

THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD®

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



SPECIAL FEAST LESSON

LEVEL 4



THE FALL FEASTS

The Fall Festivals

Most people you know celebrate holidays such as Christmas and Easter. Also, you have probably been told that these holidays honor Jesus Christ and God the Father. This is what most people believe. However, these are two among many of the world's holidays that began thousands of years ago in pagan religions. Most encyclopedias clearly explain the link.

Does it matter that customs once used to worship idols and false gods are now practiced in the name of Christ? Is God pleased when people keep these holidays? Or does God tell us there are other days He wants us to observe? Let's find out!

After God led Israel out of Egypt, He gave them the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai. When they were preparing to cross over the Jordan River into the Promised

Land, the Israelites were reminded by God of all His laws, and He gave them additional instructions. One of those instructions was that He did not want them to worship Him by copying the pagan beliefs of the nations surrounding them or by worshipping their false gods.

In Deuteronomy 12:30-31, God told His people, "Be careful that you don't get tempted into following the pagan nations, and that you do not ask about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations worship their gods that I may do the same?' You shall not do so to the Lord your God; for every evil and nasty thing which the Lord hates they have done for their gods."

But in recent lessons we have seen how, time and time again, Israel would not listen to God's instructions. They copied the pagan beliefs they had been warned by God not to follow.

In Deuteronomy 12:32, God further instructed, "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; *you shall not add to it nor take away from it.*" Here God tells us very clearly He wants us to keep His laws exactly the way He says. We are not to change it, at all, in any way.

Now let's see what days God commands that we should observe to honor and worship Him.



God's Master Plan for Mankind

God has given us a list of His festivals, also called feasts, that He wants us to keep. Each one of these important festivals shows us a step in God's Master Plan for mankind. This Plan reveals that the most important purpose for the creation of man is for him to become a member of the God Family. As we learn the meaning of the seven yearly festivals listed in Leviticus 23, we come to understand how God's Plan will be accomplished.

In Leviticus 23:1, God begins by identifying to whom these festivals belong, "The appointed *feasts of the Lord* are these." Then, each of His special festivals are given:

Verse 5: **Passover**

Verse 6: **Days of Unleavened Bread**

Verse 16, 21: **Day of Pentecost**

Verse 24: **Feast of Trumpets**

Verse 27: **Day of Atonement**

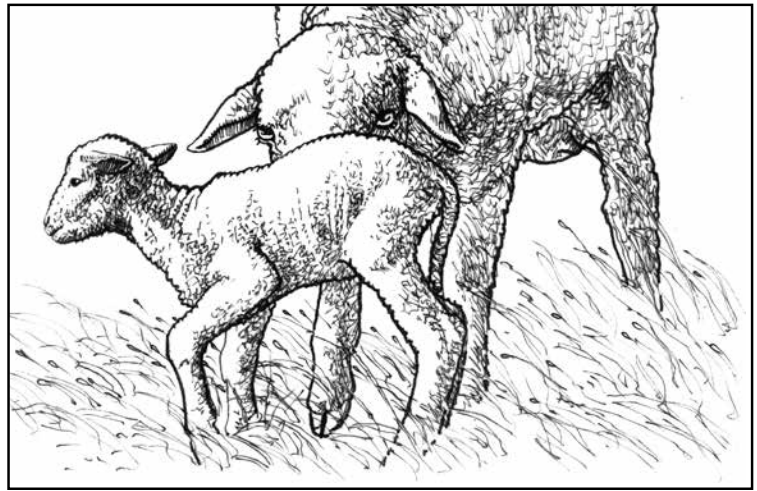
Verse 34: **Feast of Tabernacles**

Verse 36: **The Last Great Day**

Spring Festivals Reviewed

The first three festivals occur in the spring and the last four occur in the fall. By observing these festivals, we are reminded of God's Plan and purpose for us. Before studying the fall Holy Days in detail, let's quickly review the three spring festivals.

Passover is the first annual festival. It is the most solemn of all God's festivals because it reminds us of Jesus



Christ's death and that He died so our sins could be forgiven.

The second spring festival is the Days of Unleavened Bread. This festival pictures our need to follow God's laws every day as well as to work on putting sin out of our lives every day. God chose the example of leaven to teach us about sin because one tiny bit of sin can spread through all parts of our lives, just like leaven spreads throughout dough and causes it to rise.

The Day of Pentecost is the third spring festival and it shows us that God is now choosing only a few people to understand



His great Plan. In the future, everyone who has ever lived will be taught to understand God's Way.

Now let's look in detail at the four fall festivals that God commands us to keep. They are all kept in the seventh month of God's calendar. These festivals look forward to events that have not yet taken place, but the Bible tells us they will soon come to pass in the exciting times that lie ahead.

Feast of Trumpets: Christ Returns!

All people on Earth choose one of two ways to live. Does that surprise you? These two ways can be quickly understood if you remember this: People choose to live either the way of *give* or the way of *get*.

Sadly, the way most people today choose to live is the way of *get*. People think mainly of what they want, what they need, and how they can get it. People do not care that what they do might hurt someone else. This way leads to unfairness, trouble and sadness. It ends up with people committing crimes such as lying, cheating, stealing and murder. It also leads to problems such as disease, starvation and war. Every day in news reports on television or in newspapers, we are told about the problems and suffering of people all around the world.

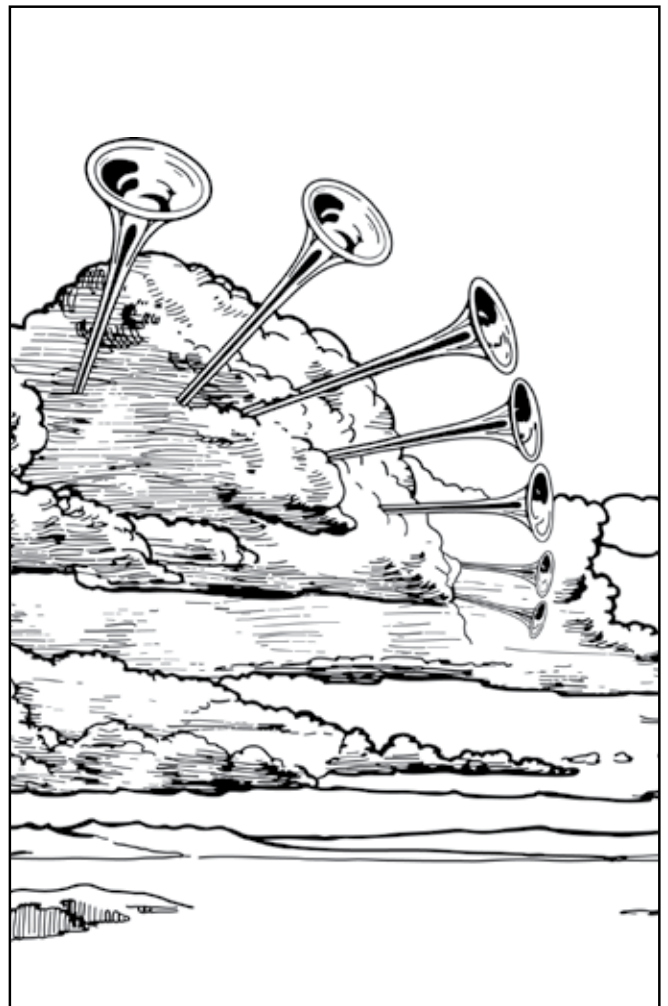
These problems are becoming worse and worse because people keep choosing the *get* way of life instead of God's way of *give*. We understand that God's Way is *give* because Jesus taught, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

God's fall festivals explain how these awful problems will be solved. Let's begin

by understanding God's fourth annual festival, the Feast of Trumpets.

This Holy Day is a memorial of blowing of trumpets (Leviticus 23:24). There are many events in prophecy that are preceded by a loud blast of a trumpet. One example is the resurrection of Christians: "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first" (I Thessalonians 4:16).

I Corinthians 15:51-52 describes another trumpet blowing before those who have qualified to receive eternal life are changed into spirit beings: "We shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound,



and the dead will be raised immortal, and we shall be changed.” When God’s people become immortal spirit beings, they will live and rule forever as members of God’s Family.

All creation is waiting for this moment and for God’s Kingdom to rule on Earth. “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Romans 8:19-21).

Pollution, destruction, war and suffering are caused by mankind’s way of *get* rather than God’s way of *give* (James 4:1-3).

The way of *get*—the way most people in the world follow—is Satan’s way, so God will also put an end to his rule on Earth. In II Corinthians 4:4, you will notice that God calls Satan the *god of this world*. This brings us to God’s fifth festival, which pictures removing Satan and his *get* way of life from ruling over the Earth.

Test Your Memory

1) TRUE or FALSE: God tells us that we can change His Law as long as we do it to honor Him or Christ.

2) God’s Master Plan reveals that the most important purpose for His creation of man is for him to become a member of the _____ Family.

3) _____ is the most solemn festival of the year because it reminds us of the death of Christ and that He died so our sins can be forgiven.

4) Leaven, such as yeast or baking powder, is removed during the Days of Unleavened Bread as a type of _____.

5) Which festival shows us that God is now choosing only a few people to understand His great plan and purpose for mankind?

6) People choose one of two ways to live, either the way of _____ or the way of _____.

Day of Atonement: Satan Is Banished!

On the Day of Atonement, God’s people fast. To fast means to go without food and water for 24 hours. When we fast, we become weak. During a fast, a person may get a headache, begin to feel very tired, or even feel uncomfortable from an empty stomach. Fasting helps us realize we are not high and mighty, so it humbles us. We draw closer to God through fasting by humbling ourselves, then we see more clearly that we need God’s help to overcome Satan’s temptations. Since all human beings need food and water to live, during a fast we come to better understand that we need to trust God to provide what we eat and drink. We also learn that with God’s help we can say “No!” to Satan and his way of *get*.

Satan is happy when we do something we know we should not do. When we give in to Satan’s temptation it leads us to sin. Satan is called *the accuser* of God’s people. Look at what the Bible says about how often Satan enjoys pointing out our sins to God. “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of

His Christ have come, for *the accuser* of our brethren *who has accused them before our God day and night*, has been cast down” (Revelation 12:10).

Ever since God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, Satan has put pressure on people to disobey God. However, the Day of Atonement pictures the soon-coming time when mankind’s sins will be placed on Satan, where they belong. Satan will no longer be able to accuse anyone before God!

God will correctly place the responsibility on Satan for bringing about man’s sins. Then Satan and his demons will be removed to a place where he will not be able to tempt anyone to sin.

When Satan is sent away and unable to tempt mankind into sin, the entire world will be able to draw close to God, as we do when we fast. The Day of Atonement pictures a time when the whole world will be “*at one*” with God.

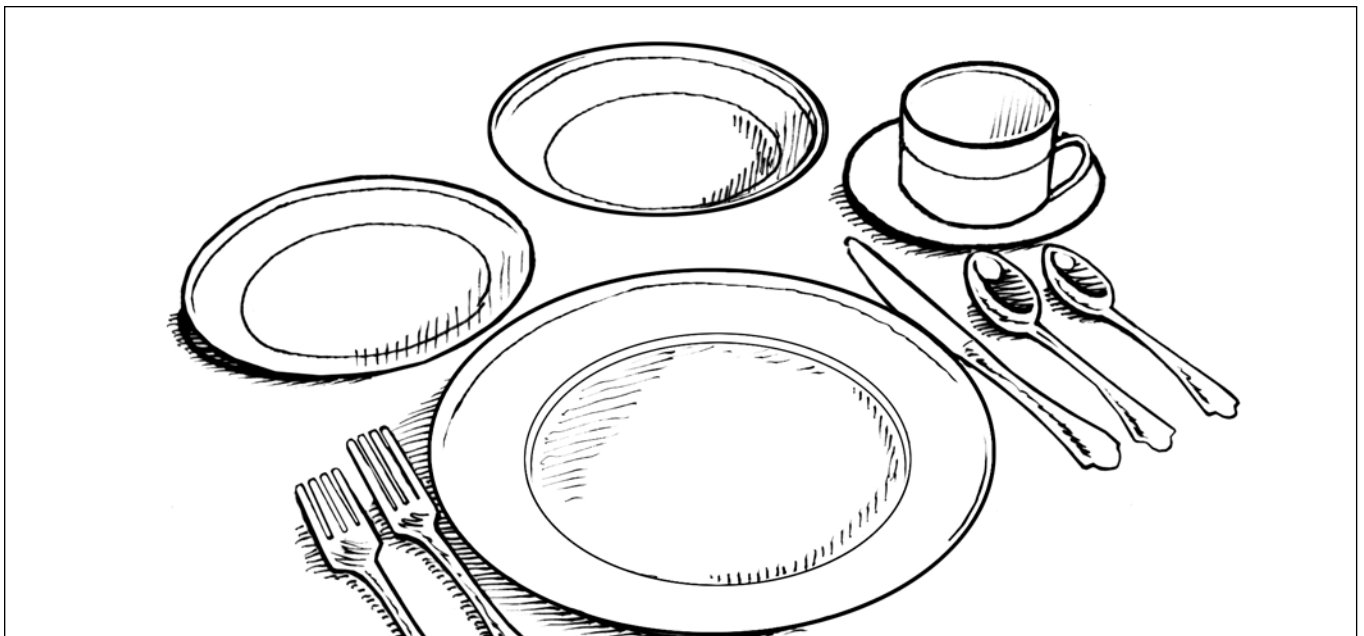
A time of peace on Earth will follow—a time of great happiness and well-being! The

next festival in God’s Plan pictures this wonderful time.

Feast of Tabernacles: The Great Spiritual Harvest

The seven-day Feast of Tabernacles also looks forward to a time yet to come. This festival pictures a time of a great spiritual harvest.

God’s Plan shows two spiritual harvests, which are pictured by the two physical harvests in the land of Palestine, known today as the country of Israel. We have learned that the first, smaller harvest in late spring pictures the Day of Pentecost, also called the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Tabernacles, also called the Feast of Ingathering in Exodus 23:16, is pictured by the larger, fall harvest of crops, which shows a greater spiritual harvest of people, way beyond just the Christians from past centuries, into God’s Family. Large numbers of people around the world will be able to learn God’s Way and receive His Spirit.



What will life be like during this time? The Bible gives us some idea of how things on Earth will change in the Kingdom of God.

People will learn to no longer lie, cheat, steal, hate or treat others unfairly. Under the rule of God's government, everyone will deal honestly with one another.

Even the nature of animals will be changed. "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the goat, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed, their young shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:6-9).

We have learned the way of *give* is God's way. God is going to give mankind His government, which is the only way man will learn the way of peace and happiness. Mankind will finally understand how to achieve positive goals with lasting results.

You, too, can have a part in God's Master Plan. In the Kingdom, you can help rebuild the world and teach millions of people how to live the way of *give*. You are preparing to become a leader as you learn from your parents and God's Church how to live God's Way. You can become a spirit-born member of God's Family, too!

What about all the people who have lived and died since mankind was created but who never had a chance to learn to obey God's Way? The next festival pictures the

time when all people who have ever lived will have their chance to know God.

The Last Great Day: For All Who Have Not Known God's Way

Most people who have ever lived have not known God's Way. They died without knowing the wonderful Master Plan of God or how to live the way of *give* by following God's laws.

At the very end of the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles, God's people observe another day, the eighth day, which is a separate festival that John 7:37 records as "the last day, that great day of the feast."

This seventh festival in God's Master Plan pictures billions of people being brought back to physical life to learn God's way of *give*. Then, every person will be given a chance to become an immortal





member of God's Family. At this time, the Father will be living on Earth with mankind, and there will be new heavens and a new Earth.

In the final step of God's Master Plan, billions of people will be resurrected into a beautiful, peaceful world, and they will be taught to obey God.

Test Your Memory

- 1) In II Corinthians 4:4, who does God call "the god of this world"? _____
- 2) What does it mean when God's people fast? _____
- 3) The Day of Atonement pictures the soon-coming time when mankind's sins will be placed on _____ where they belong.
- 4) Which festival pictures the great spiritual harvest? _____

5) TRUE or FALSE: Under the government of God, everyone will learn to deal with each other honestly.

6) The Last Great Day is the _____ festival in God's Master Plan. It pictures all people who have ever lived being brought back to physical life to learn God's way of life, which is the way of _____.

Steps You Can Take to Have the Best Feast Ever

Obey your parents. Ephesians 6:1-3 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with promise), that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth."

Be a good example, especially for other children. Show respect for your elders, dress neatly and behave your very best at all times. Keep your things neat, pick up after yourself, and throw litter away properly. Treat other people's property with respect. Follow all rules and directions. Obey signs inside the meeting hall and outside in restaurants and businesses. Do not run inside. Do not use a loud, voice when you are inside.

Meet one new friend each day. Introduce yourself to someone new and talk with him or her. Make a list of names and addresses of new friends so you can write to them after the Feast. Be sure to give them your name and address, too, so they can write to you.

Take notes. Every day be sure to write down scriptures given during sermonettes

and sermons. They will help you to understand more fully the meaning of the Feast. It will also make each service more interesting for you.

Be helpful. Do what your parents ask, but also offer to help in other ways, especially if you have younger brothers or sisters. Put your things away neatly—without them asking you!

Enjoy whatever activities your parents arrange for you and your family. Try to make every activity more fun for everyone. This will help you have the best Feast of Tabernacles ever and give you memories that you will keep throughout the coming year.

Brief Review of God's Master Plan

God's Plan is represented by seven annual festivals.

Steps One Through Three—Pictured by the spring festivals.

Step One: Passover—the death and resurrection of Christ makes possible the forgiveness of our sins upon baptism and repentance.

Step Two: Days of Unleavened Bread—removing sin from our lives and obeying God's laws.

Step Three: Day of Pentecost—receiving God's Holy Spirit; the small number of firstfruits whom God is now choosing to understand His great Plan and purpose for mankind.

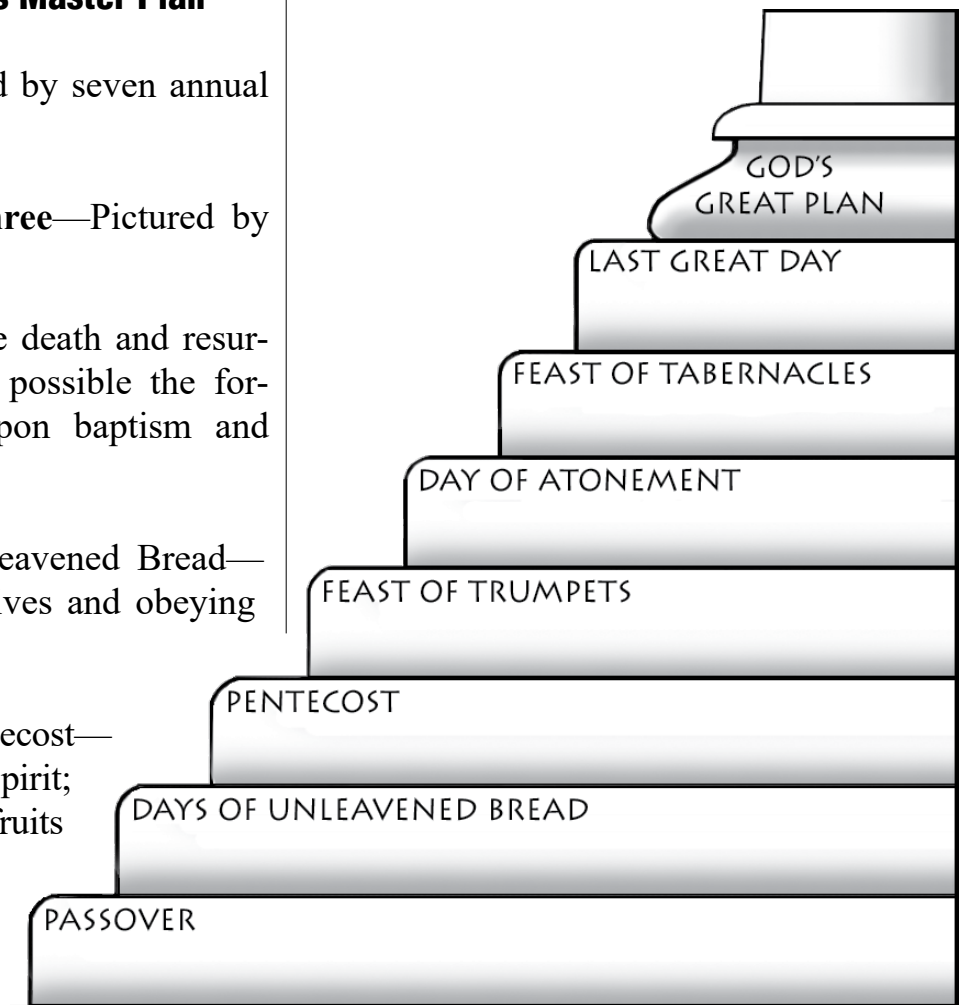
Steps Four Through Seven—Pictured by the fall festivals.

Step Four: Feast of Trumpets—Christians are resurrected.

Step Five: Day of Atonement—Satan is sent away from Earth.

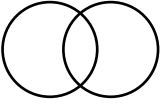

Step Six: Feast of Tabernacles—the great spiritual harvest under God's Kingdom.

Step Seven: Last Great Day—all people who have ever lived are brought back to physical life and given their chance to learn to obey God.



DAILY CHALLENGES

Complete these challenges in your notebook or on separate pages. Ask your parents for help. Once you have finished a challenge, make an “X” across it so you know it is finished.

| DAY 1 | DAY 2 | DAY 3 | DAY 4 | DAY 5 |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| List 10 things you would love to do at the Feast this year. | In what ways could you help during the Feast? (List at least five and make sure you actually do them!) | Write a story in which you wake up in the Kingdom and wild animals are friendly (minimum 10 sentences). | <p>Create a Venn diagram for the Feast now and the Feast in the Kingdom.</p> <hr/> <p>Feast Now Kingdom</p>  <p>Different Same Different</p> | Write 10 questions for a Bible quiz that could be used at the Feast. |
| DAY 6 | DAY 7 | DAY 8 | BONUS! | BONUS! |
| <p>The answer is “God’s Kingdom.”</p> <p>Write six questions that can be answered by the phrase “God’s Kingdom.”</p> | List A to Z things connected to God’s Kingdom. See if you can think of something for every letter! |  <p>What does this picture have to do with the Feast? (Describe it in a minimum of 5 sentences.)</p> | Pretend you are hosting a dinner party. Plan the evening including the meal, pre-dinner games, table decorations, etc. | Write a song about the Feast. |

ANIMAL SAFARI

God specially designed and created every animal that has ever lived. Many are mentioned in the Bible. When God's Kingdom comes, God will change the nature of animals so that they will all live peaceably with people.

Find and draw each of the animals referenced in the scriptures below. Do you know of any other specific animals mentioned in the Bible? Write them in the area below as well.

I Kings 10:22

Proverbs 30:26

Genesis 8:8

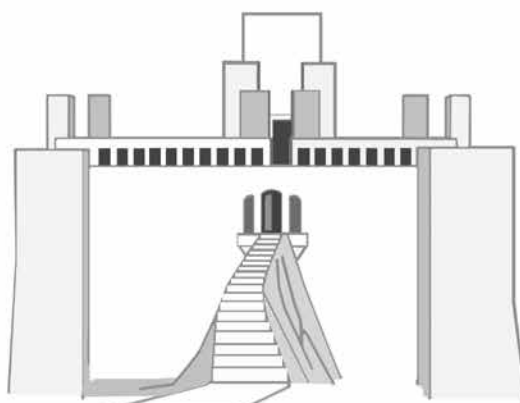
Proverbs 6:5

BIBLE MEMORY: Leviticus 23:34-36

God's Master Plan

FILL IN: Fill in the blanks below with the last four Holy Days showing the steps in God's great Plan for mankind.

You will see that five circles are around letters. You must rearrange the letters to spell something that God often uses to symbolize completion.



Together, there are _____

in God's Plan listed in Leviticus 23.

There are _____ days in the Feast.

7 _____

6 _____

5 _____

4 _____

3 P E N T E C O S T

2 T H E D A Y S O F
U N L E A V E N E D B R E A D

1 P A S S O V E R