



Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Special Fall Festivals Lesson

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Have you ever tried to put together a jigsaw puzzle? It seems almost impossible, especially if you don't know what it's supposed to look like when it is finished.

The Bible explains everything you need to know about God's purpose for your life. But if you try to read it like you read a textbook or a novel, you will be frustrated. Reading the Bible is like reading a book with the pages out of order; it's like an unsolved jigsaw puzzle. The Bible has many physical authors. Over the centuries, God showed parts of His purpose to some of these authors, and other parts to others. So to see the whole picture, you have to piece together many different parts of the Bible.

God deliberately inspired the Bible to be written this way to hide His plan. To understand God's plan, God must call you, and you must have a humble and obedient attitude, like a little child learning from his father (Matthew 11:25).

God, at this time, has called a very small number of people to understand the purpose of human life. He has organized this small group of people into His Church. To reveal how the pieces of the puzzle fit together, God gave His Church seven annual festivals. You

can only understand God's plan for mankind if you humbly obey God and keep these festivals.

In this lesson, you will learn how these festivals reveal the mystery of God's master plan. To put the puzzle together and see the whole picture, you will need your Bible, a pencil and a humble, eager attitude.

GOD'S ANNUAL FEASTS

The plan of God has seven steps. Each annual festival represents one of these steps.

God revealed these festivals to the ancient Israelites, who kept them for hundreds of years. But the Israelites did not have all the pieces of the puzzle: They did not understand what these holy days represented. Today, however, you can understand what they represent.

To find the names of God's seven annual festivals, turn to Leviticus 23. List the name of each day on the following lines. (A few of these are referred to by more than one name. If you find an additional name for the same festival, write it down as well.)

- 1) _____ (verse 5)
- 2) _____ (verse 6)
- 3) _____ (verses 16-21)
- 4) _____ (verse 24)
- 5) _____ (verse 27)

6) _____ (verse 34)

7) _____ (verses 36, 39)

These festivals can be divided into two groups: the spring holy days and the fall holy days. In the Northern Hemisphere, the first three festivals occur in the spring. These days show God's plan to bring a comparatively small group of people into His Church to become the Bride of Jesus Christ. The last four holy days are in the fall. They show God's plan to bring the vast majority of humanity into His Family as children of God!

When you understand the meaning of all seven festivals, they explain the complete God Family plan!

THE SPRING FESTIVALS

The first of God's festivals is Passover. It memorializes the price of sin. All human beings, except one, have sinned. That means we have all earned the penalty of death. Jesus Christ voluntarily chose to become a human being, lived a sinless life and then died on your behalf so that, if you repent and follow God, your sins can be *forgiven* and you can be saved from the death penalty. Passover is a solemn memorial of Jesus Christ's death.

The second of God's festivals is the feast of Unleavened Bread. The first day of the feast of Unleavened Bread is the first high holy day of the year. The seventh and last day of this festival is the second holy day. Before this feast begins, God commands His people to put all leavening out of their homes. He commands His people not to eat leaven and to remove leaven from their homes and other property during these seven days. Leaven causes bread to puff up with air the same way that sin puffs up people with pride.

God commands His people to instead eat unleavened bread, an action that represents living God's sincere, truthful, humble way of life. Removing all leavening from our homes during the Days of Unleavened Bread symbolizes removing all sin from our lives.

The third of God's festivals is Pentecost. This festival, a high holy day, shows that God's people need the power of His Holy Spirit to help them overcome sin and to live His way of life. Even with Christ's sacrifice and your best efforts to put sin out of your life, you will always fall short of living God's way—unless God helps you through the power of His Spirit! Pentecost shows us that, *with* God's Holy Spirit, God's people can overcome sin and live His way of life!

When the three spring holy days are completely fulfilled, the members of God's Church will have accepted Jesus Christ's



God's holy days begin in the spring with Passover.

sacrifice, worked to put sin out of their lives, and succeeded in living God's way of life by using His Holy Spirit. God will then bring them into His Family!

But what about everyone else? There are billions of people living on Earth who are *not* in God's Church. In fact, there are billions and billions and billions of people who lived *and died* over the 6,000 years of human history whom God never called into His Church and who never even heard about His master plan. What will happen to them?

This brings us to the purpose of the four fall holy days!

FEAST OF TRUMPETS

The Feast of Trumpets represents the fourth step in God's plan. This festival is the first fall holy day and pictures the most important event in history: the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

Fill in the blanks using Leviticus 23:23-25 to see how the Israelites kept this Feast: "And the

LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall you have a _____, a _____ of _____ of _____, an _____ . You shall do no servile work therein: but you shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD."

Anciently when the Feast of Trumpets arrived, the Israelites blew a trumpet made from a ram's horn. This trumpet is called a *shofar*, and the sound it makes is a piercing blast. They also blew two long silver trumpets, which produced a variety of musical notes.

Read Ezekiel 33:1-6 and summarize why a watchman blows a trumpet: _____



The world's armies will gather in the Valley of Megiddo before marching to Jerusalem to fight Christ.

Throughout history, trumpets have been used to make major announcements and as an alarm of war. The Feast of Trumpets points to the return of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that an archangel will announce Christ's return with the blast of a trumpet. This blast will be so loud that everyone on Earth will hear it!

This piercing blast will also be an alarm of war! Jesus Christ will return in the midst of World War III, and He will have to fight to save human beings from making themselves extinct!

Turn to 1 Thessalonians 4:16 to fill in the blanks below: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the _____ of _____: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

At the moment Christ returns, God will resurrect the Old Testament prophets and other saints He used during this period, along with everyone in His Church who died in the faith. He will transform them into God beings! And in the next moment, everyone in God's Church who is still alive will also be transformed into God beings!

Fill in the blanks using 1 Corinthians 15:52: "In a moment, in the _____ of an _____, at the _____: for the _____ shall _____, and the _____ shall be _____, and we shall be changed."

What about everyone else on Earth? When Jesus Christ returns, many of them will actually want to fight Him! They will try to destroy Him so that He cannot rule over them. This is why the Feast of Trumpets includes an alarm of war.

To see how the archangel announces Jesus Christ's return, fill in the blanks using Revelation 11:15: "And the _____ sounded; and there were _____ in _____, saying, The _____ of this _____ are become the _____ of our _____, and of his _____; and he shall _____ for _____ and _____."

When this happens, multitudes of soldiers will gather north of Jerusalem in a plain called Megiddo. Jesus Christ and the God beings who have just been born from God's Church into God's Family will have to fight this army. If they didn't, it would destroy everything—everyone on Earth would keep fighting and killing each other until no one was left!

Once Christ defeats this army, something new will happen. He will establish God's government over the whole Earth! He will teach *everyone* living on Earth how to give up hatred, selfishness, perversion, lying, coveting, violence and murder. He will begin to teach everyone how to live God's give way of life. Those members of God's Church who have now been born into His Family as God beings will assist Christ in teaching everyone how to have peace and joy!

This is what the Feast of Trumpets is all about!

DAY OF ATONEMENT

The fifth festival in God's plan is the Day of Atonement. It is a high holy day. For this day, God gives His people a special instruction, which He does not give for the other holy days.

Find out what this instruction is by filling in the blanks using Leviticus 23:27-30: "Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there



We fast on Atonement to draw closer to God.

shall be a day of _____: it shall be an holy _____ unto you; and you shall _____ your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. And you shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of _____, to make an _____ for you before the LORD your God. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be _____ in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. And whatsoever soul it be that does any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.”

God commands His people to “afflict” themselves on the Day of Atonement. The word *afflict* means “to humble.”

Read Ezra 8:21 to see how to humble yourself before God: “Then I proclaimed a _____ there, at the river of Ahava, that we might _____ ourselves before our God, to _____ of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.”

When we fast on Atonement, we go without food and water. Why does God command us not to eat or drink on this day? When we fast, we have less energy and feel weaker. In fact,

if we went more than a few days without food or water, we would die! This reminds us that we are weak, physical, temporary human beings. It also shows us that we need to be fed spiritually. It reminds us that *we need God* to have any sort of future! God is our Creator: He made us; He gives us food and water; He is our only hope for eternal life.

Keeping the Day of Atonement teaches us that we need a humble, teachable attitude to follow God. During this day, we should spend extra time praying and studying the Bible. Only by praying and studying with a humble attitude can we begin drawing closer to God.

This festival also pictures a major event that will happen soon. This major event involves the angel who was once called Lucifer, which means “light-bringer.” God had created Lucifer and given him the important job of ruling the Earth and making it more beautiful. Lucifer lived in harmony with God at first—but then he began to focus on himself. He became selfish and evil, and he rebelled!

God changed Lucifer’s name to Satan, which means “enemy.” Ever since Adam and Eve, Satan has been convincing human beings to rebel against God like he did. He broadcasts a constant attitude of selfishness. He causes people to have his evil, selfish, hateful, bitter, disrespectful attitude and to hurt themselves and others.

Fill in the blanks using Revelation 12:9: “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which _____ the whole world: he was cast out into the earth”

Satan has deceived the whole world! His wicked way of life is what causes every particle of our suffering!

The Day of Atonement pictures the day when God will *lock up* Satan! After Jesus Christ returns, God will put Satan in a bottomless pit where he will be unable to influence human beings.

Use Revelation 20:1-3 to fill in the blanks below and see a description of this awesome sight: “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the _____ and a _____ in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that _____, which is the _____, and _____, and bound him a _____, And cast him into the _____, and _____, and set a seal upon him, that he should _____ the _____, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

With Jesus Christ and His Bride ruling them, and without Satan influencing them, everyone on Earth will finally have a chance to become *at one* with God!

That is why this day is called the day of *AT+ONE+MENT* = _____!

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The sixth festival in God’s plan is the Feast of Tabernacles. The festival lasts seven days, and the first day is a high holy day. This holy day occurs on the 15th day of the seventh month of God’s calendar, when there is a full moon in the sky.

Fill in the blanks using Leviticus 23:39-43 to find out how the Israelites kept this Feast: “Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep a feast unto the LORD

seven days: on the _____ day shall be a _____, and on the _____ day shall be a _____. And you shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. And you shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute _____ in your generations: you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. You shall dwell in _____ seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in _____: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in _____, when I brought them out of the land of _____: I am the LORD your God.”

Because of this command from God, the Feast of Tabernacles is also called the feast of booths. God tells His people to leave their homes and to stay in temporary dwellings at a special Feast site during the Feast of Tabernacles. In ancient Israel, people lived in huts or tents called booths during this time. Today, people in God’s Church stay in hotels, tents or other temporary accommodations.

Living in temporary dwellings during the Feast of Tabernacles reminds us that our lives are temporary. We cannot live forever, unless we are born as spirit beings into God’s Family. Only members of God’s Church understand this truth today. But in the Millennium, everyone on Earth will understand that physical life is temporary and that its purpose is to prepare us to be born into God’s Family. Those people who believe and obey Jesus Christ will enter God’s Family as Spirit-born children!

This seven-day festival represents a time period of 1,000 years. It begins when Jesus Christ returns, the first people are born into God's Family as Christ's Bride, Christ begins to rule the entire world, and He and His Bride begin to bring everyone who is willing into at-one-ment with God. We call this period the Millennium.

God calls the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church members who are born into God's Family a marriage. That is why this festival is seven days long. In ancient Israel, wedding feasts lasted seven days. So the festival picturing Christ's marriage is seven days long!

Fill in the blanks using Revelation 19:7-8: "Let us be _____ and _____, and give honour to him: for the _____ of the _____ is come, and his _____ has made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in _____, _____ and _____: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

Besides living in a temporary dwelling for seven days, God tells us to do something else during the Feast of Tabernacles. This command is found in the last part of Leviticus 23:40: God commands us to REJOICE!

During the Millennium, over time, most everyone will come to choose to live God's way. Because of this, the entire world will be peaceful! People will not hate, steal, lie or kill. God will heal the blind, deaf and crippled. He will even change the nature of wild animals!

Fill in the blanks using Isaiah 11:6-9 to see how wild animals will change: "The _____ also shall dwell with the _____, and the _____ shall lie down with the _____; and the _____ and the _____ and the _____ together; and a _____ shall lead them. And the _____ and the _____ shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the _____ shall _____ like the _____. And the sucking _____ shall play on the hole of the _____ [poisonous snake],



God commands that we rejoice at the Feast of Tabernacles.

and the weaned _____ shall put his hand on the cockatrice' [another snake] den. They shall not _____ nor _____ in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the _____ of the _____, as the waters cover the sea."

During the Feast of Tabernacles, God's people attend services every day to learn more about what the Millennium will be like and to learn the things we will need to teach everyone when that time comes. This is at the heart of the special meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles!

Today, only those in God's Church can receive God's Holy Spirit. In the Millennium, however, God will give every person the opportunity to receive His Spirit, if he or she chooses to repent and be baptized.

Fill in the blanks using Joel 2:29: "And also upon the _____ and upon the _____ in those days will I pour out my _____."

Many children in God's Church will not yet be baptized when Jesus Christ returns. Perhaps you will not yet be baptized. If so, you will still be a human being during the Millennium. God will use you to assist in leading the world. You will help Jesus Christ and other God beings, like your parents, teach people to obey and to love God.

No wonder God commands us to rejoice during the Feast of Tabernacles!

LAST GREAT DAY

You have seen how the people who are in God's Church will be born into His Family. You have seen how everyone living on Earth will live God's way during the Millennium and will receive the same opportunity to

live forever in the God Family as children of Jesus Christ and His Bride. But what about all those who have *died never knowing God*? This is the vast majority of all human beings who have ever lived! What happens to them?

God's plan for them is pictured by the Last Great Day!

Fill in the blanks using Leviticus 23:34-36 to see God's command for the sixth and seventh festivals: "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD. On the first day shall be an holy convocation: you shall do no servile work therein. Seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the _____ day shall be an holy _____ unto you; and you shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a _____; and you shall do no servile work therein."

The eighth day mentioned in this passage is actually a separate holy day from the Feast of Tabernacles. In the New Testament, God calls this festival the Last Great Day (John 7:37). It pictures a time after the Millennium when everyone who has died without knowing God's way of life will be brought back to life!

This means that probably close to 100 billion people will be resurrected. Some of these people will be Adam's children. Some will be from Noah's lifetime. Some will be from ancient Egypt. Some will be from King David's lifetime. Some will be from Christ's lifetime. Some will be from medieval times. Some will be your relatives!

Jesus Christ, the other God beings and the billions of human beings living on Earth during the Millennium will spend



No other religion recognizes that God's plan of salvation extends to everyone who has ever lived.

1,000 years *getting ready* for this huge resurrection! Then, when it occurs, Jesus Christ and the rest of the God Family will begin teaching these billions of people God's way of life. God will then give these resurrected people 100 years to live. They will have the choice to embrace God's way or to reject it.

Use Isaiah 65:20 to fill in the blanks: "There shall be no more thence an _____ of _____, nor an _____ that has not _____ his _____: for the _____ shall _____ an _____ years old; but the sinner being an _____ years old shall be accursed."

At the end of the 100 years, God will judge these billions of people. This event is called the Great White Throne Judgment.

Fill in the blanks about this judgment using Revelation 20:11-12: "And I saw a _____, _____, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the _____, _____ and _____, stand before God; and the _____ were _____: and another

_____ was _____, which is the _____ of _____: and the _____ were _____ out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

All the people who refuse to obey God and who instead live Satan's selfish way will die in a lake of fire. They will not live forever as selfish, hateful, miserable beings like Satan. All those people who believe and obey God's unselfish give way will be born into His Family as spirit beings!

After the Last Great Day, God the Father will come to Earth. Together with their new family, God the Father and Jesus Christ will rule the universe for all eternity. We will help God and Christ take God's government and way of life out into the universe and do amazing things that are too awesome, too joyful and too wonderful to even imagine!

Fill in the blanks using 1 Corinthians 2:9 to see what your future will be as a member of God's Family: "But as it is written, _____ has not _____, nor _____, neither have entered into the _____ of _____, the things which God has _____ for them that _____ him."

Addresses

Use this page to record your new friends' addresses
so you can keep in touch after the Feast.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Scripture Review

Look up the scriptures below and summarize them in the space provided.

1 Timothy 2:4 _____

Revelation 19:7-8 _____

Joel 2:29 _____

Deuteronomy 16:13-14 _____

Isaiah 11:6-9 _____

Revelation 20:1-2 _____
