

## 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

Passover  
One day  
(Leviticus 23:5)

Unleavened Bread  
Seven days  
(Leviticus 23:6-8)

Firstfruits  
One day  
(Leviticus 23:9-14)

Pentecost  
(Harvest)  
One day  
(Leviticus 23:15-22)

Trumpets  
One day  
(Leviticus 23:23-25)

Day of Atonement  
One day  
(Leviticus 23:26-32)

Shelters  
Seven days  
(Leviticus 23:33-43)

### What It Celebrated

When God spared the lives of Israel's firstborn children in Egypt and freed the Hebrews from slavery

The exodus from Egypt

The first crops of the barley harvest

The end of the barley harvest and beginning of the wheat harvest

The beginning of the seventh month (civil new year)

The removal of sin from the people and the nation

God's protection and guidance in the wilderness

### Its Importance

Reminded the people of God's deliverance

Reminded the people they were leaving the old life behind and entering a new way of living

Reminded the people how God provided for them

Showed joy and thanksgiving over the bountiful harvest

Expressed joy and thanksgiving to God

Restored fellowship with God

Renewed Israel's commitment to God and trust in his guidance and protection