

The Grand Celebration, Sukkot

Summary

The document presents Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, as a celebration of God's presence, provision, faithfulness, and future victory.

It first connects Sukkot with the preceding fall feasts. The Feast of Trumpets is associated with the possible return of Jesus, while the Day of Atonement points toward judgment, Christ's work as High Priest, and a future national recognition and cleansing of Israel. Sukkot then represents the culmination: God dwelling among His people.

Drawing on Deuteronomy and Leviticus, the document explains that Sukkot is a seven-day festival of joy in which Israelites lived in temporary shelters. These shelters reminded each generation of Israel's wilderness journey and of God's dependable provision. The wilderness experience also taught that trusting God can be difficult, especially during hardship, but that God remains faithful and uses trials to deepen dependence on Him.

The message applies this lesson to followers of Jesus, described as being grafted into Israel's olive tree. Readers are encouraged to remember times when God sustained them, to trust Him during personal storms, and to continue following Jesus even when circumstances seem unfair or overwhelming.

The document also presents Sukkot prophetically. It anticipates a future time when King Jesus reigns from Jerusalem, God's people celebrate His victory, and their joy is complete. A congregational reading of Psalm 118 reinforces themes of God's enduring love, rescue, protection, answered prayer, victory, and the rejected stone becoming the cornerstone.

The final section connects Sukkot's place after the agricultural harvest with Revelation 14. It interprets the passage as describing two spiritual harvests: one gathered by the Son of Man and another destined for judgment. The document closes by asking readers to consider which harvest they will belong to.

Scriptures:

- Matthew 25:31-48
- Isaiah 63
- Zechariah 12:10-12a, 13:1-2b
- Deuteronomy 16:13-15
- Leviticus 23:42-43
- Psalm 118
- Revelation 14:14-20

The Grand Celebration, Sukkot

Today starts Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, the third Feast in the 7th month and actually, the last of all the Feasts of the LORD. Two weeks ago, we looked at the Feast of Trumpets and noted that, one of these years, Yom Teruah could be when our Lord Jesus returns! It is the hidden day when no one knows the day or the hour, and it is a time of blowing the trumpets.

Last week, we talked about the Day of Atonement and focused on remembering our great High Priest, who not only entered into the Holy of Holies – the place of the Most High God to pour out His blood as the final sacrifice for our sins, but He also sat down at the Father's right hand to intercede for us. Our great High Priest, Yeshua, is to be honored, revered for His willing sacrifice. We need to recognize that despite the Father's love for us, if it hadn't been for Jesus, our High Priest, we would not be able to enter into His presence and live. His holiness would destroy us in our sinfulness.

We didn't talk about the prophetic picture that is painted by the Day of Atonement. However, that day is understood in Judaism to be the day of judgment, the day when the books are closed and judgment is given. Also, it is the day when God judges at least the nations as is depicted in **Matthew 25:31-48**. Jesus described a day when "the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him. Then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in His presence, and He will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at His right hand and the goats at His left." I think that Jesus was talking about judging the nations based on how they treated the nation of Israel.

And, there's another piece that we didn't talk about and that has to do specifically with the nation of Israel on the Day of Atonement. In Isaiah 63, we see One coming from Edom with His clothing stained red, just as the high priest's clothing was covered in blood after putting the blood of the goat on the Ark of the Covenant. In that chapter, we see the LORD announcing the salvation of Israel because He has the power to save! And then in Zechariah 12:10-12a, we read that God will "pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on Me whom they have pierced and mourn for Him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for Him as for a firstborn son who has died. The sorrow and mourning in Jerusalem on that day will be like the great mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the valley of Megiddo. All Israel will mourn...." And chapter 13:1-2b then declares, "On that day a fountain will be opened for the dynasty of David and for the people of Jerusalem, a fountain to cleanse them from all their sins and impurity. And on that day, I will erase idol worship throughout the land, so that even the names of the idols will be forgotten." I see one fulfillment of the Day of Atonement as the day that Israel recognizes Jesus is their Messiah and the nation is cleansed.

With that being said, today we come to the beginning of Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, when God comes to live among His people!

Deuteronomy 16:13-15 (NIV) ¹³ Celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress. ¹⁴ 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.

Leviticus 23:42-43 (NLT) ³³ For seven days you must live outside in little shelters. All native-born Israelites must live in shelters. ⁴³ This will remind each new generation of Israelites that I made their ancestors live in shelters when I rescued them from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God."

In Jewish literature, Sukkot is often simply called "THE feast". This time is known as the "season of our joy". This feast is the greatest of all! And it is the last of the three feasts in the year when all of Israel were supposed to make the trip to Jerusalem for Unleavened Bread and [Shavuot](#) in the Spring, and then Sukkot in the fall. Sukkot means "shelters", "booths", or "tabernacles".

This is a feast in which God instructs His people to make a temporary shelter and camp out in for a week. It's as though God knew that as people would build the shelter, they would be thinking about the times when God led their ancestors through the wilderness. Those thoughts, about that time in the wilderness where they learned to depend upon God, were to revive their thoughts and reliance upon Him. They were to remember that His provision was sufficient.

But learning to depend on God was hard! How many times did they scream at God and Moses for bringing them out of their comfort zone despite the fact that in their comfort zone, they were slaves? And how many times did God provide for all their needs? I think that it's important that we remember that God disciplined them when they went off the deep end. When they accused God of trying to kill them because they didn't have all the foods they had in Egypt, God sent them food but also tested them to see if they would follow His instructions. And in Deuteronomy 8, Moses reminded the people that God humbled them by letting them go hungry and then feeding them with manna. "He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD." (Deuteronomy 8:3b) Tough times, but they learned to rely upon their God.

According to Paul, we followers of Jesus have been grafted into the olive tree, Israel. Maybe today is a good day for us to stop and think. What does God want us to remember about our journey with Him? Is He trying to remind us of a time when His presence was so real, with Him supplying all our needs? Sometimes I think we forget that God has been and continues to be with us particularly when everything screams in our ears that we are alone. We are so related to the nation of Israel!

Perhaps today, God is challenging us to remember that He has been faithful to His word even when we have been in the wilderness and had difficulty following His instructions. It's very comfortable following in the footsteps of the Messiah Jesus, when hard things are not pressing against us. But the real challenge is to walk in His footsteps when our adversary, the devil, is telling us that what is going on in our lives is not fair. It's a real challenge to stay focused when we are in a storm that seems to be building in our lives, and the winds are knocking our feet out from under us. And in the middle of that storm, we have been given the privilege of saying, "yes, LORD, I trust You" or "no LORD, this is too hard. I can't keep walking."

Sukkot reminds us that when we keep our trust in Him alone, He will take us through the things that our adversary is trying to use to destroy us. So this morning, with the beginning of Sukkot, I encourage you to remember all those times that God has provided, particularly in the times when you weren't sure that you were going to make it. Hopefully, Sukkot reminds us of where He has taken us in order for us to develop a greater trust in Him, knowing that He is able to handle whatever comes into our lives.

I believe that the Feast of Tabernacles will ultimately be fulfilled when King Jesus comes and sits on His throne in Jerusalem! The whole world will celebrate! And it will be the season of our joy! Can you imagine your joy being complete?! We will remember all that God has done, and we will celebrate!

We remember that God has definitely provided for all our needs. He has supplied our every need according to His riches in glory by our Messiah, Jesus! (Phil 4:19) We will be celebrating the victory that He has won over all the evil that tried to destroy Israel, the apple of His eye (Zechariah 2:8), and us who have been grafted into God's special olive tree (Romans 11:17-18). Oh, what a huge

celebration that will be! Only rejoicing, praising God, dancing before Him because He has given us the victory!

So, now let's practice celebrating!! Please read the bold print as we give thanks to our great God! And as you read it, remember that you have been through the wilderness, and God has always been faithful!

Psalm 118

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

² Let all Israel repeat:

"His faithful love endures forever."

³ Let Aaron's descendants, the priests, repeat:

"His faithful love endures forever."

⁴ Let all who fear the LORD repeat:

"His faithful love endures forever."

⁵ In my distress I prayed to the LORD,

And the LORD answered me and set me free

⁶ The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear.

What can mere people do to me?

⁷ Yes, the LORD is for me; He will help me.

I will look in triumph at those who hate me.

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in people.

⁹ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

¹⁰ Though hostile nations surrounded me,

I destroyed them all with the authority of the LORD.

¹¹ Yes, they surrounded me and attacked me,

But I destroyed them all with the authority of the LORD.

¹² They swarmed around me like bees; they blazed against me like a crackling fire.

But I destroyed them all with the authority of the LORD.

¹³ My enemies did their best to kill me,

But the LORD rescued me.

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song;

He has given me the victory.

¹⁵ Songs of joy and victory are sung in the camp of the godly.

The strong right arm of the LORD has done glorious things!

¹⁶ The strong right arm of the LORD is raised in triumph.

The strong right arm of the LORD has done glorious things!

¹⁷ I will not die; instead, I will live to tell what the LORD has done.

¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely; but He did not let me die.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates where the righteous enter,

And I will go in and thank the LORD.

²⁰ These gates lead to the presence of the LORD, and the godly enter there.

²¹ I will thank you for answering my prayer and giving me victory!

²² The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD's doing, and it is wonderful to see.

²⁴ This is the day the LORD has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Please LORD, please save us.

Please, LORD, please give us success.

²⁶ Bless the One who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless You from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ The LORD is God, shining upon us.

Take the sacrifice and bind it with cords on the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise You!

You are my God, and I will exalt you!

²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

Please be seated:

There's another piece of this Feast of the LORD that I want to bring out. It's another prophetic piece. The Feast came after the harvest had been brought into the barns. The harvesting was finished for the year. Turn over to **Revelation 14:14-20** and you notice harvesting. "Swing the sickle, for the time of harvest has come, the crop on earth is ripe." So the One sitting on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the whole earth was harvested." This One sitting on the cloud is noted to be someone "like the Son of Man". This appears to be a good harvest. And the one who looked like the Son of Man removes the good fruit.

Then verse 17 begins with "after that". And we see an angel with a sharp sickle harvesting the clusters of grapes that are ripe for judgment. Verse 19 says, "so the angel swung his sickle over the

earth and loaded the grapes into the great winepress of God's wrath. ²⁰ The grapes were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress in a stream...."

It seems to me that we see two different harvests occurring here. We see the One like the Son of Man removing the good crop. Then we see the second harvest that is ripe for judgment, and the wrath of God is poured out. I just have to ask, which one of those two do you want to belong to, the first one or the second one?