

we are to honor one another's convictions and be careful not to offend one another by violating one another's consciences. This he says is important because the **“kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”**

**Romans 14:14-23** - 14 I know and am **convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.** 15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. **Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.** 16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; 17 for **the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** 18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then **let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.** **20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.** 21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles. 22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But **he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.** NASB

Much more could be said in regard to the dietary laws but let us here suffice to say that as a part of the Ceremonial Law, these were fulfilled in the Person and Work of Christ. Of course they have now been abrogated as we have clearly seen in the teaching of Jesus and the Apostles. One may choose to keep them for reasons of good health or religious tradition, but certainly not by way of New Covenant obedience.

### What about the Jewish Feasts?

Another part of the Ceremonial Law was how God prescribed to be worshipped in Israel by the commemorative **Feasts**. He commanded that they keep seven annual Feast celebrations to commemorate different aspects of their redemption and honor God as His holy people. These Feasts are to happen at a given time each year in order to commemorate some specific feature of God's provision for them. Because of the nature of the Law being filled with types and shadows, there is much **symbolism** to be seen in these Feasts. One interesting aspect to the Feasts is that the type is only specifically fulfilled in Christ's First Advent for 4 of the 7 Feasts, and 3 remain to have a fulfillment. Here is a brief overview of the seven commemorative Feasts.

| Feast                 | When             | Reference                | Significance                        | Status                            |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Passover              | Nisan 14-21      | Ex 12:2-20, Lev 23:5     | Deliverance from Egypt/Slavery      | Fulfilled/Christ our Passover     |
| Unleavened Bread      | Nisan 15-21      | Lev 23:6-8               | Deliverance from Egypt/to Holiness  | Fulfilled/Christ-Communion        |
| First Fruits          | Nisan 16         | Lev 23:9-14              | The Lord provides bountifully       | Fulfilled/Christ-Raised from dead |
| Weeks/Pentecost       | Sivan 6/count 50 | Ex 23:16, Lev 23:15-21   | Gratitude for harvest               | Fulfilled/Holy Spirit Church      |
| Trumpets              | Tishri 1         | Lev 23:23-25, Num 29:1-6 | Present Israel before the Lord      | Future                            |
| Day of Atonement      | Tishri 10        | Lev 23:26-33             | Atonement for Sin/National          | Future                            |
| Booths or Tabernacles | Tishri 15-21     | Lev 23:33-43             | Desert wandering to Canaan's bounty | Future                            |

These Feasts were inaugurated by God each with a very specific purpose to “**remember**” or commemorate some aspect of **God’s provision**. As with everything in God’s economy, they were meant to give glory unto God for His gracious care and sustenance. The Feasts were a way to incorporate the worship of God into the fabric of the annual life of Israel, and to recall for God’s holy people what God has done and is doing for them as Creator and Redeemer with a national religious Feast of remembrance. The **prophetic typology** of the Feasts has been the subject of much dialogue and controversy. The fulfillment of each Feast obviously points to some aspect of Christ’s life and ministry, either in His first or second Advents.

- **Passover** – The first Feast in the first month, **Spring**. Slaying and eating an unblemished lamb (no broken bones), together with bitter herbs and unleavened bread, in every household, and putting the lamb’s blood on the doorpost to evade the destroying angel come to kill the firstborn, commemorates the deliverance from the slavery of Egypt, **Fulfillment** - Christ was crucified on Passover and referred to in 1 Cor 5:7 as our Passover Lamb, **Salvation, Rest**
- **Unleavened Bread** – Happens on the next night after Passover, **Spring**, begins seven days of sacrificial offerings and eating of unleavened bread only, to remember God’s deliverance from Egypt in haste, **Fulfillment** - Christ was buried just before this feast began-sundown, **Sanctification**, God’s people now set apart as “without sin-leaven” and holy to the Lord with a day of Rest on the first and seventh day
- **First Fruits** – Happens the next day after Unleavened Bread, **Spring**, present a wave offering of the First Fruits of the crops before the Lord to recognize His provision and sovereignty over their agriculture, special lamb burnt offering and grain offering, **Fulfillment** - Christ was raised on this day (Resurrection Sunday) and is called the First Fruits from the dead with a reference to His resurrection (1 Cor 15:20), **Glorification**
- **Pentecost** – To remember with a joyful celebration the **Summer** (early/wheat) harvest, happens on a Sunday seven Sabbaths after Unleavened bread (count 50 days), two wave loaves made with leaven, special sacrificial offerings, field edge gleanings for the poor and needy, **Fulfillment** - the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Church happened on Pentecost, and the Jew-Gentile (two wave loves-leaven) Church was born, power for Gospel witness Acts 1:8 for the purpose of the Church age – summer Harvest
- **Trumpets** – This **Fall** feast is signified by the blowing of a Shofar (ram’s horn) which was used to call the assembly together to be presented before the Lord with special sacrificial offerings and a day of Rest, **Fulfillment** - apparently has no fulfillment yet but some say that the Rapture (calling of the assembly) will take place on Trumpets... note the trumpets present in some Rapture passages (**Matt 24:31, 1 Cor 15:52, 1 Thes 4:16**)
- **Atonement** – On this **Fall** day the High Priest makes atonement for the sins of the whole nation by sacrifice entering into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle the blood on the Mercy Seat, the scapegoat was sent into the wilderness with the people’s sins, mourning on this solemn day of fasting, **Fulfillment** - apparently has no fulfillment yet but some say that it will be the day of the National Salvation of Israel (**Zech 12:10-13:1**).
- **Tabernacles** – This **Fall** feast is a weeklong joyful harvest celebration to remember the journey from Egypt to Canaan by rejoicing and resting, living in booths or Tabernacles and offering sacrifices, **Fulfillment** - Joy and Rest in the Kingdom Age (**Zech 14:16-19**)

Some of the prophetic aspects of the Feasts are clearer than others, but nevertheless they are a magnificent way that God prescribed for the nation to remember Him as holy and ever and always keep themselves **in faith before the Lord**, woven into the annual life of Israel.