



Community Bible Church
Sermon Discussion Questions: May 28, 2023
Pastor Ed Newton

Title: We Remember

Text: Leviticus 23 (A Glance of the 7 feasts of Israel)

Target: Memorial Day's are to be etched in history not only to honor those who have gone before us, but also for those who come behind us.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite song from back in the day, and what does it remind you of when you hear it?

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- I. **Passover:** *"In the first month, on the **fourteenth** day of the month at twilight is the LORD'S Passover."* (Lev. 23:5)
 - A. **Meaning:** Freedom from the slavery of Egypt. Death angel passes over every house with blood of the lamb applied.
 - B. **Message:** God is a God of **Redemption** (John 1:29)

 - II. **Unleavened Bread:** *"And on the **fifteenth** day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread To the LORD."* (Lev. 23:6)
 - A. **Meaning:** Israel left Egypt in such a hurry that they did not have time to add leaven to their bread while celebrating Passover.
 - B. **Message:** God is a God of **Resolution** (John 6:35/Mark 8:15)

Question #1: These feasts and festivals became annual traditions that allowed the Israelites to take a break from their normal lives, remember God's goodness, and celebrate all He had done for them. *Do you think it's important for Christians today to continue the practice of stopping to reflect on God's goodness and faithfulness in their lives? Why or why not? What are some examples of how we can do this in our daily lives?*

Question #2: As you think about your own birthday or holiday traditions, what are some ways you can incorporate celebrating God's faithfulness into them? If you do not have any traditions, what would be a valuable one to start?

III. **First Fruits:** "And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord so that you may be accepted. On the **day after the Sabbath (Nisan 16th)** the priest shall wave it.

(Lev. 23:11)

A. **Meaning:** Crossing of the Red Sea towards a promised land and from that ground a harvest would be given.

B. **Message:** God is a God of **Resurrection:** (1 Cor. 15:20-23)

Question #3: Honoring God with the first fruits of a harvest each year was, in part, a reminder that He is the owner and provider of all things. God's people are simply the stewards or managers of His resources. *What happens when we begin to view ourselves as the owners of our resources and not stewards of them? In what ways does cheerfully giving to God and others impact our hearts and focus our lives on God?*

IV. **Feast of Weeks:** "You shall count **fifty** days to the day after the seventh Sabbath...**two loaves** of bread to be waved." (Lev. 23:16-17)

A. **Meaning:** Remembering the giving of the Law to Moses 50 days after crossing over the Red Sea. (3000 died - Exodus 32:28)

B. **Meaning:** God is a God of **Relocation:** (Acts 2:1-4)

V. **Trumpets:** "you shall observe a **day** of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation." (Lev. 23:24)

A. **Meaning:** Rosh Hashanah: Head of the year or end of the Harvest. Leading to 10 days of Repentance.

B. **Message:** God is a God of **Revelation** (1 Thess. 4:16-17)

Question #4: God's blessing of the Sabbath sets it apart as a day for rest and worship. *With this in mind, which activities in your schedule do you find most restful and most worshipful? What blessings have you experienced from taking time to intentionally rest? What does the command of the Sabbath reveal to us about God's character?*

VI. **Day of Atonement:** “Now on the **tenth** day of the seventh month is the day of Atonement.” (Lev. 23:27)

A. **Meaning:** Yom Kippur: Holiest of all days, where the priest entered the Holy of Holies, to make atonement for the sins of all people.

B. **Message:** God is the God of **Reflection** (Romans 5:9)

VII. **Feast of Tabernacles:** “On the **fifteenth** day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Tabernacles to the LORD.” (Lev. 23:34)

A. **Meaning:** A celebration of God’s being during the 40 years wandering in the wilderness commemorated by living in shelters for 7 days.

B. **Message:** God is a God of **Reunion**: (Revelation 21:4)

Take Home: How you respond to points 1-4, determines what happens to you with points 5-7.

Question #5: As a group, review the “message” from each feast. *Which listed characteristic of God brought you the most encouragement or comfort? Why?*