

SUKKOT – “THE SEASON OUR JOY!”

WHY WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

#1 Sukkot is **the Lord’s feast**, which **He said** to **celebrate forever!**

Leviticus 23 ⁴ These are the set **feasts** or appointed seasons **of the Lord**, holy convocations you shall proclaim at their stated times...³⁴...The fifteenth day of this seventh month, and for seven days, is the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths to the Lord... ⁴¹ You shall keep it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year, a **statute forever**... AMP

The Hebrew word in verse 41, “owlam”, means “forever”, “**eternity**”

“The feasts are **not** ‘Jewish’ in an ethnic sense, **nor** are they ‘Christian’ in a religious sense. Instead, the feasts **are** ‘divine’ and ‘eternal’ in the biblical sense for **all** of God’s people **forever**.”

#2 **Jesus** celebrated the feasts, and **Paul** celebrated the feasts **30 YEARS** after Jesus’ resurrection. (Luke 2:41; 22:15-16; Jn 2:13; 5:1; Acts 18:21; 20:16; I Cor 16:8)

#3 Paul told the Corinthians, who were **not ethnic Jews**, to celebrate the feasts.

I Corinthians 5 ⁷...Christ our **Passover** also has been sacrificed. ⁸ **Therefore let us celebrate the feast**... NASB

Paul was saying that Jesus brought deeper meaning to the feasts, giving us all the more reasons to celebrate them! Paul wrote this to the Corinthian believers, who were **NOT Jewish**, a **quarter of a century AFTER** Jesus’ resurrection. This makes it obvious that celebrating the feasts continued to be in God’s plan for **non-Jewish** believers **decades** after the church began at the **Feast of Pentecost**. This lines up with God’s own statement in Leviticus 23 that we will celebrate the feasts of the Lord for eternity!

#4 We are Abraham’s descendants and citizens of Israel!

Galatians 3 ²⁹ **If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants**, heirs according to promise. NASB

Ephesians 2 ¹¹ ...remember that **formerly** you who are Gentiles by birth... ¹² ...**WERE** separate from Christ, **excluded from citizenship in Israel** and foreigners to the covenants of the promise... ¹³ But **NOW** in Christ Jesus... ¹⁹ ...you are **no longer** foreigners and strangers, but **fellow citizens** with God’s people... NIV (vs. 15 “one new man”)

#5 Sukkot is the ***“Season of our Joy!”! We celebrate Jesus!***

EVERY FEAST OF GOD CENTERS AROUND JESUS!

John 1:14 says “The word (Jesus) became flesh (in Mary’s womb) and did ***tabernacle*** among us (beginning at birth), and we beheld his ***glory***...” YLT

Our English New Testaments were translated from the Greek language, not the Hebrew language, which often creates a challenge in tracing back to the original meanings of words. The Greek word for “tabernacle” (*skēnoō*. See *Strong’s G4637*) literally means: “dwell in a ***tent*** or ***tabernacle***”. A Hebrew word for this is “sukkah”, which literally means “***a temporary shelter***” (see *Strong’s H5521*), such as a tent, booth, hut, or tabernacle. “Sukkot” is the plural form of “sukkah”.

When Jesus was born, Mary put Him in a temporary shelter. If Luke 2:7 had been written in Hebrew, rather than Greek, the word probably would have been “sukkah”. Regardless of the exact word chosen for translation (*manger, booth, stall, etc*), we know that Jesus’ first “***shelter***” was “***temporary***”.

Ever noticed that a manger looks a lot like a sukkah?

MANGER



SUKKAH



Another connection to sukkot is found in Luke 2¹⁰ The angel said... “...I bring you good news of ***great joy*** that will be for all the people.” NIV

Deuteronomy 16¹⁴ ***Rejoice at your festival***...¹⁵...***you are to be full of joy!*** CJB

Many believe... The angel was announcing the birth of Jesus as a fulfillment of Sukkot! The “great joy” was in response to Jesus coming in the flesh to Tabernacle among us through his birth during “The Feast of Tabernacles”.

#6 We ***celebrate*** the feasts with ***freedom from human rules***, and with new covenant revelation of how the feasts point to Jesus and all that He has done for us! Our relationship with Jesus makes the feasts ***even more relevant today*** than they were in the Old Testament!

Freedom From Human Rules (NIV) Col 2¹⁶ Let no one...***judge you*** in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a ***feast***, or of a new moon, or of sabbaths,¹⁷ which are a ***shadow*** of the ***coming things***, and the body [is] of ***the Christ*** YLT

I John 5³ For ***this is the love of God***, that we keep His commandments; and ***His commandments are not burdensome.*** NASB

God's commandments challenge our flesh, but they don't vex us with religion.

#7 Sukkot is likely a ***rehearsal*** of the “***wedding feast of the Lamb***” that we will celebrate in heaven, when God will ***tabernacle*** among us. (Rev 19:9; 21:3)

HOW THE BIBLE SAYS TO CELEBRATE SUKKOT

- “You are to be ***full of JOY!***” (Deut 16:15, CJB) (Also, read Nehemiah 8)
- “***Appear*** in the ***presence*** of Adonai” (Deut 16:16, CJB)
Psalm 16¹¹ ... ***In Your presence is fullness of joy...*** NKJ
- “***CELEBRATE*** in the ***presence*** of Adonai... for seven days” (Lev 23:40)
- “Not show up before Adonai empty-handed... ***give in accordance with the blessing... God has given you***” (Deut 16:16-17, CJB)
- “Adonai said... ‘On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the feast of Sukkot for seven days to Adonai... on the ***first day***... (and) on the ***eighth day***... you are to have a ***holy convocation***... a day of public assembly... ***do not do any kind of ordinary work***” (Lev 23:33-36, CJB)
- “You are to live in sukkot for seven days; ***every citizen of Isra’el is to live in a sukkah***, so that... you will know that I made the people of Isra’el live in sukkot when I ***brought them out of... Egypt...***” (Lev 23:42-43 CJB)
- ***REALIZE THAT FRUITFULNESS COMES FROM YOUR CONNECTION TO JESUS!***
Psalm 118¹⁵ The ***sound of rejoicing and victory*** is heard in the ***tents*** of the righteous...²⁴ This is the day *Adonai* has made, ***a day for us to rejoice and be glad...***²⁷ *Adonai* is God, and he gives us light. Join in the ***pilgrim festival*** with ***branches***... CJB vs 27...Decorate the ***festival*** with leafy boughs... AMP
vs. 27 ...with ***branches in your hands, join the feast...*** NCV

John 15⁴ ***Dwell*** in Me, and I will dwell in you...⁵ ***I am the Vine; you are the branches.*** Whoever ***lives in Me*** and I in him ***bears much (abundant) fruit.*** However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.⁶ If a person does not dwell in Me, he is thrown out like a ***[broken-off] branch***, and withers...⁸ When you bear (produce) much fruit, My Father is honored *and* glorified...¹¹ I have told you these things, that ***My joy and delight*** may be in you, and that ***your joy and gladness*** may be of full measure *and* complete *and* ***overflowing.*** AMP