

Thanksgiving A Holy Day

Leviticus 23: 15-21

22 November 2020

Series: Holidays

Leviticus 23: 15-18

- ¹⁵ 'You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths.
- ¹⁶ 'You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD. ¹⁷ 'You shall bring in from your dwelling places two *loaves* of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths *of an ephah*; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as first fruits to the LORD. ¹⁸ 'Along with the bread you shall present seven one year old male lambs without defect, and a bull of the herd and two rams; they are to be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

Leviticus 23: 19-21

¹⁹ 'You shall also offer one male goat for a sin offering and two male lambs one year old for a sacrifice of peace offerings. ²⁰ 'The priest shall then wave them with the bread of the first fruits for a wave offering with two lambs before the LORD; they are to be holy to the LORD for the priest. ²¹ 'On this same day you shall make a proclamation as well; you are to have a holy convocation. You shall do no laborious work. It is to be a perpetual statute in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.

Set Time for Thanksgiving

- God set the date for Israel – 50 days after First Fruit offerings.
 - Around May-June each year.
- Plymouth separatists set a date in 1621.
 - Sometime between September 18-December 11.
 - Puritans set apart another day of Thanksgiving in 1623.
- Abraham Lincoln set the national holiday of Thanksgiving October 3, 1863 for last Thursday of November each year.
 - December 1941, Congress established the 3rd Thursday of November each year.

Community Thanksgiving

- Verse 21 calls for a holy convocation.
 - In other words a holy assembly.
- Thanksgiving is a get together time.
 - It's a great time to be a blessing to the less fortunate.
 - Due to time off it's a great time to focus on our relationship with God through Christ.
 - What a great opportunity to represent Jesus Christ to lost family members.

Purposeful Thanksgiving

- What was the purpose of the Feast of Harvest?
 - To thank God for providing it.
- What is lacking in many American celebrations of Thanksgiving?
 - The true heart of thanks!

Conclusion

- Let's bring thanks back into Thanksgiving.
 - Reflect on all the blessings in your possession and recognize that they are all gifts of God.
 - Start preparing your heart for Thanksgiving Day by thinking of all the things you have to thank God for.
 - Go one step further and think of something you can share with your Thanksgiving company of how you are thankful for each one of them.