

I. Introduction

- A. Last fall as the elders and teaching team were asking the Lord for direction this year concerning messaging and direction for 2026, there was a strong agreement that we felt one of the things we were being led to do was teach on and observe the biblical and traditional Christian holidays throughout the calendar year as a church family.
- B. With that in mind I will be introducing and giving an overview of these holidays in this session to set us up to participate as a family throughout this year.

II. Heart Posture

- A. Understanding and participating in the days and seasons that the scriptures reveal is deeply ingrained in our faith. We believe they are very important and revelatory for all believers. We place a far greater weight upon the heart behind these feasts rather than the methodology of their structure. (Is. 1:10-13)
 - 1. In light of the new covenant realities through the person and work of Jesus, we view participation or observation of these holidays as a voluntary spiritual discipline, not an obligatory command of God. As all spiritual disciplines go, we have a propensity to self-righteousness and legalism because we do them. For this reason, we will have a relentlessness to our messaging and participatory instructions for you to participate and observe these holidays in the spirit of freedom in God that Jesus has purchased for us through his death and resurrection.
- B. The scriptures stress the importance of keeping certain days and seasons set apart for three main reasons.
 - 1. To Reveal Jesus - The number one intention of our minds and hearts as we learn and participate in these holidays is to gain revelation of the person and work of Jesus. This leads to greater intimacy and love in our relationship with Him.
 - 2. To Remember Jesus - One of the main aspects of why God wants us to keep holidays is because of our propensity to forget who He is and what He has done for us.

The scriptures tell us multiple times that the biblical holidays are to be a memorial, remembrance, and reminder to us, in light of the fact that we lose sight and lose perspective constantly throughout our days.

3. To Realign with Jesus - Lastly, almost all of the biblical holidays are meant to usher us into some measure of repentance. God wants us to set apart distinct days and seasons to stop and examine our hearts and our ways and if we are out of alignment with Him to repent, change our ways, and come back into alignment with Him.

C. The right heart posture and reasons we want to understand and participate in biblical holidays.

1. Positioning ourselves to encounter Jesus through the historical and spiritual meanings in the feasts of God.
2. Gaining insight of Hebraic thought and culture helps us to better understand the context of the Word.
3. Asking and Expecting the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus, and to unify our hearts as we participate in these unique expressions of our faith.
4. Desiring to understand more of the timeline of God in conjunction with His plan in redemptive history and future.
5. Participate with a free voluntary heart.

D. The wrong heart posture and reasons to participate in biblical holidays.

1. Participation in the biblical holidays for participation's sake does not produce any fruit in your life and heart without the intentionality on your part to seek Him. This goes for all spiritual disciplines.
2. We are not participating in these feasts because we think it will cause us to be more righteous in God's eyes. You cannot improve on the right standing you have with God through the blood of Jesus.
3. Legalism of expression as other church families or individuals.

4. To be seen by men. When it comes to the biblical feasts we are not focused on drawing attention to the fact that we are doing it. Nor are we attempting to be or act Jewish or Catholic for the sake of culturally relevant evangelism.

III. The Calender

A. The following is the list of the Holidays in calendar order that we will learn about and encourage you to participate in this year.

1. Ash Wednesday - (Wednesday Feb. 18th)
2. Purim - (Monday March 2nd)
3. Passover “Pesach”- (Thursday April 2nd)
4. Unleavened Bread “Chag HaMatzot” (Thursday April 2nd - Wednesday April 8th)
5. Easter / First Fruits “Yom BaBikkurim” (Sunday April 5th)
6. Ascension Day - (Sunday May 14th)
7. Pentecost “Shavuot” - (Sunday May 24th)
8. Trumpets “Yom Teruah” - (Friday Sept. 11th - Sunday Sept. 13th)
9. Atonement “Yom Kippur” - (Sunday Sept. 20th - Monday Sept. 21st)
10. Tabernacles “Sukkot” - (Friday Sept. 25th - Friday Oct. 2nd)
11. Advent - (Sunday Nov. 29th - Thursday Dec. 24th)
12. Christmas Eve - (Thursday Dec. 24th)
13. Christmas Day - (Friday Dec. 25th)