

The Feasts and Sabbaths

1. The New Moons are to be observed to set YHWH's Feasts. (*Exodus 12:2*)
(*Deuteronomy 16:1*)
2. **The seventh day of every week is YHWH's Sabbath of rest, and a Holy Convocation.** (*Exodus 23:12, 16:23*)
3. Keep the Sabbath Day holy by making preparation in advance. (*Exodus 20:8-11*)
4. Remove all leaven from all your property by the fifteenth of Abib. (*Exodus 12:15*)
5. On the fifteenth day of Abib we must teach our children the story of The Exodus from Egypt. (*Exodus 13:8*)
6. We must eat unleavened bread from the fifteenth through the twenty-first of Abib. (*Exodus 12:18*)
7. **The first day of The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover) is a Sabbath of rest and a Holy Convocation.** Cooking may be done on a Feast Day Sabbath, but not on the weekly Sabbath. (*Exodus 12:16*)
8. **The seventh day of The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover) is a Sabbath of rest and a Holy Convocation.** (*Exodus 12:16*)
9. We must count fifty days-from the day after the First Holy Day Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (*The Count of Omer*) to The Feast of Weeks. (*Leviticus 23:15-16*)
10. **The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) is a Sabbath of rest and a Holy Convocation.** (*Leviticus 23:21*)
11. **The Feast of Trumpets is a Sabbath of rest and a Holy Convocation.** (*Leviticus 23:24*)
12. The Day of Atonement is a day of complete fasting. (*Leviticus 16:29-31*)
13. **The Day of Atonement is a Sabbath of rest and a Holy Convocation.** (*Leviticus 23:27-32*)
14. The First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles is a Sabbath of rest and a Holy Convocation. (*Leviticus 23:34-35*)
15. **The Last Great Day is a Sabbath of rest and a Holy Convocation.** (*Leviticus 23:36*)
16. Dwell in booths (*succahs-temporary dwellings*) during The Feast of Tabernacles. (*Leviticus 23:42*)
17. A Succah must be built before The Feast of Tabernacles. (*Leviticus 23:40*)
18. Sound the shofar on The Feast of Trumpets. (*Numbers 29:1*)

[BIBLE HUB](#)

Strong's Concordance

miqra: a convocation, convoking, reading

Original Word: מִקְרָא

Part of Speech: Noun Masculine

Transliteration: miqra

Phonetic Spelling: (mik-raw')

Definition: a convocation, convoking, reading

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

from [qara](#)

Definition

a convocation, convoking, reading

NASB Translation

assemblies (2), assembly (2), convocation (14), convocations (3), reading (1), summoning (1).

[BIBLE GATEWAY](#)

CONVOCATION, HOLY (מִקְרָא־קֹדֶשׁ; LXX κλητή ἁγιά). A sacred assembly of Israel. Usually the term מִקְרָא, H5246, “calling together” is coupled with קֹדֶשׁ, H7731, “holy.” It is first mentioned in [Exodus 12:16](#) when we are told that the first and seventh days of the Passover feast are holy convocations. On those days no work was to be done. Only the preparation of food was allowed.

In [Leviticus 23](#), the set feasts called holy convocations are listed. They are like Sabbath days ([Lev 23:2, 3](#)).

In addition to the Passover, these days are included as holy convocations: In the seventh month, the first day, the tenth day (*Day of Atonement*), and the fifteenth day (*the Feast of the Tabernacles*). All are called holy days of convocation ([vv. 21,](#)

[24](#), [27](#), [35](#), [36](#)). Offerings were to be made on these days: burnt offerings, meal offerings and drink offerings. Cf. [Numbers 28:8](#), [25](#), [26](#).

These feast days were undoubtedly meant to be a foretaste of the great day of rest for all of God's people. These days point to a day of hope when God's children will sit down with Him in His kingdom.

Exodus 31:12-13

The Sign of the Sabbath

¹² Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹³ “Now as for you, **speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘You must keep My Sabbaths; for *this* is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, so that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.**

Ezekiel 20:11-13

¹¹ I gave them My statutes and informed them of My ordinances, which, ***if a person follows them, then he will live by them.*** ¹² **Also I gave them My Sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, so that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.** ¹³ But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness. They did not walk in My statutes and they rejected My ordinances, which, *if a person follows them, then he will live by them*; and they greatly profaned My Sabbaths. Then I resolved to pour out My wrath on them in the wilderness, to annihilate them.

Ezekiel 20:19-21

¹⁹ I am the LORD your God; walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and follow them. ²⁰ Sanctify My Sabbaths; **and they shall be a sign between Me and you, so that you may know that I am the LORD your God.** ²¹ But the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, nor were they careful to follow My ordinances which, ***if a person follows them, then he will live by them; they profaned My Sabbaths.*** So I resolved to pour out My wrath on them, to use up My anger against them in the wilderness.

exodus 20:2-17

² **"I am YHWH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

³ **"You shall have** no other gods before Me.

⁴ **"You shall not make** for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth.

⁵ **You shall not worship** them **nor serve them;** for I, YHWH, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting the punishment of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing favor to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

⁷ **"You shall not take** the name of YHWH your God in vain, for YHWH will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

⁸ **"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** ⁹ **For six days you shall labor and do all your work,** ¹⁰ **but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the YHWH your God; on it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male slave or your female slave, or your cattle, or your resident who stays with you.** ¹¹ **For in six days YHWH made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day; for that reason YHWH blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.**

¹² **"Honor** your father and your mother, so that your days may be prolonged on the land which YHWH your God gives you.

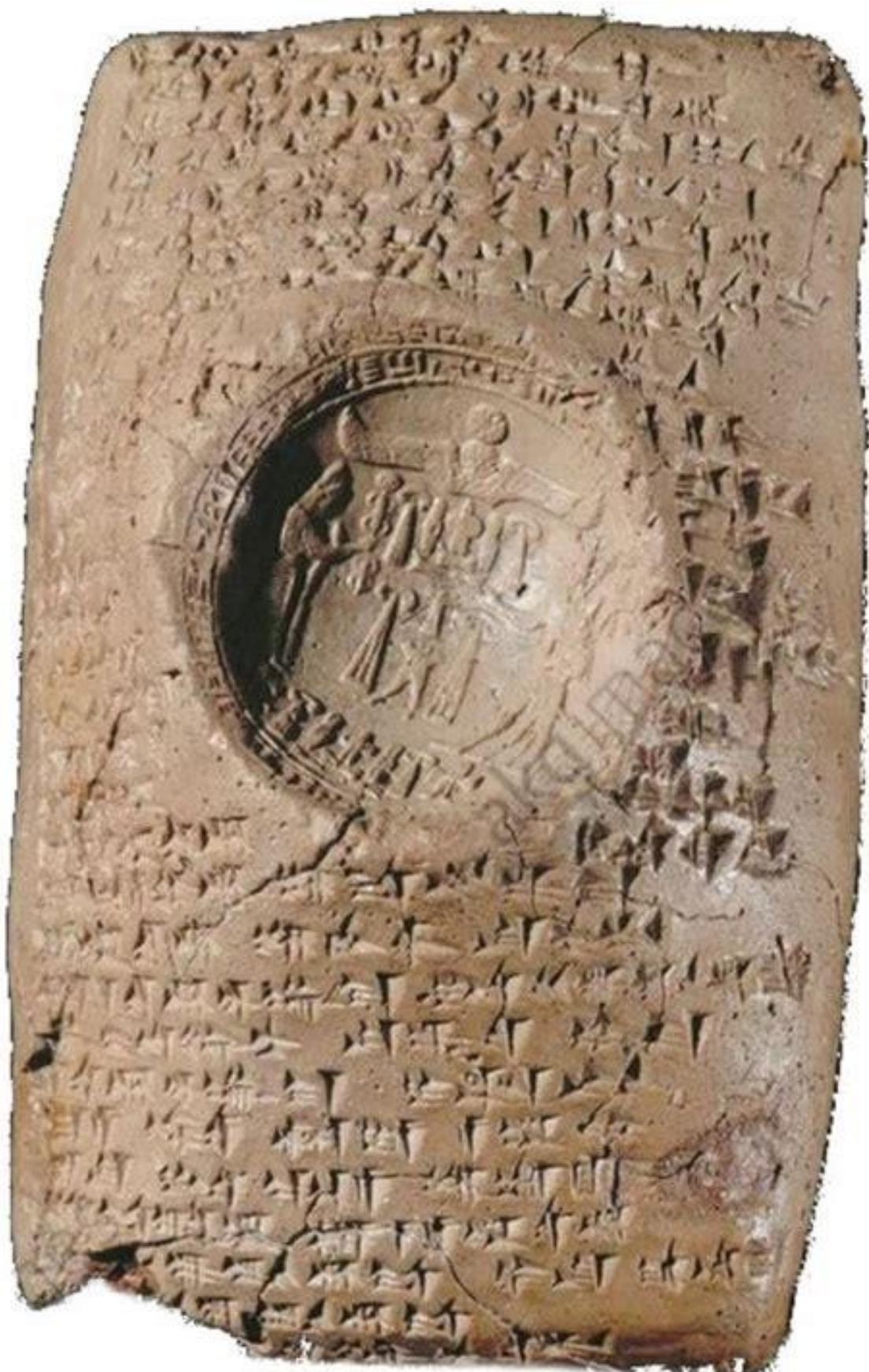
¹³ **"You shall not** murder.

¹⁴ **"You shall not** commit adultery.

¹⁵ **"You shall not** steal.

¹⁶ **"You shall not** give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ **"You shall not** covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male slave, or his female slave, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."



Psalm 19:7-14 (New American Standard Bible)

***⁷ The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.
¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much pure gold;
Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
¹¹ Moreover, Your servant is warned by them;
In keeping them there is great reward.
¹² Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.
¹³ Also keep Your servant back from presumptuous sins;
Let them not rule over me;
Then I will be innocent,
And I will be blameless of great wrongdoing.
¹⁴ May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Your sight,
LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.***

Leviticus 23:1-4 (New American Standard Bible)

Laws of Holy Days

23 The LORD spoke again to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘The LORD’s appointed times which you shall proclaim as holy convocations—My appointed times are these:

³ ‘For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a Sabbath of complete rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work; it is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings.

⁴ ‘These are the appointed times of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them.

Daniel 7:25 *(New American Standard Bible)*

²⁵ And he will speak against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time.

[Hebrew School: Set Apart Times of YHWH](#)

Back for class two of our [Hebrew School](#)! An integral part of the Hebrew lifestyle is keeping the festivals of YHWH, which are found in Leviticus 23. In addition to the weekly Sabbath, there are seven times of the year that YHWH tells us set apart. These times are special, and not only because we are told to celebrate them. Each holiday has significance historically, prophetically, and in the life of the Messiah. Paul wrote in Colossians that these times are a shadow of things to come. That means we have a lot to learn from these holidays.

The set apart times are:

Passover

Matzah Week / The Feast of Unleavened Bread

First Fruits

Shavuot / Pentecost / The Feast of Weeks

Yom Teruah / Feast of Trumpets

Yom Kippur / Day of Atonement

Sukkot / Feast of Tabernacles

While specific dates are given in Scripture, the Biblical calendar doesn't mesh perfectly with the Gregorian so the dates move a bit each year. You can see this year's [here](#).

Needing clarification is the truth that these are *not* "Jewish holidays." No, no, no. These are part of Scripture, so **if you are a Bible believer these are yours**, regardless of nationality or bloodline or family traditions. While these have largely only been kept by Jewish people, YHWH never, ever says that only part of his people should celebrate them. Deuteronomy 16:14 expressly tells us that foreigners who join the community of YHWH's people should celebrate these days too, so no matter your background the Creator invites you to these times. He made them for his honor, but also for our enjoyment and erudition. Two of the greatest gifts ever bestowed on humanity - YHWH's instructions for living and the Holy Spirit - were given at Shavuot. The Messiah was born during the Fall Feasts and of course crucified on Passover and resurrected during Matzah Week. Perhaps the most joyous time in history will be on Yom Teruah at the returning of Yahusha. These times are stunning in their significance.

A brief overview of the set apart times:

Passover: In the Biblical year Passover is the very first feast. We see the Israelites keep Passover just before the Egyptian exodus. They were instructed to brush the doors of their homes with blood from a lamb, we are reminded that the Messiah was the perfect sacrificial lamb. That's not just an allegory either, Yahusha was killed on Passover.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread: This is a week long celebration that starts the day after Passover. Leavened/yeast bread and other products are forbidden this week. As yeast is a very small ingredient that rapidly transforms all the dough, we are reminded that the small things in our life make a huge impact. It was during this week when the Messiah rose from the dead.

First Fruits: This day happens during Matzah Week, but there is a lot of debate as to when. This is when the first of the barely harvest was to be presented before YHWH. First Fruits is the day the Messiah resurrected from the dead and presented himself to the Father. It is also when we are to start counting fifty days.

Shavuot: Fifty days after First Fruits we are to celebrate Shavuot. This is a day of great significance as the instructions on how to live were given at Mount Sinai and then shortly after Yahusha's ascension into heaven, the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Shavuot.

Yom Teruah: The first of the fall feasts, Yom Teruah means something like Day of Sounding. All those verses that talk about a trumpet sounding when the Messiah returns? It will happen on that day.

Yom Kippur: Under the Levitical priesthood this was a very significant day because it's the day that the priests made atonement for all of Israel's sin with the two goats. Today we can celebrate that the Messiah has atoned for our sins. Prophetically, it is thought that this will be the day that the earth is judged and the people who have been atoned for by Messiah will be separated from those who have not.

Sukkot: This is a beautiful look ahead to when YHWH will dwell or camp with us. With that in mind, it's no surprise that it is believed the Messiah was born during this time. This eight day celebration usually looks like a camping trip, with the commandment being to dwell in tents. Others build a temporary structure on their property and spend time there throughout Sukkot.

Why should we be keeping the feasts?

-We are told to keep these set apart times forever (Exodus 12:14). And you know what? This isn't a bad thing. These are times of joy. Thinking otherwise illustrates a lack of trust in our Creator, that we could think so negatively about him to believe he is hosting parties just so we can be miserable during them. This is not the case at all. Each set apart time is a gift from him; a time for celebration, rest, joy, thanksgiving, time with family and friends, delicious foods, and fun memories. I refuse to treat that like a burden.

-We see the Messiah celebrating these times in Scripture. He even hosts a Passover meal (also known as the last supper). And he is supposed to be our example, right? So one of the answers to those WWJD bracelets is, "celebrate the feasts!"

-Paul exhorts us to keep the feasts (1 Corinthians 5:8). Even after the Messiah was ascended into heaven we are told to keep these festivals.

-Scripture tells us not to let anyone judge us for doing this (Colossians 2:16). In his all knowing, YHWH knew we would be facing some peer pressure to not keep the feasts. I think that's why in Colossians he reminded us to not let other's opinions make our decisions for us. It's not man's choice. It's YHWH's instruction.

Are there benefits to celebrating YHWH's set apart times?

To quote Paul, "Much in every way." Most people keeping the cultural holidays do so because they feel like they are beneficial. The benefit could be that it's something fun to look forward to, or that it's an excuse to spend time with family and friends or to take a break from work, or that it's a way to celebrate love or show people you care. And these are for times that are man made or have very dark origins. How much more then can the Biblical holidays bring goodness into our lives? Here are a few of the opportunities you will have in keeping celebrating

the Biblical holidays.

-Deeper relationship with the Messiah. Everything about the festivals points to him. We are going to get a a better understanding of who he is when we start celebrating the feasts. It gives us a closer look at his life (we know what he was doing at these times of year), and we can prophetically see what his return will be like.

-Taking ownership for faith in a concrete way. Believing and trusting can feel a little abstract at times. It is nice to do something tangible to grow in faith and relationship with YHWH. These are regular times to slow down and refocus on faith.

-Understanding Scripture in much more depth! The festivals are a significant part of both Old and New Testament Scripture. We are going to miss a lot of details if we aren't at least somewhat familiar with what these are. And we know that all of Scripture is useful for teaching, correcting mistakes, and training in character.

-Sharing experiences that those in the Bible had. Keeping Passover is something Moses did. And Miriam and Joshua. And the Messiah and the disciples. King Josiah and Apostle Paul too. How cool is it that we can relate to them in this way? These set apart times bring members of our faith together over thousands of years, and can make Scripture come alive to us.

-Building relationships with other believers. A Passover meal or Sukkot celebration is a great time to journey to be with others in the faith. Sharing these special times together can foster lasting friendships and meaningful relationships.

This is just a brief introduction to the feasts. There is so much more richness to each one! For more on individual feasts, [go here.](#)

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