

# FEASTS OF THE LORD

## Introduction

At a closer look at Scriptures, we see that God works through seasons. These seasons are like a divinely prepared timetable of God's dealings with mankind. In the Old Testament, God stipulated festivals to be observed by the children of Israel. In the Church Era we have also dates which are celebrated in remembrance of specific God's dealings with the Church. The festivals in the Old Testament and those in the Church Era, both have significance today.

This guide provides the outline for the observance of these Judeo-Christian festivals for the observance by Christ-Citadel International Church in their due seasons. The first part gives the background to the festivals. This is followed by the outline of the festivals and guidelines on how they should be observed. Details are in the Guidelines for the Judeo-Christian Feasts at the CIC website .Annex 1 is a calendar for the feasts and other CIC programmes.

## Background

The festivals (feasts) point to the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrificial death. The feasts are divided into two sections; these are (1) the Spring Feasts, and (2) the Autumn Feasts. It is impossible to understand the true significance of the feasts if we leave Jesus Christ out of the picture.

The Hebrew word for convocation (*miqra*) means "a rehearsal", and implies a getting ready or practicing for some future event. As a result, they are known as the Appointed Feasts. These can only be symbolic acts that speak of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. In these "rehearsals" God was teaching the Jews something of what the Messiah would accomplish.

The feasts as ceremonies were observed in both the Temple at Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 16:16) and in the home. This reveals that there must not be any separation between our spiritual and secular lives. The feasts were also twofold in nature since they looked both forward and backward. We noted that the word "feast" (Hebrew 'Mo'ed) has the meaning of an appointment in a specific place, which was for the Jews, Jerusalem. They were to pilgrimage to the Temple three times every year. On each occasion a redemptive act was carried out. All seven

festivals teach us important truths, while each individual feast majors on a central theme in the redemptive plan of God.

Three aspects can be identified from the festivals of the LORD, namely:

- (a) They are observed in memory of something that God has done. God leaves memorials to His miraculous deeds. They are important to be respected and not destroyed.
- (b) They point to something God is going to do (prophetic). For example, Jesus was crucified on Passover, raised from the dead at the Feast of First Fruits Sheaf offering and poured out His Spirit on the waiting disciples fifty days later at Pentecost.
- (c) The meaning of these festivals is to find fulfillment in our lives. For example, Christ must be received as our Passover Lamb – our deliverance from sin and hell.

## **The Festivals of the LORD**

Though we tend to speak more about the power we have received through Jesus Christ, it is when we know the full truth about the festival seasons that this power is associated with that we can enter into the full complement of benefits, blessings and power that God has prepared for those who are willing and obedient. In association with this, we must fully comply with Exodus 23:14-17 and Deut. 16:16-20.

As such the following are the Judeo-Christian festivals which Christ-Citadel International Church should observe every year (see Annex 1A on the CIC website [for the calendar](#)).

### **A. THE THREE FESTIVALS OF THE LORD**

#### **1. Passover Feast Season**

##### **Components:**

- 1.1 Passover Feast
- 1.2 Feast of Unleavened Bread
- 1.3 Feast of the Firstfruit of Barley

The Christian Church has identified days to be observed during the Easter Holiday period indicated below with their significance/association in parentheses)

- a. Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter Sunday (celebrates the presentation of the Passover Lamb(Jesus)to the High Priest in Jerusalem after the period of Preparation).
- b. Good Friday(the sacrifice of the Passover Lamb)
- c. Easter/Holy Saturday(First Day of the 7-day Feast of Unleavened Bread; Gathering of Sheaf of Firstfruits of Barley)
- d. Easter Sunday.(Offering of Firstfruits of Barley(Resurrection of Jesus))
- e. Easter Monday(Public/Bank Holiday that Christians use to travel back home after Retreats, Crusades or other programmes or simply to recover after a hectic period)

## 2. Feast of Pentecost Season

This involves one major component, the Feast of Pentecost/Harvest that celebrates the empowerment of Israel by the Great Harvest of Wheat with the Firstfruits of Wheat presented as two large loaves of bread per family. In addition there were other spiritual exercises carried out at the congregation and family levels.

### **MESSAGE PREACHED BY THE GENERAL OVERSEER IN NOTTINGHAM ON 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2016.**

It focused on the service of the Passover Meal known as the Seder

The sequence of events is as follo

10<sup>th</sup> day of the First Month(Abib or Nissan)- Identify the Passover lamb

<b>Event</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Scriptures/Remarks</b>
Identify the Passover Lamb.	10 <sup>th</sup> Day of the First Month(Abib, now Known as Nissan)	Exod 12:1-7
Prepararation of house for the Sederto remove any contamination by leaven. For the	Day 1 to Day 9 of Nissan	

Believer it is the preparation of the Heart		
Presentation of the Passover Lamb to the High Priest for examination.		
Passover Seder	Night of the 13 <sup>th</sup> day of Nissan	Luke 22:7-13 See separate Order of service
Feast of Unleavened Bread	Days 15 to 21 of Nissan	Exod. 12:15, Lev. 23:6  Days 1 and 21 are Sacred Asssembly Days(Sabbaths)
Festival of Firstfruits of Barley	Day 16 of Nissan(Sunday)	

## **Lessons from the Passover Service/Ritual**

Particular emphasis has been placed on the relevance of the Passover Meal and the Feast of Unleavened Bread ,  
 Details on the components of the Passover Seder, the associated processes and their application to the Christian are given at the CIC website.

## **Washing of Feet**

The early part of the Passover Seder involved the Leader washing his hands.

Jesus went further with this tradition by humbling himself to wash the feet of His disciples and enjoined all believers to do likewise and practice servant-leadership.

This explains why at CIC we have the washing of feet at Passover each year.