

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

PART I - TIME BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS - TIME OF NEW TESTAMENT

JUDAISM

LESSON 3

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 - D. Feast of Trumpets.
 - E. Day of Atonement.
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 - H. Feast of Purim.
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 - B. Sadducees.
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JUDAISM

I. JEWISH CALENDAR

The Jews have a different calendar than we have. Their calendar is built according to the moon. The Jews had a civil calendar and a sacred calendar. The civil year began in fall. The sacred year began in spring. Seven times in 19 years they added a whole month, Veadar. This came between Adar and Nisan. When a month was added, Adar had 30 days.¹

¹M.C.Tenny, New Testament Survey, p. 95.

NISAN (April)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

14 - Passover 15 unleavened bread 21 - close Passover

TAMMUZ (July)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

IYAR (May)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				

6 - pentecost

AB (August)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

SIVAN (June)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

ELUL (September)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

TISHRI (October)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

1,2 Feast of Trumpets 10 Atonement 15-21 Feast of Tabernacles

TEBETH (January)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

MARCHEVAN (November)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

SHEBET (February)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

KISLEV (December)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

25 feast of lights

ADAR (March)						
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	Sab.
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

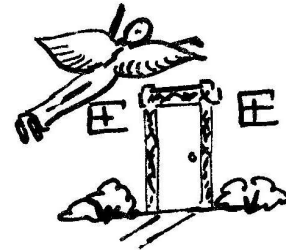
13 - Purim

II. JEWISH FEASTS

A. The Passover.

The Passover was the most important feast to the Jews.

The Jews kept the Passover to remember the time when the people of Israel (Jews) left Egypt. God had sent ten plagues to the land of Egypt. The last plague that God did send was the death angel. This death angel was to go to every home where the people did not obey God. God had told the people through Moses, "Kill a lamb in the evening. Put the blood on the doorposts." They were safe. The death angel passed over their homes, Exodus 12:1-30.



The people of Israel were to keep the Passover every year, Exodus 12:14. However, it seems that the people often forgot to keep the Passover. Sometimes all the people of Israel kept the Passover, 2 Chronicles 8:13; 30:15; 2 Kings 23:21; Ezra 6:19.

The Passover was important during the time of the New Testament. It was kept every year. People from many places went to Jerusalem to keep the Passover. Jesus kept the Passover also, Luke 2:41,42.

B. Feast of Unleavened Bread.

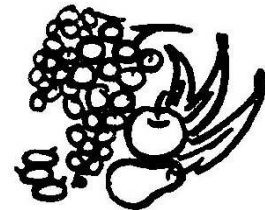


The Feast of Unleavened Bread came right after the Passover. Special offerings were made at this time, Leviticus 23:6-8; Numbers 28:17-25.

During the time of the New Testament the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread were kept as one feast.

C. Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks.

The Feast of Pentecost is also called the Day of First Fruits. The Hebrews called it the Feast of Weeks, Exodus 34:22. The Old Testament tells very little about this feast, Leviticus 23:15-22; Numbers 28:26-31.

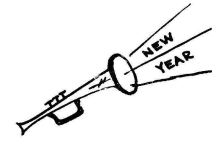


Pentecost was very important in the New Testament. The

Holy Spirit came at the Feast of Pentecost. The Church started at this time, Acts 2.

D. Feast of Trumpets.

The Feast of trumpets was the beginning of the civil (government) year. This feast is also so called the New Moon. It was their New Year's day. Trumpets were blown in the temple this day, Leviticus 23:23-24. It seems that only a few people kept this feast.

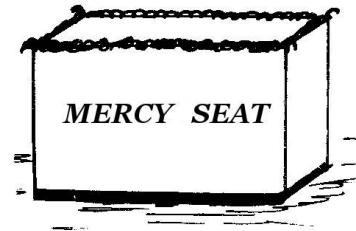


E. Day of Atonement.

On the Day of Atonement the people were to get right with God, Leviticus 23:26-32. On this day every year the priest had to take blood into the Holy of Holies. He sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat (top of the ark of covenant).



The same day the priest put his hands on a live goat. As he put his hands on the goat, he confessed the sins of the people. The goat was set free in the wilderness. This showed that the sins were carried away, Leviticus



The book of Hebrews shows how Jesus makes people right with God. Jesus made atonement for the people, Hebrews 9:24-28.

F. Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast of Tabernacles reminded the people of Israel of their wandering in the wilderness. They were to make many sacrifices at this feast, Leviticus 23:34-36; Numbers 29:12-39. The last day of the feast was an important day. This day is called the "great day" in John 7:37.



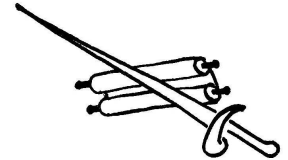
G. Feast of Lights or Dedication.

Antiochus from Syria had made the temple unclean about 168 B.C. He sacrificed a pig on the altar. Judas Maccabees cleaned the temple when he ruled. At the feast of Dedication the Jews

remembered this cleaning of the temple. The houses had bright lights. The stories of the Maccabees were told. Jesus went to the Feast of Dedication one time, John 10:22-23.

H. Feast of Purim.

The Feast of Purim began with Esther. The book of Esther was read in the synagogue each year at this feast. The New Testament does not tell about this feast.

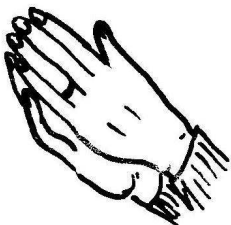
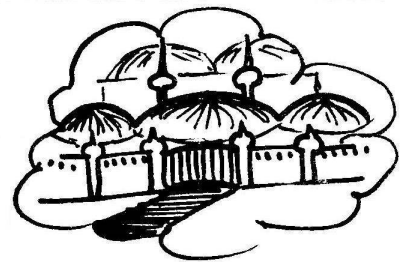


III. RELIGIOUS GROUPS

A. Pharisees.

The Pharisees started during the time of the Maccabees.

1. The Pharisees believed that they should stay away from all bad or evil things, Matthew 23:25-26.
2. The Pharisees believed all the Old Testament. They believed it was important to keep all the laws. In time the Pharisees had two kinds of laws, the written Law (from Moses) and the spoken law. The spoken laws were made up by the Pharisees. Many spoken laws were not good, Matthew 23:2-5; Mark 7:1-9.
3. The Pharisees believed that people would rise again after they died. They believed that the soul lives forever, Acts 23:8.
4. The Pharisees believed in spirits, Acts 23:8.
5. The Pharisees prayed often. They liked to pray where people could see them pray, Matthew 6:5; Luke 18:11.
6. The Pharisees fasted. This means that they did not eat food some days each week, Matthew 9:14; Luke



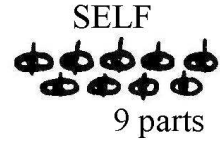
SPIRITS
 § § § § § § §

GOD
 ⊙

1 part

18:11,12.

7. The Pharisees tithed every thing they had, Matthew 23:23; Luke 18:11,12.



8. The Pharisees kept the Sabbath. They even believed it was wrong to heal sick people on the Sabbath, Luke 6:2,7.



9. The Pharisees believed it was their work to explain the laws of God to the people. They tried to keep the Jews from worshipping the gods of the Greeks. The Pharisees did not want the Jews to think the way the Greeks thought. (The Greeks did not know about the true and living God. The Greeks had many false gods and idols. The Greeks could have led the Jews to worship false gods.)

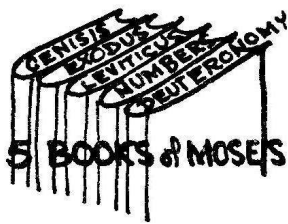
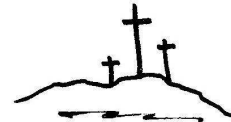


The Pharisees became very proud, Matthew 23:2,4. They thought they would go to heaven if they kept the laws. Some Pharisees really loved God and obeyed Him. Example: Nicodemus, John 3:1-2; 19:39.

B. Sadducees.



The Sadducees started about the same time as the Pharisees. The Sadducees came from the families of priests. They had lots of money. Because of this the people listened to what they said. The Sadducees helped rule the country.



1. The Sadducees believed mainly the five books of Moses.

2. The Sadducees did not believe that people would rise from the dead. They believed there was no life after death, Matthew 22:23, Acts 23:8.

3. The Sadducees did not believe in spirits and angels, Acts 23:8.

4. The Sadducees did not believe in keeping the spoken laws of the Pharisees.

5. The Sadducees accepted what the Greeks taught.

The Sadducees end as a group when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans (70 A.D.).

C. Council (Sanhedrin).

The Council is also called the Sanhedrin. The Bible uses the word "Council." The Council was like a court. It had 70 or 71 members. The members were mostly priests and Sadducees. There were some Pharisees, scribes and elders in the Council. (Elders were heads of families, like the elders in the Indian tribes.) The high priest was also a member of the Council.



The Council was really the ruling group. Those who did not teach Judaism were brought before the Council. Example: Jesus, Matthew 26:57-59.

It is believed the Council started about 300 B.C.

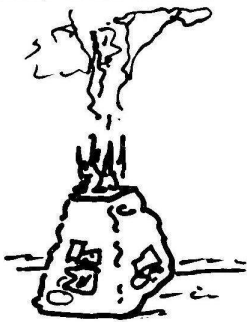
D. Scribes.

The scribes were men who copied the Word of God. They knew the Scriptures well. They also taught the people. The people listened to the scribes. The people followed their teachings.

The scribes also became proud, Matthew 23:2,5. They started to make their own laws. They made the people do religious things which were not taught in the Scripture.

E. Priests.

God gave the work of the priests to the family of Aaron, Exodus 28:1. Aaron was of the family of Levi. Aaron was made high priest when Moses lived.



The work of the priest was to take care of the worship of the people. They were to make offerings for the people, Exodus 29:1; 40:15; Hebrews 8:3; 9:6,7; 10:11. They taught the people the Word of God, Leviticus 10:8-11.

After the Jews came back from Babylon, the priests became the leaders of the government. The priest who was over all the priests was called the High Priest.

When Jesus was born, the High Priest was busy doing the work of the government. He did not have time to take care of the religious work. The High Priest thought more of the laws than of God.

Because the priests and other leaders did not obey the Word of God, they did not know the Savior. They rejected Jesus and had Him crucified, John 19:5-7.

F. Herodians.

The Herodians were Jews who supported the family of Herod. The Herodians thought that Herods would let them help rule the country. Then the country would not be completely ruled by the Romans. These people were in favor of paying taxes to the Roman government.

The Herodians were not a religious group. However, the Pharisees asked the Herodians to help them get Jesus into trouble, Mark 3:6; Matthew 22:15-22.

G. Samaritans.

The Samaritans were a mixed race (half breeds). They lived in the province of Samaria. Samaria was between Judea and Galilee.

The people of Israel and Samaria were taken away to Assyria, 721 B.C. The people of Israel had forgotten God. That is why God let the Assyrian people take the people of Israel away.

After this no one lived in Samaria. Then the king of Assyria sent people from his own country to live in Samaria, 2 Kings 17:24. These people were not Jews. These people prayed to many gods. They had many problems with the wild animals. They believed the God of the country was angry with them. They asked the king to send someone to teach them the ways of the God of the country. The king of Assyria sent a priest to teach them, 2 Kings 17:25-28. The priest taught the people of Samaria how to fear God. These people prayed to God and to their false gods, 2 Kings 17:29-41.

In 535 BC the Jews rebuilt the temple. The Samaritans wanted to help the Jews. The Jews would not let them help. The Jews knew the Samaritans wanted to stop the work on the temple, Ezra 4:1-3. Because the Samaritans tried to keep the Jews from building the temple, the Jews hated them. They hated the Samaritans even when

Jesus Christ was on earth, John 4:9.

Later a Jewish priest built a temple on a mountain for the Samaritans. The Samaritans believed they should worship at this mountain, John 4:19-20.

IV. WORDS TO LEARN

1. atonement - when the sin which is between a person and God is taken away or covered by the shedding of blood.
2. civil - belonging to the people of a country or the way of governing a country.
3. dedication - setting something apart or someone apart for a special reason; to give something or someone to God.
4. fast - not to eat food for a longer time than usual.
5. Herodian - a Jew who upheld the family of Herod as rulers of Judea.
6. mercy seat - the top of the ark of the covenant - the place where God met with people.
7. Passover - a feast of the Jews to remember when the death angel passed over the homes in Egypt of those who believed and obeyed God.
8. Pentecost - "fiftieth," - a feast 7 weeks after the Passover. The Holy Spirit was given on the first Pentecost after Christ was crucified.
9. Pharisee - "separated," one of a group of Jews who kept the Law and laws. They thought they were better than the other Jews.
10. Purim - "lots," a feast to remember when the Jews were saved from death when Esther was queen.
11. reject - to not to accept something when offered.
12. Sadducees - "the righteous one," a group of Jews who kept the Law of Moses.

13. Samaritan - a person from the province of Samaria, usually of mixed race.
14. Sanhedrin Council - the group of Jews who judged those who disobeyed the Jewish laws.
15. scribe - one who writes, especially a person who copies the Bible.
16. support - to hold up or uphold someone or something.
17. tabernacle - the tent church - means "to live with."
18. tithe - the Jews were to give one tenth of what they earned or received to the Lord. One tenth of \$10.00 is \$1.00.
19. unleavened - without yeast.

V. ASSIGNMENT

1. Tell 8 things the Pharisees believed and did.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)
 - 6)
 - 7)
 - 8)
2. Tell 5 things the Sadducees believed or did not believe.
 - 1)

- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
3. How many members were in the Council?
4. Which groups of people were in the Council?
5. Whose family did the priests come from?
6. Who are the Samaritans?
7. To which feasts did Jesus go?
 - 1) Luke 2:41 , John 2:13 , John 12:1
 - 2) Matthew 26:17
 - 3) John 10:22-23
 - 4) John 7:2,10
8. Which groups of people were against the Lord Jesus Christ?

1) Matthew 22:23	2) Matthew 22:15
3) Matthew 22:16	4) John 19:5-7
5) Matthew 26:59	6) Matthew 16:21
9. What would happen if a ruler said, "I believe in Jesus"? John 12:42
10. Did the groups mentioned in #8 believe Jesus was the One sent from God? John 7:47,48; John 19:5-7.

Why?

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