

Fulfillment of the Holy Day Sacrifices

Second Edition

Understand how Christ
fulfilled the Sacrifices of the
annual Holy Days

First Century Theology

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Introduction

The Lamb of God came to fulfill many aspects of the Law. As our sacrificial Lamb He secured salvation for all. We can reach out to eternal life through the preordained path to salvation. He said so in His discussions with the apostles.

“17 ¶ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”

(Matthew 5:17, AV)

Few understand to what extent Christ fulfilled the Law, in order to secure salvation for us mortals.

Jesus came as the sacrificial Lamb. This is what John the Baptist understood.

“29 ¶ The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

(John 1:29, AV)

To be the Lamb of God, Jesus had to fulfill the lamb sacrifices of the holy days. How did He do it? As we shall see shortly, in a most dramatic way!

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God only does things through His predetermined ways and purposes. It was planned and executed precisely according to plan!

The apostle Paul understood this, and taught these incredible truths, from the books of Moses, from the Law and the Prophets:

“23 ¶ And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.”

(Acts 28:23, AV)

We continue in this book to reveal the insights that the first century disciples were privileged to understand.

Chapter 1

Understanding the Festivals

In Leviticus 23 we are given a summary of the festivals. It starts with the Passover and ends with the Feast of Tabernacles. At this point it will be good to just read through these events to get it all in mind, before we provide some background information that is not in the average Bible.

Passover

“¶ These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD’S passover.”

(Leviticus 23:4-5, AV)

The religious year starts with the Passover. In the yearly cycle this is the beginning of the festival season.

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“6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.”
(Leviticus 23:6-8, AV)

Right after the Passover the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened bread begin. Within this week a very important festival happens. It always happens on the day after the weekly Sabbath that falls within the seven days of Unleavened Bread.

“9 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the [weekly] sabbath the priest shall wave it.

12 And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.

13 And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour:

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and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.

14 And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.”

(Leviticus 23:9-14, AV)

This Wave Sheaf Offering was fulfilled by Christ, as we shall see later. From this festival the days are counted to Pentecost.

“15 ¶ And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

16 Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

17 Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.

18 And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be for a burnt offering unto the LORD, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, even an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto the LORD.

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19 Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings.

20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.

21 And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

22 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.”

(Leviticus 23:15-22, AV)

This concludes the first half of the festivals, normally known as the spring festivals. After this follows the second half, the fall festivals.

“23 ¶ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

25 Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.”

(Leviticus 23:23-25, AV)

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This first festival of the second half is the feast of trumpets.

“26 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

29 For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

30 And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

31 Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

32 It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.”

(Leviticus 23:26-32, AV)

The second festival is the feast of Atonement. It is understood to have the connotation of at-one-ment.

“33 ¶ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

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34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

35 On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.”
(Leviticus 23:33-36, AV)

The third festival is then the Feast of Tabernacles.

There are many spiritual parallels in these festivals. We will concentrate on how Christ fulfilled the sacrifices of these festivals. We will provide a summary of these festivals here:

First half spring festivals:

- 1) Passover
- 2) Wave Sheaf Offering
- 3) Pentecost

Second half fall festivals:

- 1) Feast of Trumpets
- 2) Feast of Atonement
- 3) Feast of Tabernacles

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From Jewish insights we need to understand something very important at this point.

The religious cycle starts with Passover in the first holy month, and continues to the Feast of Tabernacles in the seventh month. However the civil cycle starts with the Feast of Trumpets in the fall, and continues through the spring festivals. There is a six month or half year difference between the religious cycle and the civil cycle. The reader can verify this with any local Rabbi. This is very important to understand.

If we add the understanding of the religious cycle and civil cycle to the issue of the separation of Church and State, and Christ's role in all of this, we can begin to comprehend the interplay of events. For the sake of completeness we will quickly deal with the issue of the separation of Church and State.

In the beginning of Israel's formation religious issues were civil issues. Religious law was civil law. However in the time before the Kings, Israel requested to have a human king just like the gentile nations, and God allowed this. Lets read how that came about.

“4 ¶ Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

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5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.”

(1 Samuel 8:4-10, AV)

This separation was allowed to happen, and would stay in effect, till Messiah would come to heal everything, and to reign over the earth. This question was posed to Christ at his first advent about 2000 years ago.

“6 ¶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

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7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

(Acts 1:6-11, AV)

And so we see that Christ did not unite Church and State at His first advent. He will however do this at His second advent.

This has bearing on the two different festival cycles. The religious cycle starts in the first holy month, but the civil cycle starts half a year later, in the seventh month.

Now we can add some incredible insight here. When Christ first came, there should have been the possibility to unite Church and State and to begin the Kingdom of God in its fullness in Jerusalem.

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This was what the Pharisees and other leaders feared. However this would not have been possible, given the general sinfulness of mankind, the lack of faith, and hence the need for the supreme Sacrifice to deal with human sinfulness.

So, Christ first came within the civil cycle of the Festivals, as the potential King of the Jews. However He was rejected as King at that point by a sinning mankind, and hence His exit from mankind started with the religious cycle to deal with sin at that point.

This truth concerning the birth day of Christ was hidden from mankind by the pagan festival of the returning sun, inviting the sun back to the northern hemisphere, on 25 December. This pagan festival was brought into the Church by some gentiles, and it was renamed and redone to become “Christian”, and called Xmas. However from the beginning of Christianity this festival of Xmas was not practiced. Christ was not born on 25 December. In fact the date of birth was obscured to prevent understanding in this respect. However, if we are going to understand how Christ fulfilled the sacrifices of the Holy Days, we will have to correct this misunderstanding. We will have to pinpoint the true date of birth of Christ, and it is nowhere near December! We will reveal the truth in the next chapter.

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Unfortunately to understand the sequence and then understand the spiritual sacrifices we will have to do some detailed work in Chapter 2. Please take the time to work through it.

“3 ¶ Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:”

(Proverbs 24:3, AV)

We will do our best to prove the beginning point, from where Christ enters the picture, and begins to fulfill the sacrifices. We will have to get all the facts together from various scriptures across your Bible.

“9 ¶ Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.
10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:”

(Isaiah 28:9-10, AV)

Once this groundwork is laid, the rest will flow easily and the conclusion will come dramatically. From Chapter 3 it will flow more easily. Once read, the reader will marvel at the designs of our God. We can only stand in awe of our Savior, Jesus Christ