



## Sabbath Blessing: Part Seven

### “Put On Your Party Hat”

Leviticus 23:39-43

*"A world without a Sabbath would be like a man without a smile, like a summer without flowers, and like a homestead without a garden. It is the most joyous day of the week."*

- Henry Ward Beecher.

#### The Sabbath as a Feast or Festive Day

It leads the list in the summary of Israel's feasts in Leviticus 23

Three festival meals

Customary to wear nice clothing

Three synagogue services

Days of public fasting or mourning are worked around Sabbath

Prayers, rituals, songs, family time, marital relations

Entrance and exit

#### The Feasts of Israel

The Seven Feast	Purpose	Duration	Text
Passover/Pesach	Exodus from Egypt	1 day in March/April	Leviticus 23:5
Unleavened Bread/Hag Hamatzot	Exodus from Egypt, called to be a holy people	7 days in March/April	Leviticus 23:6-8
First Fruits/Yom Habikkurim	Redemption of firstborn, Red Sea crossing	1 day in March/April	Leviticus 23:9-14
Pentecost/Shavuot	Giving of the Law	1 day 50 days after First Fruits	Leviticus 23:15-21
Trumpets/Rosh Hashana	Ingathering of Covenant people	1 day in September/October	Leviticus 23:23-25
Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur	Cleansing people from sin and purifying the altar	1 day in September/October	Leviticus 23:26-32
Booths/Sukkot	Thanks for the Tabernacle and Temple, provision	8 days in September/October	Leviticus 23:33-43

### **Three Common Denominators**

Solemn rest: **Leviticus 23:7,21, 24, 32, 35-36**

Offerings to the Lord: **Leviticus 23:8, 11-13, 17-19, 25, 27, 26**

Remembering, memorializing, celebrating, thanksgiving: **Leviticus 23:43**

### **The Celebration of the Feast of Booths as a Model of Healthy Celebrating: **Leviticus 23:33-43****

Bookended by Sabbath days of rest

Seven days celebrating with fruit of splendid trees, leafy boughs, brook willows: **vs. 40**

Getting into the booths with your whole body

Commanded emotion can be problematic

“Rejoice” as actions that can siphon joy, anticipate joy: **Deuteronomy 16:14-15**

Sabbath practices can instruct our hearts in joy in a very sad world

Start and finish

Plan and choose elements that can function as joy-starters

Keep it communal

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