Seeing Only Jesus

18) What's Next in the Redemptive Career of Jesus?

- ✓The Feasts of Israel depict the major events in Jesus' redemptive career
- ✓They fit into Israel's agricultural seasons
- ✓The first 4 feasts were Spring and Summer feasts. What they signify spiritually was fulfilled by Christ at His first coming to earth
- ✓Then, after a 4-month gap, the final three feasts occurred during autumn, within a brief 15-day period in the Hebrew month of Kislev
- ✓The prophetic fulfillment of the autumn feasts have not yet transpired. They will take place at the Second Coming
- ✓For each feast there is a spiritual application

Spring Feasts **Barley Harvest** **(Christ's First Coming)**	**Passover** **Unleavened Bread** **Firstfruits**
Summer Feast **Wheat Harvest** **(Birth of the Church)**	**Pentecost** **(Feast of Weeks)**
Fall Feasts **(Christ's Second Coming)**	**Trumpets** **Day of Atonement** **Tabernacles**

1) Passover

✓**Israel were delivered from the wrath of God, and Egyptian slavery through the Passover lamb**

✓**First, the lamb was offered for the sins of the people.This was *propitiation. 'Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us'* (1 Cor.5:7)**

✓**Then the blood was to be sprinkled on the lintel and doorposts of each home. This was *appropriation.* Believers are sprinkled with the blood of Jesus through *faith* in Christ (1 Pet.1:2)**

✓**Passover marked Israel's birth as a nation, and their departure from one realm to another**

✓**It's spiritual application for us is to trust completely in the blood of Jesus for salvation**

2) Unleavened Bread

- ✓During this feast all leaven was excluded from Jewish homes. When they left Egypt, they did so in haste, with unleavened dough wrapped in their clothes and thrown over their shoulders
- ✓Leaven is dough left over from a previous baking, allowed to ferment. It is a symbol of corruption from the past
- ✓The NT speaks of two types of leaven we are purged from, and from which we are not to bring into our new life in Christ:

✓**1) The Law (legalism).** ***'A little leaven leavens the whole lump'*** **(Gal.5:9)**

✓**2) Sin's dominion.** ***'Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth'*** **(1 Cor.5:6-8)**

✓**The spiritual application for us is to bring no leaven from the past - legalism or licentiousness - into the Christian life**

3) Firstfruits

✓During the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, some heads of barley were yellowing. These were called the firstfruits

✓Each Israelite family was to go to the fields, cut enough yellow stalks to bind into a sheaf and bring it to the priest to wave before the Lord

✓This bundle represented the first of the harvest

✓Christ rose on the third day after Passover; He is the firstfruits of the new creation, ***'But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep...Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming'*** **(1 Cor.15:20,23)**

✓**The firstfruits were the guarantee that the rest of the crop would indeed be harvested**

✓**Because Jesus rose from the dead a great harvest of resurrection is to follow**

✓**This harvest will be of the same nature as the firstfruits. We will have a resurrected body like that which Jesus has, *'…we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself'* (Phil.3:20-21)**

✓**The spiritual application for us is to have no fear of death and a certain hope of resurrection**

4) Feast of Weeks or Pentecost

✓Israel were to count a week of weeks from Firstfruits, and then on the 'morrow', this feast was observed as the firstfruits of the *wheat* harvest (7x7 = 49+1 = 50 days)

✓The new creation has a beginning, the resurrection of Christ. The Church has a beginning, 50 days from the resurrection. After Jesus rose from the dead He spent 40 days with His disciples (Acts 1:3). Then, 10 days later the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the first disciples and the Church was born (Acts 2:1-4). This was the birthday of the Church. It was the beginning of the wheat (summer) harvest. The Church was made out of the wheat seed of Christ (Jn.12:24)

✓**Many pilgrim Jews were in Jerusalem for this feast. The Holy Spirit was poured out and Peter preached the gospel, resulting in 3000 Jews being saved, *'Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures'* (James 1:18)**

✓**At this feast two loaves were to be waved before the Lord. This depicted the mystery (hidden truth) of the Church, Eph.3:1-7**

✓**The feast of weeks represents the age of the Spirit**

✓**The spiritual application for us is that Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit, by Whom we live the life of Christ**

The first four feasts were the result of Christ's first coming

There was a long interval of 4 months before the last 3 feasts which are the result of His 2nd Coming

This interval represents the Church Age

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5) The Feast Of Trumpets

✓This was a one-day feast celebrated by the blowing of trumpets

✓The trumpet here was the shofar, a ram's horn. A series of over 90 trumpet blasts accrued for a final blowing of trumpet blasts on the climax of the celebration

✓A distinguishing feature of the celebration was the last, climactic blast. This was not the usual series of short bursts used by Israel, signaling alarm or bad news. Rather, it was a long blast, signaling victory or good news. This last blast is referred to as 'the last trump'

✓'Trumpets' depicts the Rapture of the Church

'For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord' **(1 Thes.4:16-17)**

'Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the ***last*** *trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality'* **(1 Cor.15:51-53)**

✓This feast was on the first day of the 7th month. Seven is the number of completion. Therefore it is the beginning of the end. The 7th month was the beginning of the civil year or agricultural year, thus it was the end of the old and the beginning of the new

✓Through trumpet sounds, Roman soldiers were signaled to pursue the enemy or retire. The first trumpet summoned soldiers to advance in battle and the last trumpet was a signal to end the battle, reassemble and return to camp. Likewise, the last trump of God will signal the end of the Church's warfare with principalities and powers of darkness, and His summons to heaven

✓**In 1 Thes.4:16, the *shout of the Lord* is a command. As with Lazarus, it is a command for the body to come forth from the grave**

✓***'Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth…'* (John 5:28-29)**

✓**The phrase 'caught up' is from the Greek word *harpazo*. It means:**

1) To catch away suddenly (e.g. Acts 8:39)
2) To seize by force (e.g. John 6:15)
3) To claim for oneself
4) To rescue from danger (e.g Acts 23:10)

Spiritual application for us: *'Look up, your redemption draws near!'*

6) The Day Of Atonement

✓**After the Feast of Trumpets were seven 'days of affliction' climaxing in the Day of Atonement. It was a day of national cleansing**

✓**This points forward to a day, after the Rapture, when the Jews will be awakened and converted**

✓**After the rejection of their Messiah, God set aside the Jewish people until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, *'And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled'* (Luke 21:24)**

✓**After the times of the Gentiles, the nation of Israel will receive salvation through Christ...**

✓*'And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn'* **(Zech.12:10)**

✓*'For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved…'* **(Rom.11:25-26)**

✓**Spiritual application for us: Pray for the nation of Israel**

7) The Feast of Tabernacles

✓5 days after the Day of Atonement, was the Feast of Tabernacles. It was celebrated after the crops had been harvested and lasted 7 days

✓The people were to build booths or shelters from tree branches and leaves on the first day. They were to live in these booths or shelters for seven days, as a reminder that they had to live in booths when God delivered them out of Egypt

✓Booths were a symbol of how temporary this world is. As pilgrims we do not fix our hearts on the joys of this world because they won't last. Also, we don't get discouraged when we pass through difficulties; because these will not last either (Psa.30:5)

✓The Feast of Tabernacles is a picture of the future kingdom when Jesus shall reign. The greatest joy is yet to come, when you and I will enter into the glory of the LORD, when His Kingdom is established

✓Nearly every OT prophet spoke of the coming kingdom. They did not know how long it would be, or how it would end. Thus, Rev.20:2-7. There was no need for John to record anything else about it, for it was fully described in the OT

✓Spiritual application for us: We are to live as pilgrims of the earth because we are destined to reign with Christ