

Days of Offerings Commanded in Scripture

(over and above the daily and weekly offerings)

“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:5,9).

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

Day of Passover Sacrifice (Nisan/Aviv 14)

& Seven-Day Feast of Unleavened Bread (Nisan/Aviv 15-21)

(Genesis 19:3) Exodus 10:24–15:21; 23:14-19; 34:18-20,23-26; Leviticus 23:4-8; Numbers 9:1-5; 28:16-25; 33:1-5; Deuteronomy 15:19–16:8,16-17; Joshua 5:10–6:27; 1 Samuel 1:3; 1 Chronicles 23:27-32; 2 Chronicles 8:12-15; 29:1-36; 31:2-3; 34:13–35:19; 2 Kings 22:1-2; 23:21-23; Ezra 6:19-22; Ezekiel 45:21-24; Luke 2:41-52; John 2:13-25; 6:1-7:1; Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 11:55-20:31; Acts 12:1-19; 20:6; 1 Corinthians 5 (v.7-8); 11:17-34; Hebrews 11:28-31

Unleavened Bread reading: Song of Solomon

Second Passover (Iyar 14, 15-21): Numbers 9:6-14; 2 Chronicles 30

Day of Wave Sheaf Offering (the Sunday during the Feast of Unleavened Bread)

& Feast of Weeks (7th Sunday after the Unleavened Bread feast)

Exodus 19–20; 23:14-17,19; 34:22-24,26; Leviticus 2:12-16; 23:9-21; Numbers 28:26-31; Deuteronomy 16:9-12,16-17; Joshua 5:10-12; 2 Chronicles 8:12-15; 15:10-15; 31:2-3; Nehemiah 10:32-33; Ezekiel 45:16-17; Acts 2; 20:16; 1 Corinthians 16:8; Hebrews 12:18-29

Pentecost reading: Ruth

Feast of Trumpets (Tishri 1)

Leviticus 23:23-25; Numbers 10:1-10; 29:1-6; Joel 2; Zephaniah 1:14; Psalm 81 (Genesis 41:46); Psalms 98; 150; Ezra 3:1-3,6; Nehemiah 7:73–8:12; 1 Chronicles 23:27-32; 2 Chronicles 2:3-4; Matthew 24:31; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Hebrews 1:10; 4:1; ch.8–9; 10:7; 11:15

Day of Atonement (Tishri 10)

Exodus 30:10; Leviticus 16; 23:26-32; 25:8-55; Numbers 29:7-11; Acts 27:9; Romans 5:8-11; Hebrews 9:7

Seven-Day Feast of Tabernacles (Tishri 15-21)

& The Eighth Day (Tishri 22)

Exodus 23:14-17; 34:22-24; Leviticus 23:33-44; Numbers 29:12-40; Deuteronomy 16:13-17; 1 Chronicles 23:27-32; 2 Chronicles 2:3-4; chs.5-7 (7:8-9); 1 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 8:12-15; 31:2-3; Ezra 3:4-5; Nehemiah 8:13-18; 10:32-33; Ezekiel 45:25; Haggai 2:1

Tabernacles reading: Ecclesiastes

New Moons

Genesis 8:5,13; Exodus 40:2,17; Leviticus 23:24; Numbers 1:1,18; 28:11-15; 33:38; Deuteronomy 1:3; 1 Samuel 20; 1 Chronicles 23:27-32; 2 Chronicles 2:4; 8:12-15; 2 Kings 4:23; 2 Chronicles 29:17; 31:2-3; Isaiah 1:10-20; 66:23; Ezekiel 26:1; 29:17; 31:1; 32:1; 45:17-19; 46:1-7; Hosea 2:11; Amos 8:4-10; Haggai 1:1; Ezra 3:5; 7:9; 10:16-17; Nehemiah 10:32-33; Colossians 2:16

Jewish National Observances

(Festivals and fast days mentioned in the Bible commemorating events in Jewish history.)

Fast of the 4th month (observed on Tammuz 17*)

Commemorates the breach made by the Babylonians in the wall of Jerusalem in the summer of 587 or 586 BC, and the subsequent capture of Zedekiah, Judah's last king: 2 Kings 25:3-7; Jeremiah 39:2-7; 52:6-11. This led to the deportation of Jews to Babylon a few weeks later. (See also Zechariah 7-8; Isaiah 58.)

In Zechariah 8:19, this Jewish fast day and others like it were prophesied to become days of joy and gladness. (Interestingly, July 4, 1776 was on Tammuz 17.)

Fast of the 5th month (observed on the 9th of Av*)

Commemorates the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 587 or 586 BC and again in 70 AD: 2 Kings 25:8-21; Jeremiah 52:12-13; Ezekiel 20:1; Zechariah 7:3-5; 8:19

Festival scroll reading: Lamentations

Fast of the 7th month (the fast of Gedaliah on Tishri 3*)

Commemorates the assassination of Gedaliah (the governor of Judah appointed by Nebuchadnezzar) in 587 or 586 BC:

2 Kings 25:22-26; Jeremiah 40-43 (41:1); Zechariah 7:5; 8:19

Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah – Kislev 25 through Tebet 2 or 3)

This eight-day Festival of Lights commemorates the 165 BC Jewish Maccabean victory over the Syrians, and the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem three years after it had been defiled by Syrian idolatry:

John 10:22. (The conception of Christ in the womb of the virgin Mary appears to have occurred at the time of this feast – Luke 1:5,23-38. See also Haggai 2:10,18,20.)

Fast of the 10th month (Tebet 10*)

This fast is kept as a memorial of the day when Nebuchadnezzar began his 1½ year siege against Jerusalem (in c. “January” of 588 or 587 BC) which ended with the destruction of the temple and the exile of the Jews to Babylon:

2 Kings 25:10; Jeremiah 39:1; 52:4; Ezekiel 24:1-2; Zechariah 7-8 (8:19)

15th of Shebet

According to the Talmud, this is the “New Year of the Trees” – the date from which the tithing year of fruit trees is calculated. In modern Israel it is an “Arbor Day”, a day for planting trees. This date is not highlighted on the calendar, but is included here as a matter of interest.

Fast of Esther (Adar 13*) & **Purim** (Adar 14-15)

These days commemorate the fasting (Esther 3:12-15; 4:16; 9:31) and subsequent victory of the Jews against the plotting of Haman the Agagite (c. 473 BC):

Esther 8:9-14; 9:1-2, 20-22

Festival scroll reading for Purim: Esther

*With the exception of the Day of Atonement, whenever a fast day falls on the seventh day of the week, its observance is shifted to maintain the holiness of the Sabbath day. (This is in accord with the Scriptural admonition and example found in Nehemiah 8:9-12; 9:1). If a fast day occurs on a Saturday, it is postponed to Sunday except for the Fast of Esther, which is moved back to Thursday due to Purim.