

THE FEASTS OF ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH

by Avram Yehoshua

The SeedofAbraham.net

The repetitive use of many Feasts of Israel in Acts and First Corinthians, and them as *time markers*, reveals that the Apostles continued to celebrate them all their lives. The Church teaches that the Feasts were ‘done away with’ at the crucifixion, and therefore, Christians shouldn’t keep them, but Scripture clearly teaches otherwise:

1. Acts 2:130 AD; The Feast of Weeks (Hebrew: *Shavu’ot*—Pentecost; Ex. 34:22; Dt. 16:9-10)
 2. Acts 12:344 AD; The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Ex. 12:8, 15f.; 23:15; 34:18; Lev. 23:6f)
 3. Acts 12:444 AD; Passover (Ex. 12:11, 27; Lev. 23:5f.; Num. 9:5; 28:16; Dt. 16:1)
 4. Acts 18:2149 AD; This coming Feast (obviously a Feast of Israel; found in the KJV/NKJV)
 5. Acts 20:657 AD; The Feast of Unleavened Bread
 6. Acts 20:1657 AD; The Feast of Weeks (*Shavu’ot*—Pentecost)
 7. Acts 27:960 AD; The Fast—The Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:1-34; 23:26-32)
- Passover is mentioned once (Acts 12:4).
 - The Feast of Unleavened Bread is mentioned twice (Acts 12:3; 20:6).
 - The Feast of Weeks (*Shavu’ot*—Pentecost) is mentioned twice (Acts 2:1; 20:16).
 - The Fast (the Day of Atonement) is mentioned once (Acts 27:9).
 - An unspecified Feast of Israel is mentioned once (Acts 18:21; both KJV and NKJV).

The Feasts of Israel in First Corinthians

The Apostle Paul speaks of two Feasts of Israel in First Corinthians:

8. 1st Cor. 5:853 AD; The Feast (Passover/the Feast of Unleavened Bread)
9. 1st Cor. 16:853 AD; The Feast of Weeks (*Shavu’ot*—Pentecost)

The Feasts of Israel in Acts and First Corinthians

Below are the Feasts of Israel in Acts and First Corinthians in the Gregorian months they’re celebrated in, and the number of times these ‘feasts that were done away with’ are found in Acts and First Corinthians:

1. AprilPassoverTwice.....Acts 12:4; 1st Cor. 5:6-8
2. AprilThe Feast of Unleavened BreadThree times ...Acts 12:3; 20:6; 1st Cor. 5:6-8
3. JuneThe Feast of Weeks—PentecostThree times ...Acts 2:1; 20:16; 1st Cor. 16:8
4. Oct.The Fast—The Day of Atonement ...OnceActs 27:9
5. ???An unspecified Feast of IsraelOnceActs 18:21

The Feasts of Israel are mentioned **9** times in the Book of Acts and First Corinthians. The use of these **9** Feasts of Israel by Luke and Paul, specifically as *time markers*, telling us *when* an event happened or *would happen*, should cause every Christian to realize that these ‘Feasts of the Jews’ were obviously still being celebrated by all Christians in the days of the Apostles. The Church teaches that the Feasts of Israel were done away with at the cross, but the Book of Acts and First Corinthians clearly refute that false teaching. The Book of Acts is the *only divinely inspired history* of the Church for the first **34** years *after* the resurrection. It shows us that the Feasts weren’t changed by the Apostles nor Yeshua (the Hebrew name of Jesus). On the contrary, Acts reveals that all Christians were celebrating the Jewish Feasts. If not, Luke wouldn’t and couldn’t have used them as *time markers* because no Gentile would have known *when* the event that Luke spoke of, happened. The same holds true

for the Apostle Paul who wrote First Corinthians in 53 AD, 23 years *after* the resurrection or 11 years *before* Luke wrote Acts. Paul speaks of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread and exhorts the Gentile Corinthians to ‘keep the Feast!’ (1st Cor. 5:6-8). He also tells them that he was going to stay in Ephesus until Pentecost (1st Cor. 16:8). Some Christians might say, ‘Sure Paul would use Pentecost because it’s a Christian holy day,’ but Pentecost goes back to Mt. Sinai (as the Feast of Weeks), and it was on that day that God spoke the Ten Commandments to Israel, so both the Word of God and the Spirit of God were given to Israel on the same day.

Neither Luke nor Paul ever speak of Easter¹ or Christmas, which are *not* found *anywhere* in the New Testament. The Roman Catholic Church brought those pagan feasts in *after* all the Apostles were dead, and they *nullified* God’s holy Feasts. They have nothing to do with Yeshua. If God wanted us to celebrate Easter or Xmas it would have been *written* somewhere in the New Testament. When Xmas came into the Catholic Church, about 400 AD, even the Catholic priests fought against it! They knew it was pagan, but today most Christians don’t realize this *and try to defend it*, along with Easter, even though there is no *scriptural* defense for them.

On the other hand, the *resurrection* of Yeshua is pictured in First Fruits (aka First Sheaf), which is celebrated on the Sunday of the 7 day Feast of Unleavened Bread.² God made provision for Christians to observe the death *and* resurrection of His Son in Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and First Sheaf. God gave the Feasts to Israel at Mt. Sinai *with His Son in mind!* He didn’t forget to give Christians a day to celebrate His Son’s death (Passover/the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread), and His resurrection (the annual Sunday of First Fruits within the Feast of Unleavened Bread), and our glorious transformation into the Image of Yeshua (the 7 day Feast of Unleavened Bread), with the eating of *unleavened* bread every day of the Feast, which pictures us becoming like Yeshua—transformed, sinless and glorified (Lev. 23:4f.; 1st Cor. 5:6-8; cf. 2nd Cor. 3:18).

Also, God’s 7th day Sabbath is mentioned **11** times *after* the resurrection.³ Sunday is mentioned twice (1st Cor. 16:2), and one time it’s not Sunday at all, but actually Saturday night (Acts 20:7).⁴ *Not once* does the New Testament say that Sunday has replaced the 7th day Sabbath, nor that the Church was meeting on Sunday *instead* of the Sabbath; something we would expect if the Sabbath, which Israel had kept for **14 centuries**, had been replaced by Sunday. Sunday, Easter and Xmas are not biblical days, but pagan days of Roman Catholicism.

Embarrassingly enough, Catholic church history confirms that *all Christians* kept Passover and the 7th day Sabbath for at least **70 years** *after* the resurrection—until the rise of what would become the Roman Catholic Church.⁵ In 120 AD the Bishop of Rome (whose office would later become that of the Pope) threw out the Sabbath (Ex. 20:8-11), the Feasts of Israel (Lev. 23) and Mosaic Law, and brought in Sunday, Easter, Xmas, anti-Mosaic Law theology and anti-Semitism. Scripture reveals that the Bishop didn’t have *authority* from God to do that. You can choose to walk like Jesus, or you can continue to walk as the Pope dictates (Dan. 7:25; 1st Jn. 2:6).

¹ Every English Bible rightly has *Passover* for Acts 12:4, except the King James Version. The Greek word is πάσχα (*Paska*; Passover). The KJV has *Easter*. The KJV is wrong and is also wrong in Heb. 4:9, where it only has *rest* instead of *Sabbath rest*. Hebrews was written 37 years *after* the resurrection, yet the author speaks of Sabbath, not Sunday rest.

² For more on this see *First Sheaf* at <http://seedofabraham.net/First-Sheaf.pdf>. Also, there is a Feast of Israel that commemorates the birth *and* return of Yeshua. It’s not the Feast of Tabernacles, but *the Feast of Trumpets*. Read about it and why ‘the Rapture’ isn’t biblical at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Feast-of-Trumpets.pdf>.

³ Acts 1:12; 13:14, 27, 42, 44; 15:21; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4; Col. 2:16, and Heb. 4:9 (where the KJV and NKJV *fail* to correctly translate the Greek word *Sabbatismos* in Heb. 4:9, but every other Bible has *Sabbath rest*; not just ‘rest’).

⁴ Sunday is seen only *once* in the entire New Testament *after* the resurrection (1st Cor. 16:2), and it wasn’t a day ‘for church.’ Paul wrote that *each individual* was *to set aside* some money he had made on Sunday, the first day of the work week, for the poor believers in Jerusalem. He’d collect it when he came to Corinth (1st Cor. 16:1, 3; cf. 2nd Cor. 9:1f.).

⁵ The Roman Catholic Church is *not* a Christian church because its teaching on salvation and Mary are blatantly false, along with most of its other doctrines. The Pope and Catholicism are an outrage to God (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 17:5, 9; 18:4; see *What’s Wrong with the Catholic Church?* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Whats-Wrong-with-the-Catholic-Church.pdf>, and also, Alexander Hislop’s Christian classic, *The Two Babylons* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Two-Babylons.pdf>).

For more understanding about the Feasts and Sabbaths in Acts, see *The Feasts of Israel as Time Markers after the Resurrection* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Feasts-of-Israel-as-Time-Markers.pdf>. Also, read Samuele Bacchicchi’s classic, *From Sabbath to Sunday* at <http://seedofabraham.net/From-Sabbath-to-Sunday.pdf> to find out when and why the Roman Catholic Church threw out God’s Sabbath, Feasts and laws.