

Feasts and Festivals / Calendars and Schedules

Leviticus 23

Introduction: How do you organize your schedule?

Why Leviticus 23 is Important: Leviticus 23 is important for us today because it helps shape our thinking to better organize our lives around the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the local church.

Theme of Leviticus 23: God organizes the nation of Israel’s yearly calendar to remind them of His covenantal faithfulness and to help keep their lives centered on Him.

I. _____ (1–2)

II. _____ (3–22)

A. _____ (3)

B. _____ (4–5)

C. _____ (6–8)

D. _____ (9–14)

- Nobuyoshi Kiuchi, “Undoubtedly the addition of wine alone suggests that this is a joyful occasion, at least, from a human standpoint, not to mention that it is part of the produce. But it needs to be borne in mind that this joy must first be shared by the Lord, for all these offerings are given to the Lord, and then to the priests. Until the people have offered the sheaf, the burnt offering, the loyalty offering and the wine to their God, they must abstain from bread and parched or fresh grain.”¹

E. _____ (15–22)

- Jay Sklar, “By making these offerings, the Israelites were able to achieve atonement (*purification offering, burnt offering*), express worship and praise (*burnt offering*) and celebrate covenant fellowship (*fellowship offering*).”²
- R. K. Harrison, “The feast reminded the Israelites that God's care and control reached into every area of life, making no false distinctions between material and spiritual blessings. Christ taught that not merely does our heavenly Father give us the things of which we have need, but that He will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.”

III. _____ (23–43)

A. _____ (23–25)

B. _____ (26–32)

¹ Nobuyoshi Kiuchi, [Leviticus](#), ed. David W. Baker and Gordon J. Wenham, vol. 3, *Apollos Old Testament Commentary* (Nottingham, England; Downers Grove, IL: Apollos; InterVarsity Press, 2007), 424.

² Jay Sklar, [Leviticus: An Introduction and Commentary](#), ed. David G. Firth, vol. 3, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries* (Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2013), 284.

- Allen Ross, “During the course of the year it was difficult for people to account for every defilement and every sin. Regular worship left too many things unresolved. And so here was a chance to have a general atonement for people, priests, and places of worship.... No matter what had happened during the year, on this day all their sins were carried away, all the barring defilements were purged, and they were free to enter the sanctuary and commune with the Lord.”³

i. _____ (27, 29, 32)

- Andrew Bonar, “This *afflicting of the soul* withdrew the man from earthly joys; the world and its scenes faded away while he contemplated his guilt, and the wrath of his God, and then the atonement provided by God. His afflicted soul is weaned from earth.”⁴

ii. _____ (27)

iii. _____ (28–32)

C. _____ (33–43)

i. _____ (39–40)

ii. _____ (40b–41)

³ Ross, Leviticus, 322.

⁴ Andrew A. Bonar, [*A Commentary on the Book of Leviticus. Expository and Practical*](#) (New York: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1851), 416.

iii. _____ (42–43)

IV. _____ (**44**)

Appropriation

Leviticus 23 and the New Testament

1. The Passover and Christ's Sacrifice
2. The Feast of Weeks (Harvest) and Pentecost
3. The Motif of Remembering—Baptism and the Communion

Leviticus 23 and Prioritizing Our Calendars

1. Be committed to reflecting the triune God.
 - a. God's character—He is not confused but orderly.
 - b. God's decrees—He wills and executes His plan.
 - c. God's time—He oversees every second (providence)
 - d. God's people—He orders our lives
2. Be committed to organizing your schedule around Sunday—the Lord's Day
 - a. Organize your Mon–Sat. schedule to help free up Sunday
 - b. Focus your Sunday efforts on worship, fellowship w/ believers, and rest