

Text: **Leviticus 23**

**THE RELIGIOUS CALENDAR OF ISRAEL**

1. The Sabbath (Leviticus 23:3)

2. The Passover (Leviticus 23:5)

(14<sup>th</sup> Day of the first month in the religious calendar; Leviticus 23:5)

3. The Feast of the Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6-8)

(15<sup>th</sup> Day of the first month; This Feast was to be kept for 7 days; Leviticus 23:6-8)

a) Holy Convocation (1<sup>st</sup> day and last day)

b) No customary work

c) Offerings for the whole week

4. The Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)

a) The beginning of the barley harvest

b) A sheaf of the harvest was presented to the Lord

c) The day after the Sabbath this was presented as a wave offering

d) Accompanied by the offering of a lamb as a burnt offering

e) A grain offering mixed with oil

f) A drink offering

5. The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) (Leviticus 23:15-22)
- a) Fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:16)
  - b) End of the wheat harvest
  - c) A new grain offering (wheat)
  - d) Loaves baked with leaven
  - e) Burnt offering (Leviticus 23:18)
    - i) Seven lambs of the first year
    - ii) One young bull
    - iii) Two rams
  - f) Drink offering (Leviticus 23:18)
  - g) Sin offering (one kid of the goats) (Leviticus 23:19)
  - h) Peace offering (two male lambs) (Leviticus 23:19)
  - i) Holy convocation (Leviticus 23:21)

### **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Portions of the Field must be left for the poor (Leviticus 23:22)
- 2. The beneficiaries
  - a) The poor
  - b) The strangers

### **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE FEASTS OF THE LORD**

- 1. National significance
  - a) Nation building
  - b) National religion

## 2. Individual significance

- a) Acknowledgment of God
- b) Worship of God
- c) Rest from labour
- d) Celebration

## 3. The poor

- a) Appreciation
- b) Encouragement