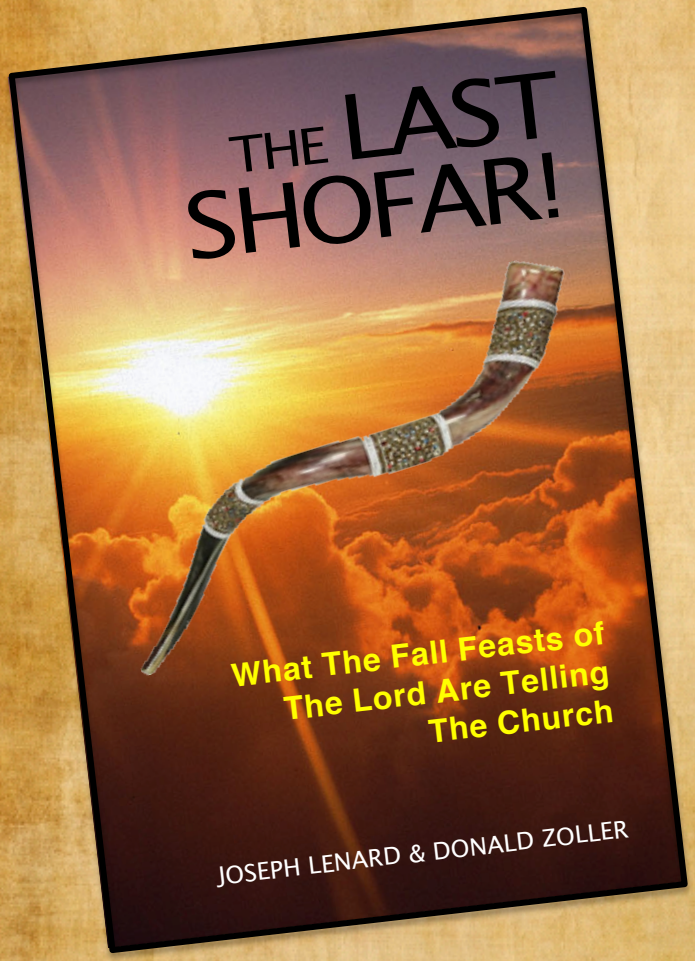

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For Your Information . . .

The following slide presentation is ***incomplete*** and ***inadequate*** to *fully* understand the content of the book, ***The Last Shofar!***

The slides are only a *summary* of the ***nine chapters*** of the book and do not include the **Introduction**, **Epilogue**, three **Appendices**, and **Glossary**. All provide background and build *"the case."*

Therefore, the book is a ***necessary resource*** when viewing the slide presentation, and is ***essential*** to enhance understanding and discussion. It is highly recommended that a copy of the book be obtained for study and reference.

The Last Shofar!

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The Feasts of the Lord – A Preview of Coming Events

Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, 'These are the appointed feasts of the Lord that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.'
(Leviticus 23:2)

Joseph Lenard – Donald Zoller © 2014

The Feasts of the Lord

Before we begin—things you need to know . . .

*There are many facets in celebrating the **Feasts of the Lord** based on descriptions from Scripture and from Jewish tradition. However, our study will focus on the **prophetic** implications of these Feasts. See the End Notes for **Chapter 6** in our book for excellent resources explaining how the Feasts are celebrated.*

- Collectively, the ***Feasts*** foreshadow God's completed redemptive plan for Israel as well as the Gentiles.
- The Feasts accurately depict the **First Coming** of Messiah as the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53:10–11) as seen in the **Spring Feasts.**

The Last Shofar! – 6

- With the same prophetic precision, the **Fall Feasts** accurately depict the **Second Coming** of Messiah as the Lord of Hosts and King of kings (Revelation 17:14).

- Within their prophetic setting, the Feasts are referred to as *rehearsals*, of what God has planned for the future—things He wanted His people to know and celebrate.

- The Feasts are not Jewish *holidays*. Specifically, God told Moses that, *"these are the appointed **feasts of the Lord** . . . they are my appointed feasts"* (Leviticus 23.2). *Appointed* is *"set times"*—God does his redemptive work according to His "set times" (*moed*).

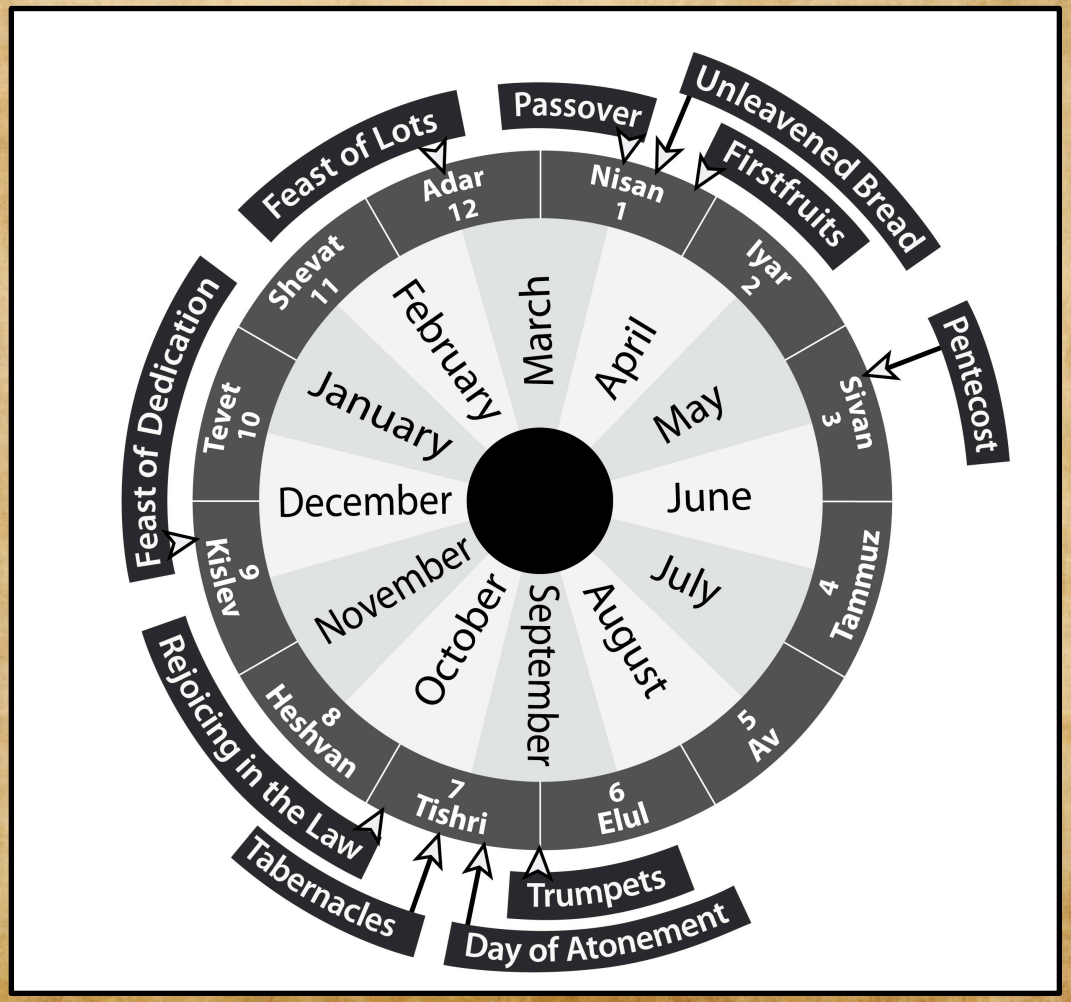
The Last Shofar! – 6

- The Feasts are associated with planting and harvesting; based on a lunar calendar (see **Appendix II**, *"The Jewish Calendar – God's Time,"* for a more detailed discussion of the Jewish calendar). Many of the Feasts could only be observed when Israel had possession of the Promised Land and not in the wilderness.

- There are four **Spring Feasts** (*Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits and Pentecost*); and three **Fall Feasts** (*Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles).*

- Two additional Feasts *not* mentioned in Leviticus 23 are the ***Feast of Dedication***—*Hanukkah*, and the ***Feast of Lots***—*Purim*.

Jewish Religious and Western Calendars



The Spring Feasts

The Feast of Passover – Pesach

- ***Passover***, with its origins recorded in Exodus 12 and restated in Leviticus 23, is celebrated on the 14th of the Jewish month of *Nisan* (March/April)—the first month of the Jewish religious calendar determined by God.

- The Gospel of John clearly pictures Messiah as the *Lamb of God* who alone by His blood takes away our sin (John 1:29).

The Last Shofar! – 6

From rabbinical writings—amazing *parallels* between what Jesus did during His final days before His crucifixion and the solemn rites performed by the High Priest at ***Passover****:*

- Three days before ***Passover,*** on Sunday, Nisan 11, Jesus and His followers journeyed from Bethany to Jerusalem riding on a Donkey singing *"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" (Psalm 118:26).*

At precisely the same time, the High Priest with his followers returned from Bethany to Jerusalem with the selected Passover lamb singing, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

The Pharisees, realizing the conflicting event, told the followers of Jesus to keep quiet where upon Jesus essentially said that would be impossible (Luke19:39-40).

The Last Shofar! – 6

- For four days, Jesus was thoroughly examined by the Temple officials, only to be dismissed without accusations—even Pilot declared, "*I find no fault in Him*."

Similarly, for four days the Temple officials thoroughly examined the Passover lamb (Exodus 12:3) after which the High Priest declared, "I find no fault in Him."

- On the cross, at the ninth hour, Jesus cried out, "*I thirst!*" followed by, "*It is finished!*"

*On the morning of **Passover**, on the 14th of Nisan, at the third hour (9:00 a.m.), the High Priest took the Passover Lamb and tied it to the Temple Altar—the very hour Jesus was nailed to the cross! At the ninth hour (3:00 p.m.), the High Priest slit the throat of the Passover lamb, then declared, "It is finished."*

The Last Shofar! – 6

- The crowd gathered around the cross to witness the death of *God's Passover Lamb.*

In like manner, God required the death of the Passover lamb to be witnessed by the people (Exodus 12:6).

As the ***Passover Lamb***, Jesus fulfilled and embodied all that the ***Feast of Passover*** anticipated in God's redemptive plan for all people. The same Passover Lamb will be seen in glory in a future day, fulfilling God's eternal plan of redemption, at His **Second Coming**.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread – Hag HaMatzah

- The ***Feast of Unleavened Bread*** is celebrated on the 15th of Nisan, the day after ***Passover***, and continues for seven days.
- The *first* day and the *seventh* day are *High Holy Days*—special *Sabbaths*, even when not falling on a Saturday.
- The Feast is the occasion of removing leaven—a type of sin and corruption—from the house, and anticipated Jesus cleansing the Temple (Matthew 21:12-13).
- The Feast also prefigured Jesus as without sin and with a body that did not decay in death, raised in power and glory—it was a message of hope.
- When Jesus celebrated the *Passover* and *Unleavened Bread* they were viewed as one celebration—*Unleavened Bread* or *Passover Week.*

The Feast of Firstfruits – HaBikkurim

- The ***Feast of Firstfruits*** is celebrated on the day following the weekly Sabbath, during the week-long celebration of *Unleavened Bread* (Nisan 15–21).
- Controversy about the exact day of the week to celebrate *Firstfruits* arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees. See a more complete discussion of this disagreement in **Chapter 6** of the book.
- The purpose of *Firstfruits* is to present to the Lord the first sheaf of the winter barley cut from a special field at the start of *Firstfruits*—in the evening ***after*** the weekly Sabbath, i.e., the first day of the week.
- At the same moment that the barley sheaf was cut from the ground and lifted up, Jesus rose from the grave, at the beginning of the first day of the week (Sunday, starting at Saturday evening—see **Appendix III**).

The Last Shofar! – 6

- Several events occurred in the *early morning hours* of the first day of the week (Sunday), beginning with the two women arriving at the tomb to prepare Jesus' body for burial.
- The correlation between the High Priest presenting the barley offering to God in those early morning hours and the inter-action of the women with Jesus outside the Tomb is discussed in **Chapter 6** of the book.
- Jesus completely fulfilled the prophetic message of the ***Feast of Firstfruits*** by His resurrection on the very day and hour the Feast was initially observed by Israel—Saturday at sundown (at start of Sunday), the exact time the barley sheaf was cut from the ground.

***(Appendix II**, related to the Jewish calendar, and **Appendix III**, related to the crucifixion week, present further information on this subject.)*

The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) – Shavuot

- Timing for celebrating the ***Feast of Weeks***, also called ***Pentecost,*** is determined by counting seven weeks from the weekly Sabbath immediately before *Firstfruits*, and *"then on the day after,"* i.e., 49 days plus one additional day (50 days total)—always on the first day of the week, on Sunday, beginning Saturday at sundown.

- Prophetically, this Feast anticipates the passing of the Old Covenant and the fulfillment of God's promise to His People of a New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34). The Holy Spirit comes to ratify this New Covenant on the day of ***Pentecost*** (Acts 2:38).

- It is important to remember that, without the previous three Feasts, the *Feast of Weeks (**Pentecost**)* could never have been celebrated. The Feasts are inseparably linked together with the other Feasts to fully present God's master plan of redemption.

Between the Spring and Fall Feasts

Looking Back . . .

- ***Pentecost*** concluded the **Spring Feasts** and with it, all that prophetically revealed the **First Advent** or Coming of Messiah, with precision of timing and significance, minutely fulfilled in the redemptive work of Christ.

Looking Ahead . . .

- In the three **Fall Feasts**, Messiah is foreshadowed as the coming King of kings and Lord of lords in His **Second Advent**, with the same precision of timing and significance as was revealed in the Spring Feasts.

In the Meantime . . .

- A long hot summer continues as we wait for the fullness and bounty of the fall harvest—when Jesus comes again!

The Fall Feasts

Prophetically, the **Fall Feasts** are for a time yet future. The Church has been waiting for over two thousand years for the beginning of the fulfillment of these Feasts. But as certain as there is a time for planting, there is a time for harvest. The **Fall Feasts** will come—sooner than we think!

The Feast of Trumpets – Yom Teruah; Rosh Hashannah

- The ***Feast of Trumpets*** is celebrated on the first day of *Tishri* (September/October), the seventh month of the Jewish religious calendar.
- Although the Feast is designated as held on the first day of the month, it is also referred to an *uncertain day, a hidden day*—a day determined by a *visual* observation of the *New Moon* and then was *declared*.

The Last Shofar! – 6

- The precise day and hour to begin this Feast was not obvious and had to be determined from the *first sighting* of the *New Moon* by designated observers who reported their findings to the head of the Sanhedrin. Only then could the Feast be declared and begin.

- The uncertainty as to exactly when the ***Feast of Trumpets*** would begin—the fact that the day was referred to as a "hidden day that no man knew," directly relates to the words of Jesus, when speaking about His return, said, *"No one knows . . . that day or hour . . . but only the Father" (Matthew 24:36)*.

- Another feature of the ***Feast of Trumpets*** was the blowing of trumpets, a lot of them! Among the 100 trumpet blasts of the ram's horn (the *shofar*), there was one that was distinct from all the others—the ***last shofar!***

The Last Shofar! – 6

- The blast of the ***last shofar*** or trumpet was the longest and loudest—it signified redemption, deliverance and God's intervention on behalf of His people to subdue their enemies.

- This is the last trumpet or *"trump"* that the Apostle Paul refers to in I Corinthians 15:51–52 and I Thessalonians 4:16–17 when speaking about the Church being caught up (raptured) to be with Jesus at His appearing in the clouds (Matthew 24:30-31).

- Further evidence for the connection between the blast of the *last shofar* and the Rapture is seen in ancient Jewish tradition that teaches that the resurrection of the dead will occur on the ***Feast of Trumpets***, as frequently depicted on Jewish gravestones.

- Not only did the blast of the *last shofar* signal deliverance, but it also signaled the beginning of God's wrath—the ***Day of the Lord***.

The Days of Awe

The Ten Days Between the Feast of Trumpet and the Day of Atonement

- These 10 days, called the ***Days of Awe***, were a time of deep introspection regarding sin and the need for repentance—they were seen as God's judgment days, often referred to as Israel's Dark Days!
- Old Testament prophets understood these *Days of Awe* to be a time of God's wrath and parallels our case for the *Day of the Lord,* immediately following the Rapture, after the blowing of *The Last Shofar!* on the ***Feast of Trumpets***.
- The *Days of Awe* in the end time will be horrific days for Israel, who will be sheltered yet enduring God's wrath to bring them to national repentance on the ***Day of Atonement*** (*Yom Kippur*).

The Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur

- Observed on the tenth day in the month of *Tishri* (September–October), following the *Feast of Trumpets*, the ***Day of Atonement*** (***Yom Kippur***) is often simply referred to as *The Day*.
- It was the only day of the year that the High Priest, adorned with holy garments and meticulously following protocol, dared to enter the Holy of Holies to intercede before God on behalf of the sins of the people, but not without blood.
- Prophetically, the ***Day of Atonement*** looks forward to a day at the end of the *70th Week of Daniel*, when the forces of evil face the wrath of God.
- Messiah, as the Great High Priest, intercedes on behalf of His earthly people, the Jews, to deliver them, forgive their sins and restore them nationally under the New Covenant (Daniel 9:24).

- Based on research in preparing our case, it is our understanding that the *70th Week of Daniel* begins and ends on ***Day of Atonement***—starting with a *Covenant of Death* with the Antichrist and finishing with the *New Covenant* (of life) with their Messiah. Additional details are provided in **Chapter 7**, "Making Our Case."

The Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) – Sukkot

- Celebrated on the 15th day of Tishri (five days after the Day of Atonement) the ***Feast of Tabernacles*** continues for seven days plus an extra day—the Great Day or *Shemini Atzeret*.

- A joyful seven-day Feast that celebrates the history of the Jewish people in the wilderness while experiencing God's faithful provision during the Exodus.

The Last Shofar! – 6

- During this Feast, two significant ceremonies were enacted—the daily pouring of water collected from the Pool of Siloam by the High Priest (*Water-Libation Ceremony*) and the nightly lighting of four enormous candlesticks in the Temple courtyard. Jesus fulfilled these two ceremonies which point to Him (John 7:37–38; John 8:12).

- Prophetically, the ***Feast of Tabernacles*** is recognized as God's great ingathering, *a final harvest* of Jews and Gentiles. The Feast anticipates a time when Messiah will tabernacle with His people—an event that will be celebrated annually during the Millennium (Zechariah 14:16–21).

We have now completed a brief overview of the seven ***Feasts of the Lord:*** the four **Spring Feasts** and the three **Fall Feasts**—they are appointed Feasts (God's *moeds*), prophetic rehearsals of events in God's plan of redemption.

We will now consider two additional Feasts (***Hanukkah*** *and* ***Purim***), not included in the list of Feasts in Leviticus 23 but, nonetheless, significant to the redemptive history of Israel—Feasts which Jesus acknowledged and celebrated.

The Feast of Dedication – Hanukkah

- ***Hanukkah***, the ***Feast of Dedication***, is celebrated on the 25th of the month of *Kislev*—75 days after the *Day of Atonement* and is an eight-day celebration.

The Last Shofar! – 6

- ***Hanukkah*** commemorates the cleansing of the Temple which was defiled by Antiochus Epiphanes (165 BC), a Greek ruler who dedicated the Temple to Zeus and sacrificed swine upon the altar, an abomination to God.

- Prophetically, the fulfillment of ***Hanukkah*** is at the beginning of the Messianic Kingdom, at the start of the Millennium when a new Temple is cleansed and dedicated.

- ***Hanukkah***, occurring exactly 75 days after the ***Day of Atonement*** (*Yom Kippur*), coincides precisely with the 75 days noted in Daniel 12:7, 11-12.

The Feast of Lots – Purim

- ***Purim*** is celebrated in late winter (February or March) on the 14th day *of Adar*, the 12th and last month of the Jewish religious calendar, exactly one month before ***Passover*** of the following year.

- ***Purim*** is the joyful recognition of God's preservation of the Jews in Persia after a sinister plot by Haman to destroy all the Jews was thwarted by Queen Esther (Esther 7–9).

- Prophetically, ***Purim*** remains a joyful celebration of God sovereignly protecting and preserving His people, Israel, throughout their history whenever Satanic-inspired enemies seek to eradicate the Jewish people from the face of the earth. God says, *"Not on my watch!"*

Names of Feasts in the Bible

Name	Associated Names
Passover	*Pesach*; Preparation Day (Examples: Matthew 27:62; Luke 23:54) – the first day of the 7-day Feast of Unleavened Bread is a High Holy Day, a Sabbath)
Unleavened Bread	*Hag HaMatzah*; "The Passover" (in Christ's day, the two Feasts, Passover and Unleavened Bread, are combined and called "The Passover" or "Passover Week"). Also referred to as "the Sabbath" (Examples: Mark 15:42; 16:1; Luke 23:54).
Firstfruits	*HaBikkurim*; Feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16)
Pentecost	*Hag HaShavout*; *Shavout* ("Weeks"); Feast of Weeks
Feast of Trumpets	*Yom Teruah*; Trumpets; *Rosh HaShanah* ("Head of the Year"); Jewish New Year (first day of the Jewish civil calendar); Day of the Awakening Blast.
Day of Atonement	*Yom Kippur*
Feast of Tabernacles	*Sukkot* (Booths); Tabernacles; Feast of Booths; Feast of Ingathering (Exodus 23:16)
Feast of Dedication	*Hanukkah*; Feast of Lights.
Feast of Lots	*Purim*

Let's Talk About It

1. What is the prophetic significance between the **Spring Feasts** and the **Fall Feasts**?

2. Based on what you have read in this chapter, explain why the ***Feast of Trumpets*** is prophetically significant and how this relates to Jesus' words, *"No one knows the day or the hour."*

3. What new insights have you gained about the **Feasts of the Lord** from your reading of this chapter?

Looking Ahead . . .

Slide sets 1–6 (**Chapters 1–6**) are collectively the important building blocks for assembling the prophetic *puzzle pieces* that lead to **Chapter 7**, *"Making Our Case."*

Within **Chapter 7**, our aim is to provide the specific evidence resulting from our investigations into Scripture regarding end-time events. The reader/viewer must decide as judge and jury whether the case for a **Pre-Wrath Rapture** of the Church, integrating the *Fall Feasts of the Lord*, has been made.