



Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Special Fall Festivals Lesson

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Have you ever started watching a movie in the middle or toward the end? It's so confusing! You have no idea what is going on nor why the characters are doing what they're doing. That's what it's like trying to understand what's going on in the real world when you don't know anything about what happened in the past. To understand the world around you, you have to go back to the beginning of the "movie."

The Holy Bible takes you back to the beginning. It also shows you what the world is like right now and why it is the way it is. In fact, the Bible even shows you what will happen in the *future*.

The Bible tells you the reasons why humans do the things we do, what our character and nature is like, and where our actions will lead. It gives you the whole picture of past and future human history, and it gives you the specific truths that bring happiness, health and meaning into your life, personally.

In this special lesson, you will learn the key that unlocks the mystery of God's master plan. To discover these age-old mysteries, you will need your Bible, a pencil and a prayerful attitude. Be sure to read each Bible verse listed in this lesson. God talks to you *through these scriptures*, revealing to you the whole "movie" from beginning to end!

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S PLAN

The very first human beings were Adam and Eve. God explained the purpose of their lives to them. But they rejected His master plan; they chose to decide for themselves what is good and evil. Their children and their children's children have made the same choice ever since. Because human beings rejected God's way of life, God cut them off from Him. The most important thing a human being needs to know, *why humans exist*, became a mystery!

God is not teaching most people the reason why they exist. He is allowing them to see what their choices lead to. And one look down a middle-school hallway or at a world news report shows you the kinds of problems that develop from rejecting God: ugly attitudes, terrible actions and horrible suffering. This is what life is like in a world that is totally under Satan's influence and cut off from God. Sadly, people have to learn the hard way that Satan's way doesn't work before they are willing to try God's way.

But God has not cut off everyone. He is working with a very small group of people: His Church. When Jesus Christ returns, He will set His hand to turn everyone in the world back to God, and these people from God's Church will help Him do that!

To unlock the mysteries of God's master plan, God gave His Church seven annual festivals. You can only understand God's plan for mankind if you humbly obey God and keep these festivals. Each festival represents a step in God's seven-step plan to turn as many people as possible into God beings.

To find the names of God's seven annual festivals, turn to Leviticus 23. List the name of each day on the following lines. (If a day has more than one name, write it on the same line.)

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

In the Northern Hemisphere, the first three festivals occur in the spring. These days show God's plan to bring a comparatively small group of people into His Church to become the Bride of Jesus Christ.

The last four festivals are in the fall. They show God's plan to bring the vast majority of humanity into His Family as children of God!

THE SPRING FESTIVALS

The first of God's festivals is Passover. It memorializes the price of sin. All human beings, except one, have sinned. That means we have all earned the penalty of eternal death. Jesus Christ voluntarily chose to become a human being, live a sinless life and die on your behalf so that, if you repent and follow God, your sins can be *forgiven* and you can be saved from the penalty of eternal death. Passover is a solemn memorial of Jesus Christ's death.

The second of God's festivals is the feast of Unleavened Bread. The first day of Unleavened Bread is the first high holy day of the year. The seventh and last day of Unleavened Bread is the second high holy day of the year. God commands His people to put all leavening out of their homes before this feast begins. During this festival, God commands His people not to eat leaven and to remove leaven from their homes and other property. (Leaven causes bread to puff up with air, just like 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. It 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! Pentecost shows us that, *with* God's Holy Spirit, God's people can overcome sin and live His way of life!

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 then bring them into His Family!

What about everyone else? There are billions of people living on Earth who are *not* in God's Church. In fact, there are billions and billions and billions of people who have lived *and died* never having been in God's Church—never even hearing about His master plan. What will happen to *them*?

This brings us to the purpose of the four fall holy days!

MEMORY TEST

Why isn't God trying to teach everyone about His way of life right now? _____

What does the Passover represent? _____



The holy days picture God's plan, which involves all men who have ever lived.



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The armies of the Earth will gather in the Valley of Megiddo before marching to Jerusalem to fight Christ at His return.

What does the feast of Unleavened Bread represent?

What does Pentecost represent? _____

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 step comes after the members of God’s Church have qualified to become part of His Family.

Fill in the blanks using Leviticus 23:23-25 to find out 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 _____ of _____. You shall do no servile work therein: but you shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.”

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 to warn people about war. A good example of this is in Ezekiel 33:1-6. When signs of trouble appeared, a watchman with something like a *shofar* was supposed to blast out a warning so the people could take cover or get ready to fight.

The Feast of Trumpets points to the most important event in history: the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! The Bible tells us that an archangel will announce Christ’s return with the blast of a trumpet. This blast will be so loud that everyone on Earth will hear it!

Use 1 Thessalonians 4:16 to fill in the blanks below and learn the details of His return: “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the _____ of _____: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”

The moment Christ returns, God will resurrect the Old Testament prophets and other saints He used during that period, along with everyone in God’s Church who has died in the faith. He will then transform them into God beings! In the next moment, everyone in God’s Church who is still alive will also be transformed into God beings!

Read about this awesome event in 1 Corinthians 15:52 and summarize the scene in your own words: _____

Turn to Zechariah 14:4 to find out what happens immediately after the saints become God beings and summarize the events in your own words: _____

The piercing blast of the trumpet on this day will also be an alarm of war! Jesus Christ will return in the midst of World War III, and He will have to fight to prevent human beings from killing every person alive!

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. This is why the alarm of war is sounded. A great army will gather north of Jerusalem in a plain called Megiddo. Jesus Christ and the God beings who have just been born from God’s Church into God’s 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, something new will happen. 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 teach everyone how to live God’s give way of life. The members of God’s Church will be God beings who assist Christ in teaching God’s obedient, peaceful, joyful way of life.

Read the great announcement in Revelation 11:15 that will be made when the Feast of Trumpets is fulfilled: “And the _____ sounded; and there were _____ in _____, saying, The _____ of this _____ are become the _____ of our _____, and of his _____; and he shall _____ for _____ and _____.”

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—an instruction that He does not give for the other holy days.

Fill in the blanks using Leviticus 23:27-30 to see what this instruction is: “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 no work in that same day: for it is a day of _____, to make an _____ for you before the LORD your God. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be _____ in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. And whatsoever soul it be that does any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.”

God commands His people to “afflict” themselves on Atonement. The word *afflict* means “to humble.” How do we accomplish this? And for what purpose?

Turn to Ezra 8:21 to see how to humble yourself before God: “Then I proclaimed a _____ there, at the river of Ahava, that we might _____



Fasting on Atonement gives us more time for prayer and study.

ourselves before our God, to _____ of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.”

When we fast during Atonement, we go without food and water; that means we have less energy and strength. If we went more than a few days without food and water, we would die! This reminds us that we are weak, physical, 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. During this day, we should spend extra time praying and studying the Bible. Only by praying and studying with a humble attitude can we start to draw closer to God.

This festival also pictures a major event that will happen soon. This event involves the angel who was originally named Lucifer, which means “light-bringer.” God had created Lucifer and given him the important job of ruling the Earth and making it more beautiful. Lucifer was in harmony with God at first, but then he began to focus on himself. He became selfish and evil, and he rebelled against God!

God changed Lucifer’s name to Satan, which means “enemy.” Beginning with Adam and Eve, Satan has been convincing human beings to rebel against God. He constantly broadcasts attitudes of getting, taking, selfishness, hate and violence.

Fill in the blank using Revelation 12:9 to see how God describes Satan: “And the _____ was cast out, that _____, called the Devil, and Satan, which _____ the _____: he was cast out into the earth”

Notice that Satan has deceived the whole world! His wicked way of life is the cause of all of your suffering, as well as the suffering of every other human being!

Summarize in your own words Revelation 20:1-3 regarding what will happen to Satan on the Day of Atonement: _____

The Day of Atonement pictures God locking up Satan! After Jesus Christ returns, God will seal Satan in a bottomless pit where he will be restrained from

God’s Way Vs. Satan’s Way

What changes can you think of in a world where Satan is gone and everyone is trying to live God’s way? On the lines below, list some of the things that will be different in the World Tomorrow. In the left-hand column, write down how Satan’s world is doing things today. Then in the right-hand column, write down God’s way of doing the same thing.

People covet possessions and steal them. _____

People will be content with possessions and share them. _____



The Feast of Tabernacles is a time of intense instruction from God's ministry.

interfering as Christ teaches everyone God's way of life.

With Jesus Christ and His wife ruling the world free of Satan's influence, everyone on Earth will finally have a chance to become *at one* with God!

That is why this day is called the day of *AT+ONE+MENT* = _____!

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.

Turn to Leviticus 23:39-43 to find our how the Israelites kept this Feast: "Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the _____ day shall be a _____, and on the _____ day shall be a _____. 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 rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. And you shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute _____ in your generations: you shall celebrate 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 _____, 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 the Feast of Tabernacles. In ancient Israel, people lived in huts or tents called booths during this time. Today, people in God's Church stay in hotels, tents or other temporary accommodations.

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 into God's Family. Only members of God's Church understand this truth today. But in the Millennium, everyone on Earth will understand that physical life is temporary and that its purpose is to prepare us to be born into God's Family. Those people who believe and obey Jesus Christ will enter God's Family as Spirit-born children!

This festival represents a time period of 1,000 years. This period begins when Jesus Christ returns,

members of God's Church are born into God's Family, Christ begins to rule the whole Earth, and everyone has the opportunity to come into at-one-ment with God. We call this 1,000-year period the Millennium.

God calls the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church members who are born into God's Family a marriage. In ancient Israel, wedding feasts lasted seven days. So the festival picturing Christ's marriage also lasts seven days!

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

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

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

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

During the Millennium, everyone will be living God's way. Because of this, the entire world will be peaceful! People will not hate, steal, lie or kill. God will heal the blind, deaf or crippled. He will even change the nature of wild animals, and they will become tame!

Read Isaiah 11:6-9 and summarize it in your own words: _____

Today, only those in God's Church have access to God's Spirit. In the Millennium, however, God will give all people the opportunity to receive His Spirit if they choose to repent and be baptized.

Fill in the blanks using Joel 2:29: "And also upon the _____ and upon the handmaids in those _____ will I _____ out my _____."

Many children in God's Church will not yet be baptized when Jesus Christ returns. Perhaps you will not yet be baptized. If so, you will still be a human being during the Millennium. You will help Jesus Christ and other God beings, like your parents. Together, you will teach people to obey and to love God.

No wonder God commands us to rejoice during the Feast of Tabernacles!

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!

Read Leviticus 23:34-36 to learn God's command regarding 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 holy _____ unto you; and you shall offer an offering 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. Some will be from ancient Egypt. Some will be from King David's lifetime. Some will be from Christ's lifetime. Some will be from medieval times. Some will be your relatives!

God gave a vision of this resurrection to the Prophet



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You might even get to teach your own relatives during the Great White Throne Judgment.

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 1,000 years *getting ready* for this huge resurrection! Then 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.

Read 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. This event will be called the Great White Throne Judgment.

Fill in the blanks using Revelation 20:11-12: “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 God; and the _____ were _____: and another _____ was _____, which is the _____ of _____: and the _____ were _____ out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

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 God beings!

After the Last Great Day, God the Father will come to Earth. Together with their new family, God the Father and Jesus Christ will rule the universe for all eternity. We will help God and Christ take God’s government and way of life out into the universe and do amazing things that are too awesome, too joyful and too wonderful to even imagine!

Read 1 Corinthians 2:9 and fill in the blanks below to gain a glimpse of your future in God’s Family: “But

as it is written, _____ has not _____, nor _____, neither have entered into the _____ of _____, the things which God has _____ for them that _____ him.”

MEMORY TEST

What does the Feast of Trumpets represent? _____

What does the Day of Atonement represent? _____

What does the Feast of Tabernacles represent? _____

What does the Last Great Day represent? _____

Addresses

Use this space to record your new friends' addresses so you can keep in touch after the Feast.

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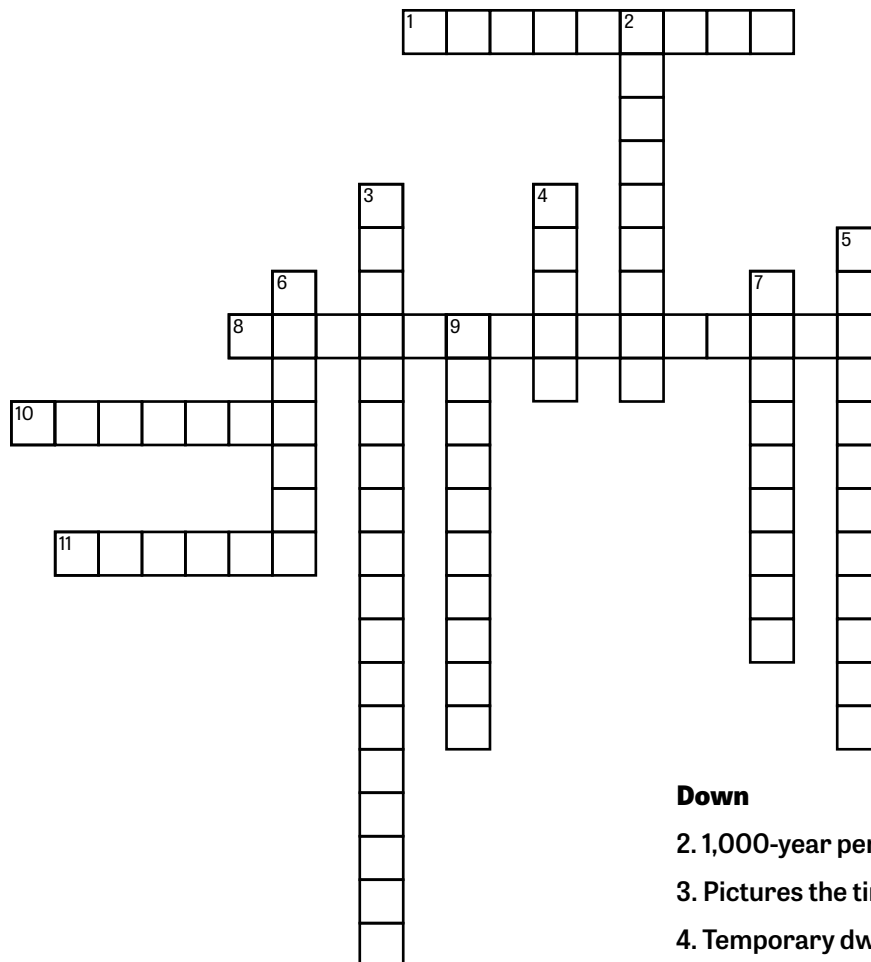
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Fall Festivals Crossword



Across

1. Pictures when Satan will be bound
8. Pictures the Second Coming of Christ
10. A great army will gather here
11. Afflict

Down

2. 1,000-year period after Christ returns
3. Pictures the time after Christ's return
4. Temporary dwelling
5. The last festival of the year
6. Commanded during the Feast
7. God has seven annual _____
9. How long will people live during the
Great White Throne Judgment?