

## Feast of Tabernacles 2020 / 5781 and the Millennial Kingdom

### Part 1 - Dwelling (Leviticus 23)

Of all of the Biblical Feasts, Tabernacles (called Sukkot) is the one folks know least about, and I'm not sure even the ones who celebrate it are aware of how it probably relates to the rest of the Feasts; and since Sukkot is about the Thousand Year Reign of Christ, it unpacks some of the book of Revelation, so that's a bonus.

I'm are going to look at what the Feast is, how to celebrate it, why it exists, the prophetic aspects of it, we'll add some water and light, track down the Pale Horse, and encounter the heart of Jesus in a brand new way.

Traditionally it's believed that the Feasts are shadows and types, and that Jesus fulfilled the Spring Feasts when He died at Passover, rose three days later on Firstfruits, walked with the disciples, until He ascended on Day 40, and then poured out the Holy Spirit from Heaven on Pentecost. I totally agree with that idea. It's also assumed that Jesus will fulfill the Fall Feasts at His Second Coming.

The problem with the second part of that theory is He was born on Rosh Hashanah, came out of the desert and began His earthly ministry on Yom Kippur, and John described Jesus' time on earth in John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." **The word dwelt is equivalent to sukkot or tabernacled among us. So Jesus also already fulfilled the Fall Feasts.**

I believe that all seven of the Feasts have a part to play in the end times. And that's part of what we will look at today. Let's read Leviticus 23 to see what God told the Israelites to do at the Feast of Tabernacles?

- The Lord told Moses...for seven days, **everyone must celebrate** the Festival of Shelters in honor of me.
- **No one is to do any work on the first day** of the festival –
- it is a time when **everyone must come together for worship.**
- **For seven days, sacrifices must be offered** on the altar.
- **The eighth day** is also to be a day of **complete rest,**
- as well as **a time of offering sacrifices** on the altar
- **and of coming together for worship...**
- begin the Festival of Shelters...**after you have harvested your crops.**
- **Pick the best fruit** from your trees and **cut leafy branches**
- to use **during the time of this joyous celebration** in my honor.
- For seven days **every Israelite must live in a shelter,** so future generations will know that **I made their ancestors live in shelters when I brought them out of Egypt..."**

This is the Feast all of Israel looks forward to all year long.

Sukkot was the original Thanksgiving, before the pilgrims here in America.

It was a harvest festival to celebrate the completion of the agricultural year.

Specifically, for the seven species –

Barley in the Spring and Wheat and Grapes in the Summer.

All the sweet fruit in the Fall: pomegranates, figs, date palms, and olives.

Building the flimsy sukkahs testify that their safety and stability came from God's care.

They would remember the Exodus, The Tabernacle where God would meet Moses.

Rosh Hashanah, The Days of Awe, and The Day of Atonement had all passed, so all **of the repentance and judgment was behind them.**

Their sins were atoned - they would **spend a week celebrating life with Him** during the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths.

They would construct a **sukkah** - a lean-to or hut (tent) where they eat their meals together. Essentially, it's anything they could build to create shade for themselves.

It was intentionally flimsy (but still safe) to show that it's temporary.

They decorated it with beautiful foliage and left room in the ceiling to be able to see the stars at night. Essentially they went camping. Sleeping in a sukkah was optional but eating together in it was crucial.

**Building sukkahs** wasn't just for this Festival. **It's what Jonah built to sit in** as he waited to see what would come of Nineveh. **"Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city."** (Jonah 4:5).

## Part 2 – What Are We Celebrating?

**Is there more to Tabernacles and the Pilgrimage Feasts than all the traditions? And if my theory is correct that the Spring and Fall Feasts are connected and essentially celebrating the same things, Tabernacles should be a good place to see.**

The Counting of the Omer (days) from Passover in the Spring to Pentecost in the Summer are the first two Pilgrimage Feasts. It seems like a unique event celebrating and remembering the Exodus from Egypt.

This included seven days when they ate only unleavened bread. At the end of the long journey at Mount Sinai they met with God, heard His voice, the elders ate with God on the Mountain, and then they received the Law (well they received the broken tablets).

But at the end of Summer, those earlier Feasts and the counting feels rather similar to the 50 days between Elul 1 (when the King is in the Field to walk with you and meet with you) and you hear His voice like the sound of a trumpet every day, and even more so on Rosh Hashanah with a 100 blasts.

And Moses is doing the exact same things. On the 40<sup>th</sup> day (Yom Kippur) Moses comes down the mountain with a new set of tablets, and a goat goes up Olivet and disappears in the same place that Jesus ascended. At Tabernacles we gather to celebrate and eat in God's presence for an entire week (but instead of unleavened bread in a hurry, it's fruit, worship, and the end of the harvest). The Great Last Day of Sukkot feels a lot like Pentecost. Much of the bible is written in a chiasmic form (or like an object's reflection in a mirror).

Is it possible that instead of three pilgrimage events, there is really just one three-part celebration of our Exodus or journey from slavery to marriage? We are called the bride of Christ, Jesus is called the Bridegroom, and there is literally a marriage supper in heaven. Mount Sinai was considered to be like a marriage chuppah and it was God's intention to become one with the Israelites at Sinai but they refused).

Are the three Pilgrimage Feasts really a repeating shadow and type of the first Exodus from Egypt and of what will happen at the Second Exodus when Jesus returns to take us home to heaven and the New earth?

"Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that it shall no more be said, 'The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' but, 'The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel **from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.**' For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers." Jeremiah 16:14-15

**Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."** Jeremiah 30:7

The bible is full of prophetic scriptures that can only fit into a time like the Thousand Year Reign, and the Talmud speaks a good bit on eternity. Of course, the whole purpose of the Days of Awe is to seal your name in the Book of Life. So while the first part of the Second Exodus has occurred with the creation of the nation of Israel and the return of millions of Jews, there awaits another eternal aspect to that Second Exodus.

In the same way that God brought them out of Egypt in the First Exodus and then brought them in the Promised Land, they can be confident that the God who gathered them from the nations will gather

them to Himself in that final Exodus. Of course, the obvious stumbling block for them has not changed. The Messiah was, is, and will always be the One who moves on their behalf, but they don't recognize Him. Yeshua literally means salvation, so not recognizing Him means not finding salvation. And He is the key to Passover/Pesach.

## Part 3 - A Jewish Lamb

In the word Pesach P-S/X-CH is a Primitive Root. Peh essentially means **word or breath** (in this case **the Spoken Word of God.**) Jesus was called “the Word made flesh”. **Samech** means to lean upon, to uphold or to support. The root is part of the word for when the priest would cross his hands (like an x) to lay them on the head of a sacrificial animal to transfer sin to it. **In ancient Hebrew the letter s was an X.** Because Greek came partly from ancient Hebrew, it is equivalent to the Greek X or chi, which is the letter and symbol of Christos (Christ) – **Anointed One. Cheth** means **change**. Its pictograph looks like **a wall or a boundary**.

### Here are a few walls that are unique to Pesach:

- The door covered in blood became a wall that the Destroyer could not enter
- The Red Sea became a wall to hold back the water to let the Israelites walk thru
- God became a wall of fire to protect them from the Egyptian army

In Egypt, God’s anointed mouthpiece was Moses - He spoke, and God brought plagues.

**But we know Passover was always pointing to Jesus as the Lamb.**

Since Jesus was the Word of God and the Christ and the Passover Lamb who takes away the sins of the world, then something He said is the real essence of Pesach.

### Beyond the events in Egypt - What does Pesach mean?

The Spoken Word of God (or the breath) - By The Christ - Brings Change to a Wall or Boundary

### His last statement on the cross was...**It is finished...Tetelestai...**

When He said it...the curtain/door/wall was forever removed between God and man

### With it He breathed His last breath (peh)

His first breath three days later brought resurrection into a dead body

So Pesach isn’t just about the angel of death angel in Egypt, but about the Son of God destroying sin and death for humanity. The word Passover is about Egypt...Pesach is about the Kingdom of God

And we have this hope of which we can be certain, change is coming, because Jesus is coming, and He loves His children.

**“I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; He will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”**

Romans 11:25-27

One of the wonderful aspects of shadows and types and studying the Old Testament is realizing that what we understand today is nothing compared to what God will reveal tomorrow. The giving of the Word of God on stone tablets seemed like what Pentecost was all about until Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit onto the new church in Acts. And then suddenly tablets of stone were just a “shadow and type” of “hearts of stone turned to hearts of flesh” as the Holy Spirit came upon them. It turned out what seemed like a journey or Exodus filled with God’s amazing provision was Him once again taking us from glory to glory.

As the apostles prayed that morning of Pentecost awaiting what Jesus promised, they didn’t know quite what to expect, only to expect an outpouring of God upon them. Maybe He was going to give them a new revelation of those ancient scriptures, but instead in an instant the Holy Spirit fire fell on

them and they began speaking in languages they did not know. Joy filled them like never before, and courage and boldness soared within them. The same God the Israelites refused to marry at Sinai didn't wait for rejection, but this time the risen Messiah consummated the wedding on that Pentecost morning by coming to dwell in them and releasing His power.

When the three Pilgrimage Feasts are seen as One Three-Part Exodus Feast, everything comes into focus from the Garden of Eden to the Garden in Paradise. From Moses leaving behind homes in Egypt smeared with the blood of the Pesach Lamb as they miraculously crossed the divided Sea to John baptizing Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

## Part 4 – Out of Egypt

For over 3,000 years every generation of Jews has been building sukkahs and decorating them, eating, and sleeping inside them, and dancing and celebrating in the streets to celebrate the 40 years with God in the desert. Tabernacles is one of the most joyful Feasts you will ever experience, but what if there is more to dance about than the Jews discovered? Let's go back to the Exodus to when God brought them out and see if there is something more to His commands to celebrate this yearly Feast?

**“You shall dwell in booths [sukkot] for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths [sukkot], that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths [sukkot] when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”** (Leviticus 23:42-43)

**Notice the words, “When I brought them out”**, So, maybe Tabernacles isn't about 40 years of wandering; maybe **it's about the initial Exodus** when God brought them out. **Tabernacles is actually a second celebration of the Passover, but without the lamb and unleavened bread.**

Exodus 12 begins in Egypt at the first Passover or Pesach when God tells them what to do to avoid encountering for the Death Angel. Then God instructs Moses how He wants them to celebrate the Exodus in the years ahead. They will take a lamb, inspect the lamb, kill the lamb, and eat that lamb on a certain day, but the future Passovers won't include blood on the doors or a death angel, and instead of just one meal, it will be a weeklong festival.

Then back in real time, the Exodus begins as the death angel arrives and decimates all the firstborn in Egypt, people and animals; All of Israel is safe because of the blood of the lambs. So, Pharaoh releases the Israelites, and the rest of the grieving Egyptians are afraid, and they beg them to leave. Which allows the Jews to plunder them of silver, gold, clothing, and all they requested.

**They begin the journey and after three days arrive at a place in the desert with a very familiar name, “Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, [that's the same word as Sukkot], about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock. And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt.”**

**That's right. The escaping Israelites first stop was a town with the Hebrew name of Sukkot.** To understand how that is possible, we will need to turn the pages back a few hundred years to walk in the footsteps of Jacob, the man who brought his family to Egypt; the same family that has grown and grown into the millions, and now has been rescued from slavery: The Israelites.

In the book of Genesis, we meet Jacob and his brother Esau, who Jacob cheats of his inheritance and blessing which inspires Jacob to flee lest he be killed. Twenty years pass and Jacob is raising his family and begins a journey to return to his parents and his ancestral lands. This puts him right into the path of Esau, who to Jacob's great surprise no longer wanted to kill him, but instead welcomed him back with open arms and they restore their strained relationship.

Jacob's continues his travels when he reached a safe place, he stopped, made sukkahs for his family and flocks, and later when he continued his journey, the sukkahs remained and became the place's namesake. **“So that day Esau started on his way back to Seir. Jacob, however, went to Sukkoth, where he built a place for himself and made shelters for his livestock. That is why the place is called Sukkoth.”** (Genesis 33:17).

**So, it turns out that the name “sukkot” came from Jacob. For clarities sake, the town in Israel is about 300 miles from the town by the same name in Egypt.**

## Part 5 – A Sukkot By Any Other Name...

Historians guess Succoth in Egypt was about 3 day's journey into the desert. Very little is known about it, but my guess, is that when Jacob was old and brought his family to join Joseph in Egypt, perhaps it's where they stopped and built sukkahs for the family and herds before moving on to Egypt. It had the same Hebrew name of the town he founded near Peniel where he stopped and built sukkahs. It makes sense that he would repeat the building and naming.

So, what did God say this Tabernacles Feast was about? **"You shall dwell in booths [sukkot] for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths [sukkot], that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths [sukkot] when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."** (Leviticus 23:42-43)

**So, it seems possible that they were not supposed to live in sukkahs to remember the entire wilderness journey, but specifically to remember the days directly after Passover, when God caused them to retrace the very steps He used to bring them to Egypt when they were just Jacob and about 80 others.**

And to remember how God changed Jacob from a deceiver, to a man with a limp who was miraculously saved from the brother he had deceived. His life really profoundly changed after the encounter he had wrestling angel/God. He seemed to lose his scheming ways and develop giving ways. Enough so that He wanted his descendants not to forget that journey.

When Jacob died, Joseph made a trip back to The Cave of Machpela, which is called the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron that holds the bodies of four couples. Adam and Eve are said to be buried in the cave. Of course, you'll find Abraham and Sarah, and Isaac and Rebekah and Jacob and Leah. They are all buried in Hebron, because it's a big deal where you are buried.

Not only did Joseph take his father's bones to Hebron, but then he made his kids promise to bring his bones all 460 miles from Egypt to be buried in Shechem, where he had been sold into slavery by his brothers. It was the place his father Jacob had dug a well, where Abram had met with God, and where Moses would speak blessing and curses over Israel. It's a place where God did so much. Graves were a big deal.

And sure enough, as Moses led the Israelites out, they carried Joseph's bones with them, and no doubt rested with them at Sukkot.

In the end, a sukkah isn't about a flimsy shack.

Exodus 29:45 **"I will dwell (tabernacle or sukkah) among the people of Israel and will be their God."**

**We are all in sukkah's right now – this world is our sukkah – we need to make sure our affections for it our flimsy because we have a better sukkah waiting that we celebrate on the Feast of Tabernacles.**

**Dwelling** is the word **tabernacle** which means: God will spread His tabernacle over us, so that we may dwell in safety and security under its cover and protection.

In the simplest of terms, Jesus came to the earth as a baby and lived with us (tabernacled).

John 1:14 **The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

When Jesus rose from the grave, He had a glorified body, that could still be touched and could eat, but it could also pass through walls and defy the basic laws of physics.

He stayed on earth in that body for 40 days and then ascended into heaven. Those 40 days are a picture of The Great Tribulation and as well as the Millennium, when Jesus will first fight and then reign on the earth.

**“Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them” (Rev. 21:22).**

Let’s take a chiastic look at Passover/UB and Tabernacles:

The week-long Feast includes Passover the first day, followed by the 7-day Feast of Unleavened Bread the next day (two significant days together at the beginning), and three days later Firstfruits. The First and Last days are Sabbaths. This was the First Exodus which occurred in Egypt and the desert – There is lots of death.

The weeklong Feast of Tabernacles is opposite (two significant days in a row are at the end), because it’s viewed in a mirror. It’s also 7-days with the First and Last as Sabbaths. The last day is the Great Day. You pack up and go home and then come back together at the temple on the 8th day for a celebration. This is the Second Exodus which occurs in eternity – Death has been destroyed.

Why all the celebrations at Tabernacles but fasting at Unleavened Bread?

We are celebrating from a place of faith that comes from knowing Jesus. If He came the first time, we can be confident that He will come the second time. If He proposed and gave us the ring (the Holy Spirit), He will come and bring us to the Father and marry us.

## Part 6 – Give with Joy

**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. It's Christmas and Thanksgiving combined**

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.

God has commanded us to rejoice (for a whole week). And to give charity.

- think about God and rejoice
- 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.

**“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. 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.”**

The primary focus of Tabernacles was water and light – which along with oxygen and temperature - are at the very heart of how God designed seeds to become a harvest. It was all about recognizing God's provision.

**No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed:**

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

**God will never come into your presence empty handed**

That is a promise – He will give you: life, strength, grace, a future, a dream, a vision, a family, a hope, and He will give you all of Himself every single day 24/7

**I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them. Isaiah 42:16**

### **Treasure**

**I will give you the **treasures of darkness** and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the LORD, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. Isaiah 45:3**

First things first, let's look at the “treasure” and “riches” that God has hidden in the darkness of secret places. God supplies provision, sufficiency, riches, wealth, etc; and each in their proper time and place, according to His will and the needs of His kingdom.

**“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Exodus 19:5-6**

Notice that “you” are God’s idea of treasure. “Treasure” is in a class of its own. It is highly prized, even priceless, and kept secure. Likewise, “riches” imply an amount beyond what meets a need; it’s a quantity considered more than sufficient.

Luke 5 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he was astonished, and all that were with him, because of the catch of the fish which they had taken, and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Fear not, from now on you will catch men." So when they brought their ships to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Sukkot is a festival about rejoicing in the blessings that God has provided, but let’s be sure our focus is on the Lord of blessing – instead of the blessings!

**Tithes** - You start with 100% and there are 2 tithes

- 1st tithe: is specifically for the Levites
- 2nd tithe: is for you to enjoy and to use to be a blessing and honor God

Deuteronomy 14:22-27 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.

**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.**

But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the Lord your God and cannot carry your tithe...then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the Lord your God will choose. 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.**

**And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.**

## Part 7 – Branches

There was a special regimen of sacrifices that were to be brought on the altar at the Tabernacles. On the first day: 13 bulls, two rams, and 14 lambs. Every day after the sacrifices would repeat, but with one less bull. In all, 70 bulls were brought, **one for each nation in existence that God promised would be blessed** “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:3

“Then it will be that all the nations who have come against Jerusalem and survived will go up each year to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles” (Zech. 14:16).

All the Feasts are intimately connected through the work of Jesus. “Christ the Passover” became “Christ the Firstfruits” raised from the dead. Then at Pentecost, those “Firstfruits” were filled with the Holy Spirit and produced a ripened harvest. In the Fall that harvest becomes the nations gathered to celebrate.

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.” Revelation 7:9.

Besides your gifts, **you bring two things to Sukkot: a citron** in your left hand; **and a lulav** (a palm branch, two myrtle branches, and two willow branches all bound together). On the seventh day (called the Hashanna Rabba – the great Hosanna) **willow branches were beaten against the pavement next to the Great Altar to symbolize the casting away of the nation’s sins.**

At this time the people waved their lulavs (palm branches) while the Levites chanted the Hallel (Psalm 113-118). They would shout, “**The voice announcing the coming of the Messiah is heard.**” The name of this day – Hosanna – comes from the closing words of Psalm 118 which reads: “**Save now, I beseech Thee, O Lord... Blessed be he who comes in the name of the Lord...**”

This isn’t the only time the Hallel Psalms were chanted by the people. On Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem through the Eastern Gate, “**the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!’**”

Why did they choose these words? The word “Hosanna” in Hebrew is “Hoshia Na” or literally “save, please” and is part of Psalm 118, one of six psalms of the Hallel (Psalms 113-118). These were the songs of praise and thanksgiving always used during this Feast (as well as Tabernacles).

Jesus would recite Psalm 118 during the Last Supper and He would hear it echoing over and over while He hung upon the cross, as it was chanted by the priests as they slaughtered hundreds of thousands of lambs.

### **Some of the words of Psalm 118:**

“**This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous shall enter. The stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. OH, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.**”

### **The River of Life – Water**

The seventh day became known as, “the Great Day.” The people developed special observances and traditions to mark this special day in Israel. The most spectacular of these was the water drawing ceremony.

There was a parade of worshipers and flutists led by the priest to the pool of Siloam. The priest has two golden pitchers. One is for wine. He fills the other with water from the pool. As the flutes continue to play, a choir of Israelites chants Psalm 118.

The whole procession heads back to the Temple through the Water Gate. A trumpet sounds as the priest enters the Temple area. He approaches the altar where two silver basins are waiting. He pours wine into one of the basins as a drink offering to the Lord and water from the pool of Siloam into the other.

“And in that day you will say: ‘O Lord, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’ Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:1-3

The ceremony was to thank God for His provision and to ask Him to provide rain for the crops in the coming year. Today, we take water for granted. We turn the tap and—water pours out! In the Middle East during the first century, water was often scarce. The people were very much aware of their dependence on God for the rains that were so vital for the preservation of life. They are pouring out water. It's precious. To say, “Come quickly Messiah. We trade everything for you. You are more precious.”

**There are two very significant kinds of water sources:**

Genesis 26:18-19 “And Isaac dug again **the wells of water** which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham...Also Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found **a well of springing water there.**” Wells are efforts of man's hard labor. Springs come to you as a gift of God.

“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.**” John 7

**In Hebrew, the phrase springing water literally means "living waters".**

This is part of the significance of the story of the woman at the well with Jesus. When Jesus spoke of the spring type (living water), she knew there was no spring around, so he must be talking about prophecy. The rock they carried in the desert that brought forth water came from Rephidim & Meribah. Jesus prophesied and the lady recognized the promises of a future Moses.

The leaders grew angry because He was comparing Himself to God who caused Moses to make water come from a rock. “**The Lord said to Moses, “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.”** Numbers 20:8-12

The leaders said to Jesus, “**A prophet does not come out of Galilee**” (verse 52). Apparently, they forgot about Isaiah chapter 9: “**There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future He will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; of those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**” (Isaiah 9:1-2).

## Part 8 – The Light of the World

At the end of the first day of the Feast, according to the Mishnah, gigantic candelabras stood within the court of the women in the Temple.

**Each of the four golden candelabras is said to have been about 75 feet tall!**

Each candelabra had four branches, and at the top of every branch there was a large bowl. Four young men bearing 10-gallon pitchers of oil would climb ladders to fill the four golden bowls on each candelabra. And then the oil in those bowls was ignited.

The Temple was on a hill above the rest of the city, so the glow was a sight for the entire city to see. The light was to remind the people of how God's Shekinah glory had once filled His Temple. But in the person of Jesus, God's glory was once again present in that Temple. And He used that celebration to announce that very fact. He was teaching in the court of women just after the Feast, perhaps standing right next to those magnificent candelabras when He declared to all who were gathered there,

**“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12**

Many refused to have their own darkness exposed by that light.

**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”**

If God had no beginning and everything that exists was created by Him, then nothing existed before Him, not even darkness.

Scripturally speaking, darkness isn't the absence of light. (It's actually scientifically impossible to create perfect darkness because all objects radiate heat in the form of infrared light and gamma rays and extremely high frequency light can penetrate even dense materials.)

Darkness was probably the very first creation of God, before the universe itself.

**“I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.” Isaiah 45:7**

Darkness was a creation, and every creation has a purpose. We can know that the Spirit of God is hovering near us, and He has a vision for what He's making us into. And He uses darkness, or hides things from us, as part of the process of revealing Himself to us.

**“Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.” Genesis 1:3-5**

**"God divided the light from the darkness."**

To say it another way, Jesus triumphs over darkness. Everything God is doing in our lives is to accomplish one purpose, dividing the light from the darkness.

**“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” Ephesians 5**

**If God is Light and He is the image of the invisible God, and we are made in the image of God, what does that mean? We are light.**

**“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” 2 Corinthians 4:6-7**

Listen to Jesus explain this to Nicodemus John 3, **“Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”** Our original birth is similar in that we are surrounded in the womb by water, and when it breaks, we come out of the darkness and water into the light of the world. **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit...And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. “**

At creation, Before When Adam and Eve sinned, they were surrounded with God’s glory of light When they sinned, they went into darkness. When we sin – we go back in. God doesn’t hate us when we sin – but we have to choose darkness or light. His life’s purpose is to separate one from the other. When you choose darkness you also lose your purpose as light.

The light spectrum includes radio waves, microwaves, infrared, visible light, ultraviolet, x rays, gamma rays, and other electromagnetic radiation. God is raising up many kinds of people with many kinds of gifts just like the many kinds of light. He is going to fill up some with a lot of power, others with revelation, others with skills, others for war.

Light is also sound. At creation God spoke, which was a form of light. The Hebrew word for “voice” is the sound of a trumpet. That same word is used throughout the Bible for the blast of a trumpet (Mt Sinai). The Hebrew word also means calling out, shouting or even singing.

## Part 9 - Darkness & Oil

What is the point of these Fall Feasts: Repentance for Rosh Hashanah, the Days of Awe, and for Yom Kippur in anticipation of The Great Tribulation?

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb... **These are they who have come out of the great tribulation**; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne **will shelter them with his presence**. ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. **The sun will not beat down on them,**’ nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; **‘He will lead them to springs of living water.’** ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’” Revelation 7

But then everything changes; It's Celebration for the Feast of Tabernacles?

Those who take the mark of the Beast will be destroyed. But there will still be sinners on the earth who did not take the mark, but that do not have their names written in the Book of Life and so are not transformed to reign with Jesus in the Millennium. They are not glorified. They don't shine. They are alive, so to speak, but just alive.

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.” Isaiah 60:1-2

One day when the trumpet sounds, the darkness will descend, and it will be our time to shine. Why the yearly trumpet blast - so we will continue to ask ourselves: “Are we filled with oil?”

Matthew 25 warns us: "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps."

But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And **at midnight a cry was heard**: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' [**repent**]

Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, '**Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.**'

But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and **buy for yourselves.**'

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Oil causes the lamps to light up; It's the presence of the Holy Spirit illuminating the Word of God.

Count the cost. Jesus said buy from me. Sometimes He said come to me and I will give you. In Revelation in the letters to the churches he said buy from me. The 10 wise virgins He said needed to buy oil from Him not from people, but from Him.

They should've counted the cost they didn't; they were cast into outer darkness. Between the Feast of First Fruits and Pentecost, they were commanded to count the days – 50 days till Pentecost. Jesus stayed on the earth for 40 days before He ascended and then said wait for Pentecost to receive, which came 10 days later. That's a shadow; counting - that's the focus.

You don't have to be baptized in the Holy Spirit to be saved. But He wants you to be filled; He wants you to be full of Him so you can shine your light which requires oil.

He said darkness is going to come on the face of the earth, so He knows you will use up your oil. So He says buy from me - come to me get full - be filled.

#### Revelation Chapter 4

**“To Laodicea: I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.**

**You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to **buy from me** gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.”**

They didn't count the cost. You have to buy from Jesus, not from man. There will be many full pews the day after the rapture because they spent their time only trying to buy from man instead of Jesus.

This is all about spending time in His presence to be filled with Him so, like Moses, we glow when we return into the world.

The Lord expects light from and His people. The light of God in our lives comes from the Holy Spirit, which causes ministry to happen in the lives of believers. Burning oil produces light. If we are spiritual "virgins" because we are betrothed to Jesus, we ought to bear His light in this dark world.

Still, He has told us that some virgins will not have the wisdom to do it, so it is a warning to us; a warning not to quench the Spirit, but to be filled with Him and be the light of the world.

## Part 10 – A Thousand Years

**Revelation 20:1-15** “And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he would not deceive the nations any more, until the thousand years were fulfilled. And after that he must be released for a little while.

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. And I saw the souls of those that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast, or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection. On such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

### Souls

The Feast of Tabernacles is the culmination of all the biblical holy days and represents the final stage of His plan of salvation. After the great war of the end times and the second coming of Jesus, those who survive of all the nations will go up to Jerusalem to worship and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles (Zechariah 14).

Zephaniah 3 is about the Millennium. “Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all *your* heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the Lord, *is* in your midst; You shall see disaster no more. In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.” God is singing at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Tabernacles is life in the temporary world of sin and death where God is with you, but paradise is gone, and yet still to come.

That celebration takes place in the Millennial Kingdom. There will be a Feast of Tabernacles in the Millennium. The Feast itself is a foreshadow of that kingdom.

We are told to gather fruits of the harvest [souls] to wave them as a thanksgiving before the Lord (Leviticus 23:40, Nehemiah 8:15). There is a specific mention of palm branches.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, riding a donkey (Zechariah (9:9), the disciples greeted Him by waving palm branches (John 12:13). That entry was a shadow of His second coming. He came in on a donkey, instead of a white horse (Revelation 19:11).

That was a triumphal entry, because He was coming for souls by laying down His life; it was technically a humble entry. There will be another entry. Jesus will enter in triumph, as a king on a white horse, on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. Not only will a few Jewish disciples wave palm branches, but the righteous remnant of every nation.

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.” Revelation 7:9.

Just as there is an agricultural harvest at the time of Sukkot (the end of the biblical holy days), so will there be a great harvest of souls at the end of the age (Matthew 13:39, Revelation 14:14).

The Scriptures actually speak of the Feast of Tabernacles as being seven days, but it also speaks of an eighth day on which a holy convocation is to be held, with sacrifices made and no traditional work done on that day. See Leviticus 23:34-36

The 7<sup>th</sup> day is the last great day of the feast. At the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> day they leave the booths and go home and then come to the temple on the 8<sup>th</sup> day – like heaven or eternity.

**The Eighth Day symbolized, the final judgment of the dead into either eternal life or the lake of fire.**

**It was on the 8<sup>th</sup> day that they brought the woman caught in adultery –**

We are supposed to rule in the Millennial Kingdom and sit as judges in the Great White Throne Judgment. The Pharisees wanted to judge, but only pretended to be righteous. They walked away when told (whoever is without sin).

Jesus didn't mean innocent of all sin - but that specific sin. The law said that they must be innocent of the offense of adultery to throw the first stone.

Jewish law said only a witness of a capital offense could throw the first stone. Once they left – there was no one to accuse her – no legal witness.

We must be careful of bearing secondhand offenses of others – they are hurt but we are angry and offended – let the stones fall.

Meanwhile the guilty lady walked away on the 8<sup>th</sup> day - told to sin no more – our actions determine what we do on the 8<sup>th</sup> day.

## Part 11 – A Transfigured Millennium

“Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.” While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.” Luke 9

Peter, James and John were "transported" in a vision into the future to see Christ in His glory in His Kingdom! It's interesting to note that Peter associated that time with tents or tabernacles.

“But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, **Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness** more than Your companions” [Psalm 45:7] (Hebrews 1:8–9).

**Jesus will be enthroned at this feast in eternity and anointed with Gladness.**

**Gladness** - agalliasis [a gall lee ah sis]. It means exultation, extreme joy, gladness.

**At feasts, people were anointed with the "oil of gladness".**

Hebrews 1:9 alludes to this inaugural ceremony of anointing and uses it as an emblem of the divine power and majesty to which the Son of God has been exalted.

“Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, “Long live King Solomon!” And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound.” 1 Kings 1:39-40

“And you will have joy and **gladness**, and many will rejoice at his birth.” Luke 1:14

“For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb **for joy.**” Luke 1:44

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with **gladness** and simplicity of heart.” Acts 2:46

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with **exceeding joy.**” Jude 1:24

This Feast of Tabernacles is also called the **Feast of Ingathering** (Exodus 23:16), focusing on its role as a celebration of the large autumn harvest in the Holy Land that **foreshadows a large spiritual harvest.**

Satan is bound, the saints and martyrs are raised in the first resurrection to rule with Jesus, everyone else waits for the second resurrection.

"Then it will be that all the nations who have come against Jerusalem and survived will go up each year to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles." Zech. 14:16

God's Word reveals that the nations will one day gather to fight against Jerusalem (Zech. 12:1-14; Joel 3:1-2; Ezek. 38:4). It also tells us without a shadow of a doubt who will win this battle, for the LORD Himself will fight for His people (Zech. 14:3)!

Following the battle, the survivors from these attacking nations will once again go up to Jerusalem—not to make war, but to worship the LORD of Hosts, demonstrating their submission to the King of kings. As prophesied in Isaiah 2:2-3, "In the last days the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall go and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem".

All the nations will have a new orientation around God's Will and His Word as they worship Him annually in Jerusalem at the Feast of Tabernacles. Their annual schedule will then be aligned with the LORD's biblical calendar, as His priorities will be seen in their new confession to worship (Zech. 14:16).

## Part 12 - Their Faces Became Pale

I believe a condensed preview of this Seal and Horseman will happen on Sukkot /Feast of Tabernacles just as it did at Pentecost / Shavuot.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Seal & The Pale Horse: "I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named **Death, and Hades** was following close behind him. **They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.**" Revelation 6:8

In the end times this horseman will likely kill several billion souls, but this is a condensed preview so like the rest of the glimpses this year, the outcome will be horrible but on a much smaller scale. The word for "kill" means to kill in any way, to destroy, to allow to perish, to deprive of spiritual life, or procure eternal misery in hell. **This horseman is Destruction.** When he was released on Pentecost, racial riots led and paid for by anarchists broke out, and continue in some parts of the U.S.

The Horseman's commission is **to carry out all four judgments of God** with sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts (Ezekiel 14). What the sword leaves famine will take. What famine leaves pestilence will take, and what pestilence leaves behind the wild beasts will finish. **It's a picture of nations, empires, and kingdoms being vanquished.** He's not just collecting a certain number of lives, he is bringing destruction, so his focus may be more on the third world nations who have been hit so hard by many plagues including locust, Covid, a collapsed food supply, and a starvation rate now doubled.

**Why does The Pale Horse occur on Tabernacles?**

**"They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth."** Revelation 6:8

### Death

**What does the Feast of Tabernacles have to do with wide scale death?**

- God's command to celebrate it connected it directly to the night of the Death Angel and the Passover in Egypt.
- It's the Thousand Year Reign of Christ when the those who were martyred for their testimonies reign and rule with Christ.
- The focus of Sukkot is on fruit. "I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand...**the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.**" So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested." Revelation 20:14-16

### Famine

The real essence of what is about to happen and continue for some time is the realization that most people do not hear the voice of the Lord. Long ago they started believing everything was relative, now truth is whatever they say it is. They make it true because they believe it. If they feel afraid, to them it means they should be afraid and next comes sheer irrational terror all because of a feeling. They have come to love falsehood, so they don't consider God "an answer" let alone "the only answer".

**"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land-- not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD."** Amos 8:11

“For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then Jesus declared, **“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”** John 6:33-35

## **Plague**

Covid was never the real plague. It surely brought great death, but it was words, lies, and deception that stoked irrational fears that shut down our nation and created a divide not seen for a very long time. There was no peace, just a continued rejection of God’s words, God’s ways, and God’s promises. The racial riots and anarchy in our nation reflect this same rejection of the blessings of God in our day.

## **Wild Beasts**

Locusts have devastated the third world. Anarchist and rioters are trying to disrupt and destroy, hinder, and intimidate.

Elections in America are drawing near.

God gives a serious warning to what will happen in the end if you choose ungodly leaders.

“Put the trumpet to your lips! An eagle is over the house of the Lord because the people have broken my covenant and rebelled against my law. Israel cries out to me, ‘Our God, we acknowledge you!’ But Israel has rejected what is good; an enemy will pursue him. They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval. With their silver and gold they make idols for themselves to their own destruction...They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no head; it will produce no flour. Were it to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it up.” Hosea 8:1-7

**It was on Pentecost that the race/anarchist riots began, when the Pale Horse Glimpse first began.** There was no way to predict that in detail. I only knew the Pale Horse was coming. Likewise, for Sukkot, I know the Horse is coming, but I have no idea what his focus will be. It could be race/anarchy again, or something completely different.

Since Pentecost was a specific day, it was easy to know when the Horse was coming, but with Sukkot, there are three significant Holy Days that are set apart: the first day, the last day (7<sup>th</sup>), and the 8<sup>th</sup> Day. My sense is that it will be at the end of Sukkot. I also feel like the greater impact will be on the nations, rather than America.

One final note: This is not the year 5780 (peh) where the mouths of so many caused so much devastation. It’s 5781 (peh aleph) where the mouth of the Lord speaks. He gets the final word, and he brings justice with Him. There are blessings approaching. Light is dawning. More than enough to deal with a Pale Horse.

## **Psalm 46**

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts his voice, the earth melts. The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire. He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”