

January 20: 16:1-17

- I. Deuteronomy 16:1-8 the Passover
- II. Deuteronomy 16:9-12: Feast of weeks
- III. Deuteronomy 16:13-15: Feast of booths
- IV. Deuteronomy 16:16-17: summary of the 3 feasts and giving (verse 16, do not appear empty handed, verse 17 is giving)

Theme of rejoicing or celebrating

- I. Deuteronomy 16:1-8 the Passover

Deuteronomy 16:1-8:

“Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God, for in the month of Abib the Lord your God brought you out of Egypt by night. ²You shall sacrifice the Passover to the Lord your God from the flock and the herd, in the place where the Lord chooses to establish His name. ³You shall not eat leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat with it unleavened bread, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), so that you may remember all the days of your life the day when you came out of the land of Egypt. ⁴For seven days no leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory, and none of the flesh which you sacrifice on the evening of the first day shall remain overnight until morning. ⁵You are not allowed to sacrifice the Passover in any of your towns which the Lord your God is giving you; ⁶but at the place where the Lord your God chooses to establish His name, you shall sacrifice the Passover in the evening at sunset, at the time that you came out of Egypt. ⁷You shall cook and eat it in the place which the Lord your God chooses. In the morning you are to return to your tents. ⁸Six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a solemn assembly to the Lord your God; you shall do no work on it.

- a. This chapter deals with 3 major feasts.
- b. The IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary shares: **Israel’s sacred calendar. Other versions of the calendar are found in Exodus 23:12–19; 34:18–26; Leviticus 23; and Numbers 28–29 (see the comments there).**¹
- c. Actually verse 16 says that 3 times they are to appear before the Lord and that would be these feasts.
- d. They are to appear before the Lord at the place He chooses.
- e. **If Deuteronomy’s detailed laws are arranged in the order of the Ten Commandments, this section corresponds to the Sabbath law in Deut. 5:12.**
- f. The ESV Study Bible shares: Feasts. This section deals with the three main Israelite feasts (see [Ex. 23:14–17](#)). **If Deuteronomy’s detailed laws are arranged in the order of the Ten Commandments, this section corresponds to the Sabbath law in Deut. 5:12** (cf. [Lev. 23:3](#) for the Sabbath as the weekly day of public worship). On Passover, see [Ex. 12:2–39; 34:18–25; Lev. 23:4–8; Num. 28:16–25](#). On the Feast of

¹ Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, [The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament](#), electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Dt 16:1–17.

Weeks, see [Lev. 23:15–22](#); [Num. 28:26–31](#). On the Feast of Booths, see [Lev. 23:33–43](#); [Num. 29:12–40](#). All the feasts occur at the central place, a point repeatedly made in [Deuteronomy 16](#) (see [vv. 2, 6, 7, 11, 15, 16](#); also [12:5](#)). For those who lived outside of Jerusalem, attendance at the feasts entailed several days of pilgrimage ([Luke 2:41–52](#)).

- g. This is the month of Abib which is the first month corresponding to March and April.
- h. In Ex 12:2 Moses says: *This month is to be your beginning of months...*²
- i. There is a reminder that on the month of Abib the Lord brought them out of Egypt by night.
- j. The IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary: It [Abib] is one of the month names that is often thought to have been brought over from the Canaanite month names. The first month later came to be known as the month of Nisan when the names were adopted from the Babylonian calendar. In Exodus 23:15, Abib is tied to the Feast of Unleavened Bread, while in the Deuteronomic law it is keyed to the Passover.³
- k. Further: This event established Abib (**later called Nisan**) as the first month in the religious calendar of Israel. **By the civil calendar, Tishri, six months later, was the first month, and thus the month that “New Year’s Day” was celebrated. The Israelite calendar was a lunar calendar with periodic adjustments to the solar year. Abib began with the first new moon after the spring equinox, generally mid-March, and went through mid-April.**⁴
- l. This is a reminder of the Passover and there is value in remembrance.
- m. In Jesus’ Passover meal Paul says in 1 Cor. 11:24 Jesus said to do this in remembrance of Him.
- n. May consider having a discourse on Israel geography, weather and the calendar from powerpoint**
- o. There is cross reference about this:
- p. Ex 13:4; 23:15; 34:18; Numbers 28:16
- q. Verse 2: it says flock or herd. Which means in Deut the sacrifice need not be a lamb (see Ex 12:3, 21)
- r. You shall sacrifice the Passover to the Lord God. It should be noted that the Passover goes to the Lord, not to any other foreign God.
- s. Verse 3:
- t. No leavened bread!!!
- u. For seven days they are to eat unleavened bread
- v. This is called the “bread of affliction.” This is a reminder that they came out of Egypt in haste.

² Biblical Studies Press, [The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2005), Ex 12:2.

³ Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, [The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament](#), electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Dt 16:1.

⁴ Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, [The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament](#), electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Ex 12:1–11.

- w. Verse 3 continues to draw that point home that they are to remember all of their life about coming out of Egypt in haste.
- x. →we have not said it in a while, but Deuteronomy draws home the point of remembering the mistakes of the past while looking to the future.
- y. →by way of application, how do we remember what the Lord has done for us?
- z. →Remembrance leads to obedience (see Deut 8:2-3)
- aa. Verse 4: this verse continues writing about the unleavened bread. Notice: none of the flesh sacrificed shall remain overnight. See Ex 12:8, 10; 34:25

Ex 12:8 *They will eat the meat the same night; they will eat it roasted over the fire with bread made without yeast and with bitter herbs.*

Ex 12:10 *You must leave nothing until morning, but you must burn with fire whatever remains of it until morning.*

Ex 34:25 *“You must not offer the blood of my sacrifice with yeast; the sacrifice from the feast of Passover must not remain until the following morning.*

- bb. Remember the point that they had to leave in a hurry.
- cc. Verses 5-7 are a command. Do not sacrifice to the Lord except in the town the Lord wants you to. Deut 12:5 is also about where the Lord establishes His Name.
- dd. The ESV Study Bible shares: *You may not offer the Passover sacrifice within any of your towns. See note on [16:1–17](#). This may seem to reverse the provision of [Ex. 12:21–24](#), which envisages the Passover being celebrated in homes. Deuteronomy, however, anticipates settlement in the land.*
- ee. Verse 8 wraps this section up. You are to eat the unleavened bread for 6 days and then the 7th day you are to have an assembly to the Lord and you are not to work on that day.
- ff. The ESV Study Bible about verse 7: *The Passover sacrifice was to be roasted, not boiled ([Ex. 12:8–9](#)).*

II. Deuteronomy 16:9-12: Feast of weeks

Here are the verses from the NASB Bible translation:

“You shall count seven weeks for yourself; you shall begin to count seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. ¹⁰Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with a tribute of a freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give just as the Lord your God blesses you;¹¹ and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite who is in your town, and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your midst, in the place where the Lord your God chooses to establish His name. ¹²You shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.

- a. Count 7 weeks then the feast of weeks.
- b. The IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary: *The Feast of Weeks (see Ex 23:16) is tied to the wheat harvest of March-April. The Gezer calendar notes this as the month to “reap and feast.” Since the grain would have matured at different times in the various locales of the country, the harvest of “standing grain” would have required the prescribed seven-week period to complete.⁵*

⁵ Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*, electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Dt 16:9.

- c. This second of the three major harvest festivals comes seven weeks after the harvest of the early grain (Ex 34:22) and is also known as the Feast of Harvest or Pentecost (Ex 23:16). In the agricultural cycle it marks the end of the wheat harvest season, and by tradition it is tied to the giving of the law on Mount Sinai. It is also associated with covenant renewal and pilgrimage. Celebration includes the bringing of a “wave offering” of two loaves of bread, animal sacrifices (seven year-old lambs, one bull and two rams) and a drink offering in thanksgiving for a good harvest. A goat is also to be sacrificed as a sin offering for the people.⁶
- d. The Feast of Weeks is called the Feast of Harvest in Ex 23:16
- e. This is the same as Pentecost
- f. This signifies the end of the grain harvest
- g. Cross reference Ex 23:16; 34:22; Lev 23:15; Num 28:26⁷
- h. The ESV Study Bible: The Feast of Weeks is called the Feast of Harvest in [Ex. 23:16](#). The seven weeks are counted from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain, thus marking the end of the grain harvest. The Greek name for this festival is Pentecost, meaning 50 days, counting inclusively, or seven weeks (see [Acts 2](#)). A freewill offering is an expression of thankfulness for the blessing of harvest.
- i. Verse 10: celebrate this feast with an offering
- j. Verse 11: you rejoice
- k. How often do we celebrate what the Lord has done?
- l. Notice this rejoicing includes everyone, even foreigners.
- m. Once again, this is the place the Lord chooses to establish His name.
- n. Eventually Jerusalem, at first Shiloh.
- o. Verse 12 once again reminds them of their past.

III. Deuteronomy 16:13-15: Feast of booths

Here are the verses from the NASB Bible translation:

“You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths seven days after you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat;¹⁴ and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns.¹⁵ Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.

- a. This is the 3rd feast in this chapter
- b. IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary: **Feast of Tabernacles.** The final harvest of the year occurred in the autumn prior to the onset of the rainy season and marked the beginning of a new agricultural year (fifteenth day of the seventh month). At this time the last of the ripening grain and fruits were gathered and stored. The seven-day event is also known as the Feast of Ingathering (Ex 23:16) and is symbolized by the construction of booths decorated with greenery for the harvesters. The use of the term *booths* for this festival appears first in Deuteronomy and is probably a reflection of the practice of harvesters of setting up shelters in the fields so that they could work

⁶ Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, [The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament](#), electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Dt 16:9–12.

⁷ [New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update](#) (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

throughout the day without returning to their homes (see Lev 23:42). The festival was tied into Israelite tradition as a commemoration of the wilderness wanderings. It was also the occasion for the dedication of Solomon's temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:65).⁸

- c. This is in Lev. 23:34-43
- d. This is the feast of tabernacles or ingathering in Ex 23:16 and 34:22. This would be September/October and it focuses on the Harvest of summer fruits such as dates, grapes, and olives.
- e. Very important that this is the feast in which the law was to be read every 7th year (see Deut 31:9-13)
- f. Some translations call this "temporary shelters."
- g. Verse 14: you shall rejoice: The superabundance of the land is again anticipated.
- h. Notice once again that everyone celebrates. Son, daughter, male and female servants, Levites, strangers, orphans and widows.
- i. Verse 15: this is another 7 day celebration. Once again this must be the place the Lord chooses.

IV. Deuteronomy 16:16-17: summary of the 3 feasts and giving (verse 16, do not appear empty handed, verse 17 is giving)

Here are the verses from the NASB Bible translation:

"Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. ¹⁷ Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.

- a. Three time a year the MALES are to appear
- b. Notice it stipulates the males. The ESV Study Bible shares: *Presumably females were free to journey for the feast (vv. 11, 14), but it was obligatory only for males.*
- c. This may emphasize that the male has a spiritual leadership responsibility.
- d. This must happen where the Lord chooses.
- e. Do not come empty handed.
- f. Every man should give as he is able.
- g. Cross reference: Ex 23:14–17; 34:23, 24

⁸ Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, [*The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*](#), electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Dt 16:13–17.