



GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE

Please note that this teaching text has not been proofed.

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

THE FEASTS OF THE LORD (Part 1)

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

These lessons together with Volume 11 of this series, form a unit. Both volumes will be more meaningful if they are taught after the five volumes of Exodus. The lessons in Exodus provide the historical background for the instructions given to Israel in Leviticus, these Leviticus lessons refer to incidents in Exodus, thus providing a good opportunity for review.

Do you have a *New Scofield Reference Bible*? If so, study the notes on pages 156-158.

In our previous study, we learned about God who is holy, a holy people, and holy places. Beginning with this lesson, we shall discuss the holy feast days which God ordered His people to observe.

These feasts served two purposes: (1) They were constant reminders to Israel of God—who He is, and what He had done for them. (2) In advance, they gave a preview of the program of God. Many of these events have been fulfilled. Some, however, are still to occur.

The specific dates mentioned in Scripture for the holy feast are according to the Hebrew calendar. However, in these lessons, we are using approximate dates only.

Review Volume 11 briefly. Discuss the offerings, the priests, the laws for daily living, and the Day of Atonement before beginning this lesson.

Scripture to be studied: Leviticus 23:1-14; Exodus 12; verses cited in lesson

The aim of the lesson: To show that God commanded Israel to observe specified days so they would remember regularly all He had done for them.

What your students should know: That God wanted His people to be thankful for His care, protection, provision and direction.

What your students should feel: Determined to live lives that honor the Lord.

What your students should do: Examine their lives and deal with the shortcomings that displease God.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. The Sabbath (Leviticus 23:1-3; Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:9-11; Nehemiah 13:15-18).
2. The Passover (Leviticus 23:4-5; Exodus 12:1-51; Deuteronomy 16:1-8).
3. The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6-8; Exodus 12:14-20; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8).
4. The Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9-14; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

The verses to be memorized:

I am the LORD your God . . . observe all My statutes, and all My judgments, and do them: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:36b-37)

THE LESSON

Everybody loves a special day. What are some of the occasions which we celebrate? (Let students suggest some of the annual celebrations in your country. Discuss briefly *why* and *how* each is observed. Emphasize the fact that these days usually help us to remember a famous person or an event which happened in the past.)

Israel was God's special nation. Moses was God's appointed leader of His nation. Through Moses, God gave laws for the people to obey. God also explained:

1. How the people of Israel could come to Him through the blood of a sacrifice.
2. How they were to worship Him.
3. How they were to live each day to please Him.

God wanted His people to remember what He had done for them. So He said, "Moses, tell the people to observe *seven holy feasts*. Everybody must set aside these days each year.