

THE FEASTS OF ADONAI

INTRODUCTION:

Text: Leviticus 23

Teaching texts: Leviticus 23:1, 2; Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 10:1

As we have just read the first two verses of Leviticus 23, to whom does Moses assign title to the feasts?

- Whose feasts are they? *Adonai's!*

Many of us have considered these feasts to be *Jewish* – but Scripture clearly states that these are the *appointed times of Adonai*. The feasts are not exclusive to the Jewish people but are Adonai's celebrations used as reminders for His people, which are to be used to expose Adonai's heart and plan to all His people. For many of us we have not given these days much or any thought because we have considered them as merely historical or Jewish thus no longer pertaining to the Church.

The Apostle Paul states every word that Adonai inspired the writers of Scripture to inscribe within its narrative is placed there for a specific purpose (II Tim. 3:16). This is demonstrated clearly within the pattern of the tabernacle (Hebrews 8:5), which teaches us the way to Adonai's presence/redemption applicable throughout the entire history of mankind. In the same manner the Feasts teach us not only Israel's historical events and seasons, but within they hold the prophetic key to *Adonai's Plan for Mankind* or we could say within them is *Adonai's Blueprint for the Ages*. As every Jewish household celebrates these festivals they are reminded of their dependence upon Adonai as well as their hopes and aspiration in Him for the future. According to the Apostle Paul the feasts actually foreshadow the person and work of our Messiah Yeshua (Colossians 2:16, 17, Hebrew 10:1).

The main focus of this teaching will be the eight feasts as outlined in Leviticus 23. Just reflecting on the number eight directs our minds to the prospect of eternity which is Adonai's ordained destiny for redeemed mankind. We will look at each of these feasts from three distinct perspectives, the historical, the spiritual, and the prophetic (Messianic fulfillment) in an attempt to properly understand their theological implications. In addition to the eight biblical feasts we will take the time to survey three other observances of the Jewish community which have biblical basis. These three are Purim, Tisha B'Av and Hanukkah.