

# How to Observe the Eighth Day Assembly

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How do Christians observe the Eighth Day Assembly, which follows the Feast of Booths, when the New Testament offers us little information on how to keep this festival? By examining the Old Testament instructions about this festival, primarily found in Leviticus 23, through the lens of the New Covenant. We will gain a deeper understanding on how to observe the Eighth Day Assembly as a New Covenant festival.

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the Lord. On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. For seven days you shall present food offerings to the Lord. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the Lord. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work...." "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the Lord seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest" (Leviticus 23:33-36, 39, All scriptures quoted are from the *English Standard Version* unless otherwise stated).

## Old Testament References

Leviticus 23:33-36, 39; Numbers 29:12, 35-38; 1Kings 8:1-3, 6, 65-66; 2Chronicles 7:8-10; Nehemiah 8:14, 18

## New Testament Reference

John 7:37-39 or John 8:1-10:21

Among Christians who observe the biblical festivals of Leviticus 23, there is a disagreement over which day in the Gospel of John is the Eighth Day. Some people think the verses in John 7:37-39 are referring the Eighth Day. While other think the verses in John 8:1-10:21, refer to the Eighth Day; with the verses in John 7:37-39 referring to the seventh day, or last day of the Feast of Booths.

## The Eighth Day (Leviticus 23:36, 39)

The eighth day of the Feast of Booths, the twenty-second day of the seventh month of the sacred calendar,<sup>1</sup> is actually a separate Feast day (Leviticus 23:36, 39; Numbers 29:35; Nehemiah 8:18), since the Feast of Booths is only seven days in length (Leviticus 23:34, Numbers 29:12, Deuteronomy 16:13, Nehemiah 8:18). Because the eighth day falls right after the Feast of Booths, it became considered a part of the Feast of Booths, but it is actually a separate festival. Biblical days start and end in the evening, or at sundown, not midnight.<sup>2</sup> For example, in 2017 the twenty-second day of the seventh month, of the sacred calendar falls on October 12th. Therefore, we begin observing the festival at sunset on October 11th, with the festival ending at sunset on October 12th.

## Holy Convocation and Sabbath Rest (Leviticus 23:36, 39)

God commands that we observe Eighth Day Assembly as a Sabbath rest, and gather with others in a "holy convocation" or "sacred assembly" on the twenty-second day of the seventh month (Leviticus 23:36,39; Numbers 29:12, 35). From Hebrews 10:23-25, we see that "assembling together" (*New King James Version*) helps us to motivate and encourage one another. According

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<sup>1</sup> Most Christians who observe the biblical festivals use the Calculated Hebrew Calendar. Modern Judaism uses this same calendar.

<sup>2</sup> In the Bible days start and end in the evening or at sundown. The Book of Genesis describes the days of creation with the term, "there was evening and there was morning," then the descriptive words "the first day," or "the second day," all the way to seventh day. For whatever reason we fail to see the term "there was evening and there was morning," used in reference to the seventh day, which scripture identifies as following the sixth day (Genesis 1:4-5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31; 2:1-2).

to 1 Corinthians 14:26-31, what transpires when we “assemble” (*New American Standard Version*) must lead to our edification, learning, and encouragement.

**Present an Offering Made by Fire (Leviticus 23:36)**

*Old Covenant Eighth Day Assembly Offerings*

Daily Offerings (Numbers 28:1-8)

Eighth Day Assembly Offerings (Numbers 29:35-38)

*New Covenant Spiritual Sacrifices*

As Christians and members of the New Covenant Holy/Royal Priesthood, we no longer make physical sacrifices or offerings as dictated by the Old Covenant (Hebrews 9:1-14; 10:1-14); we now offer up spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Romans 12:1-2), involving personal acts of sacrifice to God and fellowman. Sacrifices such as prayer (Psalm 141:1-2; 1 Timothy 2:8), verbally expressing praise and thanks to God (Hebrews 13:15), doing good for others (Hebrews 13:16), sharing what we have with others (Hebrews 13:16; Philippians 4:18), being humble (Psalm 51:16-17), martyrdom (2 Timothy 4:6; Philippians 2:17), and making converts (Romans 15:15-16). The Eighth Day Assembly reminds us we have a responsibility to offer ourselves in service to God and fellowman.

The New Testament offers little information on how to observe the Eighth Day Assembly. Yet, we have seen that by examining the Old Testament instructions about this festival, through the lens of the New Covenant. We can learn how to observe a New Covenant Eighth Day Assembly.