

## Deuteronomy 16

Verses 1 - 8

**“Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God, for in the month of Abib the Lord your God brought you out of Egypt by night. <sup>2</sup> You shall sacrifice the Passover to the Lord your God *from* the flock and the herd, in the place where the Lord chooses to establish His name. <sup>3</sup> You shall not eat leavened bread with it; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in a hurry), so that you will remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life. <sup>4</sup> For seven days no leaven shall be seen with you in your entire territory, and none of the meat which you sacrifice on the evening of the first day shall be left overnight until the morning. <sup>5</sup> You are not allowed to sacrifice the Passover in any of your towns which the Lord your God is giving you; <sup>6</sup> but *only* at the place where the Lord your God chooses to establish His name, you shall sacrifice the Passover in the evening at sunset, at the time that you came out of Egypt. <sup>7</sup> You shall cook and eat *it* in the place which the Lord your God chooses. In the morning you are to return to your tents. <sup>8</sup> For six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festive assembly to the Lord your God; you shall do no work *on it*.**

**Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God, for in the month of Abib the Lord your God brought you out of Egypt by night.**

Moses gives a very brief account of the Passover here.

However, this was covered in great detail in Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23

**<sup>3</sup> You shall not eat leavened bread with it; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in a hurry), so that you will remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.**

This is also a very brief summary of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

If needed, the details of this event can be reviewed in Exodus 12 and/or Leviticus 23

<sup>5</sup> You are not allowed to sacrifice the Passover in any of your towns which the Lord your God is giving you; <sup>6</sup> **but only at the place where the Lord your God chooses to establish His name**, you shall sacrifice the Passover in the evening at sunset, at the time that you came out of Egypt.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Passover took place in Egypt.

As far as we know, only one Passover was kept during the wilderness wanderings.

See Numbers 9.

But here Moses is talking about when they enter the Promised Land and everyone is living throughout Canaan.

Then everyone will have to travel to the Tabernacle.

<sup>8</sup> **For six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festive assembly to the Lord your God; you shall do no work on it.**

To be clear the people ate unleavened bread for all 7 days of the feast as it says in verse 3 above.

Also the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the feast (the 15<sup>th</sup>) was also a special Sabbath when no work was to be done.

Moses must have assumed that the details of this event were understood and he was moving along swiftly not detailing all of the fine points.

People do this sometimes when they are trying to convey the bigger picture.

Verses 9 - 12

<sup>9</sup> **“You shall count seven weeks for yourself; you shall begin to count seven weeks from *the time* you begin to *put* the sickle to the standing grain. <sup>10</sup> Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with a voluntary offering of your hand in a proportional amount, which you shall give just as the Lord your God blesses you; <sup>11</sup> and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you, your son and your daughter, and your male and female slaves, and the Levite who is in your town, and the stranger, the orphan, and the widow who are in your midst, at the place where the Lord your God chooses to establish His name. <sup>12</sup> You shall also remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful and comply with these statutes.**

## Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God

This was the beginning of the wheat harvest.

See Chart 1605

Jewish Feasts						
Feast	Scripture	Date Observed	Roman Calendar	Sabbath	Offerings	Commemorates
Passover	Lev. 23:05	Nisan 14 At twilight	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Oldest son saved from death
Festival of Unleavened Bread	Lev. 23:6-8	Nisan 15-21	March/April	Day 1 & 7 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 28:16-24	The hasty flight from Egypt
Offering the First Fruits	Lev. 23:9-14	After the Sabbath	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Beginning of the barley harvest
Feast Of Weeks (Pentecost)	Lev. 23:15-22	50 days after F.F.	May/June	Special Sabbath	Numbers 28:26-31	beginning of the wheat harvest.

The Feast of Weeks or Pentecost was 50 days after the First Fruits?

See chart 1610

Feast of weeks or Pentecost 50 days after the (regular) Sabbath of Pentecost													
Nisan							Iyar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12	13	14 Passover	15	16	17 Sabbath	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8	9	10	11	12	13		36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Iyar							Sivan						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 14	1 43	2 44	3 45	4 46	5 47	6 48	7 49
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	50						

**A voluntary offering of your hand in a proportional amount, which you shall give just as the Lord your God blesses you**

The amount is not specified because crops vary from year to year.

But it was supposed to be proportional

**You shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you, your son and your daughter, and your male and female slaves, and the Levite who is in your town, and the stranger, the orphan, and the widow who are in your midst**

Moses reminded the men that this should include all of their immediate family, their slaves, the Levite, sojourners, widows, and the fatherless.

God wanted the bread winners to share with the whole community so everyone could share in the joy of harvest.

**<sup>12</sup> You shall also remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful and comply with these statutes.**

Here again we see God reminding the men that God has blessed them in a great way and they need to pass that joy and thanksgiving on to others.

Verses 13 - 15

**<sup>13</sup> “You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths for seven days when you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; <sup>14</sup> and you shall rejoice in your feast, you, your son and your daughter, and your male and female slaves, and the Levite, the stranger, the orphan, and the widow who are in your towns.**

**<sup>15</sup> For seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.**

**You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths for seven days when you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat**

See pic 1615

### Jewish Feasts

Feast	Scripture	Date Observed	Roman Calendar	Sabbath	Offerings	Commemorates
Festival of Trumpets	Lev. 23:23-25	Tishri 1	September	Special Sabbath	Numbers 29:1-6	Civil New Year
Day of Atonement	Lev. 23:26-32	Tishri 10	Sept/Oct	Sabbath	Numbers 29:7-11	Forgiveness of sin for the nation
Tabernacles Temp. Shelters	Lev. 23:33-34	Tishri 15-21	Sept/Oct	Day 1 & 8 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 29:12-38	Wilderness End of harvest

The feast of Tabernacles was a celebration of the final harvest of the year and a reminder of their time in the wilderness.

After crossing the Red Sea life for Israel was intense (in tents) ☺

**<sup>15</sup> For seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.**

God wanted the people of Israel to be blessed and joyful. But they often managed to mess that up by rejecting God and His law.

Verses 16 - 17

**<sup>16</sup> “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God at the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths; and they are not to appear before the Lord empty-handed. <sup>17</sup> Everyone shall give as he is able, in accordance with the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.**

**<sup>16</sup> “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God at the place which He chooses:**

See pic 1620

**Jewish Feasts**

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**<sup>17</sup> Everyone shall give as he is able, in accordance with the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.**

Since their tithe was to be used 2 out of every 3 years to provide for the 3 feasts this should not have been a burden.

The question is.....Did they keep the commandment to tithe?

Verses 18 - 20

**<sup>18</sup> “You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the Lord your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. <sup>19</sup> You shall not distort justice, you shall not show partiality; and you shall not accept a bribe, because a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and distorts the words of the righteous. <sup>20</sup> Justice, *and only* justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you.**

**You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the Lord your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.**

When Israel was in the wilderness Moses appointed judges to help him in the administration of justice. He did this after getting some advice from Jethro, his father-in-law.

But soon the people will be separated by considerable distances and Moses would not be around to handle the hardest cases. So the tribes would need honest officers to administer justice.

**You shall not distort justice, you shall not show partiality; and you shall not accept a bribe.**

Judges need to be fair, honest and trustworthy.

**Justice, *and only* justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you.**

The most powerful corruption to the court system is money. If judges get special favors such as exotic vacations, trips on Jets, free housing and other favors, then something has gone astray.

When this reaches the highest court then time is of the essence. If politics keeps either party from rooting out this sin then we have already lost our land.

Verses 21 – 22

**21 You shall not plant for yourself a grove; you shall not plant for yourself any tree near the altar of your God. 22 You shall not set up for yourself a pillar, which the Lord your God hates.**

Restricting the planting of groves or trees near the Tabernacle was probably due to a similar practice by various pagan nations.

An Asherah pole is a sacred tree or pole that stood near Canaanite religious locations to honor the goddess Asherah.

Asherah was the mother of 70 gods, including Baal.