

# Sukkot - The Feast of Tabernacles

Follow-up from Yom Kippur

Buried in White - No pockets ( no possessions can be taken - only the Word and good works)

One of the fringes (tzitzit) is cut off - it represents the law - the dead are no longer under the law

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow (Isaiah 1:18)

5 days after fasting and repenting and meeting with God on Yom Kippur

Your sins are atoned, so it's time to start your new life

you spend a week celebrating during Sukkot - the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths

It's the time of the fall fruit harvest - grain was in the spring - (it's about eating)

In spring you had bread, but now you have wine (jelly if you made toast)

Spring is the body of Christ (death for our sins)

Fall is the blood of Christ (living for God)

Life is in the blood (blood moon)

and you construct a sukkah - a lean-to or hut where you eat your meals during the festival.

God commanded us to remember the shelters the Israelites lived in during the Exodus when God provided all of their food (manna).

So we are celebrating our complete dependence on God for our provision.

And it reminds us of the Tabernacle in the wilderness where God met with Moses (fire and cloud) and offered the people a chance to meet with Him - they refused.

Exodus 29:45 "I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God."

## Jesus Goes to the Festival of Tabernacles

During the Feast of Tabernacles The Jews had a special ceremony of pouring out water and crying out to God to save them and bless them

John 7 Jesus went around in Galilee, because the Jewish leaders were looking for a way to kill him in Judea. But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. He said no, but then went after they left.

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.

The Jews also have a spectacular light show they do with massive menorahs during this Feast and that is when Jesus stood up and said in John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The Feast of Tabernacles represents God dwelling with man (Immanuel)

Matthew 1:23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

For what it's worth:

If you do the math, it's when Jesus was actually born (Christmas is like a bonus celebration and He deserves all the celebration we can give Him)

Google it if you like - Zacharias was a priest (Luke 1), the priests served in the temple according to orderly divisions or shifts (1 Chronicles 24) and Zacharias was of the order of Abijah (they would have served around Pentecost). When Zacharias returned home Elizabeth conceived John the Baptist. Mary conceived in the sixth month of Elizabeth (six months after Pentecost would have been in December around Chanukah and He is the Light of the world). Nine months later brings them to Bethlehem around Sukkot.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us

(that Greek word is skee-nah-ho it means tabernacled)

[Greek lexicon describes the word this way:

God will spread His tabernacle over them, so that they may dwell in safety and security under its cover and protection].

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Word became flesh - Deuteronomy 31 commands us to read this law before all Israel in their hearing

More than that it celebrates the fact that God can now dwell in us because He has redeemed us.

To make the Christmas connection even more ironic:

Sukkot is all about thanking God for all He provides.

What's the best way to be thankful - you give to someone in need.

The Feast of Tabernacles became known simply as "The Feast" and they called it the Season of Joy.

Why celebrate the Feasts:

You get two New Year celebrations and two Christmases

We remember the temple of Solomon (he dedicated it during this festival).  
We are the tabernacle of the Lord so we celebrate having Jesus in our hearts.  
We look forward to when we will tabernacle or dwell with God in heaven and on the new earth  
After all sin has been removed and the devil is cast into the lake of fire.

Consider what an amazing God we have.  
The false gods of the world are motivating people to chop people's heads off.  
The one and only real God has commanded us to rejoice (for a whole week).  
And to give charity.  
1) think about god and rejoice  
2) think about others and give

Deuteronomy 16:14-15  
Be joyful at your festival -  
you  
your sons and daughters  
your male and female servants  
and the Levites  
the foreigners  
the fatherless  
and the widows  
who live in your towns.

15 For seven days celebrate the festival to the Lord your God at the place the Lord will choose. For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.

16 Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed:

17 Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.

## Tithes

You start with 100% and there are 2 tithes

1st tithe: is specifically for the Levites (pastors/churches)

2nd tithe: is for you to enjoy and to use to be a blessing and honor God

Deuteronomy 14:22-27

22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.

23 Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.

24 But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the Lord your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the Lord will choose to put his Name is so far away), 25 then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the Lord your God will choose.

26 Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish.

Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the Lord your God and rejoice. 27 And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.

**Celebrate by going camping (celebrate your family), going out for a meal, talk about God's provision at your meals and thank Him, help someone in need, give to those who have less than you.**