

Deuteronomy 16:1-17

Reflection: When Pastor Kevin asks us to spend some time in quiet meditation during Communion, what should we be meditating on? How should the meditation affect us?

Goal: To consider what we are doing in our meditation, and that it should be connected to some change in our thoughts, attitudes, and actions during the week

Leader's Comment about Today's Lesson: Moses instructs God's people on the three annual religious pilgrimage festivals and gives some instructions of how to commemorate these events

Read 16:1-8 – Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread (April 8 and April 9-15)

1. What were the instructions for the Passover (1-7) and Feast of Unleavened Bread (v.8)?

i. What were the instructions for the Passover (1-7) and Feast of Unleavened Bread (v.8)?

a. Passover (v.1-7)

- Observe the month Passover in the month of Abib
 1. First month of the year for Israelites
 2. This first month is the same time they exodus out of Egypt
- Offer the Passover sacrifice to the Lord
 - Flock of your herd
 - It should be offered in the evening at sunset, just like at the time you came of Egypt
 - Cook it
 - It is both an offering and a meal
- Place of God's choosing or dwelling
 - Only offer Passover sacrifice of God's choosing
- No leaven bread, for seven days (April 8-April 14)
 - This is bread of affliction for you came out of land of Egypt in haste
 - No leaven shall be seen with you in all territory for seven days, nor shall any flesh that you sacrifice on evening of the first day
- Morning return to tents

b. Feast of Unleavened Bread

- Next six days (April 9-14) eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy assembly to the Lord and a Sabbath

Leader's notes

- Passover and Unleavened bread were likely combined into one major festival of Passover
- Before the Babylonian exile, the first month was called Abib. After the Captivity, the first month was renamed Nisan
- Flocks of the herd, Ex 12:3-6 it was a lamb either sheep or goat, greater choice now. It is possible that the time passed has allowed a broadening of original prescription. Some lands possessed Moab, Reuben, Gad and half tribute of Man, cattle country (3:19)
- Bread of affliction: may indicate that the unleavened bread might serve as symbolize both the affliction of the years in Egypt and the speedy departure from the land
- Leaven: a substance, typically yeast, that is used in dough to make it rise. E.g., yeast

2. What were the Israelites to remember during the Passover? (cf. Exodus 12:26-27, Deu 16:3)

- That God passed over them in Egypt by sparring their houses
- By Deuteronomy the celebration included all of the Exodus

Read 16:9-15 – Feast of Weeks and Booths(May 28-30 and October 2-9)

1. What were the instructions for the Feast of Weeks and Booths?

- *What were the instructions for the Feast of Weeks and Booths?*
- 49 days from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain
- Offer a tribute of free will offering (individuals would offer) as the Lord blesses you
- Feast and rejoice before all within your town both your family and those not in your family (especially the needy)
- In place God will choose, to make his name dwell there
- Remember you were a slave; and observe the commandments

- Celebrate Festival of Booths for seven days
- A celebration of what was gathered or harvested (threshing floor and winepress)
- Feast and rejoice before all within your town both your family and those not in your family (especially the needy)
- In place God will choose, to make his name dwell there
- The Lord will bless you in all your produce, and this will lead to joyfulness

Leader's notes

1. Other names for the Feast of Weeks: feast of Harvest, Day of First fruits, Pentecost
2. Pentecost means 50, or 50 days, made more explicit that it is 50 days from Passover in Lev 23:15-16
3. Remember you were a slave, observe commandments: as from Ch.14-15 this phrase is called to remembrance of how to treat those of need among them (Deu 15:15)
4. Feast of Booths and Sukkot also known as The Feast of Tabernacles, Feast of the Ingathering, the Feast to the Lord
5. *Please make note: v.12 and 14:* That these feasts which showed God's blessing were to be shared with those in need in their midst, and as we discussed in last Bible study, should be true of us today that we should have soft hearts and open hands.

2. Read Exodus 23:16.Explain the relationship between the two feasts. What were they also to remember or rejoice over during this festival? (cf. Numbers 28:26 and Lev23:39-44)

- i. That Feast of Weeks is to celebrate beginning of harvest season while Booth was to celebrate the end of the year
- ii. Remember and rejoice in these festivals
 - a. Weeks (Numbers 28:26)
 - People would rejoice or celebrate the beginning of the harvest, celebrate goodness of the Lord in provision of food for another year at harvest time (also Ex 23:16)
 - b. Booths (Lev 23:39-44)
 - This festival was a celebration of God's gracious provision in the harvest (also Ex 23:16)
 - Remembrance of when Israel dwelled in booths during the wilderness

Read 16:16-17

1. What were the instruction to Israel's males for these three festivals?

- Pilgrimage, 3 times a year, they should appear before the Lord at the place he will choose
- They shall have something to present before God according to how God has blessed them

2. The Israelites spent much of their time in the year attending these pilgrim festivals and remembering God’s provision and salvation to His people. What effect would this have on the Israelites in their thoughts, attitudes, and actions throughout the year?

Goal: That they would spend their time worshipping God throughout the year and reflecting on God’s goodness and deliverance and that their entire lives would be one of remembrance and rejoicing. This would affect all their thoughts, attitudes, and actions throughout the year

1. How might a Christian prioritize time with God to remember and rejoice over what God has done in our lives? How does this affect our thoughts attitudes, and actions?

Goal: A reflection on how we spend our time, and do we prioritize remembrance and rejoicing the same way. As well as, sharing what we must bring others to that same remembrance and rejoicing. This should affect every area of life.

Colossians 2:16-17 says, *“Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”*

The following should probably be explained rather than discussed

Passover (Matt 26:26-29 and 1 Cor 5:7-8)

Transformation of Passover (Matthew 26:26-29)

Jesus applied elements of this Passover meal – the bread and the wine – to explain what He would accomplish on the cross transforming it into a remembrance of His own person and work. He took the Passover meal and how show how it symbolized His sacrifice on the cross (Matthew 26:26–29; Mark 14:22–25; Luke 22:14–20). The bread represented His body that would be broken; the wine was a picture of His blood that would be shed for the forgiveness of sins. In doing this, Jesus showed how the exodus from Egypt foreshadowed the ultimate deliverance in Christ.¹

Jesus fulfills the symbolism of the Passover Lamb (1 Cor 5:7, 1 Peter 1:19, John 19:36)

- Jesus is the lamb (1 Cor 5:7)
- He was lamb without blemish and defect (1 Peter 1:19)
- Bones aren’t broken (John 19:36)
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Jesus fulfills the Sabbath Rest (Heb 4:3)

The writer to the Hebrews exhorts his readers to “enter in” to the Sabbath rest provided by Christ. After three chapters of telling them that Jesus is superior to the angels and that He is our Apostle and High Priest, he pleads with them to not harden their hearts against Him, as their fathers hardened their hearts against the Lord in the wilderness. Because of their unbelief, God denied that generation access to the holy land, saying, “They shall not enter into My rest” (Hebrews 3:11). In the same way, the writer to the Hebrews begs his readers not to make

¹<https://www.thenivbible.com/blog/last-supper-new-covenant/>

the same mistake by rejecting God's Sabbath rest in Jesus Christ. "There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience" (Hebrews 4:9–11).²

Feast of Weeks or Pentecost

Jesus is the fulfillment of First Fruits (1 Cor 15:20-23)

Paul tells us explicitly that Christ is the firstfruits of those who will be raised from the dead (1 Cor. 15:20–23). Just as the firstfruits offered to God under the old covenant anticipated the fuller harvest to come, the resurrection of Jesus anticipates the bodily resurrection of His people first promised under the old covenant (Job 19:25–27).³

Jesus gathers in the First Fruits at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-3)

On the day of the Festival we had the first fruits of believers come to faith, and hence the church was born.

Feast of Booths and Tabernacles

Jesus fulfills the Symbol of Tabernacling (dwelling) with Us (John 1:14)

The word *tabernacle* means "dwelling-place". When John speaks of Jesus that he "dwelt among us" he is saying that Jesus is tabernacling with us, hence fulfilling the feast in this sense.

Jesus fulfills the Symbolism in the Jewish Festival (John 7:37-39, 8:12)

Recall earlier in reading Lev 23:39-44 that this festival was to be reminded of the period when God's people dwelled in booths (Huts made with palm and other plants) in the wilderness when He brought them out of Egypt. At this time, God did many miracles among them such as giving them water from a stone and appearing as a pillar of fire. Likely, this feast was to remember the period in the wilderness.

These miracles during their time in the wilderness became images used in this Jewish Festivals during Jesus' time. The officiating priest would draw water from the pool of Siloam and pour it into the basin near the altar in the temple,⁴ and light was a significant part of this festival, as the Temple was on a hill above the city, and it glowed brightly because of golden lamps inside the temple.

Jesus' comments in John 7-8 show how he fulfills this festivals, because he was the fulfillment of these miracles they experienced in the wilderness.

Jesus will fulfill the Final Ingathering of his People at Consummation (Rev 21:3, 24-26)

In Rev 21:3-4, when God begins finally to dwell (Tabernacle) with his people in the new earth. This is the final ingathering of God's people, that fulfills the Feast of Booths that was shadowed in the celebration of the ingathering of the year-end harvest.

²<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-Sabbath.html>

³<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/firstfruits-and-pentecost/>

⁴<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/feast-booths/>

