

God's Prophetic Roadmap (The Introduction)

By

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In Leviticus Chapter 23 God gives to Moses on Mt Sinai seven feasts which he commanded the Nation of Israel to celebrate each year:

“23 The LORD said to Moses, 2 “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the LORD, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.’”

Passover (Pesach)-Nisan 14-15

Festival of Unleavened Bread (Chag Hamotzi) Nisan 15-22

Festival of Firstfruits (Yom Habikkurim) – Nisan 16-17

Festival of Weeks or Pentecost (Shavu'ot) – Sivan 6-7

Festival of Trumpets (Yom Teru'ah) – Tishri 1

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) – Tishri 10

Festival of Tabernacles (Sukkot) – Tishri 15-22

God introduced the Seven Feasts to the nation of Israel during the time they were encamped at the foot of Mount Sinai. They were called the feasts of the Lord because He Himself instituted them- a fact that made these Feasts hugely important in the Israeli calendar. They are referred to throughout the Bible but Leviticus 23 is the only place they are listed in chronological order. This sometimes confuses the Christian world since the Jewish calendar is not the same length as the solar calendar or the Gregorian calendar used around the world today. That causes the dates of the Feasts to shift every year on the Gregorian calendar.

These Feasts have both historic and prophetic significance. From a historic viewpoint they are Feasts commanded by God every year as part of the elect of God or the Jewish nation. From a prophetic significance they serve as types of something bigger to come.

I need to digress for a moment and make sure we all know what I mean when I talk about types and antitypes as they relate to scripture. As I am sure most of you know, The "Typology" of the Old Testament is the "Picture Language" in which the Doctrines of the New Testament, such as the Atonement, are prefigured. So when we speak of types what exactly do we mean? Paul answered this better than I ever could. In 1 Corinthians 10:1-11 and specifically in verse 11 Paul says:

“11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.”

Earlier in the passage he elaborates on just what things he means. That there are examples in the history of the Nation of Israel that pointed to future more important things for those that believe in and worship a Holy God.

The writer to the Hebrews tells us that the "Types" are but the "SHADOW OF GOOD THINGS TO COME, AND NOT THE VERY IMAGE OF THE THING." Hebrews 10:1. That is, the Old Testament "Types" are but

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"SHADOWS." But there cannot be a "shadow" without some "REAL THING" to make it. And a "shadow" is not the "very image of the thing," for a shadow is out of proportion, and is an imperfect representation of the thing it reveals. So the Old Testament Types are "shadows" in the sense that they are not the "Real Thing," and are but imperfect revelations of it. Every Christian should be very familiar with the Feasts, as they not only celebrate a historical event in Israel's past but are also a prophecy of future events. They were "types" that, in Christian theology, are actual historical events that were a shadow, of one or more events yet to occur. These subsequent happenings (the antitype) were certainly much more important than the original type.

At the time they were given, every single one of the feasts pointed to something that was yet to come. Something that the Nation of Israel did not fully comprehend. They were types, shadows of the first and second coming of the promised Messiah. In fact, God's entire plan of salvation for mankind from start to finish is represented in the 7 Feasts. It would make sense then that if we are true students of the Word then we need to understand these shadows, know the significance that they represented to the Jewish nation and then be able to apply that anti-type to God's redemptive plan.

These feasts were given by God in a very specific and chronological order. So the events which they are a shadow of or type of will also take place in that same chronological order. Once we see their significance we can understand clearer what God's redemptive plan looks like and how it will unfold.

We are currently in the middle of the first three Feasts; Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits. Can you see God's plan in these feasts? Has the antitype taken place or is it still an event yet to come? Over the next few days I hope you will join me in unpacking these Feasts and see what significance they have for us. Next up Passover.

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