

THE FESTIVALS / *Leviticus 23*

| Besides enjoying one Sabbath day of rest each week, the Israelites also enjoyed 19 days when national holidays were celebrated. | Festival | What It Celebrated | Its Importance |
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| | Passover One day (Leviticus 23:5) | When God spared the lives of Israel's firstborn children in Egypt and freed the Hebrews from slavery | Reminded the people of God's deliverance |
| | Unleavened Bread Seven days (Leviticus 23:6-8) | The exodus from Egypt | Reminded the people they were leaving the old life behind and entering a new way of living |
| | Firstfruits One day (Leviticus 23:9-14) | The first crops of the barley harvest | Reminded the people how God provided for them |
| | Pentecost (Harvest) One day (Leviticus 23:15-22) | The end of the barley harvest and beginning of the wheat harvest | Showed joy and thanksgiving over the bountiful harvest |
| | Trumpets One day (Leviticus 23:23-25) | The beginning of the seventh month (civil new year) | Expressed joy and thanksgiving to God |
| | Day of Atonement One day (Leviticus 23:26-32) | The removal of sin from the people and the nation | Restored fellowship with God |
| | Shelters Seven days (Leviticus 23:33-43) | God's protection and guidance in the wilderness | Renewed Israel's commitment to God and trust in his guidance and protection |

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