



## Class 2, Wednesday, November 29

**Main Point:** “Holiday” is short for “holy day,” but American culture ignores the holy. Taking “holy” out of celebrations removes a great tool for passing on faith. The family, not the Temple or synagogue, was the central venue of faith to Hebrews and early believers. So “holy” days are the best days to teach family about our faith. How can we restore the holidays as a tool for our own and our family’s spiritual growth? That’s the focus of this class.

### A Short Summary of Old Testament Celebrations & Feasts

**Passover:** A reminder of God’s deliverance from slavery and death.

**Unleavened Bread:** A weeklong reminder of the exodus from Egypt.

**Firstfruits:** A one day celebration of thanksgiving for God’s provision.

**Pentecost:** A one day celebration of joy over God’s provision.

**Trumpets:** A one day celebration of a new year showing joy to God.

**Day of Atonement:** A holy day in which sin was forgiven.

**Feast of Tabernacles/Booths:** A reminder of God’s protection.

*That’s 19 days of celebration with the family. When you add in the Sabbath—the biggest of all Holy Days—the Hebrews were able to emphasize the holy in their families 70 times per years!*

### Christmas – What We Do and Don’t Know!

*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the*

*town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. (Luke 2:1-7, NIV)*

That is the passage for the birth of Jesus that I recommend you (or a child) read on Christmas. We don’t really know that Jesus was born on December 25. How much do you know. Take a test to find out!

1. \_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_.
9. \_\_\_\_.
10. \_\_\_\_.
11. \_\_\_\_.
12. \_\_\_\_.
13. \_\_\_\_.
14. \_\_\_\_.
15. \_\_\_\_.
16. \_\_\_\_.
17. \_\_\_\_.
18. \_\_\_\_.
19. \_\_\_\_.
20. \_\_\_\_.
21. \_\_\_\_.
22. \_\_\_\_.
23. \_\_\_\_.
24. \_\_\_\_.
25. \_\_\_\_.

### Christmas Traditions

Ham? Turkey? Tamales/posole in Mexico? Yorkshire pudding/prime rib in England? Carp/beet soup in Poland? Pork liver stew in India? Pickled herring in Denmark? Peking duck in China? KFC in Japan? Food, gifts, decorations, and other traditions are abundant.

The Bible gives no instructions on how to celebrate Jesus’ birth. It’s our job to find Christian ways to celebrate. If we don’t, the secular traditions promoted everywhere will be all our families remember!

1. I \_\_\_\_\_.
2. H \_\_\_\_\_.
3. T \_\_\_\_\_.
4. P \_\_\_\_\_.
5. D \_\_\_\_\_.