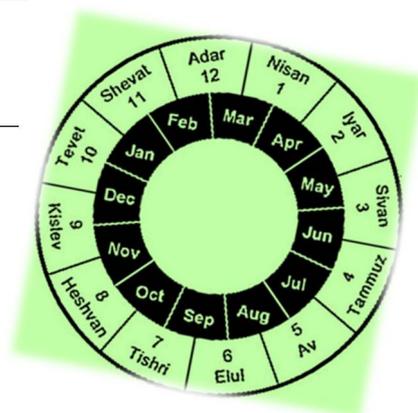


## Study No.7 The Law - Part 2



### Timeframe of events:

The Law was given around 1400 B.C.

**Summary:** Much of the Bible from here onwards makes reference to “the Law” - either directly or indirectly - so it is important that we understand something about it. Interspersed with the narrative sections of Exodus 19 to 40, Leviticus and Numbers, we find many laws given to the Israelites through Moses. This study is the second of two on the laws delivered at that time. Our attention will now centre on those recorded from Leviticus ch.17 and through the book of Numbers.

### Main Reading / Listening



Read and/or listen to the following passages at least once. Twice is better for taking it all in!

### As a minimum, please read or listen to:

Leviticus 23

### To read or listen to the entire Bible systematically, this week's passages are:

Mostly law passages - found within Leviticus 17 to 27 and the book of Numbers. See the reading list on page 2.

*The Law sections of Exodus 19 to 40 and Leviticus 1 to 16 were covered in Study No.6.*

Relevant Charts:



**Law Readings: Exodus 19-40, Leviticus, Numbers**

Below is a list of largely law-based passages (approx. 21 chapters) from these three books. Some narrative sections will be found amongst these readings, but the ... symbol shows where the longer narrative passages have been omitted. Some shorter law sections have been excluded from this list and can be found amongst the narrative readings. A few passages appear in both lists. See Study No.6 for earlier Law portions.

**Leviticus 17 to 27**

**ch.17-27** Miscellaneous laws: ceremony and holiness

**Numbers**

...  
**ch.5,6 ... 8** Purity, dedication & commemoration

...  
**10:1-11** Silver trumpets

...  
**ch.15 ... 18,19** Issues of holiness

...  
**ch.28,29** Regular national offerings

**ch.30** Vows

...

Year 2  
Commencing  
at Mt. Sinai

Departing  
from  
Mt. Sinai

38 years  
wandering

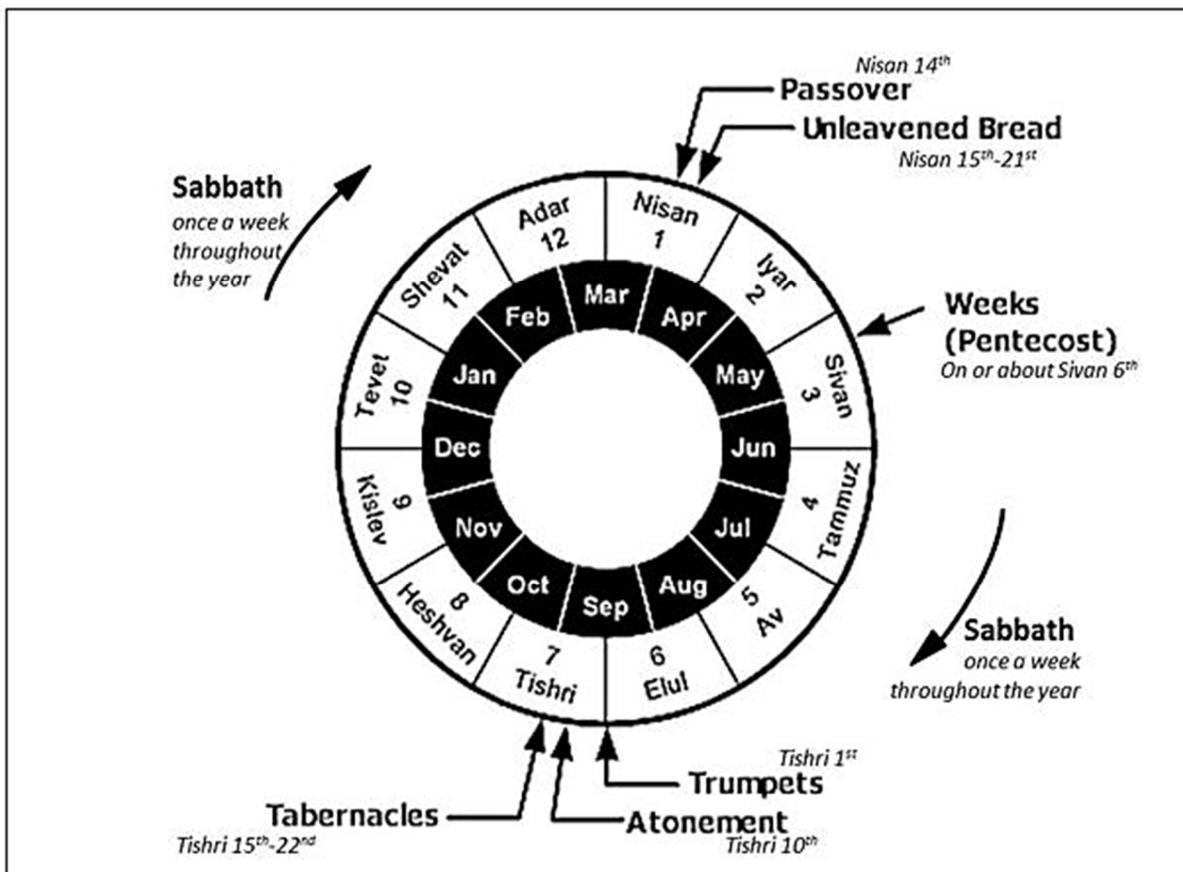
Year 40  
Moving  
towards  
Canaan

# The Festivals of the Lord

Commonly known as the "Feasts" of the Lord  
 Not really banquets, but days allocated for sacred gatherings.

These events were holidays,  
 i.e. "holy days" – days set apart from regular days.  
 No regular work permitted.

Leviticus 23:1-44  
 Exodus 23:14-17  
 Exodus 34:18-23  
 Numbers 28:16-29:39  
 Deuteronomy 16:1-17



Weekly Festival, observed throughout the year: <b>Sabbath</b>			
Spring Festivals: <b>Passover</b> <b>Unleavened Bread</b> <b>Weeks (Pentecost)</b>	Almost 4 months between Spring and Autumn Feasts.	Autumn Festivals: <b>Trumpets</b> <b>Atonement</b> <b>Tabernacles</b>	6 months until festive calendar begins again.

## Enhancing your reading:

*Attempt one or more of the following tasks for a better appreciation of the subjects covered by the main readings for this study.*



- Jot down any questions arising from this study's readings. Ask someone else for help, or conduct your own research to try and answer these questions.

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- Note any passages, verses, themes or lessons that have stood out to you from this study's readings. Write down or verbalise your reasons.

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- Read or listen to these other Bible passages that relate to the content of this week's readings:

Matthew 26:3-5, 17-21; Luke 2:41-45; John 2:23; John 5:1;  
 John 7:1-14; Acts 2:1; Acts 18:19-21; Acts 20:15,16  
 1 Corinthians 16:7,8; Psalm 119.

## Consider and discuss the following questions:



### Lev 17:1-16 Blood - food and sacrificial offerings

(1) Lev 17:3-6 states that any clean animal designated to be killed, needed to be brought to the tabernacle. How does this compare with the law given later in Deuteronomy 12:15? Why the difference?



(2) 17:10-12 expresses a strong prohibition against eating blood. What reason is given for this?

Lev 18:1-30 Sexual relations

(3) In Lev 18, what does it mean to uncover someone's nakedness?

Lev 19:1-37 Various laws: general command to "be holy"

(4) What did the Lord mean by the instruction in Leviticus 19:2 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.'?

(5) Why would a peace offering eaten on the third day be an abomination to the Lord (Lev 19:7)?

(6) What is the reasoning behind the law to not wear clothing made from mixed fabrics (Lev 19:19)?

(7) How could fruit be "uncircumcised" (Lev 19:23)?

(8) Why would a man not be permitted to shave the side of his head or disfigure his beard (Lev 19:27)?

Lev 20:1-27 Penalties and punishments

(9) Who or what was Molech (Lev 20:2-6)?

(10) Why were people not to give themselves or their descendants to Molech (Lev 20:2-6)?

Lev 21:1-22:16 Conduct of priests

(11) How do the laws of Lev 21:1-4 shed light on the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)?

(12) What is meant by the phrase "he offers the bread of your God" (Lev 21:8)?

(13) Was a priest never to leave the sanctuary compound (see Lev 21:12)?

(14) The laws in Lev 21:17-25 are similar to those in earlier chapters. To whom are these addressed?

(15) What is the intention behind the law of Lev 21:28 to not kill a cow and its young on the same day?

Lev 22:17-33 Sacrificial offerings - general laws

(16) What is meant by the phrase in Leviticus 22:32, "I will be hallowed among the children of Israel"?

Lev 23:1-44 Festivals - weekly and annual

(17) Israel's annual festivals / feasts are listed in Lev 23, and are full of symbolism. What did the ancient Israelites think were the basic ideas behind each festival?

(18) How is each festival a picture of Israel's history, both past and future?

(19) Firstfruits (Lev 23:9-14) is often listed as a separate feast by many commentators, but not by many others (as per the charts included in this worksheet). What are the arguments for and against it being considered as one of the feasts, and what is your opinion? Give reasons for your answer.

(20) Sacrificial offerings were presented at each of these festival occasions (e.g. Lev 23:8,12,19, etc. See also Numbers 28 & 29 for a more extensive list). Why?

Lev 24:1-9 Sanctuary consumable items

(21) From where did the priests obtain the consumable items described in Lev 24:1-9?

Lev 24:10-23 Blasphemy, murder and injury

(22) Compare the "eye for an eye, etc." law (Lev 24:19,20) with the teaching of Matthew 5:38-42. Did Christ change the Levitical law?

Lev 25:1-55 Sabbath years and the Jubilee Year

(23) Compare the law of Lev 25:2-4 regarding the land keeping its Sabbath with what is said in 2 Chronicles 36:20,21 around 600-700 years later (cp Lev 26:34,35). What conclusions may be drawn about the observation of this law over the centuries?

(24) Summarise the basic idea behind the Jubilee year in Lev 25:8-55.

Lev 26:1-46 Consequences of obedience and disobedience

(25) Summarise the basic idea of the laws set out in Lev chapter 26.

Lev 27:1-33 Redeeming persons and property after a vow

(26) What is the general idea behind people and animals "dedicated to the Lord" in Lev 27? In this context, what differences were there between people, clean animals and unclean animals?

(27) What bearing does the Jubilee year have on the laws in Lev 27:16-25? Why should the Jubilee be relevant to these laws?

Num 5:1-31 Laws re impurity, confession and unfaithfulness

(28) Why would people who were considered unclean in certain circumstances be isolated, as per Numbers 5:1-4?

(29) Summarize the ritual for testing a wife's fidelity, as set out in Numbers 5:11-31; i.e. what it was about and what was to take place.

(30) There is no equivalent test for a man's infidelity. Why?

(31) Compare the drink ritual in this passage with Exodus 32:20; Isaiah 51:17,22 & Ezekiel 23:30-34. What are the common themes?

Num 6:1-21 Nazirites (non-Levites separated unto God)

(32) What was a Nazirite?

(33) What does the word "nazirite" mean?

(34) What were some of the restrictions and laws concerning Nazirites?

(35) What did Nazirites do?

(36) Who are the two most well-known Nazirites in the Bible?

(37) Were Nazirites born into this status, or did they choose it? Was a person a Nazirite for all their life, or only for a period of time?

Num 6:22-27 Priestly blessing of the people

(38) Is the priestly blessing of Numbers 6:24-26 one that is appropriate to be used by Christians today?

(39) How is this blessing related to the furnishings of the tabernacle holy place (i.e. the lampstand, the table of shewbread and the altar of incense)?

(40) Why would this blessing need to be stated?

Num 7:89-8:26 The sanctuary - lamps and Levites

(41) Why would the lamps on the lampstand be facing forward (Num 8:3)?

(42) What is meant by the phrase, "Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD like a wave offering from the children of Israel, that they may perform the work of the LORD."? (Numbers 8:11) Why would this be done?

(43) What sort of "work of the Lord" would have been carried out by these Levites (Num 8:26)? Compare with Num 4:3-49; 1 Chronicles 23:26-32.

(44) At what age would the Levites begin to serve the priesthood? Compare Numbers 8:24,25 with 4:3. How did this later change when the first temple was built (see 1 Chronicles 23:3,27)? Why the difference in the starting age?

(45) Note two phrases from Numbers 8:17-18 ... "all the firstborn among the children of Israel are Mine, both man and beast ... I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn of the children of Israel." How can these two statements be reconciled? See also Numbers 18:14-17.

Num 10:1-10 Silver trumpets

(46) What was the purpose of the silver trumpets (Num 10:1-10)?

Num 15:1 - 19:22 Issues of holiness○ *15:1-16 Accompaniments to offerings*

(47) What is a more suitable name for the "grain" (or "meal" or "meat") offerings of Numbers 15:1-16?

(48) When was the appropriate time to present this offering?

(49) What was a "drink" offering (e.g. Numbers 15:5)?

○ *15:17-21 Heave offerings*

(50) What was a "heave offering" (Numbers 15:17-21) and when was it to be offered?

○ *15:22-36 Intentional and Unintentional Sin*

(51) Define "unintentional sin" (or "erring" - KJV) and "presumptuous (or defiant) sin" in the context of Numbers 15:22-36.

(52) Why is the account of the man picking up sticks on the Sabbath (Numbers 15:32-36) included at this point in the text in the midst of several law passages?

○ *15:37-41 Tassels*

(53) What was the point of adding tassels to garments (Numbers 15:37-41)?

○ *18:1-32 Priests and Levites*

(54) All priests were Levites but not all Levites were priests. What was the prime difference in their duties relating to the sanctuary (Numbers 18:1-7)?

(55) What were the "holy offerings (or gifts) from the children of Israel" (Numbers 18:8-14)?

(56) In the context of Numbers 18:15-18, what did it mean to "redeem" certain people and animals?

(57) Why weren't certain animals to be "redeemed" in this context (v.17)?

(58) What was a "covenant of salt" (Numbers 18:19)?

(59) Regarding Numbers 18:21-32, what was the Levites' inheritance?

(60) What was a "tithe" (cp. Leviticus 27:32)?

o *19:1-22 Purification Water*

(61) What is a red heifer?

(62) What was the water of purification/cleansing?

*Num 28:1-29:40 Regular national offerings*

(63) Numbers 28 & 29 detail offerings that were to be presented on particular occasions - daily, weekly, monthly and annually. Compare these offerings with those of the same occasions listed in Leviticus 23. In summary, what are the similarities and differences?

(64) Why the necessity of these two chapters if the festival procedures had earlier been set out in Leviticus 23?

*Num 30:1-16 Vows*

(64) Summarize the gist of the laws about vows in Numbers 30.

(65) Why the difference in legislation between men and women concerning vows?

(66) Would Nazirites vows (see Numbers 30) be covered by this law? Give reasons for your answer.