest and offered on the altar:

- The day after the first high Sabbath – Nisan 16th
- The day after the weekly Sabbath
- The day after the second high Sabbath – Nisan 22nd
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• 1 Corinthians 15:20

• But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
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• Yeshua likely died on Wednesday, Nisan 14th and was buried before sunset.

• He likely rose from the dead at the end of Saturday (the weekly Sabbath, Nisan 17th) at sunset so that he was missing from the grave on Sunday morning, the first day of the week, when the women came to the tomb with the spices they had prepared.
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• Observing Nisan 16th, the day after the first high Sabbath, does not fit the thematic parallel of Yeshua rising from the dead as a firstfruit offering from the dead.
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• Yeshua had to be in the grave for 3 full days and 3 full nights in order to fulfil other thematic patterns and prophecy laid out in Scripture.

• Yeshua did not rise from the dead until the end of Nisan 17th at sunset as the 18th began. This was after the weekly Sabbath. This allowed for Yeshua to be in the grave for 3 full days and nights.
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• The 7 day Feast of Unleavened Bread represents the time frame of an empty field being sowed until the reaping of its fully ripened harvest.

• Yeshua was sowed or buried at the end of Passover. His body was like a seed that did not decay. It became alive and came forth from what would appear to be a dead field. He was still considered “young or green” due to the timing of his resurrection.

• As such, he was a firstfruit from the dead.
• If the 7-day Feast of Unleavened Bread represents a harvest period, the firstfruits must be collected prior to the end of the harvest period so that the harvest is still young (aviv; starting to lose its green color, but has enough starch in it so it can be parched) and not yet fully mature (no longer any green color).

• Therefore, firstfruits could not be collected after the second high Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
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• Chag HaShavuot – Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)
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• Chag HaShavuot - Leviticus 23:15-21

• And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed.
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• Chag HaShavuot - Leviticus 23:15-21

• 16 Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord.

• 17 You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the Lord.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• Chag HaShavuot - Leviticus 23:15-21

• 18 And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull (Numbers 28:27 says two bulls), and two rams.

• They shall be as a burnt offering to the Lord, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the Lord.
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• Chag HaShavuot - Leviticus 23:15-21

• 19 Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering.
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• Chag HaShavuot - Leviticus 23:15-21

• 20 The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the Lord for the priest.

• 21 And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.
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• The original Chag HaShavuot was the time of the giving of the law at Mount Sinai.

• Much later it was the time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. This filled them with boldness so that they could proclaim the gospel of Messiah and urge everyone to repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit.
The Spring Feasts of YHVH

• REFERENCES:

• The Temple, its Ministry and Services, Chapter 11 – The Passover and Chapter 13 - The Feast of Unleavened Bread & the Day of Pentecost, by Alfred Edersheim. PC Study Bible formatted electronic database Copyright © 1999, 2003, 2006 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.
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