POINTING TO JESUS

Imagine if you had ninety-one days each year when you didn’t have to work or go to school, and would spend your time rejoicing in God, fellowshipping with others, and remembering your blessings. This is how God intended the Israelites to celebrate the feasts. The Sabbath made up fifty-two of those days (Lev. 23), but it was a special type of feast day that was not connected to the sanctuary because it began at creation and will continue on in the new earth. The sanctuary feasts were to follow the plan of salvation, specifically connected to how God rescued Israel in the past, and were also tied to the agricultural year. In addition, the feasts pointed to the Messiah, and their fulfillment in Him happens in three aspects.

First of all, because Jesus was the one true faithful Israelite, each of the sanctuary feasts was fulfilled in His life on earth. This is one of the reasons we are not required to keep them anymore. As a part of the whole sanctuary service, the Old Testament makes clear that the feasts were to point to the Messiah, who would fulfill them as the ultimate sacrifice and High Priest (Exod. 25:8–9; Pss. 40:8, 110:1–7; Dan. 9:24–27). Second, the feasts point forward to the second coming of Jesus. Third, as we are already saved by Jesus’ death on the cross, yet not totally saved because we are not yet in heaven, the feasts point to spiritual aspects of our experience here on earth, as we enter the heavenly sanctuary by faith. We look forward to what God will do in the future, and they help to keep our focus there. Every time we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we are keeping a mini-Passover feast.
Write out Deuteronomy 16:1–17 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Deuteronomy 16:16, 17. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Deuteronomy 16:1–17. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How can you make the Lord’s Supper (the one Christian feast) more celebratory in your church/life?

How can you spiritually celebrate more in your own life?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut09-3
What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What things has God done for you that you have not thought about or celebrated for a while?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut09-4
Review your memorized verse from Deuteronomy 16:1–17.

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Hebrews 10:19–25
Revelation 19:6–9
Zechariah 14:3–21
John 7:2–39
Nehemiah 8:8–18
2 Chronicles 30

What other verses come to mind in connection with Deuteronomy 16?
Where do you see Jesus in Deuteronomy 16:1–17?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

How does seeing Jesus want to rejoice with you change your heart?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut09-6
Review the memory verse. 
How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/deut09-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What are some times in your life when you have clearly seen God working to rescue or save you, either physically or spiritually?

How can you incorporate more celebration with God in your spiritual life?

How can you make the weekly Sabbath a time of greater celebration in your own life?

In what ways can you join more in community with others who are also followers of God?

Reflect on how you can invite the vulnerable in your community to join you, and how you can serve them more effectively and personally.

How can you rejoice in God today?

What do you look forward to most about eternity with God in the New Jerusalem?

You Shall Rejoice!