

God's Appointed Times Part 2

Feast of Tabernacles → ultimate meaning found in the the Birth of Christ
The Incarnation → God becoming Man who
“pitched His tent, He tabernacled and dwelt among us...”

Feast of Tabernacles is a **fall festival** – mid Sept to mid Oct. varies each year

This is really the **last** feast on **God's Appointed Times** schedule - the 7th feast
but I am starting with it... because of Jesus Christ, the Messiah,
tabernacled among us (**READ John 1:1,14**) →
He “pitched His tent, He tabernacled and dwelt among us...”

Lev. 23:33-44

(33) Again YAHWEH spoke to Moses, saying, (34) "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'On the fifteenth of this seventh month is **the Feast of Tabernacles** for seven days to YAHWEH. (35) 'On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind. (36) 'For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to YAHWEH. On the **eighth** day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to YAHWEH; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work. (37) 'These are the **appointed times** of YAHWEH which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, to present offerings by fire to YAHWEH--burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each day's matter on its own day-- (38) besides those of the sabbaths of YAHWEH, and besides your gifts and besides all your votive and freewill offerings, which you give to YAHWEH. (39) 'On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of YAHWEH for seven days, with a **rest** on the **first day** and a **rest** on the **eighth day**. (40) 'Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before YAHWEH your God for seven days. (41) 'You shall thus celebrate it as a feast to YAHWEH for seven days in the year. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall **celebrate** it in the seventh month. (42) 'You shall live in **booths** for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in **booths**, (43) so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in **booths** when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am YAHWEH your God.'" (44) So Moses declared to the sons of Israel the appointed times of YAHWEH.

Originally, it was the remembrance of God's Presence being in the tabernacle in the wilderness after coming out of Egypt. And reminding the Israelites of God's abundant goodness and provisions (harvest festival) after they, too, lived in temporary dwellings in the wilderness... the same time God's Name and Presence "dwelt" in a tent & tabernacled in the wilderness with them. Also... at the same time... God provided shelter for Israel from the scorching heat of the desert by day – **A CLOUD BY DAY...**

and provided warm shelter/covering by night... - **A FIRE by NIGHT.**

GOD was → A CLOUD BY DAY & A FIRE by NIGHT for ISRAEL

This feast celebrated God's Shelter, Covering, Provision, and Redemption.

They were to look to Him as their Shelter, Covering, Provision, and Redemption.

Matthew Henry's commentary explains,

1.) The meanness of their beginning, and the low and desolate state out of which God advanced that people. **Note:** Those that are comfortably fixed ought often to call to mind their former unsettled state, when they were but little in their own eyes.

2.) The mercy of God to them, that, when they dwelt in tabernacles, God not only set up a tabernacle for Himself among them, but, with the utmost care and tenderness imaginable, hung a canopy over them, even the cloud that sheltered them from the heat of the sun. God's former mercies to us and our fathers ought to be kept in everlasting remembrance. The eighth day was the great day of this holiday, because then they returned to their own houses again, and remembered how, after they had long dwelt in tents in the wilderness, at length they came to a happy settlement in the land of promise, where they dwelt in goodly houses. And they would the more sensibly value and be thankful for the comforts and conveniences of their houses when they had been seven days dwelling in booths. It is good for those that have ease and plenty sometimes to learn what it is to endure hardness.

They were to keep this holiday in thankfulness to God for all the increase of the year; however, the emphasis is that Israel's life rested upon **redemption** which in its ultimate meaning is the forgiveness of sin. This fact separates this holiday from the **harvest festivals** of the neighboring nations whose roots lay in the **mythological** activity of their **false gods**.

They were to construct their **Booth** – without any "nails" or fasteners. The roof and the sides were to be pushed together in a "temporary" fashion. They were to use Palm Branches (lulav), branches from the myrtle tree, branches from the

citron (etrog) plant, and branches from the willow tree of the brook as coverings. These four species of plant were “good” plants that God wanted them to use.

Remember that there was a line of prophecies we talked about a few weeks ago... how in the OLD Testament that God predicted about the coming Messiah... and how God used the term: **BRANCH** when “naming” the Messiah to come. Well, He is the **BRANCH**. The good Branch... He is our Shelter, our Provision, our Covering, and our REDEMPTION... He will **someday** finish our Mansions... our DWELLING Places in Heaven that are permanent... forever dwelling places where we can dwell with God ... as He forever Dwells with us.

John 14:1-3

Jesus said...

- (1) "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.
- (2) "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. (3) "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

We today... in these earthly bodies, groan, get older, and eventually die... laying aside our earthly tent for that one from Heaven... built without hands.

2 Cor. 5:1-4

- (1) For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2) For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, (3) inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. (4) For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

Philippians 3:20-21

- (20) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; (21) who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Our Messiah... who came and was born on the First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles almost 2000 years ago... and was circumcised on the 8th day of that same Feast... He became a man... and dwelt among us... Pitched His Tent... forever... He is both God and Man... forever...

In the same way... because of His crucifixion, death, burial, and **RESURRECTION**... we have eternal life and eternal hope... that some day... we too will be like Him... we will have a New Body... that is FIT for the New Heavens and New Earth... which is to come some day. We are NOW ... **NEW CREATIONS** in Christ Jesus... but we are still in these old earthly – temporary tents... that are decaying and fading away. But... let's remember this:

1 John 3:1-3

(1) See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (2) Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. **We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.** (3) And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

You see... some day we will be with Jesus Christ walking the streets of gold in the New Jerusalem... in the New Heavens and the New Earth... and we will be just like Him... just as He is... we will see Him just as He is.

Rev. 21:3-6

(3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the **tabernacle** of God is among men, and He will **dwell** among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself **will be among** them, (4) and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." (5) And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things **NEW.**" And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." (6) Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. **I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.**"

On the last day of this feast... the great day (the 8th day)... water from the **Spring of Siloam** is ritually poured out before the altar at the Temple...

John 7:37-39 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. (38) "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" (39) But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

CLOSING:

The **Feast of Tabernacles**, not only looked back in History to when God delivered His people Israel from bondage out of Egypt... and Dwelt among His people in a “tent” while they too dwelt in “tents”... but it looked to the Time when Messiah would Come (for the First Time) to provide Shelter from God’s wrath... in Redeeming Love... Coming as a Man... as a Lamb to the slaughter... and we now can “Dwell in Christ” and God Dwells in us by His Spirit. And we look forward to the time during the Millennium and then during Eternity... during the New Heavens and New Earth forever when God will Dwell with us and we will dwell with God forever and ever in perfect harmony and love... and never thirst again.

DURING the NEXT two WEEKS:

Topics we will discuss, Lord willing on April 27th... the last of our study on the Feast Days... we will look at... how Tabernacles and Passover are the only holidays mentioned in the **Millennial Worship in prophecy for the future (Ezek. 45:21-25; Zech. 14:16)**.

Next week, April 20th, we will look at Passover, Unleavened Bread, and day of First Fruits, and touch on, briefly the celebration of “Pentecost” ‘Shavuot’.

Don’t Forget... next weekend is Passover. After our normal Worship Service... immediately after... we are going to have our **First Annual Passover Celebration**. I am hoping that this will become a normal, every year thing we do together as a church family.

We will look at Pentecost ‘Shavuot’ more in-depth on April 27th, along with “**a last days**” look at Fall Festivals (**Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement**, and just a brief look again at **Tabernacles** with only its future significance).