



## OUTLINE

- THE PASSOVER FEAST (16:1-8):
  - + In the month of Abib, the Israelites were to observe the Passover Feast, which was a memorial of how God saved Israel from the Egyptians.
  - + In their observance, they were to sacrifice an animal at God's appointed place of worship, and they were restricted from eating food with leaven for 7 days.
- THE FEAST OF WEEKS (16:9-12):
  - + Seven weeks after the grain harvest began, the Israelites were to observe the Feast of Weeks.
  - + During the Feast of Weeks, the Israelites were to remember how they had been slaves in Egypt.
  - + Each Israelite was to bring a free will offering to God's appointed place of worship and "rejoice before the Lord."
- THE FEAST OF BOOTHS (16:13-17):
  - + The Feast of Booths was to be observed at the conclusion of harvest.
  - + It was to last 7 days and all the Israelites were to keep the feast at God's appointed place of worship.
- APPOINTING JUDGES AND OFFICERS (16:18-20):
  - + Moses instructed the Israelites to appoint officers in each of their towns to judge the people and uphold righteousness.
  - + The officers were to be upright men who would not take a bribe.
- FORBIDDEN WORSHIP (16:21-22):
  - + No Asherah was to be incorporated into the worship of the true God. Asherah were pagan figures, usually made of wood, that stood beside Canaanite worship sites.
  - + Israel was also forbidden from erecting pillars associated with false gods.

## APPLICATION

- Why did the Israelites need to keep these annual feasts and go through these ceremonies?
- God doesn't institute memorials just to force people to go through rituals, He does it because He knows people are forgetful and need reminded.
- A perfect example of this is Moses' continual warnings against idolatry that are present in almost every chapter of Deuteronomy, including chapter 16.
- It didn't take long before the Israelites started worshiping idols and Asherah (see Judges 3:7) because they forgot the lessons taught in the past. They forgot the memorials and the meaning behind them.
- In application, when God tells us to keep a memorial, like the Lord's Supper for example, we need to take it seriously, repeat it regularly, and engage in it with our minds to recall the lessons we're meant to learn through the memories it resurrects.
- The Bible is clear that when people forget memorials, they forget the lessons of the past.