

Keep the Feast - Rosh Hashanah New Beginning

Dr. John Carmichael

[1Co 5:8 NASB95] 8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- We are in the midst of Rosh Hashanah. If you do not know much about it, you are not alone.

What do we need to know about Rosh Hashanah as NT believers?

Here are some important things to know about Rosh Hashanah as NT believers.

I. What is Rosh Hashanah?

a. One of the major feasts.

- Leviticus 23 lists the feasts.
- The commanded biblical festivals are: The Passover (v. 5); The Days of Unleavened Bread (vv. 6–8); The Feast of Weeks, called the Day of Pentecost in the New Testament (vv. 15–22); The Feast of Trumpets (vv. 23–25); The Day of Atonement (vv. 26–32); The Feast of Tabernacles (vv. 33–39); The Eighth Day Feast, called the Last Great Day in the New Testament (v. 39)

b. Feast of Trumpets

- NEW YEAR! Rosh Hashana literally means “head of the year.” Jews believe that on this day God created the heavens and the earth. They also believe other biblical events happened on this day. For example, they believe that Adam was created on this day and that Samuel was born on this day. Jews also believe the first temple was dedicated on this day. (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-is-the-feast-of-trumpets.html>)
- God said they would blow trumpets calling to a convocation. They were rest and bring an offering in addition to the regular offerings.
- Jews celebrate it by blowing trumpets, casting sins away, eating apples with honey, and eat olives.

II. Should Christians keep the feast?

a. Jesus kept the feasts.

- [Luk 2:41-42 NASB95] 41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when He became twelve, they went up [there] according to the custom of the Feast;
- [Luk 22:15 NASB95] 15 And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;
- [Jhn 7:2, 37 NASB95] 2 Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. ... 37 Now on the last day, the great [day] of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

b. Paul kept the feasts.

- Note: Corinth was a predominately Gentile congregation. [1Co 5:8 NASB95] 8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
- [1Co 11:23-26 NASB95] 23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way [He took] the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do

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this, as often as you drink [it,] in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

- iii. Acts 18:21 – possible "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem..."
- iv. Twenty-five years after the resurrection (similar Acts 20:16): [1Co 16:8 NASB95] 8 But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost.

c. Early Christians kept the feasts.

- i. Such were Philip of the twelve apostles...There is also John, who lay on the Lord's breast..., and there is also Polycarp...All these kept the fourteenth day of the Passover according to the gospel, never swerving, but following according to the rule of the faith" (Eusebius, The Ecclesiastical History, English translation from the original Greek by Kirsopp Lake, Vol. II, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1926, pp. 505, 507).
- ii. Stopped by the actions Council Nicaea (AD 325) and of Constantine, who some say had antisemitic worldview.

d. Warning

- i. Avoid superstitions.
 1. There are numerous Jewish superstitions surrounding these feasts. The council of Nicaea made mention of the superstitions.
- ii. Not salvatic.
 1. [Col 2:16-17 NASB95] 16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day 17 things which are a [mere] shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.
 2. Keeping feasts do not save you. Faith in Christ saves you.
 3. Christians are therefore free to keep a kosher diet or to observe the sabbath if they please. There is nothing wrong with those things. However, they cannot think that eating kosher or sabbath observance makes them any closer to God, and they cannot judge another brother or sister who does not observe such laws. – Guzik, D. "Study Guide for Colossians 2 by David Guzik." Blue Letter Bible. Last Modified 6/2022.
https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/colossians/colossians-2.cfm

III. What is the value of keeping the feast?

a. Prophetic act.

- i. Just as we anoint with oil, get baptized in water, and receive communion we use these feasts as a prophetic act.
- ii. A prophetic act is where we do an external act that corresponds to an internal truth.

b. Promises activation.

- i. When we do these acts we activate this promises. They become a point of contact to release our faith to experience what He has for us.
- ii. Acts and promises
 1. Give offering while we believe God for provision and prosperity.
 2. Receive communion believing for the repentance and obtaining forgiveness.
 3. Eating olives believing for the power and person of the Holy Spirit.
 4. Eating apples/honey believing for the goodness of God.

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5. Throwing something in the water symbolizing letting go of sin and walking in the blessing of God.
- **Whether you celebrate Rosh Hashanah or not, know this: Everyday in Christ is a new beginning for us to receive repentance, forgiveness as we experience the power of the Holy Spirit and the goodness of God.**