



Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Special Fall Festivals Lesson

Special Fall Festivals Lesson

When a king or queen of Great Britain has his or her first child, the world knows that child is destined to become a monarch. From birth, that child receives training carefully designed by the kingdom's most prominent educators to do one thing: prepare him or her to reign over millions of people.

What is it like to be born into the royal family? You should know, because you have been born with the opportunity to become part of God's Royal Family.

The rulers of Great Britain and of every other nation on Earth have never known God. Few of them even claim to have known Him. God specifically says in the Bible that He has not given those kings, queens, presidents and prime ministers the opportunity to know Him and to understand the Word of God. The Bible says that God has instead given that opportunity to a tiny group of ordinary people.

When God calls someone out of the world and into His Church, He gives him the opportunity to be baptized and to receive His Holy Spirit. When this happens, he becomes a child in God's Family who has been begotten but not yet born. Once he is born into God's Family, he becomes a God being, part of God's royal Family that will rule the world with Jesus Christ.

This is probably the situation your parents are in. But what about you?

You likely were never part of the world. You were not called out of it. You were probably born into God's Church. Perhaps even your parents were as well. Does God still have specific positions of royalty in mind for you? Yes! In the same way that royal heirs in Great Britain inherit the duty of leadership, so also have you. And in the same way that they receive special training, so also are you in training. God's Church is the institution He uses to provide you with that training!

To help prepare us for a position of rulership, God gave His Church seven annual festivals that explain the seven steps of His master plan. In this lesson you will learn about the meaning behind each of these festivals, especially the four holy days that occur in the fall.

To absorb this royal training, you will need your Bible, a pencil and a prayerful attitude. Be sure to read each verse listed in this lesson out of your own textbook—the Bible.

OVERVIEW OF GOD'S PLAN

God originally gave reign over the Earth to the angel Lucifer, but he turned to sin, became Satan, and failed in his rulership. God later created the first human being, Adam. He gave Adam the chance to reign over the Earth. But Adam and his wife, Eve, rejected that opportunity. Instead they chose to follow Satan. Their children and their children's children have made the same choice ever since. Because of their sin, God cut them off from Him and His truth.

Thousands of years later, the world was full of people, nations and governments that had nothing to do with God and were thoroughly deceived by Satan. Into this world, God sent the Word. God and the Word took a gigantic risk when God made the Word into Jesus Christ, a flesh-and-blood human being. If Christ sinned, He would die forever, and all other human beings would also die forever. But God and the Word *took* that tremendous risk.

Jesus Christ was born, grew up and became an adult. Throughout every second of His life, He lived perfectly and never sinned once! When He was killed, His death paid the eternal death penalty for the sins of each and every human being. Christ's enormous accomplishment also qualified Him to rule the Earth. Where Satan and Adam failed, Christ succeeded.

Fill in the blanks using 1 Corinthians 15:21-23 to see how Christ succeeded where Adam failed: “For since by man came death, by man came also the _____ of the dead. For as in _____ all _____, even so in _____ shall all be made _____. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”

Yet even after Christ came, God allowed the vast majority of human beings to remain cut off from Him. That reality continues right up to today. God continues to block access to Him and His Holy Spirit. Human beings continue to make the choice to follow Satan’s way of life. Satan continues to reign over the Earth. God has called only a tiny group of “firstfruits” to know Him and to train to rule with Christ at His Second Coming (see 1 Corinthians 15:23, above).

God has established six workdays in a week and the seventh day as the Sabbath. After Adam sinned, God established 6,000 years for human beings to live their own way as they choose to follow Satan. Toward the end of this period, God will send Jesus Christ back to Earth again, this time as a God Being who will put a stop to sin and bring 1,000 years of peace and rest.

How will Christ actually stop so many people who are so deceived by Satan from committing so much sin? How will He educate them in God’s wonderful way of life? He won’t do it alone; He will do it with the help of those being trained right now, members of God’s Church with God’s Holy Spirit who will be born into His Family when He returns.



Man has been running things his own way for 6,000 years.

You are in God’s Church; you are receiving special training right now! Though you do not have God’s Spirit working inside you, it is working *with* you. So when you read about Christ ruling the world and needing His people to be trained to help Him, realize that God’s people includes *you*.

God’s training for you to help Jesus Christ rule the world revolves around seven annual festivals.

OVERVIEW OF SPRING HOLY DAYS

In the Northern Hemisphere, the first three festivals occur in the spring. These days show God’s plan to bring a small group of people into His Church to prepare to rule as royalty with Jesus Christ.

The last four festivals come in the fall. They show God’s plan to bring most human beings who have ever lived into His Family!

List the names of God’s seven annual festivals on the following lines, from Leviticus 23.

- 1) _____ (verse 5)
- 2) _____ (verse 6)
- 3) _____ (verses 16-21)
- 4) _____ (verse 24)
- 5) _____ (verse 27)
- 6) _____ (verse 34)
- 7) _____ (verses 36, 39)

The first of God’s festivals is Passover. Passover is the solemn memorial of Jesus Christ’s death! It commemorates the high price of sin. All human beings, except one, have sinned. That means each of us has earned the penalty of death. Jesus Christ voluntarily chose to become a human being, to live a sinless life, and to die on your behalf. He did this so that, if you repent and follow God, your sins can be forgiven, and you can be saved from the eternal death penalty.

The second of God’s festivals is the feast of Unleavened Bread. The first day of Unleavened Bread is the first holy day of the year. The seventh and last day of Unleavened Bread is the second holy day of the year. God commands His people to put all leavening out of their homes before this feast begins. During this seven-day festival, God commands His people not to eat leaven and to remove leaven from their homes and property. (Leaven puffs up bread with air, the same way that sin puffs up people with pride.) Instead, God commands His people to eat unleavened bread, an action that represents living God’s sincere, truthful, humble way of life.

The third of God's festivals is Pentecost. Pentecost is the third high holy day of the year. This festival shows us that God's people need the power of His Holy Spirit to help them overcome sin and live God's way of life. Even with Christ's sacrifice, and even with our best efforts to put sin out of our lives, we will always fall short of living God's way, unless God helps us through His Spirit!

When the three spring holy days are completely fulfilled, the members of God's Church will have accepted Jesus Christ's sacrifice, worked to put sin out of their lives, and succeeded in living God's way of life by using His Holy Spirit. God will be living in them to the point that He can bring them into His royal Family!

When this happens, God's people will be born into His Family and will be ready to rule alongside Christ as kings and priests. They will be ready to teach billions of other human beings how to reject Satan's way of sin and live God's way of righteousness.

MEMORY TEST

Answer the following questions by circling the best answer.

1. Why did God give His people seven annual festivals?
 - a. To provide them with extra vacation time.
 - b. To force them to clean and tidy their homes.
 - c. To teach them the seven steps of His master plan.
 - d. To show how He is calling everyone on Earth into His Church right now.

2. What do the three spring holy days teach us?
 - a. The first three steps of God's plan.
 - b. How God plans to bring His people into His royal Family .
 - c. How God's people will become kings and priests when Jesus Christ returns.
 - d. All the above.

FEAST OF TRUMPETS

The Feast of Trumpets is the first fall festival. It is a high holy day, and it represents the fourth step in God's plan. This is the step that comes after God's people have qualified to rule with Jesus Christ.



Anciently, the priests in Israel would blow a trumpet made from a ram's horn on the Feast of Trumpets.

Turn to *Leviticus 23:23-25* to see why this festival is called the Feast of Trumpets: “And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall you have a _____, a _____ of _____ of _____, an _____ . You shall do no servile work therein”

When the ancient Israelites kept the Feast of Trumpets, priests blew a trumpet made from a ram's horn. This trumpet is called a *shofar*, and its sound is a piercing blast.

They also blew two long silver trumpets, which produced a variety of musical notes.

Throughout history, trumpets have been used to make major announcements. They have also been used as an alarm of war. When an enemy approached, the duty of a watchman was to blast out a warning with something like a *shofar* so the people could get ready to fight (*Ezekiel 33:1-6*).

The Feast of Trumpets points to the most important event in history: the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

Read *Revelation 11:15* and fill in the blanks to see how Christ's Second Coming will be announced: “And the _____ sounded; and there were _____ in _____, saying, The _____ of this _____ are become the _____ of our _____, and of his _____; and he shall _____ and _____ .”

The Feast of Trumpets will be fulfilled when Christ returns. At that moment, God will resurrect everyone in God's Church who died in the faith. He will then bring them into His royal Family as God beings! In the next moment, everyone in God's Church who is still alive will also be transformed into God beings!

Fill in the blanks using 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 to see the details of Christ's return: "For the Lord himself shall _____ from _____ with a _____, with the voice of the archangel, and with the _____ of _____: and the _____ in Christ shall _____ . Then we which are _____ and _____ shall be caught up together with them in the _____, to meet the _____ in the _____: and so shall we _____ be _____ the _____."

Turn back to 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 to see who will be born into God's royal Family first: "Behold, I show you a _____; We shall not all _____, but we shall all be _____, In a _____, in the _____ of an _____, at the _____: for the trumpet shall sound, and the _____ shall be raised _____, and we shall be changed."

The piercing blast of the trumpet on this day will also be an alarm of war! Jesus Christ will return in the middle of World War III, and He will have to fight warring human beings to stop them from erasing all human life (Matthew 24:3-22).

After the archangel announces Christ's return, multitudes of human beings will actually want to fight Him! They will try to destroy Him so that He cannot rule over them.

A great army will gather north of Jerusalem in a vast plain called Megiddo. Jesus Christ and the God beings who have just been born from God's Church into God's royal Family will fight this army. If they did not, it would destroy everything—everyone on Earth would keep fighting until every last person had been killed.

Once Christ defeats this army, He will establish God's government over the whole Earth! He will teach *everyone* living on Earth how to give up hatred, selfishness, perversion, lying, coveting, violence and murder. He will put down rebellion by force. The members of God's Church who have been born into His Family will assist Christ in teaching God's way of life.

MEMORY TEST

Circle the best answer.

- The Feast of Trumpets pictures
 - the resurrection of the saints in God's Church.
 - the return of Jesus Christ to the Earth.
 - All of the above.
 - None of the above.
- When Jesus Christ returns to Earth
 - everyone will be relieved that He has returned.
 - He will not put down rebellion by force.
 - He will rule the Earth by Himself.
 - He will rule the Earth along with His royal Family.

DAY OF ATONEMENT

The fifth festival in God's plan is the Day of Atonement. It is the fifth high holy day. God gives His people a special instruction for this day that He does not give for the other holy days.

Fill in the blanks using Leviticus 23:27-32 to see this instruction: "Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of _____: it shall be an holy _____ unto you; and you shall _____ your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. And you shall do _____ in that same day: for it is a day of _____, to make an atonement _____ before the LORD your God. For whatsoever soul it be that shall _____ in that same day, he shall be _____ from among his people. And whatsoever soul it be that does any _____ in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. You shall do no manner of _____: it shall be a statute _____ throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be unto you a _____ of _____, and you shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at _____, from even unto even, shall you _____ your sabbath."

God commands His people to "afflict" themselves on Atonement. The word *afflict* means "to humble." We humble ourselves on Atonement by fasting, which means going without food and water!



When Satan is put away, he will no longer be able to broadcast his moods and emotions to human beings.

In Psalm 35:13, King David wrote, "... I _____ my soul with _____"

When we fast, we have less energy and less strength. In fact, if we went more than a few days without food or water, we would die. This reminds us that we are physical, weak, temporary human beings. It also shows us that we need to be fed spiritually. It reminds us that *we need God* to give us life! God is our Creator: He made us; He gives us food and water; He is our only hope for physical life and for eternal life. Keeping the Day of Atonement teaches us that we need a humble, teachable attitude to follow God! Fasting also gives us additional time for prayer and study. Only by praying and studying with a humble attitude can we draw closer to God!

Atonement also pictures a major event that will happen soon. After God's people are born into His royal Family and take their places in God's government under Jesus Christ, God will lock up Satan!

Turn to Revelation 20:1-3 to see what happens to Satan on the Day of Atonement: "And I saw an _____ come down from _____, having the _____ of the _____ and a _____ in his hand. And he laid hold on the _____, that old _____,

which is the _____, and _____, and bound him a _____ years, And cast him into the _____, and shut him up, and set a _____ upon him, that he should _____ the _____ no more, till the _____ should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

For almost 6,000 years, Satan has incessantly broadcast attitudes of getting, taking, selfishness, hate and violence (Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9). Most human beings have succumbed to his selfish influence. God's people must reject Satan's broadcast and fight his influence, defeating him in the same way Jesus Christ did. With the power of God's Holy Spirit, we can overcome Satan.

When God's angel locks Satan away in a bottomless pit, it will be impossible for him to broadcast his selfish attitudes, and he won't be able to interfere as God's royal Family teaches everyone on Earth God's way of life.

When the ancient Israelites kept the Day of Atonement, the high priest chose two goats for a special ceremony. He cast lots, and the goat on which the Eternal's lot fell was killed for a sin offering. This goat represented Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of the world. The high priest then laid hands on the other

goat and confessed over it the sins of the people. That goat was then taken into the wilderness and released (Leviticus 16). This goat represented Satan, who is full of sin and inspires it in human beings. Exiling this goat into the wilderness pictured the time when Satan will be confined to the bottomless pit.

Without Satan's influence, people will finally have a chance to become *at one* with God! That is why this day is called the day of *AT+ONE+MENT* = _____!

MEMORY TEST

Circle the best answer.

1. God commands us to fast on the Day of Atonement so
 - a. we have extra time for prayer and study.
 - b. we will become more humble and teachable.
 - c. we realize how much we need God.
 - d. All of the above.

2. God puts Satan in a bottomless pit
 - a. to punish him.
 - b. to stop him from escaping to other planets.
 - c. to prevent him from interfering as people learn God's way of life.
 - d. None of the above.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The sixth festival in God's plan is the Feast of Tabernacles. The first day of this seven-day festival is

a high holy day. This festival begins during the seventh month of God's calendar, under the light of a full moon.

Fill in the blanks using Leviticus 23:39-43 to learn how the Israelites kept this Feast: "Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have _____ in the _____ of the land, you shall keep a _____ unto the LORD _____: on the _____ day shall be a _____, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. And you shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall _____ before the LORD your God seven days. And you shall keep it a _____ unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute _____ in your generations: you shall _____ it in the seventh month. You shall dwell in _____ seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in _____: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of _____: I am the LORD your God."

Because of this command from God, the Feast of Tabernacles is also called the feast of booths. God tells His people to leave their homes and live in temporary dwellings at special Feast sites during this feast of booths. In ancient Israel, people lived in huts or tents during this time. Today, we stay in a tent, hotel room or other temporary accommodation.

Living in temporary dwellings during the Feast of Tabernacles reminds us that our lives are temporary. We cannot live forever, unless we are born as spirit beings in God's Family. Only members of God's Church



The Feast of Tabernacles is also called the feast of ingathering, because it celebrates the greater fall harvest.

understand this truth today. But in the Millennium, everyone on Earth will understand that physical life is temporary and that its only real purpose is to prepare us to be born into God's Family.

This festival lasts for seven days, just like the wedding feasts in ancient Israel lasted seven days. The Feast of Tabernacles pictures the time when Christ will be married to His Bride, the Church, which will be part of His royal Family.

Another name for the Feast of Tabernacles is the feast of ingathering. This is because it celebrates the gathering of the harvest in late summer/early fall (verse 39). Just like Pentecost represents the time when God will harvest a small group of people into His Church, so the Feast of Tabernacles represents the time period when God will harvest a great number of human beings into His Family during the Millennium.

This festival represents a period of 1,000 years. It comes after 6,000 years of human history cut off from God and led by Satan. It begins when Jesus Christ returns, the members of God's Church are born into the God Family, and Christ begins to rule the whole Earth. God will pour His Spirit out on all flesh and everyone will have the opportunity to come into *at-one-ment* with God. This 1,000-year period under Christ's rule is called the Millennium.

Read Revelation 19:7-8 to fill in the blanks: "Let us be _____ and _____, and give _____ to him: for the _____ of the _____ is come, and his _____ has made herself _____. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in _____ and _____: for the fine linen is the _____ of saints."

God gives His people a special and interesting command during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Read Leviticus 23:40 and write God's one-word command for you to keep at the Feast of Tabernacles: _____.

God commands you and all His people to *rejoice* at the Feast of Tabernacles! He actually commands that you celebrate and be happy for these seven special days that picture the awesome 1,000-year period.

To help us rejoice during the Feast, God also commands that we save a second tithe to spend during this time. The word *tithe* means tenth. So, every time you earn \$10, you pay \$1 of it to God for His Work. This is the first tithe (Leviticus 27:30), which actually belongs to God. You must also save \$1 to use during the Feast of Tabernacles. This is the second tithe (Deuteronomy 14:22-23) that belongs to God, but He allots it for you to spend during the Feast. Having this extra money to



ISTOCK.COM/OLGOREN

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures a time when men will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

spend on food, gifts or other good things during this festival of rejoicing symbolizes the abundant wealth that people will have during the Millennium.

Read Isaiah 11:6-9 and summarize in your own words the miracles that will happen in the Millennium:

Today, only those in God's Church have access to God's Spirit; it dwells with you now and allows you to have this advanced training in God's way of life. In the Millennium, however, God will have His Spirit dwell with ALL mankind (Joel 2:29). They will be like you are now, having access to God's Spirit and the ability to understand the truth. Then the world can understand and choose to repent and submit to God and be baptized.

When Christ returns, you will likely still be a human being but because you are sanctified today by at least one baptized parent or guardian and because of your advanced training, you will help Jesus Christ and other God beings, like your parents, teach the world God's way of life.

MEMORY TEST

Circle the best answer.

1. The Feast of Tabernacles is also called
 - a. the feast of booths.
 - b. the feast of ingathering.
 - c. a wedding feast.
 - d. All of the above.

2. The Feast of Tabernacles pictures
 - a. the Millennium.
 - b. a time of peace, prosperity and happiness.
 - c. the 1,000-year reign of Christ and His royal Family on Earth.
 - d. All of the above.

LAST GREAT DAY

We have seen how members in God's Church will be born into His Family, and how everyone living on Earth will live God's way during the Millennium and will receive the same opportunity to live forever in the God Family as children of Jesus Christ and His Bride. But what about all those who have *died never knowing God*?

God's plan for them is pictured by the Last Great Day!

Return to Leviticus 23 and read verses 34-36 to see God's command to keep this festival: "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD. On the first day shall be an holy convocation: you shall do no servile work therein. Seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the _____ day shall be an _____ unto you; and you shall _____ an _____ made by fire unto the LORD: it is a _____; and you shall do no servile work therein."

The eighth day mentioned in the above passage is actually a separate holy day from the Feast of Tabernacles. The New Testament calls this festival the Last Great Day (John 7:37). This seventh festival is the seventh high holy day of the year. It pictures a time period after the Millennium when all the people who have died without knowing God's way of life will be brought back to life!

This means that probably close to *100 billion* people will be resurrected! Some of these people will be Adam's children. Some will be from Noah's lifetime. Others will be from ancient Egypt or from King David's lifetime. Some will be from Christ's lifetime; others from medieval times. Some will even be your own relatives.

God gave a vision of this resurrection to the Prophet Ezekiel. Summarize this amazing passage from Ezekiel 37:1-14: _____

Jesus Christ, the other God beings and the billions of human beings living on Earth during the Millennium will spend a thousand years *getting ready* for this huge resurrection. When it occurs, Jesus Christ and the rest of the God Family will begin comforting these billions of people and teaching them God's way of life. God will then give these resurrected people 100 years to live, and He will give them the choice to embrace God's way or to reject it.

Fill in the blanks below using Isaiah 65:20 to see how God describes this 100-year lifespan: "There shall be no more thence an _____ of _____, nor an _____ that has not _____ his _____: for the _____ shall _____ an _____ years old; but the sinner being an _____ years old shall be accursed."

At the end of the 100 years, God will judge these billions of people. The event is called the Great White Throne Judgment.

Read Revelation 20:11-12 to see the Bible's description of this event: "And I saw a _____, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the _____, _____ and _____, stand before _____; and the _____ were _____: and another _____ was _____, which is the _____ of _____: and the _____ were _____ out of those things which were _____ in the books, according to their _____."

All the people who refuse to obey God and who instead live Satan's selfish way will die in a lake of fire. They will not live forever as selfish, hateful, miserable beings like Satan. All those people who believe and obey God's unselfish give way will be born into His Family as spirit beings!

After the Last Great Day, God the Father will come to Earth. Together with their Family, God the Father and Jesus Christ will rule the universe for all eternity. They will create new worlds and do amazing things that are even more awesome, more joyful and more wonderful than we can imagine!

MEMORY TEST

Circle the best answer.

1. The Last Great Day pictures
 - a. the second resurrection.
 - b. the Great White Throne Judgment.
 - c. the time of salvation for all those who died never knowing God's truth.
 - d. All of the above.

2. The Great White Throne Judgment is
 - a. going on right now.
 - b. a time of judgment during the Millennium.
 - c. a time at the end of the Last Great Day.
 - d. All of the above.
 - e. None of the above.



All the billions of people who have lived and died in the past 6,000 years will be resurrected to receive their opportunity for salvation during the Great White Throne Judgment.

Fall Festivals Word Search

ATONEMENT	U E N C O Q K Y R T R L B E F L W C V Y V G B T T
AZAZEL	X A H Q B L E A D Y B R X C J E Q O L X A T E I Q
BOOTH	A T O T V N L D G X A R M V P Z S O I S O M F D P
BRIDE	O O B J I S Q T G O A T M C C A H T F N P W K U R
COMMAND	D N U H J T T A P B X L U I Y Z H U I O D C B F Z
ETERNITY	S E L C A N R E B A T F O T S A E F R V G X A N S
FAMILY	D M D J Y T E R P A A P U C L O A A W P A M V T K
FEAST OF TABERNACLES	O E G Z U C W G V M S L W A W Z R J H Y I L I H B
FEAST OF TRUMPETS	R N P A L G F T T R U C M P C Y U F V L K U S B Q
FESTIVALS	C T I A E W W S V E O R E U Y O A V Y H R I I V P
FIRSTFRUITS	O K Y B P X Q A D E N M T W B H M L N F N U L M E
FULL MOON	O O Z G R P L L S R G T Q F K T K M T I B R B G V
GOAT	R E S H A W V R I C I P B Z O R W S A G L H H K B
HOLY	E Y F Q S U E J B V K Y O C V T R G E N R O S I W
HOTEL	D P Z H P V M E G I D D O R X I S X N F D T J F S
LAST GREAT DAY	A U U P I P J Z E P N P Q E F Y D A X I J E Q J I
LEARN	Y C A N B A O Z C E S P W J N A F X E H R L I V P
MEGIDDO	T V U E D I R B F N E R U O H Z D L P F L E A R N
MILLENNIUM	I R J F L B B K N A C F I I U I P B E U S K F G L
OFFERING	N E H N O M X W C L C G P C X Z U U Y Z T L Z F J
PEACE	R S H P R F B E V P Q Q B E M R A F O H S J O G O
PLAN	E T K L H U K O C E S O Q Q L J O E G B K F N A H
REJOICE	T N C M W F T B O M I R I A Z M I L L E N N I U M
REST	E D X O T X U E S T C O X F F R M B I O K B L H C
RETURN	N O O M L L U F R J H E E P T V F Q K X A G S S T
ROYAL	
SHOFAR	
TEMPORARY	
TENT	
TITHE	
UNIVERSE	