

## THE FEASTS OF THE LORD

The eternal God of Israel instituted seven FEASTS in the Scriptures. They are not merely called “*the feasts of Israel*” but rather “*the feasts of the LORD*”. They originated from, are ordained by, and are focused on God and His plan.

These 7 feasts are referenced throughout the Bible. However, they are found listed all together in chronological order in only one place in the Bible, and that is found in Leviticus 23.

### Leviticus 23:4 (NKJV)

4 ‘These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.

The sequence and timing of each one of these feasts were placed and ordered according to God’s divine time schedule. This calendar is precisely orchestrated by God according to His “*appointed times*” for a reason. Each one of these feasts makes a specific contribution to God’s comprehensive story of redemption.

Taken as a whole, these feasts give a prophetic overview of the entire redemptive career of the Messiah related to both His First Coming, the Church Age, and His Second Coming.

Leviticus 23 presents these feasts in relationship primarily to Israel. However, even the Church is typified, in a hidden way, in the midst of this revelation.

The feasts of YHWH were to be times of sacred assembly. The basic Hebrew word for **feast** also includes the idea of “*pilgrimage*”. And so, we could aptly call these “*pilgrim feasts*”. There were 3 principal feasts in which all the males who were of age were to appear before the Lord; namely, the feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles (cf. Ex. 23:14-17, 34:18-25, Deut. 16:16).

Psalms 120 through Psalm 134 are referred to as “The Psalms (or Songs) of Ascent”. The word **ascent** has the idea of “*step*” or “*degree*”.

These songs were sung by the pilgrims as they ASCENDED up to go and worship at Jerusalem. Jerusalem, the place of worship, was always UP. Therefore, the 15 Ascent Psalms were known as “*Psalms of Aliyah,*” meaning “*Psalms of going up.*”

The city of Jerusalem is about 2,500 feet above sea level. Pilgrims approaching the city would literally be ascending up to Jerusalem from whatever direction they came from. However, these pilgrims also regarded going UP to Jerusalem as an UPLIFTING spiritual experience, as they came to worship in God's presence (cf. Isa. 2:2-3).

Jerusalem is the special, EXALTED city chosen by God (cf. Ps. 48:2), where He uniquely placed His Name (cf. 2 Kg. 23:27). It was the WORSHIP center of the world (cf. Deut. 12:11, 14, 1 Ki. 11:36). There was excitement as the people traveled to Jerusalem to meet with the Almighty God, the one true God, the God of Israel. With each step upward, they drew closer to the One Who dwelt in the Holy of Holies.

**Psalm 84:5 (NKJV)**

**5** Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.