

Podcast Episode Notes

Season 3 Episode 7 Celebrating is One of God's Ways

When we think of the ways of God, we tend to think about serious matters and lofty ideals. But since we are made in God's image, we know that He has a sense of humor and loves to celebrate. Celebration, including acts of remembrance and demonstrations of honor, are all over the Scriptures. In this episode, we celebrate the one year anniversary of the Wisdom Unlocked podcast and answer the question: "Did Dave Buehring have a mustache and what happened when he shaved it off?"

- Celebrating God's Goodness – 1 Samuel 12:24 – "consider what great things He has done for you"; Delight yourself in fatness, fatness! Isa. 55:2 in KJV; "rich food" in ESV
- Celebrating Jesus – "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." ~ John 3:17
- Celebrating Success – "Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider^[a] he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation, this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name." ~ Exodus 15:1-3

Jesus

- Wedding celebration – wine in John 2
- Prodigal son returning home – Luke 15:11-32
- Joy in heaven when someone gives their life to Jesus – Luke 15:7 (tied to Prodigal Son)

Throughout His life, Jesus would have faithfully celebrated all the OT Jewish Festivals (Lev. 23). Like our Christian holidays of today, these moments of celebrating brought to memory God's hand moving on behalf of mankind.

- **Feast of Trumpets** (Rosh Hashanah) – A day of thanksgiving that signaled that harvest time had come to an end. Ever since God provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son Isaac, the sounding of a ram's horn meant deliverance. The trumpet blast at this feast signaled the harvest was over and work could cease. **Reference:** Leviticus 23:22-25
According to 1 Thessalonians 4:16, a trumpet will announce the end of the harvest on earth.
- **Purim** – Described in the Book of Esther, this feast developed during the Babylonian captivity to commemorate the Jews' deliverance from destruction. Haman, the enemy of the Jews, cast lot to choose the day for his planned annihilation of the Jews (Esther 3:7)
Through Queen Esther, God brought about the deliverance of the Jewish nation, just as Jesus delivered all those marked for destruction by our enemy, Satan.
- **Unleavened Bread** – Worshipers thanked God for the grain he provided from the earth, and recalled his provision of manna in the wilderness. For seven days, the Israelites ate bread without leaven, a symbol of sin. Reference: Leviticus 23:6-8. Jesus, the sinless "bread of life" (John 6:35), was buried on the Feast of Unleavened Bread so he might bring life from the earth.

- **Day of Atonement** – Known today as Yom Kippur, this was a solemn day of fasting before the High Priest interceded for the people's sins. On this holiest day of the year, worshippers examined their lives for sin, which was transferred to a scapegoat led outside the city. Jesus was led outside Jerusalem to Calvary bearing our sin. The High Priest entered the Holiest Place once a year with the atoning blood. **Reference:** Leviticus 23:26-32, Hebrews 9:11-15
Jesus "entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood ... " (Heb. 9:12).
- **Tabernacles** – The Israelites lived outdoors in booths during this feast to remember the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. During this feast, the priests prayed for rain and poured out offerings of water to remember God's provision of this life-giving resource in the wilderness. **Reference:** Leviticus 23:33-44 . Jesus chose this feast to announce he was the "living water" sent by God (John 7:37-38).
- **Hanukkah** – The only Jewish feast not instituted in the OT, it celebrated the rededication of the Temple during the time of the Maccabees. In 165 B.C. the Greeks desecrated the Jewish temple, making it a temple to Zeus. Three years later the Jewish freedom-fighters (the Maccabees) reclaimed it. Hanukkah celebrates its rededication and the miracle that occurred: a one-day supply of lamp oil burned for eight days. On this day, also known as The Feast of Dedication, the Jewish leaders asked Jesus for a miracle to prove he was the Messiah (John 10:22-26).
- **Passover** - During the time of the Tabernacle and Temple, the children of Israel sacrificed a lamb and then shared a special meal with their family. It was a time to remember how God delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt through Moses. As believers we also remember how the death of Jesus delivered us from sin. Reference: Leviticus 23:4-5
- **Feast of First Fruits** – After the children of Israel entered the Promised Land, each year they brought the first fruits of the spring harvest (like barley) to the Lord and offered them along with other offerings at the Temple. This helped the children of Israel remember to give thanks to God for the first fruits of the harvest and to show they trusted Him to bring in the rest of the harvest. Reference: Leviticus 23:9-14
- **Pentecost – Shavuot – Feast of Weeks** - Like the celebration of the First Fruits, the children of Israel brought the first fruits of the summer harvest (like wheat) to the Lord and offered them along with other offerings at the Temple. When harvesting the rest of their crops, they were instructed to leave the corners of the field so the poor could harvest them. During this feast, they thank the Lord, remember how God had provided for them, and give to the poor. By tradition, this was the day the Lord gave Moses the Law. Pentecost is also a day of rest for the people. As believers, we remember when the Holy Spirit was given to believers after the resurrection of Jesus. Reference: Leviticus 23:15-22

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