

How to Calculate the Dates of the Fall Feast Days

by Steve Barwick, with Peggy Sue Latham

I've received a lot of questions about how to calculate the dates of the fall feast days on our English (i.e., Gregorian) calendar.

Many people teach that you calculate the fall feast days by counting three sets of 50 days (i.e., three jubilees) past the Passover. But mathematically, that simply doesn't work out. Open a year-long calendar and count it out for yourself. You'll find it's an erroneous teaching.

So I reached out to our good sister Peggy Sue Latham, an excellent Bible student, who has been kind enough to help us calculate the dates for the fall feast days this year, based on her understanding of Leviticus 23.

30 Day Months

Peggy points out that our heavenly Father counts in terms of absolute 30 day months. For example, the 1260 days of Revelation 11:3 is the equivalent of 42 sets of *30 days each*. Right?

Likewise, when you're calculating the fall feast days, you start with the Spring Equinox on the day it occurs *in Israel*, not in the U.S. That's because Israel is roughly seven hours ahead of our Eastern Standard Time. Plus, unlike our days which basically begin after midnight each morning, their days run from sundown to sundown. So with those factors involved, they're essentially a day ahead of us for the purposes of calculating feast days.

So from the day of the Spring Equinox in Israel (essentially one day before the Spring Equinox in the U.S.), you count *six separate sets of 30 days each*, totaling 180 days, to reach the 1st of Tisri. The 1st of Tisri is the Feast of Trumpets, and begins the fall feast days.

This is in line with our heavenly Father's instructions given in Leviticus 23:24. As it's written there:

Lev 23:24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

So the Feast of Trumpets begins on *the first day of the seventh month* of the Hebrew calendar, which is the 1st of Tisri.

To calculate when the 1st of Tisri occurs on *our* Gregorian calendar, you simply count from the date of the Spring Equinox (i.e., using the date the equinox starts *in Israel*) a total of *six sets of 30 days each*. Here's how it works out this year:

- **March 19** -- From March 19 (i.e., the Spring Equinox in Israel) count your first 30 days forward.
- **April 17** -- That *first* set of 30 days from March 19 brings you to April 17. Now count your second set of 30 days.
- **May 17** -- This is your *second* set of 30 days, which brings you to May 17. Now count a third set of 30 days.
- **June 16** -- This is your *third* set of 30 days, bringing you to June 16. Now count a fourth set of 30 days.
- **July 16** -- This is your *fourth* set of 30 days, bringing you to July 16. Now count a fifth set of 30 days.
- **August 15** -- This is your *fifth* set of 30 days, bringing you to August 15. Now count a sixth set of 30 days to get to the full 180 days.
- **September 14 (Feast of Trumpets)** -- This is your *sixth* set of 30 days, bringing you to September 14. This is the 1st of Tisri on the Hebrew calendar, meaning the first day of the seventh month, as described in Leviticus 23:24, above. It's the Feast of Trumpets. Now, count 10 days past this date to find the Day of Atonement. As it's written:

Leviticus 23:27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

- **September 24 (Day of Atonement)** -- This is 10 days later, which is the Day of Atonement. Now count five more days (giving you a total of 15 days from the Day of Atonement), which takes you to Christ's *true* birthday, and the very first day of the Feast of Tabernacles.
- **September 29 (Christ's true birthday, and first day of the Feast of Tabernacles)** -- This is five days past the Day of Atonement, which is Christ's birthday as well as the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. As it's written:

Leviticus 23:34 -- Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

So as we're told above in Leviticus 23:34, the Feast of Tabernacles carries on for another seven days, and then the *eighth* day afterwards is the High Holy Day that ends the Feast of Tabernacles. As it's written:

Leviticus 23:36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.

So count forward eight days from September 29th, and you get:

- **October 6-7 (High Holy Day; Christ's circumcision)** -- this is the High Holy Day that ends the Feast of Tabernacles; it starts at sundown of October 6th on our calendar and runs until sundown of October 7th. It's also the day Jesus was circumcised as a baby, under Hebrew law, i.e., the eighth day after His birth.

And that basically completes the count of the fall feast days. As it's written:

Lev 23:37 These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day:

Foreshadowing Jesus Christ

You can learn more about these fall feast days by reading Leviticus chapter 23.

But always keep in mind that *all* of the main feast days -- the Passover, the Pentecost, and the Feasts of Trumpets/Tabernacles -- foreshadowed our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who became the once-and-for-all-times sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 10:10) when He shed His blood on that cross at Calvary.

So the sacrifices described in Leviticus 23 have been fulfilled *in Christ*.

And we honor *Him* and show our love for Him on those main feast days by repenting of our sins...taking Holy Communion in remembrance of Him...thanking Him for shedding His precious blood in payment for our sins...thanking Him for granting us the wisdom of His Word through the anointing of the Holy Spirit...and finally, thanking Him for becoming Head of the many-membered body we're now so privileged to be a part of.

It's through that many-membered body that the Lord tabernacles with us, and we with Him, which is what the Feast of Tabernacles foreshadowed. He now dwells *within* each of us, individually as well as collectively, through the Holy Spirit, just as the ancient Israelites dwelt in booths before the Lord throughout the days of the Feast of Tabernacles.

What's more, He allows us to dwell *within Him* through His many-membered body, of which He is the Head, and whose Holy Spirit of truth runs through every sinew of that body.

As Christ Jesus Himself spoke of that precious body, during His very poignant prayer to the Father just before His crucifixion:

Joh 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Joh 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Joh 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Joh 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

And that's the point of the holy feast days, beloved. He did it all for us, so that we could be *at one with (and in) Him*. Eternally.

What more can we say to that, but a humble and eternally grateful “thank you Lord,” for that privilege and honor.

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