

SPEAKERS

November 6 – Ken Storm,  
*Holy Communion*

November 13 – Dave Lappi

November 20 – Ken Storm

November 27 – Nathan  
Ruonavaara, *Potluck Meal  
Following Service*

CHURCH SCHEDULE

**Sunday Service:** 11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday Bible Study:**  
7:00 p.m.

CONTACT

**Website:**  
[www.tapiolachurch.org](http://www.tapiolachurch.org)

**Mailing:** P.O. Box 531,  
Houghton, MI 49931

**Location:**  
17602 N. Lake Ave.,  
Tapiola, MI 49916  
(906) 334-2766

**Contact:** Ken Storm, Pastor  
(906) 482-3234

The Seven Feasts of Leviticus

The seven feasts of Leviticus appear to demand that a person regularly perform a series of rituals to please God. However, careful study shows that they do not require man to do anything for God: rather, they show what God has done for man. Similarly, God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, not for people to follow but for people to know what sin is. God's plan of salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ is revealed by these feasts. This article briefly describes their meaning, shows the significance of when they occur and connects them to us.

1. **Passover (Lev 23:5; Exodus 12:1-13)** – on the night that Israel was released from bondage the blood of an unblemished lamb marked the doorway of those households which were spared the death of their firstborn. Besides being a prelude to Israel's freedom, this feast also pictures the sacrifice of Jesus where His blood marks the hearts of souls whose sins are forgiven and who are thus spared from the second death. God wanted His people to always remember Passover: "*this day shall be unto you for a memorial...ye shall keep it...for ever*" (Exodus 12:14). He also wants believers today to remain ever grateful and mindful of their release from bondage to sin and, moreover, to "*...lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us*" (Heb 12:1) throughout their lives.
2. **Unleavened Bread (Lev 23:6, 11; Exodus 12:17, 19; 13:6)** – this seven-day feast began on the Sabbath, the day after Passover, to celebrate the day that God brought Israel out of Egypt. The bread eaten on this feast had to be unleavened, not only because the Israelites were in a hurry and did not have time to use leaven, but because leaven represented sin and God wanted no leaven to be found in their houses. It follows, therefore, that unleavened bread represents a sinless condition which, of course, portrays the body of Christ that was to be sacrificed for the sins of the world.
3. **First Fruits (Lev 23:11)** – this feast happened "*...on the morrow after the Sabbath*" which corresponds to Sunday—the day of the week Jesus arose from the dead. The modern church has somewhat inaccurately come to call this feast day Easter when in truth it celebrates Resurrection Day.
4. **Pentecost (Lev 23:16-17)** – fifty days after the feast of First Fruits came the feast of Pentecost. Notably, it was on this feast day many years later that the disciples of Jesus were infilled with the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:4), and it was on this feast that leaven was to be used in bread: "*Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves... they shall be baked with leaven*". Offering two loaves revealed that God, after the crucifixion of Christ, would speak to both Jew and Gentile, and the leaven, which earlier was considered to be sin, now represented the Holy Ghost filling the hearts of all people who repent and believe the gospel of Jesus proclaimed to them.
5. **Trumpets (Lev 23:23-25)** – this feast was observed seven months after Passover by blowing trumpets to signal "*an holy convocation*" for the people to attend. Interestingly, trumpets have been used elsewhere in the Bible to awaken people to danger. In such instances, the trumpet was used only as a warning; no one was compelled to respond. However, those who ignored the warning had no one else to blame if they suffered loss: "*whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning...his blood shall be upon his own head*" (Ezekiel 33:4). Today, Jesus has commissioned all believers to sound the

awakening trumpet by preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins to everybody (Luke 24:47).

6. **Atonement (Lev 16:29-34)** – nine days after the feast of Trumpets was the feast of Atonement in which “...ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord”. A person awakened to his sin is said to be afflicted in his soul. This person has the option to either confess his sin or to ignore it. If he willingly chose to confess his sin, he would then bring an unblemished animal to sacrifice at the door of the tabernacle where he would confess his sin before a priest who sprinkled the blood before the Lord to make “...an atonement for you, to cleanse you...from all your sins”.
7. **Tabernacles (Lev 23:34)** – five days after the feast of Atonement was the feast of Tabernacles. It consisted of a weeklong feast unto the Lord starting on a Sabbath day in which believers rejoiced because of what God had done for them.

In summary, the seven feasts of Leviticus unveil the way of salvation for all who diligently search for it—they are not a list of works for man to achieve. These feasts show that sacrifice and shedding of blood is the essence of salvation for which Jesus was crucified on *Passover*. His crucifixion was then celebrated by eating *Unleavened Bread* which represented the body of Jesus and His resurrection was commemorated through the feast of *First Fruits*. At this point, God’s wrath over sin was assuaged but the story of salvation continues with the next four feasts. It’s *Pentecost* that marks the coming of the Holy Ghost which was absolutely necessary for salvation because “...if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9). To receive the Holy Ghost man must be awakened to his sin, as explained in the feast of *Trumpets* and, once awoken, he confesses his sin to another believer who has the God-given authority to preach the word of reconciliation—*Atonement* for his sin has thus been made. Finally, the feast of *Tabernacles* shows that believers will always thank and praise God for the gift of the Holy Ghost while they continue to hunger and thirst for righteousness throughout their lives.

God’s Peace,  
Charles Korhonen