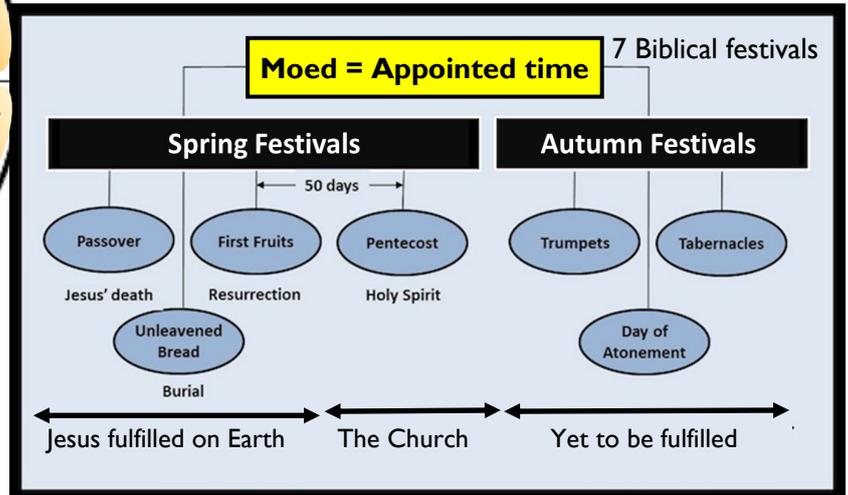
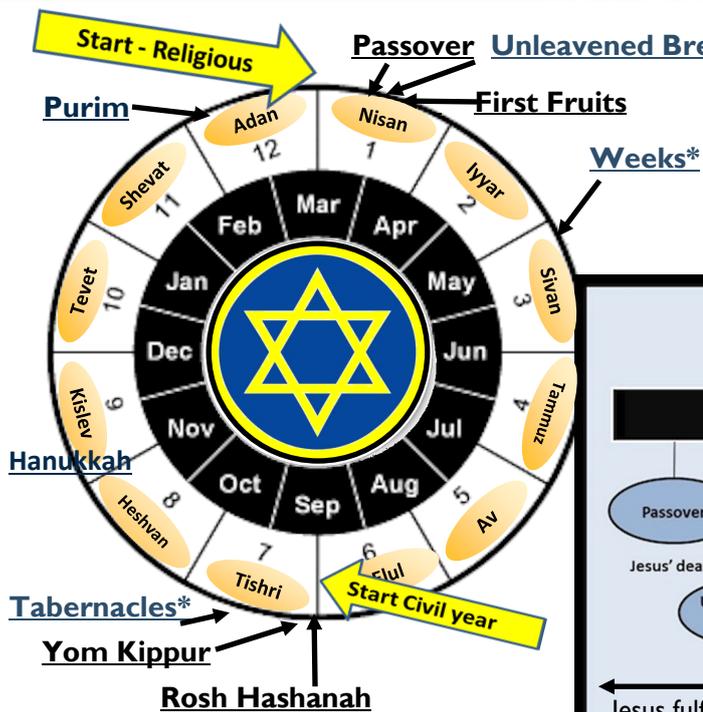


## The Jewish Year

The Jewish calendar is based on cycles of the Moon and Sun. Each month is either 29 or 30 days long. Every few years there is a leap month, Adar 2. Each month begins with a new moon at sunset. Which is when new days start. Genesis 1:5. There is a full moon on the 15th of every month.



There are seven Biblical festivals three in the spring, three in the autumn. There are also two festivals that Jews observe that are not commanded by God to observe. Purim (Esther 9:26-27). Hanukkah commemorates an event that happened between the Old and New Testaments, when oil lamps kept burning, while under siege.

All the Biblical festivals point to actual events that are part of God's overall plan of salvation.

**Spring Festivals** All the festivals spring & autumn, are described in Leviticus 23. Whole cycle starts with slavery

**Passover (Pesach) & Unleaven bread** Jesus died on the cross on the day of Passover. (See Communion notes)

Passover is on the 14th Nisan, and Unleaven bread lasts for 8 days afterwards, where no leaven is allowed.

Exodus 12 This shows us a picture of the work of Christ, he was our Passover lamb. 1 Corinthians 5:7

During the days of Unleaven bread, the Jews eat *Matzot*, which stands for being without sin. Jews still celebrate Pesach

**First Fruits** Jesus rose again on this festivals. First Fruits begins on the first day after the Sabbath, after Passover.

At First Fruits, the priest waved the first ripe sheafs of barley before the Lord

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 Jesus is the first fruits from the dead. It is not widely marked by Jews today.

**Pentecost/ Weeks/ Shavout** It always fell on a Sunday. This festival was the birth of the Church Acts 2:1

The festival remembers the giving of the law. In Exodus 19:1-6 An echo of God's plan for the church

It is the only feast where leaven is present, because this festival is about the Church. Two loaves were waved to God.

2 Corinthians 3:6 Note contrast between these two days. Today, Jews eat dairy products, the law is milk & honey

### First day of weeks

Thunder lightening, sound of trumpet

3,000 died (Exodus 32:28) The law kills

Written Law provided, which revealed sin in people



### Day of Pentecost

Mighty wind and fire

3,000 found new life

Law laid on the hearts of believers by Holy Spirit



**Autumn Festivals** They mark end of the growing season. It is the time for the final harvest of the year.

**Rosh Hashanah / Trumpets ( Yom Ha Teruah lit 'Day of Trumpet shout')** This is the New year, new beginnings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed'sday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
	<b>Month 7</b>			1 Trumpets	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Yom Kippur
11	12	13	14	15 Sukkot	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

The sound of a trumpet blast traditionally had several meanings. Numbers 10 :1-10, Joel 2: 1

1. A warning sound, or call to war
2. A call for people to gather together
3. Announce a royal arrival
4. To be used in rejoicing

1 Thessalonians 4 :15-16 - Return of Jesus

The message of the festival is judgement, Jews believe that on this day, God looks at the Book of Life, to see the deeds of His people.

Jesus told his disciples that when he returns to Earth, the trumpet sound will be heard. Matthew 24 :30-31

**Day of Atonement / Yom Kippur** lit 'Day of Covering'

This day marks the complete removal of Sin from the people, It is the day of final judgement for His people

In Biblical days the High Priest sacrificed a bull and ram on the altar for sin, and drove out the scapegoat. The High Priest entered the Holy of Holies, with the blood. Any stain of sin, even in the temple itself, was gone. The High Priest would then change from white garments, to his glorious priestly garments, Leviticus 16 :24 Before each stage, everything is cleansed, the priest, his clothes, the tabernacle itself, finally v30, the people.

This day was the most sombre of all the Festivals, which is appropriate, as the day points to the final judgement when millions will enter a lost eternity.

At the end of the day both the defilement of individuals and the Tabernacle/Temple has been cleansed. Remember in the New Testament era, both individual believers and the Church are the Temple of God.

**Sukkot / Tabernacles** It can also be called The Feast of Ingathering

At this festival, Jews build booths in their garden, and celebrate the final harvest, by having a meal in their suk-kot.

This was the final festival, and was a time of rejoicing Leviticus 23 :40

Jesus attended and taught at the Feast of Tabernacles John 7 :37-38

Revelation 7 :15, 1 :3 Word dwell in Gk is 'Skenoo' = tabernacle. Our eternal state is to dwell with God

**In 2022**, Passover is April 16th, Unleaven Bread April 17th, First Fruits April 18th, Shavout June 5th  
Rosh Hashanah September 26th, Yom Kippur October 5th, Sukkot October 10th



## Questions

What has most struck you about the meaning of these festivals?

### Should Christians observe these festivals?

In recent years, there has been a move among some in the Church to rediscover the Jewish roots of our faith, known as 'the Hebrew roots' movement. They would argue the festivals were given to his children for all time. Leviticus 23 :2 God calls them 'My festivals', and a 'lasting ordinance' Exodus 12 :24 at the first Passover

However most Christians do not feel it is appropriate to observe them today, but to learn from them.

Daniel 9 :27 Suggests there was a time to come, when the sacrifices and offerings will cease.

Acts 15 :23-29 The Council of Jerusalem did not require new gentile believers to observe the festivals.

However we can learn, about Christ and his mission from them. Colossians 2 :16-17.

Shadows are not the real thing, but they can tell us quite a bit about the real thing.



## Questions

Any questions or comments?

Next time - Creation