



**RHYTHMS OF**

*JOY*

Why study the festivals?

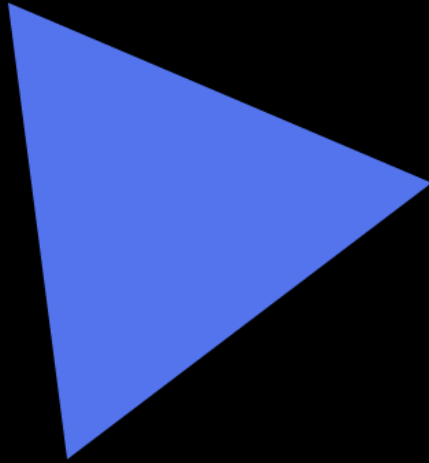
## Colossians 2:13-18

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

**Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. **These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.**** Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize.

## Warnings in Colossians:

Don't let anyone  
judge you **vs. 16**



Hollow and deceptive philosophy **vs. 4, 8, 22**  
Religious rules and regulations **vs. 16, 20, 22**  
Mystical experiences **vs. 18-19, 22**

No value in restraining  
the flesh/sensual  
indulgence **vs. 23**

What do these all have  
in common?



## Colossians 1:21-23

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—**if you continue** in your faith, **established** and **firm, not moved from the hope** held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

What do they  
have in  
common?



They will all cut your  
anchor line to Christ  
and the Gospel.

They are all perseverance destroyers.  
because they are strength killers

Judgment, futility and deception will all sap your spiritual strength and ruin your joy and progress. (Phil 1:25-26)

Then why talk about these?

If they are "a shadow of things that were to come"

(Colossians 2:17)

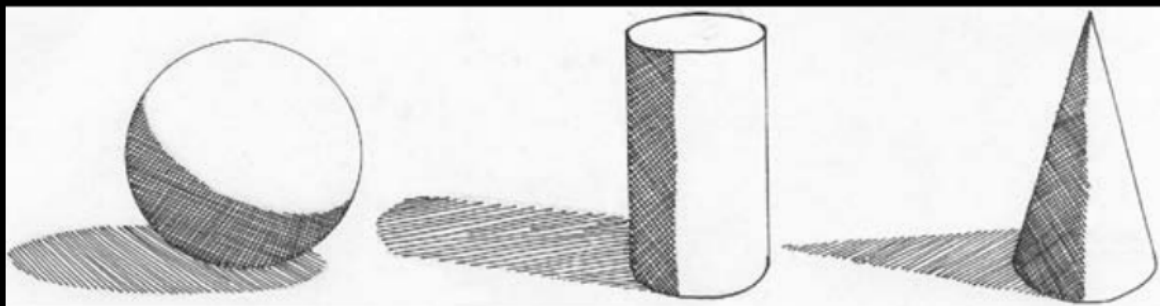


Sometimes  
shadows can  
be deceiving

But that's not the  
point here. These are  
strengthless, but  
revealing



The shadows point to something about Jesus



They check the shape of Jesus in our minds  
*(a check on self-deception)*

What do the festivals tell us?



## Nehemiah 8:8-12

They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. **Do not mourn or weep.**" For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for **the joy of the LORD is your strength.**" The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve." Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.



“The JOY of the Lord is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:10

*1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 (NIV 1984)*

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*ROMANS 12:12A (NIV 1984)*

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*NEHEMIAH 8:10B (NIV 1984)*

**The joy of the Lord is your  
strength.**

What

***specific things***

does God reveal about his joy in the festivals?

A landscape photograph of a sunset over a mountain range. The sun is a bright yellow circle on the left side of the frame, partially obscured by the mountain peaks. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a pale, hazy blue at the top. The mountains are silhouetted against the bright sky, with some peaks appearing as dark shapes against the lighter background. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

**RHYTHMS**

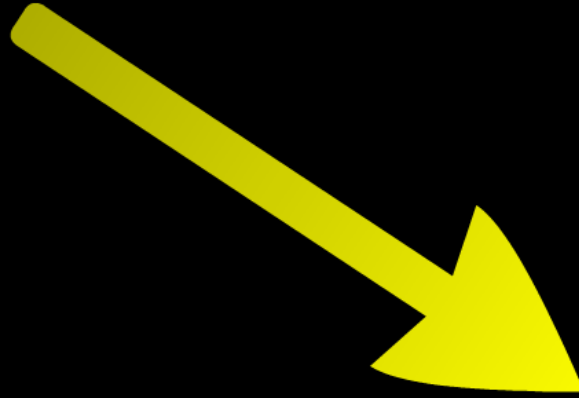
**OF**

***TIME***

1. God loves joy.

(much more than you probably think)

Exodus 13:3 "Out of the land of Slavery"



Exodus 3:8 "Into a spacious land, a land flowing with Milk and honey."

# Old Testament Calendar:

Week long celebrations: 3 (x7)

Weekly celebrations of rest: 52

Monthly celebrations: 12

Total festival days: (-3 overlaps) 82

Mandatory fast days: 1

(which was also a day of rest.)



John 10:10-11

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.



Devils, the World and Sin are haters of Joy

Jesus came to bring fullness of Joy and Life.

Therefore, he is willing to do whatever it takes to secure our Joy—that is, the cross.

## 2. God loves a good joy.

Celebration and solemnness go together



# "sacred" and "before the Lord"

Nehemiah 8:10

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is *sacred* to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

## 8x in Leviticus 23

Leviticus 23:6-8

On the fifteenth day of that month the LORD's Feast of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. On the first day hold a **sacred assembly** and do no regular work. For seven days present an offering made to the LORD by fire. And on the seventh day hold a **sacred assembly** and do no regular work.

## Leviticus 23:40

On the first day you are to take choice fruit from the trees, and palm fronds, leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice **before the LORD** your God for seven days.

It means:

Doing something horizontally, with a full vertical consciousness that God is our eternal audience.



The Sabbath  
was even for  
cows and  
donkeys.

Jesus said it  
was "for man"  
Mark 2:27

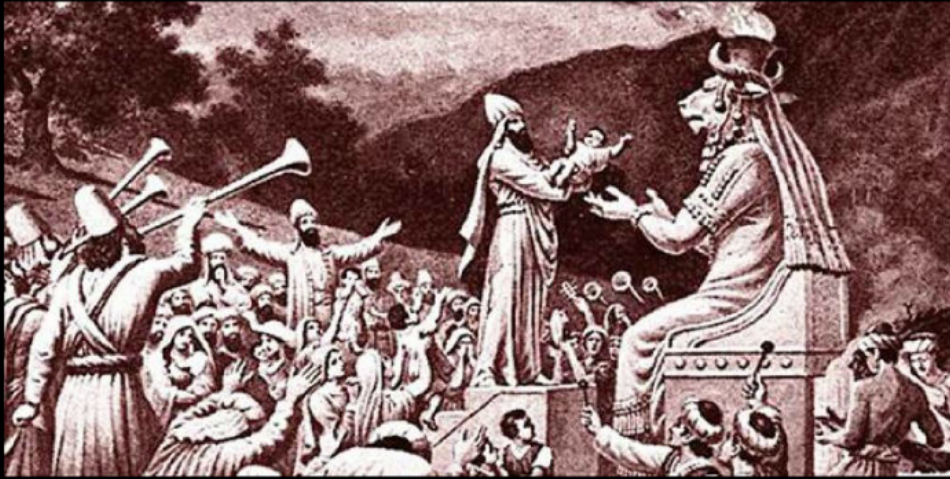
3. God loves to give a  
good joy to ***creatures***



4. God loves to give good joy to creatures through rhythms.







These are not the  
same festival.



# Some Applications:

1. Fullness is found in Christ
2. The Joy of the Lord is your strength
3. Believe God loves joy and giving joy
4. Be happy as a CREATURE
5. Accept and embrace what life is made up of and receive it as from God.