

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD OVERVIEW – RELIGIOUS CONTEXT – JEWISH INSTITUTIONS

REVIEW:

Two Main Threads of Concentration:

- I. **POLITICAL CONTEXT -- CHANGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE --**
Progression of Different Historical Empires impacting the Jews in Palestine
This thread will be treated chronologically.
Highlighting key events and trends that will be significant for the spread of
Christianity and the fulfillment of God's kingdom agenda

A. Kingdoms / Empires:

1. Persian Period – 430-332 BC
2. Greek Period -- 331-167 BC
3. Egyptian Period -- 323-198 BC
4. Syrian Period -- 198-165 BC
5. Maccabean Period – 165-63 BC
6. Hasmonean Rule 140-63 BC
7. Roman Period 63-4 BC

B. Key Events:

1. Evolution of Classical Greek to Koine Greek
2. Translation of the Septuagint
3. Abomination of Desolation – Antiochus Epiphanes
4. Festival of Lights / Hanukkah
5. Herod's Temple
6. Roman system of roads

APPLICATION: Don't give up on the promises of God

God has made significant promises to the Jewish nation – look at the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants. The Jewish people had an expectation that God would come thru on these promises.

Let's just look at one very specific promise – **Is. 11:6-9** – Context is the kingdom reign of the **Righteous Branch** = the Messiah

And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the kid, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. ⁷ Also the cow and the bear will graze; Their young will lie down together; And the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

From an **amillennial** perspective, Isaiah 11:6–9 is not read as a literal zoological transformation during a future earthly millennium, but as **prophetic, figurative language** describing the

spiritual peace brought by the Messiah in His first coming and consummated in the new creation. Here are some quotes by commentators who take this position:

John Calvin: *“These statements are to be understood metaphorically... He does not mean that wild beasts shall change their nature, but that men who were formerly like wild beasts shall be mild and gentle.”*

Anthony Hoekema: *“The prophecy of Isaiah 11 should not be interpreted as describing a future millennium in which animals will become tame... The language is figurative, picturing the peace and harmony which the Messiah will bring.”*

Amillennialism sees a two-stage fulfillment:

Already:

- Christ reigns now from heaven.
- The gospel creates peace among former enemies (cf. Jew/Gentile unity).
- Believers experience reconciliation and spiritual transformation.

Not Yet:

- The fullness of peace awaits the new heavens and new earth.
- The curse’s complete removal is consummated in the **eternal state**, not in a temporary 1,000 year earthly millennium.

There are very clear texts that explicitly affirm that despite any future disobedience and unfaithfulness on the part of the nation of Israel, God will remain faithful to His covenant promises:

- **2 Samuel 7:14–16** - Look at the establishment of the Davidic Covenant
“If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him... But My mercy shall not depart from him... And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you.”
- **Jeremiah 31:35–37** *Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day, And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: ³⁶ "If this fixed order departs From before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also shall cease From being a nation before Me forever." ³⁷ Thus says the LORD, "If the heavens above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out below, Then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have done," declares the LORD.*

God ties Israel’s national preservation to:

- The fixed order of the sun, moon, and stars
 - The immeasurability of the heavens
- Pretty strong argument!

- **Jeremiah 33:19-21** ties covenant faithfulness on the part of God to the consistency of the natural order of day and night
And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, ²⁰ "Thus says the LORD, 'If you can break My covenant for the day, and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will

not be at their appointed time,²¹ then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers.

But today many godly and respected Christian preachers and Bible scholars and Bible teachers teach that the church has replaced Israel as the focus of these promises. We tend to treat this as just an alternative view of God's end time agenda. No big deal. But I propose to you that **this is giving up on the promises of God.**

- This is diminishing God's glory
- This is denying God's faithfulness
- This is substituting man's wisdom for God's wisdom
- This is serious business

But they argue: Doesn't the NT interpret the OT – even though the plain sense of these promises would have been understood in OT times as focusing in on the nation of Israel and the physical Promised land and the Messiah reigning as king over the earth from a throne in Jerusalem – now that the NT has come we can spiritualize these promises . . . Is that so?

Jesus apparently didn't think so. As He stood before His disciples about to ascend back to the Father, the disciples excitedly asked in **Acts 1:6** "*Lord, Is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?*" Clearly they are talking about national Israel – not some spiritual entity of believers. Clearly they are talking about a physical kingdom. This is the key moment. Jesus should now explain how the new era after His crucifixion and resurrection interprets those OT prophecies. He should declare that the kingdom has arrived in complete fulfillment because He rules right now in the hearts of those who receive Him and believe. But He doesn't correct their thinking. He tells them to faithfully carry out their present witnessing responsibilities while maintaining their hope in the coming of the future kingdom on earth focused around the nation of Israel. His one caveat: It's just not for you to know exactly when that millennial kingdom will arrive. So let's not give up on the promises of God.

Peter talks about those who are mocking the promise that Jesus will even return . . . much less establish His kingdom on earth. "*Where is the promise of His coming?*" **2 Pet. 3:4**

Don't fall into the trap of substituting man's timeline for God's timeline. Don't give up on the promises of God. That is the key lesson we should learn from this 400 year period of God's apparent silence.

II. RELIGIOUS CONTEXT -- DEVELOPMENT OF JEWISH INSTITUTIONS AND IDENTITY GROUPS –

Jesus interacts with these during His earthly ministry

This thread will be treated in summary fashion – taking a look at each of the various institutions

A. Jewish Institutions

1. **Anointed Roles of Prophet/Priest/King**
2. **The Temple**
3. **The Sacrificial System**
4. **The Feasts**

Need to study the book of **Hebrews** to understand how the OT types and shadows were fulfilled in the reality of the coming of the Messiah = the anointed one. Look at how Christ fulfills the ultimate key roles of **Prophet, Priest and King**:

1. Prophet –

Promise of the Ultimate Prophet -- **Deut. 18:15ff –**

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.

True test = cannot speak presumptuously
complete accuracy about future predictions

They were to be God's **spokesmen**, mediating His revealed word to the people.

The **Hebrew titles** for prophet—*ro'eh* ("seer"), *hozeh* ("seer"), and *'ish ha'elohim* ("man of God")—emphasize that the prophet was one who **saw divine truth and spoke it faithfully**. These titles describe a man who has been **called** to communicate the revealed word of God, a man who has an **intimate relationship** with God as His servant and messenger, and as one whose task it is to **keep watch over God's people**.

Think of the famous prophets of Elijah and Elisha
Think of the schools of the prophets that developed

Jesus announced as the *logos* – **John 1:1 – The Word**

The Light shines in the darkness

The Word became flesh and dwelt among men

John 1:18 – Jesus explains fully who God is

No other prophet had ever taught with such inherent **authority** – **Matt. 7:29**

for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Vs. derived authority quoting other experts as validation

Heb. 1:1-4; Heb. 3 – extolled as greater than Moses; the ultimate revelation of the Father

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; ⁴ having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

But what I want to focus on are the **perversions** of the office of Prophet – so we can by contrast see the **perfections of Jesus** in fulfilling this critical role

Jer. 23 – Just looking at one text

COUNTERFEIT SPIRITUAL SHEPHERDS SUBSTITUTE THEIR OWN PEACEFUL IMAGINATIONS FOR GOD'S AUTHENTIC REVELATION OF JUDGMENT

I. (:1-2) EVIL SHEPHERDS FACE DIVINE ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Evil Practices of Counterfeit Spiritual Shepherds

1. Injurious Shepherding

“Destroying and Scattering the sheep of My pasture”

“Scattered My flock and driven them away”

1) First sin: they destroy the sheep, cause them to perish. By implication, what a shepherd should do for the sheep is protect them from outside dangers.

2) Second sin: they scatter the sheep. By contrast, a shepherd should keep the flock together, gather them into a safe fold, and if one is missing, go out and find it.

3) We will see these two features over and over in this paragraph. It’s worth noting at the outset that they correspond perfectly to the two great dangers that Paul pointed out to the elders at Ephesus in **Acts 20:29-30**, the dangers of wolves coming in to destroy and of false teachers scattering sheep away.

2. Inattentive Shepherding

“Concerning the shepherds who are tending My people”

“Have not attended to them”

B. Emphatic Warning Woes

1. Pronouncement of Woe

“Woe to the shepherds”

2. Promise of Impending Judgment for Evil Deeds

“Behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds”

Feinberg: By a play on words, Jeremiah uses the double sense of the Hebrew word *paqad* (“to care for,” “to chastize”): the shepherds had “not bestowed care on” the flock; so God would “bestow punishment on” them in judgment (v. 2).

II. (:3-8) GOD’S FAITHFUL SHEPHERD (THE MESSIAH) WILL ULTIMATELY REIGN IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. (:3-4) Future Restoration to Fruitfulness and Security (Both near term and eschatological fulfillment)

1. The Bringing About of Restoration – How will God accomplish it?

a. Recapturing / Gathering

“Then I myself will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them”

MacArthur: The restoration of Judah from Babylon is referred to in language which in its fullness can only refer to the final restoration of God’s people under Messiah. . . . Zerubbabel,

Ezra, Nehemiah, and others were small fulfillments compared to the consummate shepherding of the Messiah Jesus.

- b. Relocation
 “bring them back to their pasture”
 - c. Raise Up Faithful Shepherds
 “I will also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them”
2. The Blessings of Restoration – What will God provide?
- a. Feeding – pleasant grazing
 “and bring them back to their pasture”
 - b. Fruitfulness
 “and they will be fruitful and multiply”
 - c. Security
 “and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified”
 - d. Permanence
 “nor will any be missing”

Matthew Henry: Here is a word of comfort to the neglected sheep. Though the under-shepherds take no care of them, no pains with them, but betray them, the chief Shepherd will look after them. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord taketh me up. Though the interests of God's church in the world are neglected by those who should take care of them, and postponed to their own private secular interests, yet they shall not therefore sink. God will perform his promise, though those he employs do not perform their duty.

- B. (:5-6) Faithful Shepherding of the Righteous King (the Messiah)
- 1. (:5) Righteous Characterization of His Reign
 *“I will raise up for David a righteous Branch;
 And He will reign as king and act wisely
 And do justice and righteousness in the land”*

The suggestion is that the current Judean kings are not legitimate. They were set up by foreign powers, and were only puppets.

- 2. (:6a) Righteous Results of His Reign – Salvation and Security
 “In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will dwell securely”
- 3. (:6b) Righteous Name
 *“And this is His name by which He will be called,
 The Lord our righteousness.”*

C. (:7-8) Favorite Testimony Switches from Historical Exodus to Eschatological Restoration --
The newer demonstration of God's mercy and power trumps the former demonstration

1. (:7) Testimony of Historical Exodus

"Therefore behold, the days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when they will no longer say, As the Lord lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt.'"

2. (:8a) Testimony of Eschatological Restoration

"but, 'As the Lord lives, who brought up and led back the descendants of the household of Israel from the north land and from all the countries where I had driven them.'"

3. (:8b) Territory of the Promised Land Possessed and Enjoyed

"Then they will live on their own soil."

Passages like these led the Christians of the first three centuries to believe in a national restoration of Israel. Not until Constantine did amillennialism become the predominant belief of the church.

III. (:9-15) EVIL SHEPHERDS DESERVE GOD'S CONDEMNATION

A. (:9-12) Corrupt Leadership Calls for Calamity – Deserving of Punishment

1. (:9) Lamenting Over Corrupt Prophets

"As for the prophets: My heart is broken within me, All my bones tremble; I have become like a drunken man, Even like a man overcome with wine, Because of the LORD And because of His holy words."

2. (:10-11) Lamenting Over Corrupt Priests as Well

"For the land is full of adulterers; For the land mourns because of the curse. The pastures of the wilderness have dried up. Their course also is evil, And their might is not right. For both prophet and priest are polluted; Even in My house I have found their wickedness,' declares the LORD."

3. (:12) Promising Their Punishment = Calamity from the Lord

"Therefore their way will be like slippery paths to them, They will be driven away into the gloom and fall down in it; For I shall bring calamity upon them, The year of their punishment,' declares the LORD."

B. (:13-15) Cancerous Idolatry Degenerates to Depravity – Deserving of Poison

1. (:13) Offensive Idolatry

"Moreover, among the prophets of Samaria I saw an offensive thing: They prophesied by Baal and led My people Israel astray."

2. (:14a) Horrible Spiritual Adultery

"Also among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: The committing of adultery and walking in falsehood;

*And they strengthen the hands of evildoers,
So that no one has turned back from his wickedness.”*

3. (:14b) Disgusting Depravity

“All of them have become to Me like Sodom, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.”

4. (:15) Pollution Deserving of Poison

“Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets, 'Behold, I am going to feed them wormwood And make them drink poisonous water, For from the prophets of Jerusalem pollution has gone forth into all the land.’”

IV. (:16-24) FOLLOWING EVIL SHEPHERDS LEADS ONLY TO FUTILITY

“Thus says the Lord of hosts,

*‘Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you,
They are leading you into futility;’”*

7 Reasons:

A. (:16) Because the Source of Their Message is Human Rather than Divine

“They speak a vision of their own imagination.”

B. (:17) Because the Security They Offer is False

*“They keep saying to those who despise Me,
The Lord has said, ‘You will have peace’,
And as for everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart,
They say, ‘Calamity will not come upon you.’”*

C. (:18) Because the Stiff-Necked Nature of These Prophets is Evident

*“But who has stood in the council of the Lord,
That he should see and hear His word?
Who has given heed to His word and listened?”*

D. (:19-20) Because the Severity of God’s Judgment Will Soon Be Seen

*“Behold, the storm of the Lord has gone forth in wrath,
Even a whirling tempest;
It will swirl down on the head of the wicked.
The anger of the Lord will not turn back
Until He has performed and carried out the purposes of His heart;
In the last days you will clearly understand it.”*

E. (:21) Because the Sending of These Prophets Carries No Authority

*“I did not send these prophets, but they ran.
I did not speak to them, but they prophesied.”*

F. (:22) Because the Senselessness of These Prophets is Incredible

“But if they had stood in My council,

*Then they would have announced My words to My people,
And would have turned them back from their evil way
And from the evil of their deeds.”*

G. (:23-24) Because the Sight of God Reaches to All Corners of the Universe

*“‘Am I a God who is near,’ declares the Lord,
‘And not a God far off?
Can a man hide himself in hiding places
So I do not see him?’ declares the Lord.
‘Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?’ declares the Lord.”*

V. (:25-32) GOD OPPOSES FALSE PROPHETS THAT DECEPTIVELY CLAIM DIVINE REVELATION

A. (:25-27) The Obscuring of Truth by False Prophets

1. (:25) Invalid Claims to Divine Revelation – God is not fooled

“I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, ‘I had a dream, I had a dream!’”

2. (:26) Initiated in Deception and Propagating Falsehood

“How long? Is there anything in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even these prophets of the deception of their own heart?”

3. (:27) Intended to Promote Idolatry – not a new strategy

“who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they relate to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal.”

B. (:28-29) The Omnipotent Nature of God’s Word

1. (:28) Huge Distinction Between Divine Revelation and Personal Thoughts

“The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have in common with grain?’ declares the Lord.”

2. (:29) 2 Analogies Proving the Power of God’s Word in Judgment

a. Analogy of Fire – Devours and Consumes in Judgment

“Is not my Word like fire?’ declares the Lord”

b. Analogy of a Hammer – Smashes and Obliterates in Judgment

“and like a hammer which shatters a rock?”

C. (:30-32) The Opposition of God to False Prophets – Characterizes their Counterfeit Ministry:

1. (:30) Copy Cat Plagiarism (instead of divine revelation)

“Therefore behold, I am against the prophets,’ declares the Lord, ‘who steal My words from each other.’”

2. (:31) Outright Lying

“Behold, I am against the prophets,’ declares the Lord, ‘who use their tongues and declare, The Lord declares.’”

3. (:32a) Deceptive and Reckless

“Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams,’ declares the Lord, ‘and related them and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting.’”

4. (:32b) No Divine Authorization or Spiritual Benefit

“yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit,’ declares the Lord.”

2. Priest –

Definition of the Priestly Office:

The **priestly office in Israel** was established by God to mediate between Himself and His people through sacrifices, intercession, and the maintenance of holiness in worship. The priest stood as a **representative of the people before God**, offering sacrifices for sin and ensuring that Israel remained in covenant relationship with the LORD.

Ultimately, this office pointed forward to **Jesus Christ**, who is the **final and perfect High Priest**, accomplishing once and for all what the Levitical priests could only symbolize.

Role of the Priest:

Ezek. 44:23 "Moreover, they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.”

Role of the High Priest:

Once a year, on the **Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)**, he entered the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of the nation (**Leviticus 16**). This act symbolized the need for cleansing and reconciliation between a holy God and sinful people

Priesthood of Jesus Christ:

Ps. 110:4 – “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”

His superior priesthood described in Hebrews

He is the **merciful and faithful High Priest (Hebrews 2:17)**, the **sinless intercessor (Hebrews 7:25)**, and the **final sacrifice (Hebrews 10:12)**. Through Him, believers have direct and permanent access to God’s presence—something no earthly priest could ever accomplish.

Aspect	Levitical Priesthood	Christ's Priesthood
Origin	Descendants of Aaron	Appointed by God in the order of Melchizedek
Sacrifice	Repeated animal sacrifices	Once-for-all sacrifice of Himself
Duration	Temporary	Eternal
Effect	Symbolic cleansing	True and complete atonement
Access to God	Restricted to the High Priest once a year	Open to all believers through Christ

Corrupt priests are condemned for:

1. Profaning holy things
2. Exploiting sacrifices for personal gain
3. Sexual immorality
4. Drunkenness and moral failure
5. Neglecting instruction in the law
6. Showing partiality or teaching for money
7. Collaborating with false prophets
8. Failing to distinguish holy from common

Lev. 10:1-3 – offering *strange fire* – Nadab and Abihu – God must be treated as holy

1 Sam. 2:12-17 – sons of Eli – not properly disciplined; characterized as “*worthless men*” (vs. 12); shocking corruption – “*they did not know the Lord*”; “*despised the offering of the Lord*”

Is. 28:7-8 – priests overcome with indulgent drunkenness so that they are unable to speak the word of the Lord or deliver necessary judgments

Jer 5:31 -- *The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?*

3. **King** –

Son of David; the Righteous Branch; the promised King of the Jews; the one who will reign in the Millennial Kingdom

1 Samuel 8:10–18

Samuel's warning about "the ways of the king"

So Samuel spoke all the words of the LORD to the people who had asked of him a king. ¹¹ And he said, "This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and place them for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots. ¹² "And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. ¹³ "He will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ "And he will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. ¹⁵ "And he will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards, and give to his officers and to his servants. ¹⁶ "He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys, and use them for his work. ¹⁷ "He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants. ¹⁸ "Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

When Israel asks for a king, Samuel warns them what monarchy will bring:

A king will:

- Draft sons into war and forced labor
- Take daughters for service
- Confiscate fields and vineyards
- Impose heavy taxation
- Create economic inequality
- Reduce the people to servitude

Key principle: Centralized royal power tends toward exploitation and coercion.

This is the most explicit anti-monarchical warning in the OT.

Summary: Ezek. 22:23-31 – covers the failings of prophet, priest and kin

And the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Son of man, say to her, 'You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.'

*There is a conspiracy of her **prophets** in her midst, like a roaring lion tearing the prey. They have devoured lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in the midst of her.*

*Her **priests** have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.*

Her **princes** within her are like wolves tearing the prey, by shedding blood and destroying lives in order to get dishonest gain.

And her **prophets** have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the LORD has not spoken. The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice.

And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. "Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord God.

Next we need to consider how all of the elements of the **Jewish religious system** pointed to their fulfillment in Jesus Christ:

1. The temple – including all of the furniture in the temple as Pastor Harmon has explained
2. The entire sacrificial system

Sacrifice	Purpose / Meaning	Key Features	Fulfillment in Christ
Burnt Offering	Atonement for sin in general; total consecration to God.	Entire animal burned on the altar; symbolized complete surrender.	Christ offered Himself wholly to the Father (Ephesians 5:2).
Grain Offering	Thanksgiving and dedication; accompanied other offerings.	Fine flour, oil, and frankincense; no leaven or honey.	Christ's sinless life offered as a pleasing aroma (John 6:35).
Peace / Fellowship Offering	Celebrated restored fellowship with God after atonement.	Shared meal between worshiper, priest, and God; included thanksgiving.	Christ is our peace, reconciling us to God (Ephesians 2:14–16).
Sin Offering	Atonement for unintentional sins; purification of the sinner and sanctuary.	Blood applied to altar; fat burned; remainder disposed outside the camp.	Christ bore our sins outside the camp (Hebrews 13:11–12).
Guilt / Trespass Offering	Atonement for specific sins requiring restitution.	Required repayment plus 20% to the wronged party.	Christ paid our debt in full (Isaiah 53:10–11).
Day of Atonement Sacrifices	National cleansing of sin once per year; high priest entered the Holy of Holies.	Two goats: one slain, one sent away (scapegoat); blood sprinkled on mercy seat.	Christ entered heaven once for all with His own blood (Hebrews 9:11–12).

3. The feasts celebrated by the Jews – chart of **Lev. 23**

FEAST	TEXT	FULFILLMENT IN CHRIST	NT REF
Passover	23:5	Christ our Passover Lamb	1 Cor. 5:7
Unleavened Bread	23:6-8	Christ's sinless body in the tomb	1 Cor. 15:4
Firstfruits	23:9-14	Christ's Resurrection	1 Cor. 15:20
Weeks / Pentecost	23:15-22	Christ's Sending of the Holy Spirit	Acts 2
Trumpets	23:23-25	Christ's Return	1 Thess 4:16
Day of Atonement	23:26-32	Christ's Atoning Sacrifice	Heb. 9:12
Booths / Tabernacles	23:33-43	God Dwelling with His People	Rev. 21:3

APPLICATION: Everything points to Jesus Christ

Does everything in your life point to Jesus Christ?

Your ambitions; passions; decision making; use of resources; worship; allegiance

B. Jewish Identity Groups

1. Scribes
2. Pharisees
3. Sadducees
4. Herodians
5. Elders
6. Sanhedrin

APPLICATION: God wants followers of Jesus Christ; genuine disciples of Christ