

# The Cleansing of a Leper

## Lev 14: 1-7



L

LEVITICUS

An Offering to the Lord

A Striking and Beautiful Picture of Salvation



# Leprosy as a Disease

- *“A slowly progressing and intractable disease characterized by nodules, scabs, and white shining spots appearing to be deeper than the skin. In the later stages the victim is possessed of raw flesh all over the body and parts of limbs often fall off before death occurs.” ISBE*



# Hansen's Disease

- The medical name for leprosy is **Hansen's disease**.
- Dr. *Armauer Hansen* of Norway was the first to see the leprosy germ under a microscope in 1873.
- The evidence was clear: a germ (*mycobacterium leprae*) causes leprosy.
- It was not hereditary, a curse, or from sin.

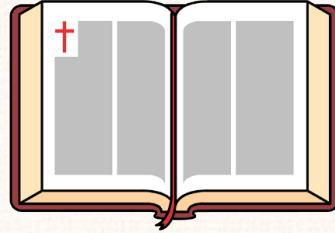


# How is leprosy spread?

- Spread through long-term contact with a person who has the disease but has not been treated.
- 95% of today's population has natural immunity.
- In South Louisiana and Texas, some armadillos carry this bacteria.



# Bible times



- Is leprosy in the Bible the same as it is today?
  - No. The Hebrew word for leprosy refers to many types of skin diseases. However, the worse forms of leprosy were **incurable**.
- ISBE



# Why have a ritual for cleansing a leper?

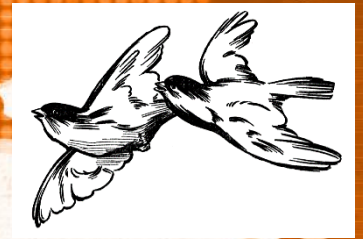
- “This is in reality a ritual not for cleansing the true leper because there was no cure. Instead this was the ritual for declaring one ceremonially free from *suspicion* of having the disease.” ISBE
- This gives added force to the words: **“The lepers are cleansed!”**





# The Two Birds

Lev 14:1-7



- Leprosy = Type of **SIN**
- *Characteristics:*
  - **Terminal** = Death!
  - **Highly contagious** (Leaven)
  - *Unclean! Unclean!* **Separation**
  - Pain and suffering – **despair!**





# The Cleansing of the Leper

## 16 Key Elements

Lev 14:1-7

- Little birds – sparrows
- Two birds
- Alive and Clean
- Cedar Wood
- **Scarlet**
- Hyssop



# Hyssop





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- Killed outside the camp
- Done by Priests
- Earthen vessel
- Slain by commandment
- Killed over “running water.”
- Live bird dipped in blood of the sacrifice



# Parallel Elements:

- Wood (cedar) ---
- Blood & Water *connection*
- Hyssop— involved in the sacrifice.
- The Cross!
- Jn 19:34
- I John 5:6-8  
(Spirit, Water, Blood)
- Jn 19:29



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- Live bird dipped in blood of the sacrifice
- A living Bird released
- Ascends up into the air as a witness!
- Leper sprinkled – 7 x!
- Cleansed leper— becomes a living witness.



# Feasts of *the* Bible





# Leviticus 23:1-2

- “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: **These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.**”



# Overview

- Three main lessons of the feasts:
  - God's Protection
  - God's Provision
  - God's Promise
- The entire feast and sacrificial system is fulfilled in Christ.





# Overview

- **God's Redemptive Program**

- Leviticus 23 is sometimes referred to as “God’s calendar of redeeming grace” because this chapter tells God’s redemptive plan for the world he created.
- Holidays and Sabbath days are a shadow of things to come: **“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”—Colossians 2:16–17**



# Overview

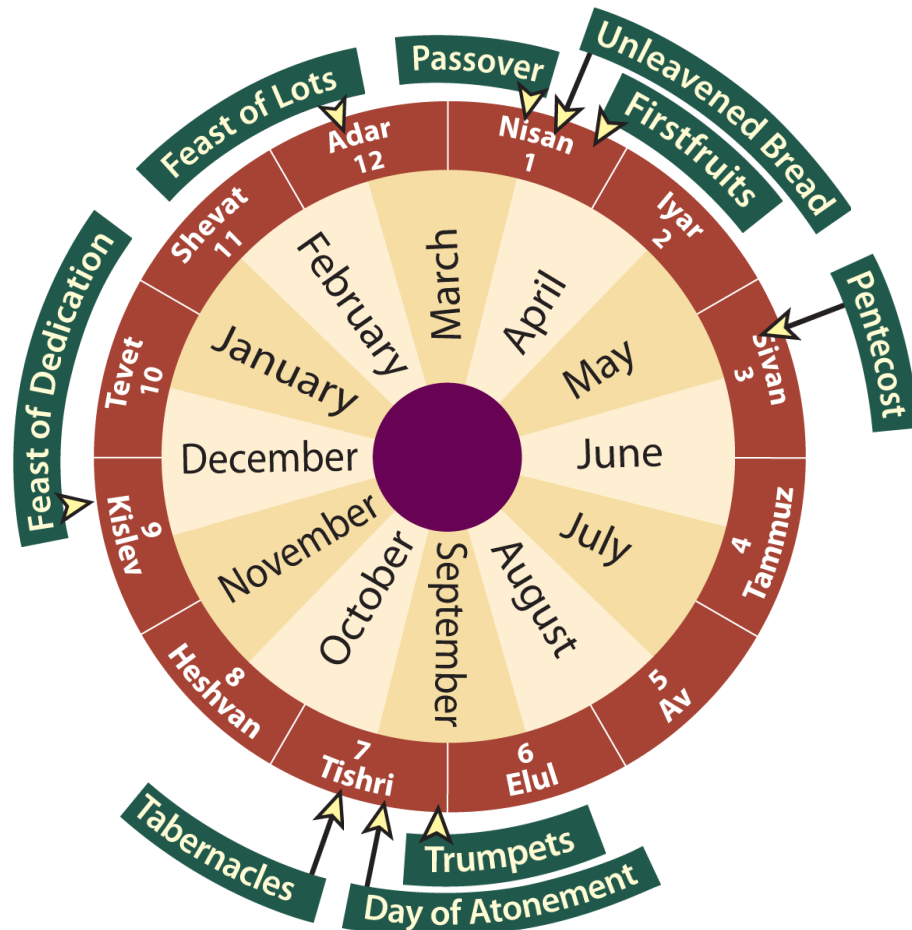
- **God's Redemptive Program**

- Passover pictures the death of Jesus, the perfect sacrifice. He died on Passover.
- Unleavened Bread pictures the sinless Jesus, “the bread of life” from heaven.
- Firstfruits foretold his resurrection on the third day.
- Pentecost (Shavuot) foretold the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- **The three fall feasts (Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles) will be fulfilled at Jesus' second coming.**



# Overview

- In Exodus 12, God established the order of the months.
- This was the first Jewish calendar used to determine the holidays.





# Feast of Trumpets



**Also Known As**

Rosh HaShanah

**Observed**

1 Tishri

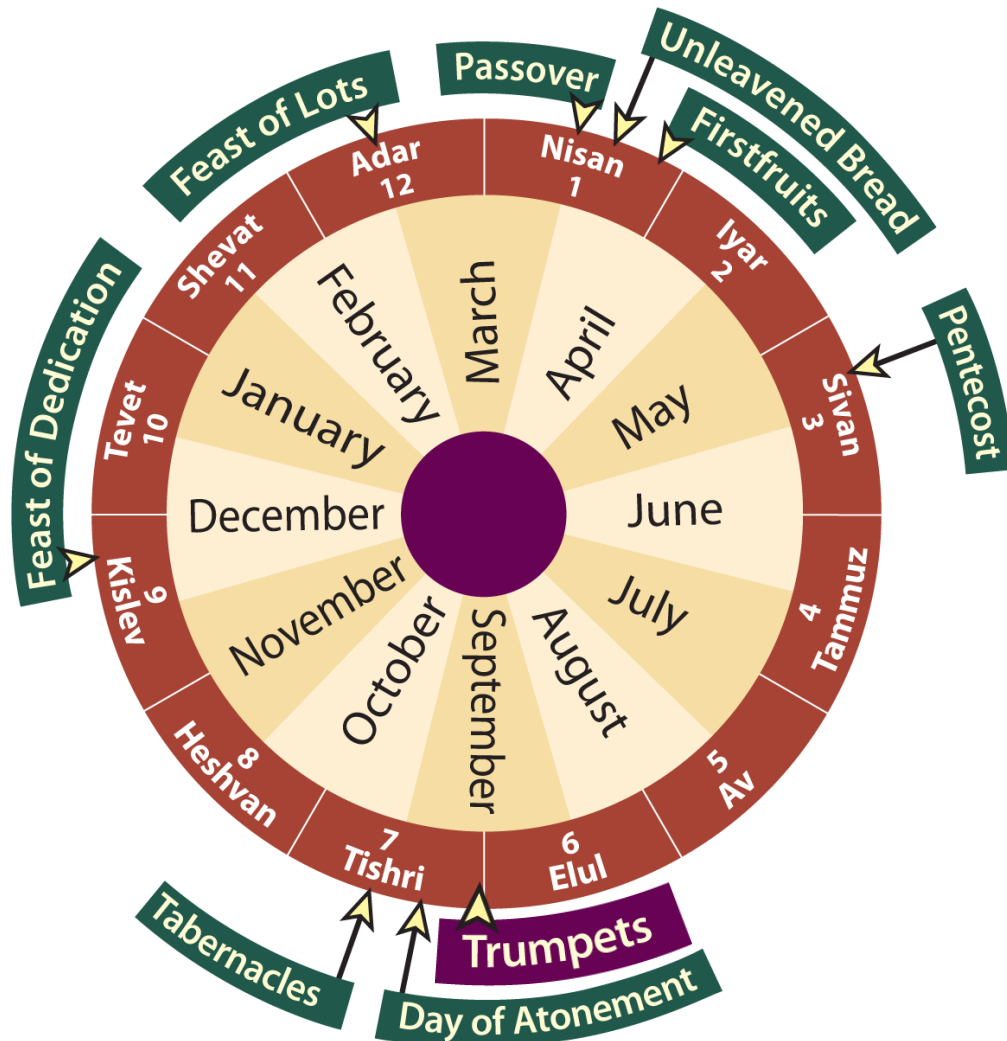
Sept. or October

**Scripture**

Leviticus 23:23–25

**Hebrew**

רֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה



# Feast of Tabernacles



## Also Known As

Sukkot or Booths

## Observed

15–22 Tishri

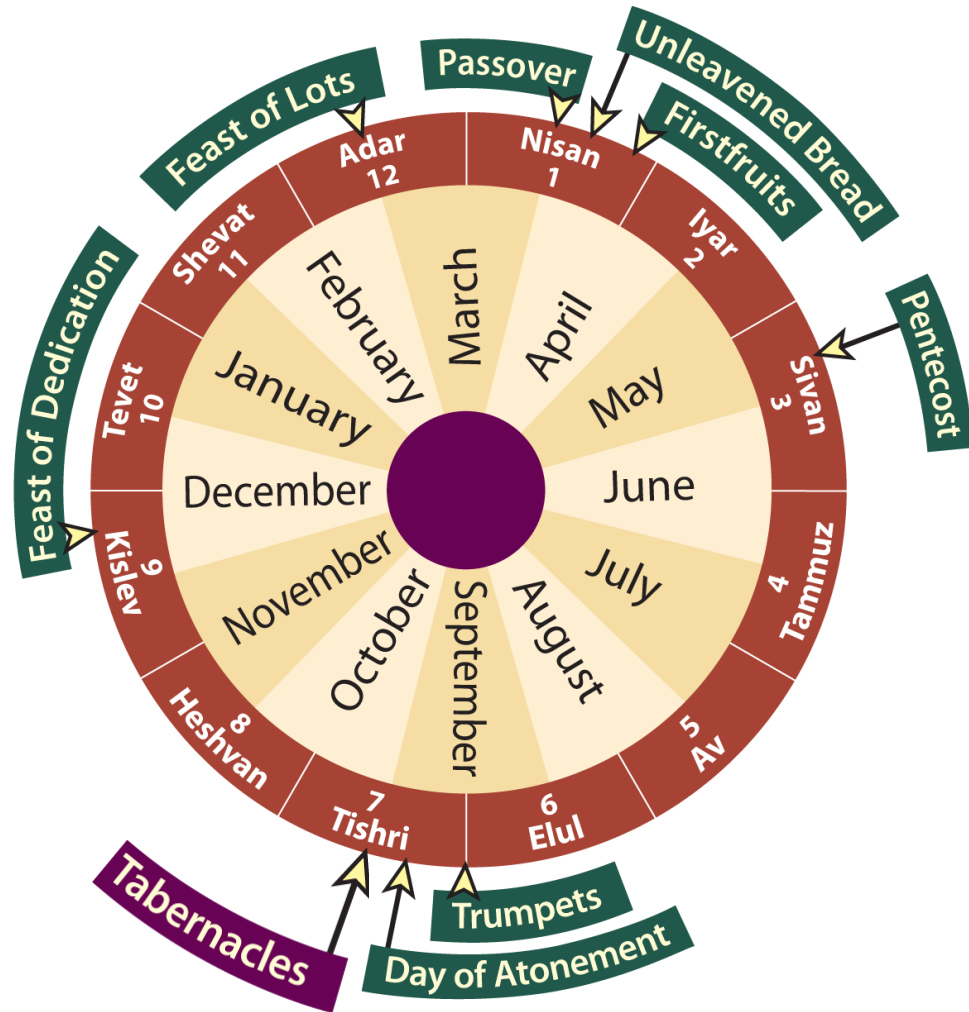
Sept. or October

## Scripture

Leviticus 23:33–43

## Hebrew

חג הסוכות





# Day of Atonement



**Also Known As**

***Yom Kippur***

**Observed**

*10 Tishri*

Sept. or October

**Scripture**

**Leviticus 16:3-3, 17:11**

Leviticus: 23:26–32

Leviticus: 25:9

**Numbers 6:24-26**

**See Heb 9:23-10:4**

