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# Ignite

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*"Heavenly Father, thank You for Your perfect plan of redemption through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ - Who died and rose again so that we might be forgiven of our sin and receive a new, resurrected life, in Him. Thank You for the clear picture of redemption which threads its way through Old Testament scriptures and brings us to an understanding that we are all sinners in need of a saviour - for without the shedding of Christ's blood there is no life - for life is in the blood. Thank You that just as the life of mortal man is in the blood, so that life of forgiven sinners comes through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit and that one day we will receive a new, resurrected body - like unto Christ's resurrected body. We praise Your holy name for ever and ever, Amen"*





# SERMON SUMMARY

**Note to Word Facilitator:** The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

## Leviticus 6 – Celebrating Jesus in the Biblical Feasts

### Leviticus 23

**Pastor Chris Kam**

#### **Leviticus 23:1-11**

*The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.*

#### *The Sabbath*

*“There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the Lord.*

#### *The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread*

*“These are the Lord’s appointed festivals, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times: The Lord’s Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. On the fifteenth day of that month the Lord’s Festival of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. For seven days present a food offering to the Lord. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work.”*

## *Offering the Firstfruits*

*The Lord said to Moses, 10 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest. He is to wave the sheaf before the Lord so it will be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath.*

*The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy. "Each of you must respect your mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the Lord your God. "Do not turn to idols or make metal gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God.*

## **Introduction**

The book of Leviticus shows us that God is Holy and God is also loving. When we enter into a relationship with God, we are set apart and need to be clean and different from the world. The first half of Leviticus shows us that we were made right with God. The second half of Leviticus shows us that we need to walk right with God. God spoke the most in Leviticus. The phrase "The Lord said to Moses" - 34 times in Leviticus, and about 90% of the book - is the direct speech of God. There is no other book in the Bible that compares to it.

Leviticus 23 is a book about the festivals. God provided a visual representation of celebrations and to show us the consequence of sin and the joy of being with God. During the sacrifice, you see, hear and smell what happens during the sacrifice. It shows that sin makes a bloody mess of things.

The Old Testament provided the pictures. The New Testament provides the Person. The Old Testament was a lamb. The New Testament is the Person, Jesus Christ, the perfect sacrificial Lamb. Jesus didn't come to abolish the Law of the Prophets but to fulfil them. If it wasn't for the law, we won't know what sin was. When Jesus died on the cross, He said "It is finished."

1500 years later, Jesus came to fulfil the law so that we don't need to offer sacrifices anymore. The Greek word for "finished" is "tetelestai" which means done, completed, accomplished. In the perfect tense, "finished" speaks of an action which has been

completed in the past, with results continuing into the present. When Jesus said “it is finished” more than 2000 years ago, it is still being accomplished today in your life.

**BIG IDEA: Jesus is in the centre of all the Biblical Festivals, and also in your life.**

Festivals are appointed by the Lord and to be celebrated as sacred assemblies. It is spread through all seasons for us to mark it in our calendars and celebrated regularly. The weekly habit of the Sabbath is not a festival but a weekly lifestyle of rest.

NO	Festivals	Before Christ	After Christ
I	<b>Passover (3 feasts) Spring (April/May)</b>		
1	<b>The Festival of Passover - <i>Exodus 11 &amp; 12, John 1:29, 1 Corinthians 5:7</i></b>	God Passed over the houses marked with the blood during the plague of the firstborn.	Jesus , the Passover lamb was crucified for the sins of the world
2	<b>The Festival of Unleavened Bread -<i>Exodus 12, John 6:33</i></b>	Unleavened Bread is eaten as a remembrance of the Exodus of Egypt	Leaven represents sin. The unleavened bread, meaning without sin, is represented by the Body of Christ. And Jesus was buried on the day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Jesus who was without sin, the unleavened bread, bore our sins. He is the Bread of Life.

3	<b>The Festival of Firstfruits- <i>Lev 23:4-8, 1 Corinthians 15:20</i></b>	Celebration of the harvest of barley	Jesus was risen. Jesus was the Firstfruits of the future harvest of Resurrection Life.
II	<b>Pentecost (1 feast) - Summer (May/June)</b>		
4	<b>The Festival of Weeks or Pentecost (<i>Exodus 19 &amp; 32</i>)</b>	Two loaves of leavened bread were offered as a wave offering of firstfruits. Offering of wheat would also be given. This was a day to commemorate the giving of the law on Mount Sinai. It was also the birth of a nation with God's laws. Unfortunately, 3000 died at the giving of the Laws due to their rebellion (Exodus 32)	Jesus was with the people for 40 days before he ascended to heaven and the disciples were told to wait 10 days, totalling 50 days.
God came to Mt Sinai. The Holy Spirit came on Pentecost and established a new covenant. Since the prophecies of the first four festivals were already fulfilled perfectly, it is very reasonable to conclude that the remaining three feasts will also be fulfilled as events of the future. If you want to know your future, here it is.			
III	<b>Tabernacles (3 feasts) - Fall (Sep-Oct)</b>		

5	<b>The Festival of Trumpets –</b> <i>Matthew 24:30-31</i>	<p>The Trumpet would be sounded, and workers stopped work to come into the temple and make a food offering. It was a call to rest.</p>	<p>The feast of trumpets signifies the return of Jesus, His second coming, without warning, like a thief in the night. When that happens, we will celebrate and completely rest from the toils of the world. Those without Christ will mourn because judgment is coming but those in Christ will be gathered to Him.</p>
6	<b>The Festival of The Day of Atonement</b>	<p>The High Priest entered the Holy of Holies and offered sacrifices for the entire nation.</p>	<p>The symbolic meaning of the high priest entering the Holy of Holies is the Day of Judgment when Jesus will come to judge the world. He came as a humble human baby. Now He will come as a King!</p>
7	<b>The Festival of Tabernacles</b> <i>Revelation 21:3,4</i>	<p>This was the celebration of God's provision of shelter in the wilderness during the Exodus.</p>	<p>Just as the Jews celebrated God's provision of shelter in the wilderness during the Exodus, this is a prophetic revelation of God and His creation dwelling together where there is no suffering.</p>

The first three celebrations show Jesus coming as a suffering servant. The last three shows Jesus coming as the ruling king. There are two major shifts from the old testament and the new testament.

Holiness shifts from material to moral. Clean dirt can be cleaned externally. Dirty dirt needs more work and time to clean. For example, Jesus says that looking at a woman lustfully is as serious as the act of adultery itself. Being angry with your brother is as serious as the sin of murder. God knows whether we want to have to come to church. The fact that we are saved should motivate us to observe the Sabbath and serve him wholeheartedly.

The rewards and punishment of our actions have shifted from this world to the next. God's purpose is to make you Holy first. Your faith must be lived inside out.

### **Conclusion** [Matthew 6:19-21](#), [Deuteronomy 30:6](#)

We no longer need these festivals because we have the Holy Spirit in us and Jesus has died for us. The only two practices that are important are Holy Communion and Baptism. Baptism is our outward commitment and proclamation of our faith to others. Holy Communion is the symbol of our remembrance of the body and blood of Christ. The practices in itself do not have any supernatural or magical significance. For example, most of us have a cross around our necks or on the phone. When something bad happens, you unconsciously flash the cross or draw it. The cross is merely a reminder for you to pray to Him. Your focus should be on Christ and not its symbols.

### **Prayer - Trusting Jesus**

*Lord Jesus, I thank you that you are enough and that you are more than enough. Thank you for fulfilling all the prophecies and cleansing our sin even before we committed them. Thank you also for preparing a future where we know we will go once our life on earth is done. Help us live a holy life for you.*

*In Your Name I pray. Amen.*

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# SERMON REFLECTION

As I look at these festivals, I can't help but to notice how similar we are with the rest of the world. Though the modes of celebration are different, the significance is the same. Festivals and celebrations are an excellent way to start conversations.

During my college days, I joined my Hindu friends for the Pongal festival. It is a festival to celebrate the harvest. It is the only moment you get to try 'pongal rice'. Don't miss the chance to get this from your friends. I remember a Christian friend celebrating this festival with his family because it was his dying grandmother's wish to always remember God during the times of harvest.

The other festival I remember is Thaipusam. Long ago, one of my friends was carrying the chariot (kavadi), so I had the privilege to see him prepare spiritually and mentally months before the festival. He turned vegetarian for a few months before thaipusam. He stopped smoking and drinking to observe this. He also stayed away from hanging out with friends so that his mind is focused and his thoughts are pure. He also removed himself from the whatsapp group we had.

Here are some observations I made: Devotees prepare for the celebration by keeping their body always clean, doing regular prayers, following a vegetarian diet and fasting before the Thaipusam. Kavadi-bearers have to perform elaborate ceremonies at the time of assuming the kavadi and at the time of offering it to Murugan. The kavadi-bearer observes celibacy and consumes only certain types of foods, once a day, while continuously thinking of God. On the day of the festival, devotees shave their heads and undertake a pilgrimage along a set route, while engaging in various acts of devotion.

My friend and his family believe that worshipping lord Murugan every year in this way makes them physically and mentally healthy, and helps clear them of karmic debts they may have incurred. During the thaipusam week, we had dinner around Batu Caves while waiting for him to complete his final ritual carrying his kavadi up the 272 daunting steps of the temple. This event really got me thinking how serious my relationship was with God. It was amazing to see my friend turn 180 degrees and set



himself apart to be holy almost instantly. Such was the significance of these festivals and the “cleansing” that devotees undertake, till today!

I am so glad that we have Jesus who came not to abolish the law but to fulfil it. Jesus forgives us no matter how dirty our lives were before. Three years ago, one of my friends opened my back-car door. He didn't notice an oncoming car and a minor accident occurred. This created a deep scratch on the car door. I am not a fan of polishing because it is very expensive and the effect wears off anyway, to me, there was no point doing it. For three whole years, the long scratch in the car was just a part of my life. People can live with weird car stickers. I can live with a few scratches and scars. Recently, when the car wash was allowed to reopen during MCO 2.0, my regular car wash guy told me that he could remove the long deep scratch for fifty ringgit. He took about 15 minutes to prepare, clean and polish the car. I was overjoyed looking at a clean car door.

I know what the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus has set us free but I have taken this ‘simplicity’ for granted. If I believe in a God who died for me to clean the “dirty dirts” in my life, then I should desire to set apart and live a holy life to glorify Him. The thought that Jesus has sacrificed himself for us once and for all still bewilders me. I thank God that we don't have to perform any rituals to get God's attention. The song lyrics “Nothing you can do could make Him love you more, And nothing that you've done could make Him close the door” comes to mind. Christ is enough. Christ is indeed more than enough.

*Contributed by Abbey Thangiah*

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# APPLICATION

**Note to Word facilitator:**

*As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.*

**Suggested Icebreaker Questions**

- What are the festivals you remember and celebrate? What holidays do you remember from your childhood?
- What is the easiest dirt you have cleaned? What is the stain in your house that hasn't gone away despite cleaning many times? How did you feel when your house or car was totally clean?

**Suggested Word Introductory Questions**

- Prior to this past weekend's sermon, were you familiar with the 7 celebrations? What stood out to you?

**Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:**

- Are there any similarities you notice between the Jewish and Malaysian celebrations? (eg: Harvest, Sin, etc.)
- What new understanding or appreciation do you have of the seven biblical festivals in Leviticus 23? In what ways was Jesus central in these festivals?
- Read Hebrews 10:8-10. Why do you think the sacrifices and offerings are no longer needed? (Hint – consider the phrase “once for all.”) Why is this important for you as a Christian?
- *Want* OR *need*? What are the things you *want* to do? What are the things you *need* to do? Is there a difference? How are you living your Christian life?
- Why are we reminded by Jesus that it is not the religious adherence or forms that are important, but the genuine faith we have in our hearts?
- To what measure might you be living a life of hypocrisy? Discuss this in the light of this phrase: “You need to do all that you are doing as a follower of

Christ because you WANT to, not because you HAVE to.”

**Question Bank** *(Extra questions you can use to bring discussion further as you see fit):*

- Are there still portions of old practices and festivals that you still practise? Why do you do so?
  - The last three feasts are a prophetic declaration of our future, that Christ will come again, judge this world and usher us into a new life on the new earth. Does this seem foreign to you? What will Jesus say to you when you meet Him someday as Judge?
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# PRAYER



Photo by Timothy Eberly on Unsplash

**Note to CGL:** You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

## Strategic Missions Partnership

STAMP is an interdenominational missions organisation aiming to bring the Gospel to every nation, ethnic and people group.

Pray for:

- God's protection to be upon the Kingdom workers in church-planting teams serving with various people groups with little to no access to the Gospel.

- God to multiply the fruits of their labour.
- Smooth distribution of 25,000 Bible Stories books in South East Asia.

### **Myanmar Church**

1. They will respond with wisdom from God.
2. They will rise in prayer against principalities and powers.

### **Myanmar**

1. For improvement in the political situation & international pressure.
2. Relief for the people's suffering.
3. The young people's anger.



## **OTHER RESOURCES**

*Below are some links to resources for you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!*

### **FEATURED**

*In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!*



### Holiness

6 minutes 34 seconds

[youtube.com](https://youtube.com)

In this video, we explore the paradox that God's holiness ...

[Bible](#) [Doctrine](#) [Prayer & Spirituality](#) [Christian Living](#)

[Video Clip](#)



### Sacrifice and Atonement

7 minutes

[youtube.com](https://youtube.com)

In this video on sacrifice and atonement, we trace the the...

[Bible](#) [Doctrine](#)

[Video Clip](#)



### Overview: Leviticus

8 minutes 16 seconds

[youtube.com](https://youtube.com)

Israel's holy God invites them to live in His presence desp...

[Bible](#) [Christian Living](#)

[Video Clip](#)



### Holiness as the Church Bearing Fruit

[seedbed.com](https://seedbed.com)

Holiness, as we have seen, is not merely about eradicatin...

[Timothy Tennent](#)

[Bible](#) [Doctrine](#) [Teaching](#) [Christian Living](#)

[Article](#)

## OTHER RESOURCES



*Discover a host of other resources curated for you here!*



## **DUMC STORIES**

*Be blessed by a compilation of inspiring DUMC Stories that you can share with others!*

