

Party Animals

What's your favorite holiday? Is it like a party for you? Is it more of a celebration?

Read Leviticus 23:1-44.

1. What makes Sabbath a (holy) festival/party?
 - A. God created it for that purpose.
 - B. The other festivals are once a year; Sabbath is once each week.
 - C. We're supposed to gather to worship on Sabbath.
 - D. God is more available on Sabbath.
 - E. It's based on creation.
 - F. Stop the regular daily activities and make Sabbath festive.
 - G. It's up to us.
 - H. It's up to God.
 - I. Other.

2. What stands out about Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits?
 - A. So much celebrating.
 - B. It seems like a lot of worship.
 - C. None of these three festivals have much meaning to me.
 - D. Food seems to be a major part of each of these festivals.
 - E. These festivals point back to God's actions in the past.
 - F. These still have meaning for me/us today.
 - G. Christ's death did away with these festivals.
 - H. Christians don't celebrate as much as Jews celebrate.
 - I. Other.

3. What seems important about the Festival of Harvest (Pentecost)?
 - A. Most of the people seemed to be farmers.
 - B. The gift of the harvest led people to give to God.
 - C. This was only one day rather than a full week.
 - D. Only males participated.
 - E. Animal sacrifices were given in addition to harvested food.
 - F. After all of those days of harvesting, people finally got a day off.
 - G. It wasn't on a Sabbath.
 - H. The spring harvest was a big deal.
 - I. Other.

4. What do you notice with the Festival of Trumpets (also in Numbers 29:1-7)?
 - A. Sounds noisy to me.
 - B. It reminds me of marching bands at football games.
 - C. It lasts 10 days rather than one day or seven days.
 - D. It leads into the Day of Atonement—the symbolic Day of Judgment.
 - E. This festival seems serious rather than celebratory.
 - F. For Jews, participation was optional.
 - G. This makes me think of the trumpets in Revelation 8-11.
 - H. Other.

5. What grabs your attention about the Day of Atonement?
 - A. It's only one day.
 - B. The word "Atonement" indicates this connects us with God.
 - C. It's optional for everyone.
 - D. Humility seems necessary on our part.
 - E. Lots of sacrifices and worship.
 - F. A party atmosphere.
 - G. There are more details about this in Leviticus 16—it's a big deal!
 - H. Other.

6. What seems meaningful about the Festival of Shelters/Tabernacles?
 - A. This reminds me of Thanksgiving.
 - B. This reminds me of camping.
 - C. It marks the end of the autumn harvest.
 - D. There seems to be a lot of giving to God.
 - E. This was especially for those who weren't Jews.
 - F. It pointed back to the temporary housing in the wilderness.
 - G. It reminds us our current house is temporary compared to heaven.
 - H. Other.

7. Do you celebrate Christmas and Easter as religious festivals or as cultural holidays?

8. What do you do to prepare for festivals, parties, or holidays? What do you do to prepare for Sabbath each week? Why?