

12.21 Sacrifices and Feasts (Exodus 23:14–17; Leviticus 1–7; 17; 23; Numbers 28:16–31; 29:1–40; Deuteronomy 16:1–17; Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Hebrews 10:1–18)
(See 12.07b for Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- *Herein Is Love Commentary Series; Exodus, A Commentary for Children*, by Nancy Ganz, Shepherd Press, 2002. Quotations or ideas from this book are noted as (Ganz).
- A great chart on the feasts may be found at http://www.walkwiththeword.org/Aids/Graphical/Files/The_Feasts_of_Israel_View.html.
- A ram’s horn

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *to sacrifice*: offering something precious or costly to God in worship
- *feast*: a divinely appointed time when Israel was to assemble to worship God in a particular way
- *to atone/atonement*: “at-one-ment”; “the bringing together of two who have been enemies into a relationship of peace and friendship” (Merrill C. Tenney, ed., *Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, “Atonement,” The Southwestern Company, 1966).
- *remission*: the cancelation of a penalty; forgiveness; in the Old Testament, the blood of sacrifices paid the penalty for remission

Scripture:

Sacrifices: Numbers 15:1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you enter the land where you are to live, which I am giving you, 3 then make an offering by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering or a sacrifice to fulfill a special vow, or as a freewill offering or in your appointed times, to make a soothing aroma to the LORD, from the herd or from the flock. 4 The one who presents his offering shall present to the LORD a grain offering of one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of oil, 5 and you shall prepare wine for the drink offering, one-fourth of a hin, with the burnt offering or for the sacrifice, for each lamb. 6 Or for a ram you shall prepare as a grain offering two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-third of a hin of oil; 7 and for the drink offering you shall offer one-third of a hin of wine as a soothing aroma to the LORD. 8 When you prepare a bull as a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a special vow, or for peace offerings to the LORD, 9 then you shall offer with the bull a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-half a hin of oil; 10 and you shall offer as the drink offering one-half a hin of wine as an offering by fire, as a soothing aroma to the LORD.

11 ‘Thus it shall be done for each ox, or for each ram, or for each of the male lambs, or of the goats. 12 According to the number that you prepare, so you shall do for everyone according to their number. 13 All who are native shall do these things in this manner, in presenting an offering by fire, as a soothing aroma to the LORD.’”

Burnt: Leviticus 1; 6:8–13; 8:18–21

Grain/Meal: Leviticus 2; 6:14–23; Numbers 15:1–10

Peace/Fellowship/Oblation/Thanksgiving/Vow/Voluntary/Wave/Heave: Leviticus 3; 7:11–34

Sin: Leviticus 4:1–5:13; 6:24–30; 8:14–17; 16:3–22

Trespass/Guilt: Leviticus 6:1–7; 7:1–6

Feasts: Exodus 23:14 “Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to Me. 15 You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed. 16 Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field.

Deuteronomy 16:16 “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths. They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. 17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you. . . .

Feast of First Fruits: Leviticus 23:10 “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest, 11 and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. 12 And on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb a year old without blemish as a burnt offering to the Lord. 13 And the grain offering with it shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, a food offering to the Lord with a pleasing aroma, and the drink offering with it shall be of wine, a fourth of a hin. 14 And you shall eat neither bread nor grain parched or fresh until this same day, until you have brought the offering of your God: it is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.”

The Feast of Weeks: Leviticus 23:15 “You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering. 16 You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the Lord. 17 You shall bring from your dwelling places two loaves of bread to be waved, made of two tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour, and they shall be baked with leaven, as firstfruits to the Lord. 18 And you shall present with the bread seven lambs a year old without blemish, and one bull from the herd and two rams. They shall be a burnt offering to the Lord, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the Lord. 19 And you shall offer one male goat for a sin offering, and two male lambs a year old as a sacrifice of peace offerings. 20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the Lord, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the Lord for the priest. 21 And you shall make a proclamation on the same day. You shall hold a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a statute forever in all your dwelling places throughout your generations. . . .”

Deuteronomy 16:9 “You shall count seven weeks. Begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain. 10 Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you. . . .”

The Feast of Trumpets: Leviticus 23: 24 “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. 25 You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the Lord.”

Numbers 29:1 “On the first day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a day for you to blow the trumpets, 2 and you shall offer a burnt offering, for a pleasing aroma to the Lord: one bull from the herd, one ram, seven male lambs a year old without blemish; 3 also their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, three tenths of an ephah for the bull, two tenths for the ram, 4 and one tenth for each of the seven lambs; 5 with one male goat for a sin offering, to make atonement for you; 6 besides the burnt offering of the new moon, and its grain offering, and the regular burnt offering and its grain offering, and their drink offering, according to the rule for them, for a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the Lord.”

The Day of Atonement: Leviticus 23:27 “Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of

Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present a food offering to the Lord. 28 And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God. 29 For whoever is not afflicted on that very day shall be cut off from his people. 30 And whoever does any work on that very day, that person I will destroy from among his people. 31 You shall not do any work. It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. 32 It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. On the ninth day of the month beginning at evening, from evening to evening shall you keep your Sabbath.”

The Feast of Booths: Leviticus 23:34 “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. 35 On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. 36 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. . . .”

39 “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. 40 And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days. 41 You shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. 42 You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 43 that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

Deuteronomy 16:13 “You shall keep the Feast of Booths seven days, when you have gathered in the produce from your threshing floor and your winepress. 14 You shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your towns. 15 For seven days you shall keep the feast to the Lord your God at the place that the Lord will choose, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.”

Numbers 29:12 “On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall keep a feast to the Lord seven days. 13 And you shall offer a burnt offering, a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the Lord, thirteen bulls from the herd, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old; they shall be without blemish; 14 and their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, three tenths of an ephah for each of the thirteen bulls, two tenths for each of the two rams, 15 and a tenth for each of the fourteen lambs; 16 also one male goat for a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering and its drink offering.” [Procedures for days 2–8 of this feast follow in verses 17–38.]

39 “These you shall offer to the Lord at your appointed feasts, in addition to your vow offerings and your freewill offerings, for your burnt offerings, and for your grain offerings, and for your drink offerings, and for your peace offerings.”

Introduction/Review:

We demonstrate our sincere love for God in worshiping Him—praising Him, adoring Him. In the Old Testament, God required certain outward manifestations of worship. Sacrifices of animals, grain, flour, and wine were costly proofs of worship. Indeed, before the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins, these offerings were the only way a sinful people could stand in the presence of a holy God.

Think back to Bible stories we’ve already studied. Name some people who offered sacrifices in those stories. [Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses.]

Story:

Sacrifices

God instituted a system of worship in which the priest would offer sacrifices continually—every morning

and evening, day after day, year after year—to atone for the sins of the people. Five different offerings were required by God [see Lesson 12.21a Old Testament Sacrifices chart on the Lessons page at teachingthebibletokids.org].

Besides all the regular daily morning and evening sacrifices offered for the whole assembly of Israel, besides all the regular weekly and monthly and yearly sacrifices offered for all the people on their Sabbath days and New Moon festivals and annual feast days and celebrations, special sacrifices also had to be made when the whole community sinned or when a single person sinned. Leviticus 5:5 and 6 state, “When anyone is guilty . . . he must confess in what way he has sinned and, as a penalty for the sin he has committed, he must bring to the Lord . . . a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin.” Thus, we see God always required confession of sin and sacrifices for sin. (✓A total of 1278 animals were sacrificed each year for just the national offerings.) [See chart below.]

Blood

Blood was very important in most of the sacrifices. The word *blood* is mentioned 75 times in the book of Leviticus, where we find most of the instructions for the sacrifices. In Hebrews 9:18 we read about blood in the sacrificial system: “Under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” Blood from the sacrificed animal was splattered on the sides of the bronze altar, put on the horns of this altar or of the altar of incense, poured out at the bottom of the bronze altar, or all three.

Let’s observe a general overview of these sacrifices so that you might have an idea of the requirements. [Refer to the “Old Testament Sacrifices” chart, Lesson 12.21a, on teachingthebibletokids.org.]

Animals, flour, oil, etc.

First, we will mention the animals allowed for sacrifice. Remember that Noah took seven of each of the clean animals on the ark. These were the animals that could be used for sacrifice. They included cattle, sheep, goats—both male and female—and pigeons or turtledoves. Sometimes a male animal was specified for a particular sacrifice and sometimes a female. Depending on the rules for the offering, various parts of the animal were burned, washed, taken outside the camp, or eaten.

Included with the offerings were exact amounts of fine flour (sometimes baked into “cakes” that were probably loaves), oil, frankincense, and wine. One sacrifice, the grain or meal (*meat* in KJV) offering, contained only grain or meal and no animals.

Procedure

Generally, the following steps (that remind us of Jesus) were taken in offering a sacrifice:

1. Choose the best animal required—best lamb, goat, or bull, *etc.* Jesus was perfect.
2. Present the perfect animal at the bronze altar at the tabernacle. Jesus proved he was sinless.
3. Place a hand on the head of the animal, showing a transfer of guilt from the guilty to the innocent. Jesus took our sins on Himself at the cross.
4. Slaughter the animal. Jesus was crucified on a cross.
5. Watch as the priest takes the blood and sprinkles it on the side of the altar, pours it out at the base of the altar, and puts some on the horns of the altar. Jesus’ blood took away, did not just cover, our sins.

Particular Sacrifices

Now let’s mention the five sacrifices of the Old Testament. They are called the burnt offering, the grain or meal offering, the peace offering, the sin offering, and the trespass or guilt offering. We will not go into the details of these sacrifices. [Teacher, use the chart 12.21a mentioned above or other charts if you wish to go into detail.] But you should know these sacrifices were shadows, pointing to the greater and final sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The blood of these animals could never take away sins, but they did remind people of their sins. “The blood that flowed continually was a constant reminder to them that a price must be paid for the

sin. . . . God did this to point them to Christ!” (Ganz). Jesus would one day forever take away sins of believers by the sacrifice of Himself.

Feasts [The teacher may refer to “12.21b Old Testament Feasts chart,” found on the “Lessons” page at teachingthebibletochildren.org.]

Another aspect of Old Testament worship involved seven feasts God ordered to be observed throughout the year. Three of the feasts were in the first month—in the spring—and three were in the seventh month—in the fall. The other feast was between the spring and fall feasts. God required all the males of Israel to celebrate these feasts in a certain place three times every year. Although they would have to leave their homes to attend these feasts, God promised no enemy would come to harass or war against their land or families while they were away from home.

Here are the feasts:

1. **Passover:** We already taught about this feast when we learned about the first Passover—when Israel left Egypt and the firstborn of each Egyptian household was slain. Homes of the Israelites, where blood was put on the door, were passed over, and the firstborn in those homes were not put to death.
2. **Unleavened Bread:** This feast was associated with Passover, lasted seven days, and remembered the fact that as Israel left Egypt, they didn’t have time to let their bread rise. This feast was one of the three that the men were required to attend.
3. **First Fruits:** This feast was still within the timeframe of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. *First fruits* means the first crop of a harvest, which was usually the best. On the sixteenth day of the first month a grain harvest began. “At this festival, the Israelites offered the very first sheaf of the harvest and were not allowed to eat anything from the crop until they gave its initial portion to the Lord. This required a great deal of faith on the part of the Israelites, as they would be giving the offering of firstfruits at a time when not much was ready to be harvested” (<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/firstfruits-and-pentecost/>).
4. **Pentecost** (from *pentekonta*, meaning fifty) or **Feast of Weeks:** Exactly fifty days after first fruits, this feast would have been celebrated—around the first of June on our calendar. All the men were required to attend this feast. It, too, involved a first fruits offering—from the wheat harvest. Among the many offerings a “wave offering” of two loaves of leavened bread was presented.
5. **Trumpets or *Rosh Hashanah*:** This is the first of three feasts in the fall—in the seventh month. On our calendars it is noted as Jewish New Year. “In addition to a day of rest and special food offerings (Num. 29:1–6), all that Scripture prescribes for the Feast of Trumpets is a ‘blast of trumpets’ (Lev. 23:23–25). While trumpets were blown on other occasions, it seems that at the Feast of Trumpets the instruments [silver trumpets and the *shofar*/ram’s horn] were sounded continuously from morning until evening” (<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/feast-trumpets/>).
6. **Day of Atonement or *Yom Kippur*:** This was the most solemn of all the feasts. “Most of the procedures followed on the Day of Atonement were similar to those followed for the other offerings except that the blood of the sacrifices was sprinkled on the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place as well” (<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/day-atonement/>). In addition, two goats played separate roles in the feast: one was sacrificed and the other, the scapegoat, was freed into the wilderness.
7. **Booths or Tabernacles or Ingathering or *Sukkot*:** Also celebrated in the seventh month, “the end of the agricultural year when the grapes and olives were harvested,” this was the third feast that all Israelite men were required to attend. It was a joyful kind of “camp-out,” for the people constructed small, temporary shelters with thatched roofs of palm fronds and other plants” and lived in them for a week (<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/feast-booths/>). This was to remind them of the way they had lived as they journeyed from Egypt to Canaan.

All of the sacrifices and feasts pointed to a future day when Jesus Christ would fulfill their intended

significance.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

Jesus is the Lamb of God who took the sin of those who believe on Him.

While the last four feasts might be fulfilled in the future, the first three are fulfilled in Jesus' first advent:

-Passover: His crucifixion (He was crucified on Passover.)

-Unleavened Bread: His burial

-First Fruits: His resurrection: "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20).

- We no longer need to follow the sacrificial and festival rules. Jesus Christ has completed the work for the redemption of souls.

Activities:

- Play dough: lamb; goat; bull; bird; altar
- Snack: Cut-out sugar cookies in the shape of a lamb, goat, bull, and/or bird, or serve hard-boiled eggs, one of the foods in the Passover meal (*Seder*).
- Allow students to blow a ram's horn. It must be blown with tightly pursed lips. Clean the mouth part of the horn with a disinfectant wipe after each student.
- Read Isaiah 52:13–53:12. Ask students to identify Jesus' fulfillment of the Old Testament sacrifices.
- Review questions: (Game: Allow a student to blow the ram's horn after answering a question correctly. Or print the clip art of animals found below. Back with paper towel and cut out individual animals. Choose eight questions from the ten found immediately below. A student may place an animal on the flannel board after answering a question correctly.)
 1. What fluid, mentioned 75 times in the book of Leviticus, was very important in the sacrifices? [Blood.]
 2. Name two of the animals offered as sacrifices. [Cattle; sheep; goats; pigeons; turtledoves.]
 3. How many blemishes were allowed in sacrificed animals? [None.]
 4. Name one thing the offerer had to do concerning his sacrifice. [Choose the animal; present his animal at the bronze altar at the tabernacle; place his hand on the head of the animal; slaughter the animal; watch as the priest dispensed the blood.]
 5. In which two seasons of the year were most of the feasts celebrated? [Spring and fall.]
 6. Name one of the feasts. [Passover, Unleavened Bread; First Fruits; Pentecost; Trumpets; Atonement; Booths.]
 7. During which feast did the priest take blood into the tabernacle and place it on the mercy seat? [Atonement.]
 8. What is a first fruit? [The first crop to be harvested.]
 9. What kind of trumpets were blown during the Feast of Trumpets? [Silver and/or ram's horn.]
 10. What were the booths in the Feast of Booths? [Temporary huts made out of branches.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Continue to learn Exodus 20:1–17. A song with all the words is found on the Songs page at teachingthebibleto kids.org. "Stop! It's the Law," a song that teaches only the basic Ten Commandments is found on the same Songs page.

Handwork:



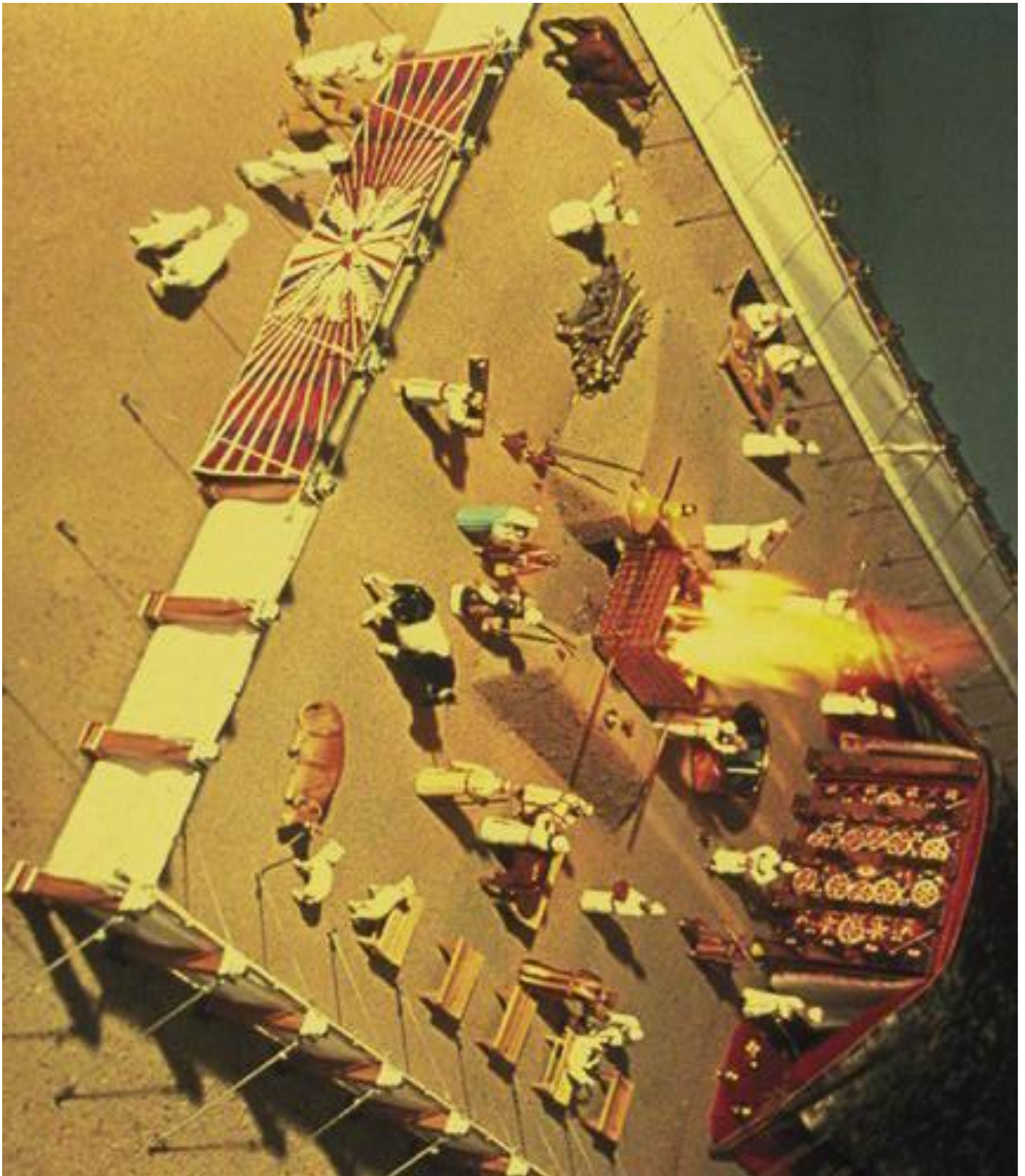
- Make a booth out of a milk carton. Hint: Get empty half-pint milk cartons from a school. Wash, dry, and cut off top section of each carton. Cut a door in one side of the carton. Cover the sides with brown paper. Lay twigs and leaves across the open top of the carton.

sacrifice

feast

to atone

remission

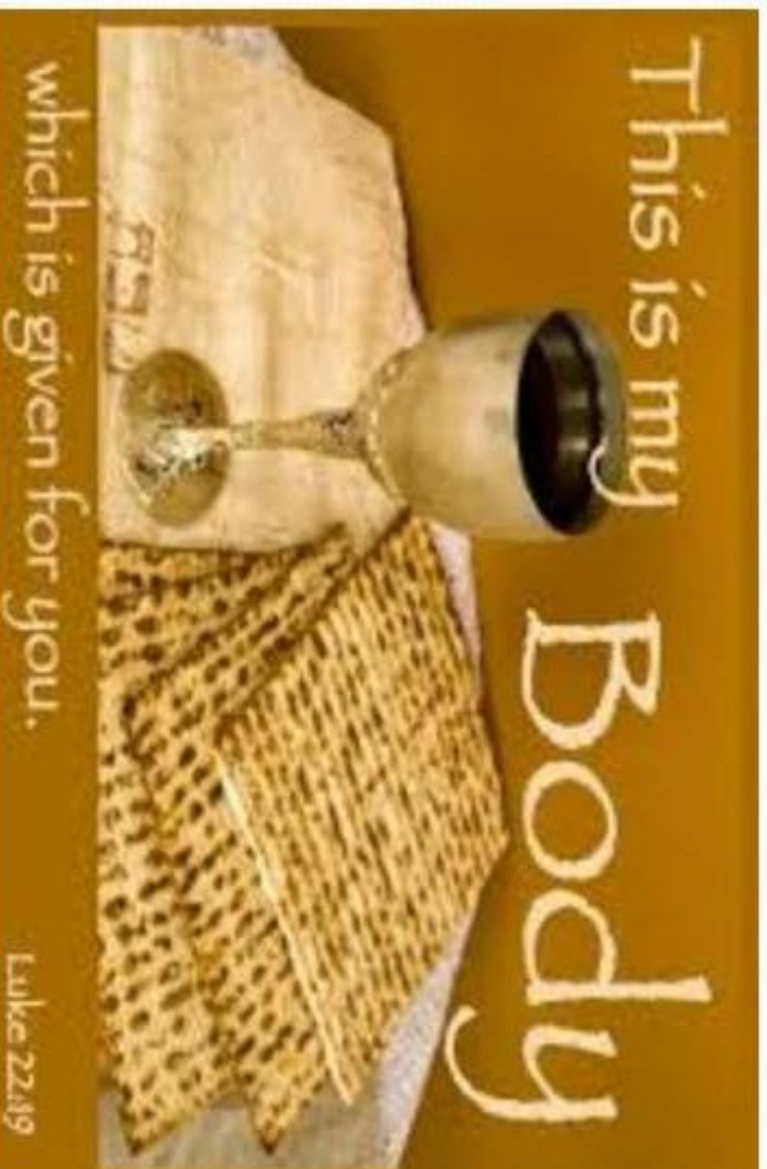


<https://studygrowknowblog.com/2018/01/30/constancy-of-offerings-under-levitical-system/>

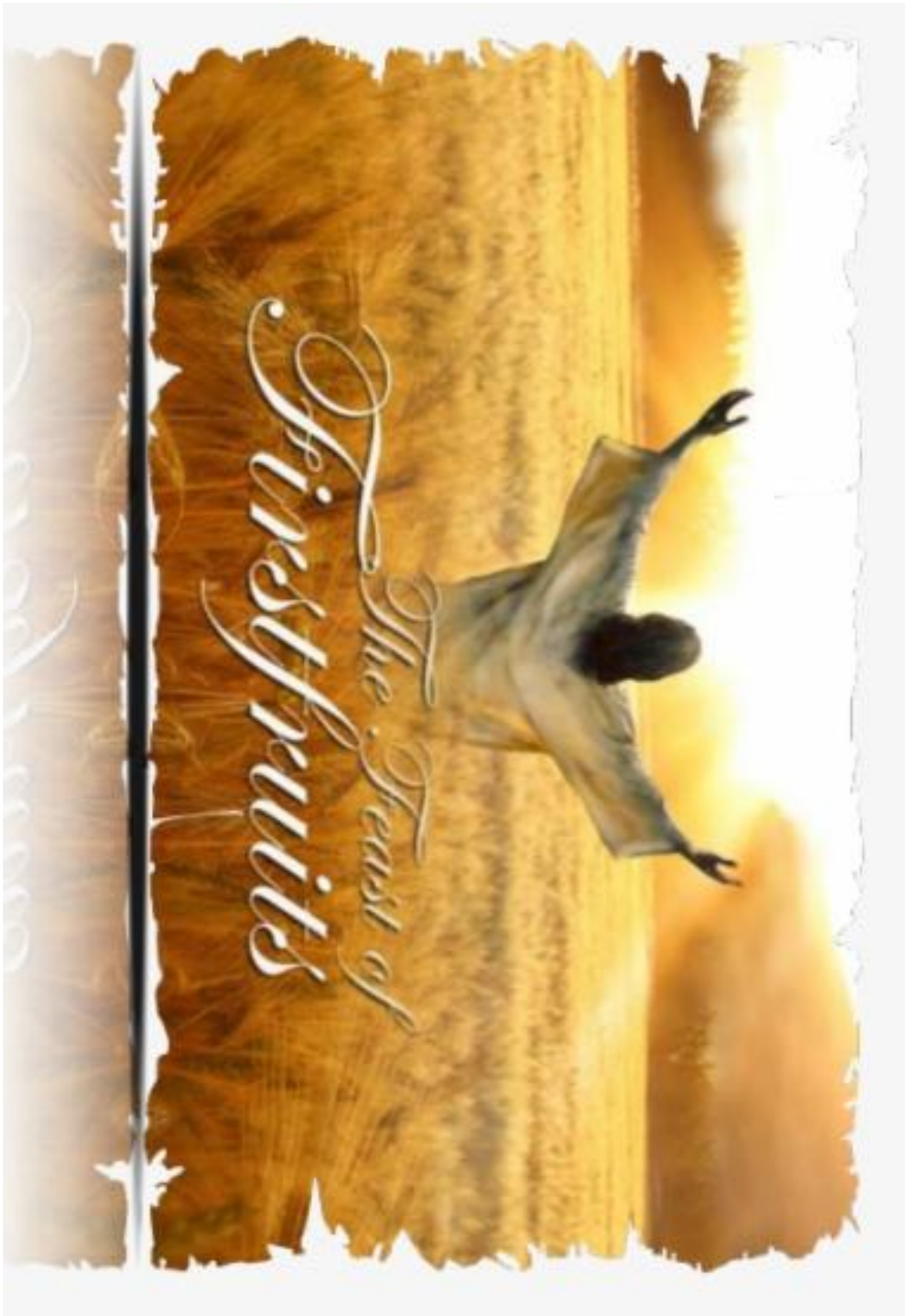


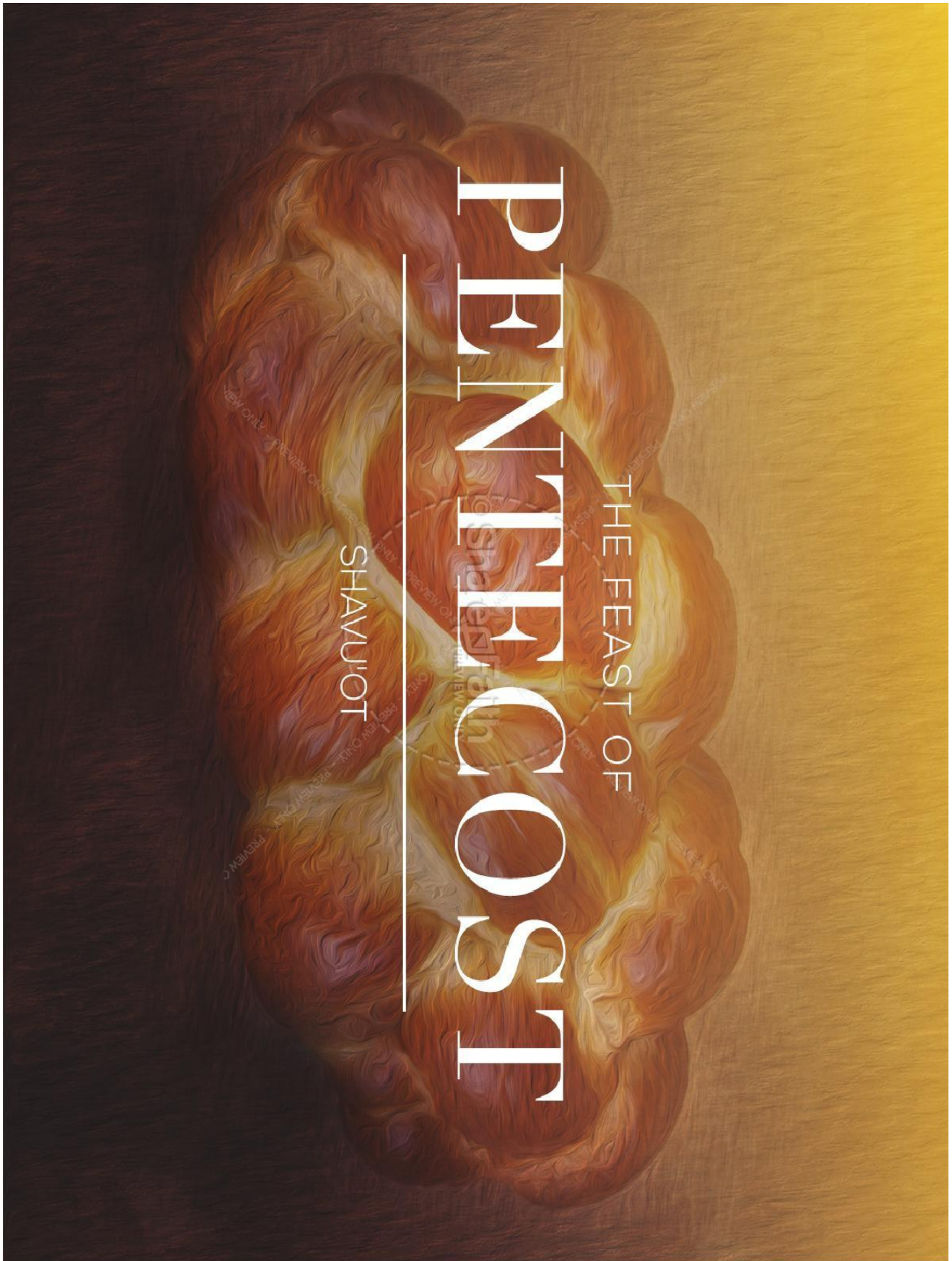


Feast of Unleavened Bread



**But He was
wounded for our
transgressions,
He was bruised
for our iniquities:
the chastisement
of our peace was
upon him; and
with his stripes
we are healed.
Isaiah 53:5**

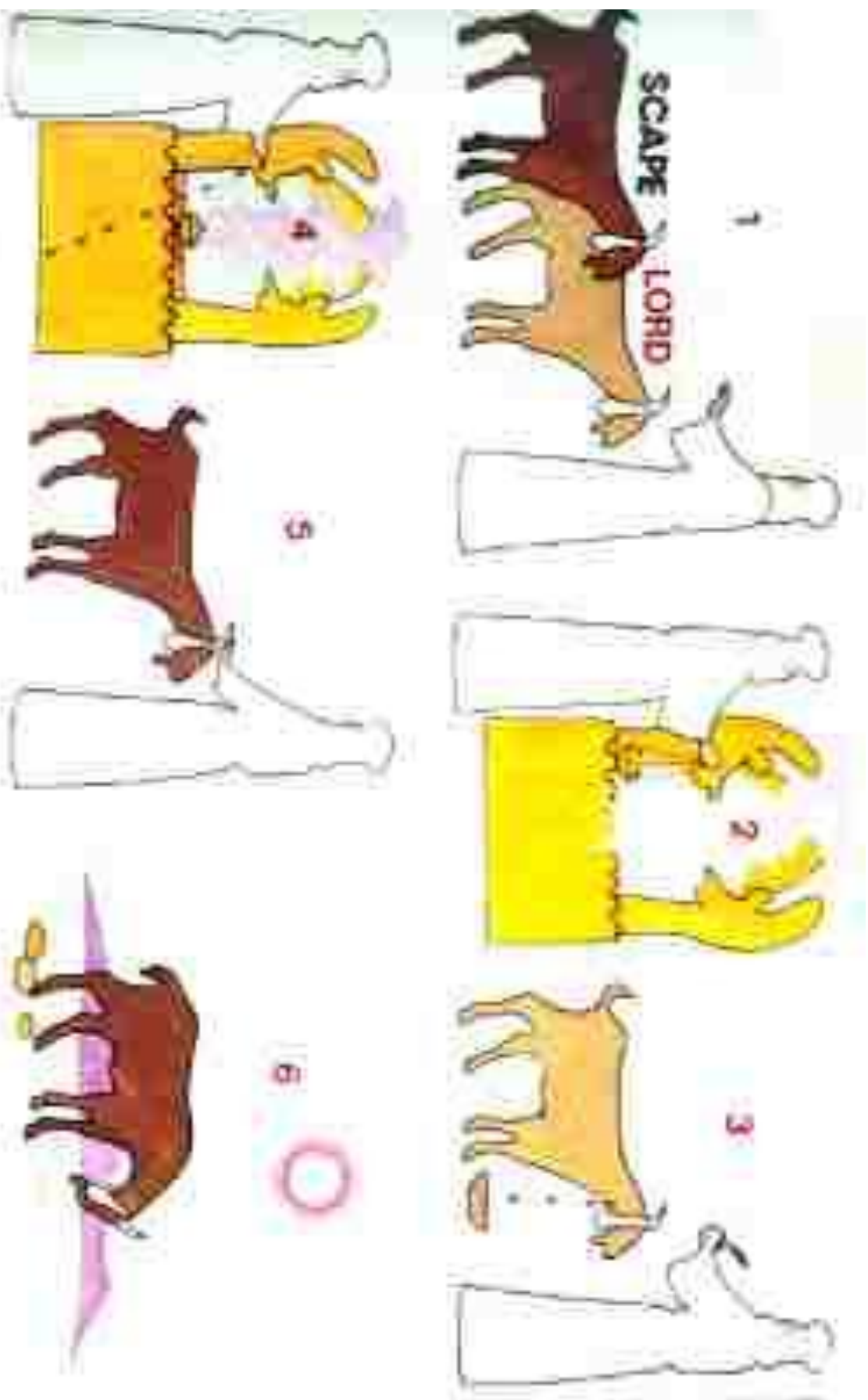




Feast of Trumpets



Day of Atonement



Feast of Booths



