

changes which have come about in you life? If you are not filled, will you earnestly desire for that experience and pray for it?

6. What is the meaning of the command to offer two loaves made out of fine flour of new grain and backed with leaven?

LESSON 15

THREE FESTIVALS OF THE SEVENTH MONTH

Reading : Lev. 23:24-44; Deut. 16:13-16

Memory verses : Heb. 9:27-28

Theme : To learn the prophetic messages contained in the Israeli festivals of the seventh month and to establish our hope.

Introduction: Which are the festivals of the first month? We have learnt that they stand for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the salvation, sanctification and newness of life that we receive through Him. Which is the festival in the third month? It points to the pouring out of the Holy Spirit and the resultant spiritual blessings. The remaining three festivals stand for the wonderful events that are to take place in future.

1. FESTIVAL OF THE TRUMPETS:

(Lev. 23:23-25; Num.10:1-10)

This festival is celebrated on the first of seventh month. Israel have no celebration for four months between the festivals of Pentecost and Trumpets. This is the harvest season. For the church, too, the most important event to occur after the pouring out of the Holy Spirit is the second coming of Jesus Christ with the call of trumpets. We are now living in the intervening time called PERIOD OF CHURCH OR GRACE. In this harvest season Holy Spirit is gathering the souls who are being saved through the atoning death of Jesus Christ. The trumpet will sound at the end of this age. Those saints who dies in Christ will rise from the dead. Saints who are alive

will be transformed and both will meet the Lord in the air. This great event is called the RAPTURE of the church (1Cor. 15:52-54; 1 Thes. 4:16-17).

The fulfillment of the prophecy contained in the festival of the trumpets concerns Israel also. The sound and the blast of the trumpets were used to assemble the people and to make them set out during their wilderness journey (Num. 10:1-10). Fulfillment of the trumpets is in the gathering together of the Jews. After a long period of dispersal, Jews have come together as a strong nation. The times is ripe for the trumpet to sound and for the Lord to come back. After the rapture of the church, all the Jews from different countries will come together in their homeland with the final fulfillment of the trumpets taking place at the end of the great tribulation when the Lord and His saints will make their glorious appearance on the earth (Is. 11:11-12; Matt. 24:31, Amos 9:9; Jer. 31:8).

2. DAY OF ATONEMENT: (Lev. 23:26-32; Lev. 16)

The tenth day of the seventh month was set apart as the Day of Atonement for the people to repent of their sins and be cleansed in the presence of God and for the High Priest to offer sacrifices for their atonement.

Duty of the High Priest: High Priest removes his official robes inside the Tabernacle and puts on the linen garments of the ordinary priest. He offers sin offerings for himself and his family. Then he brings two goats to the entrance of the Tabernacle and casts lots on them, one for the Lord and one for the scape goat. The goat selected for the Lord is sacrificed as a sin offering. High Priest enters the Most Holy place and sprinkles its blood at the Mercy Seat. Then he places his hands on the head of the scapegoat and puts all the sins of Israel on it and sends it away to the desert. Then he washes himself with water, puts on his own robes and sacrifices burnt offerings for himself and the people. This work of the High Priest represents what Jesus Christ did when He entered into heaven with his own blood and accomplished redemption of all mankind for all time. The apostle explains all this in Heb. 9. High Priest and the goats both represent Jesus Christ. The goat sacrificed as sin offering points to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and the one sent away to the desert points to Christ taking away the sin of the world. Putting away of his official garments by High Priest shows Jesus Christ forsaking His glory and taking the form of man. After the work of atonement, the High Priest puts on his own robes. Jesus

Christ is living in the presence of Father with His former glory. Praise God for this unique High priest.

The Day of Atonement points to a future event in relation with Israel. After their final restoration to their homeland, they will look at the Messiah whom they pierced and repent of their sins. A fountain will be opened for their cleansing from sin and impurity and they will be accepted by the Lord (Zach.12:10-13:2).

3. FESTIVAL OF THE TABERNACLES;

(Lev.23:33-44; Deut.16:13-15)

This festival is happily celebrated from 15th to 22nd of seventh month. Holy Sabbath is observed on the first and the eighth days. The people enjoy in the presence of God in Tabernacles for seven days holding fruits, branches and leaves of trees. The festival reminds us of three important facts:

a) Israelites were living in tabernacles for 40 years in the wilderness while journeying from Egypt to Canaan (Lev.23:42-43). Their present houses and inheritance are gifts of God.

b) Life on earth is temporary. Our body which is our earthly tabernacle will perish. Whatever we consider as our own will pass away (Psa.103:15-16; 1 Tim 6;7-8; 2 Cor.5:1-3).

c) Israel has a blessed future. After they are gathered together and their reconciliation, they will enjoy freedom and happiness under the rule of their Promised Messiah during Millennium. And the New Testament Israel will rule as the Bride of the Messiah.. "Behold the tabernacle of God with men and He will live with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes"(Rev.21:3-4). We will enjoy happiness with our Lord, not only in the Millennium, but for eternity. Therefore rejoice in the Lord always (Phil.4:4).

QUESTIONS

1. Which are the festivals of the seventh month? Give their dates.
2. What are the prophetic messages contained in the festival of the trumpets.
3. What is the duty of the High Priest on the Day of Atonement? Compare the same with the High Priestly work of Jesus Christ.
4. What are the truths that we are reminded of by the festival of the tabernacles?
5. How was the festival being observed by the people of Israel?