OCTOBER 25, 2026

SERMON NOTES

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NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE (PART IV)

Key Scriptures: *The Lord spoke again to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The appointed times (established feasts) of the Lord which you shall proclaim as holy convocations—My appointed times are these:* - **Leviticus 23:1-2**

The 7 Festivals of the Lord

The festivals are divided into two groups:

- Spring festivals: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Weeks (Pentecost).
- Fall festivals: Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles.

1. **Passover - Leviticus 23:4–5**
    - **Exodus 12:7; John 1:29/ 18:28; 1 Corinthians 5:7**
2. **The Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord - Leviticus 23:6**
    - **Exodus 12; 1 Corinthians 5:6–8; John 6:35**
3. **The Feast of First Fruits - Leviticus 23:10–11**
    - **John 20:1; 1 Corinthians 15:4, 20–21/ 16:2; Psalm 126:6**
4. **Weeks or Pentecost - Leviticus 23:15–16**
    - The Feast of Weeks celebrated the harvest and was observed after seven complete weeks had passed from the offering of the firstfruits.
    - Pentecost means fiftieth and refers to the feast celebrated on the fiftieth day.
    - The beginning of the Church's public witness: **Acts 2:1–2** records that the disciples were gathered together when the Day of Pentecost had fully come.
5. **Trumpets**
    - The trumpet calls God's people to attention and points us toward His purposes, judgment, and future gathering.
    - **Leviticus 23:24** established a memorial marked by trumpet blasts and a sacred assembly.
    - **Leviticus 25:9** instructed Israel to sound the trumpet on the Day of Atonement during the Jubilee year, announcing liberty throughout the land.
    - **In Joshua 6:8**, the priests carried trumpets as Israel marched around Jericho. The trumpets were part of the events surrounding the city's fall.
    - **2 Chronicles 5:13** describes trumpeters and singers praising God together as His glory filled the temple.
    - **Joel 2:1** calls for a trumpet to be sounded in Zion to warn of the coming day of the Lord.
    - **Matthew 24:31** describes the Son of Man sending His angels with a great trumpet to gather His elect.
    - **1 Corinthians 15:52** and **1 Thessalonians 4:16–17** describe the trumpet associated with the resurrection of the dead in Christ and the gathering of believers to the Lord.
    - **Revelation 4:1** describes a voice like a trumpet inviting John to come up and see what would take place.

6. **Day of Atonement**
    - **Leviticus 23:26–32** describes the Day of Atonement as a time to humble oneself, refrain from ordinary work, and seek atonement before the Lord.
    - The purpose of atonement: Atonement concerns dealing with sin and restoring the relationship between God and His people.
    - The Messiah's mission: **Luke 4:18–19** and **Isaiah 61:1–3** speak of good news to the poor, liberty for captives, comfort for the brokenhearted, and restoration.
    - A day of judgment: **Isaiah 63:4–5** describes a day of vengeance and redemption. **Jeremiah 30:7** speaks of a time of great distress for Jacob, while **Matthew 24:21** describes great tribulation.
    - **Zechariah 12:2–3, 10** describes Jerusalem under pressure from surrounding nations and a future outpouring of grace and supplication, leading the people to look upon the One who was pierced and mourn.
7. **Tabernacles**
    - **Leviticus 23:34** established the Feast of Tabernacles, also called the Feast of Booths. Israel lived in temporary shelters to remember God's care during the wilderness journey. The feast was also associated with the harvest, giving Israel an opportunity to rejoice in God's provision.
    - **Daniel 7:13–14** describes the Son of Man receiving dominion, glory, and an everlasting kingdom.
    - **Zechariah 14:9** declares that the Lord will be King over all the earth.
    - **Zechariah 14:16** describes survivors from the nations going up to Jerusalem to worship the King and keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
    - **Isaiah 11:6–10** pictures a future characterized by peace, the knowledge of the Lord, and the gathering of the nations to the Root of Jesse.
    - **Revelation 20:6** describes those who share in the first resurrection reigning with Christ for a thousand years.

Understanding the Shadow and the Reality

The festivals help us understand God's plan, but Jesus Christ is central to the reality they represent.

- **Colossians 2:16–17** - Festivals, new moons, and Sabbaths are described as a shadow of things to come, while the substance belongs to Christ.
- **Ephesians 2:15** - Christ broke down the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles, creating one new humanity in Himself.
- **Hebrews 9:8–15** - The former tabernacle system pointed toward a greater work of redemption. Christ entered as High Priest and secured eternal redemption through His own blood.
- **Romans 10:4** - Christ is the culmination or goal of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- **Hebrews 8:5** - The earthly tabernacle and its ministry served as a copy and shadow of heavenly things.
- **Hebrews 10:1, 9** - The law contained a shadow of coming good things, but Christ came to do God's will and establish the new covenant.
- **Galatians 2:11–13** - Paul confronted conduct that compromised the truth of the gospel and the fellowship of Jewish and Gentile believers.
- **Galatians 5:1** - Christ has set believers free; they must stand firm in that freedom rather than return to bondage.