



ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE "Holy Days and Holidays" Deuteronomy 16:1-17

No. 5722

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God's instructions concerning the good life in the Promised Land included information about holy days. Their importance and significance were clearly explained and warnings were given about their possible abuse.

I. Divine Instructions Concerning Holy Days.

- A. General instructions. See Leviticus 23:1
 - 1. Appointed feasts.
 - 2. Sacred assemblies.
 - 3. Sabbath commands. Deuteronomy 5:12-15
- B. Specific instructions.
 - 1. Weekly Sabbaths.
 - a. Blessed by God—an expression of concern.
 - b. Declared holy—claimed by God.
 - 2. Annual Passover and Unleavened Bread. vv. 1-8 (Mar. - Apr)
 - a. Re-enact the Passover.
 - b. Remember the Exodus.
 - 3. Annual Feast of Weeks. vv. 9-12 (May - June)
 - a. Harvest started as "Unleavened Bread" ended.
 - b. Fifty days later harvest completed.
 - c. Harvest Festival begins.
 - 4. Annual Feast of Tabernacles. vv. 13-15 (Sept. - Oct.)
 - a. End of agricultural year.
 - b. Remember the wilderness.

Note: These annual feasts (festivals) were mandatory pilgrimages.

II. Divine Intentions Concerning Holy Days.

- A. The need to congregate.
 - 1. The Sabbath "assembly."
 - 2. The festival communalism. vv. 6, 11, 14
- B. The need to celebrate.
 - 1. The emphasis on joy. vv. 10, 15
 - 2. The emphasis on singing. Psalm 92
 - 3. The emphasis on sharing. vv. 16-17
- C. The need to concentrate.
 - 1. On physical rest.
 - 2. On spiritual renewal.
 - 3. On practical reality.
 - a. The impact of ceremony.
 - b. The implanting of significance.

III. Divine Irritation Concerning Holy Days.

- A. When they are ignored altogether.
 - E.g., Feast of tabernacles. Nehemiah 8:14f
- B. When they are stripped of significance. See Colossians 2:17
 - E.g., ritual devoid of reality. Amos 5:21f
- C. When they are observed with reluctance.
 - E.g., "Let's get this over with!" Amos 8:5f