

The Feast of Tabernacles is one of the most joyous feasts of all of the LORDS feasts it is also known as the feast of the ingathering of the harvest we read in **Deuteronomy 16:14-15** and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son, and your daughter, and your male servants, and your female servants, and the levite, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow within your gates, 7 days you shall keep a solemn feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD shall choose, because the LORD your God shall bless you in all your increase and in all the works of your hands, therefore you shall surely rejoice.

To the Jews these fall feasts focus on the Lord as our creator judge and the One Who atones for our sins the time of Sukkoth or the feast of tabernacles is a time when they celebrate all that the LORD has done for them prophetically they believe as we do that this feast pictures OLAM HABA meaning the world to come and the **1000 year millennial kingdom age** they also believe that IF LORD Jesus was born at or during Succoth then another prophetic meaning of the Word became flesh and tabernacled amongst us would be true.

We read in **John 1:14** and the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us, and we ourselves beheld His Glory, the glory of the only begotten with the Father, full of grace and truth.

I still have the belief that Jesus being the Lamb of God would have to fulfil the role of that sacrificial Lamb being born when and where the Passover sacrificial Lambs were born so that He would fulfil the Passover Lamb's role to the letter as recorded in the bible.

This fall feast in Israel is also called the Feast of Booths and Succoth as I mentioned.

This feast was and is the culmination of the spiritual year in Israel and it is a feast that stands the Jews believe in marked contrast to Atonement in that the command is to rejoice although I feel

that Atonement is also a time of joy for us because man has a wonderful intercessor in the Person of LORD Jesus Christ Who loves us and Who cares for us enough to intercede and plead our case to the Father on our behalf.

Also Atonement pictures a day a special day in the future when Satan is bound in prison for 1000 years.

For a full week Israel were and still are required to live in booths or tents and to rejoice over God's provision for them.

As with all the feasts Tabernacles has both an historical significance as well as a prophetic fulfilment and a fulfilment which we all look forward to coming.

Historically the Jewish people are reminded by the temporary booths or Tabernacles which the Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness because of their sin and their disobedience they had to spend each night in tents or makeshift shelters nevertheless the LORD was always with them His presence among them was marked by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Therefore at the feast of Tabernacles the Jews build booths outside of their homes or on their rooftops these are sheltered with branches as reminders of the wilderness life of their ancestors.

The four hundred year period leading up to the advent of the ministry of LORD Jesus has been called the Silent Years nevertheless astounding developments have occurred in the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles during this time.

These changes affected the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles transforming it into the most elaborate and captivating of all of Israel's festivals.

Two magnificent ceremonies developed during this period they are the Water Drawing and Illumination ceremonies.

As you can well imagine water was a matter of life and death particularly during the wilderness wanderings of Israel remembering that there would have been close to and if not more than 3 million people not counting the herds there were according to **Numbers 2:32** 603,550 males not counting the Levites who were able to go to war also remembering that those numbered were to be over 20 years old so that kind of left out the geriatrics like me and all the women and the children.

So as the feast of tabernacles developed various features were added to it.

The water drawing ceremony was an important addition to the Feast of Tabernacles because it memorialized the LORDS provision of water for them in the wilderness and also to petition Him for His ongoing provisions for them.

This ceremony occurred every morning for the whole seven days of the feast of Tabernacles.

While the morning sacrifice was being prepared a special procession was organised for the joyous water drawing.

The procession of faithful worshippers began at the Temple led by a priest who carried a golden pitcher.

The crowd of people paused as trumpet blowers blew three blasts on silver trumpets not the Ram's horn.

Then the priest would shout as recorded in **Isaiah 12:3** **With joy you shall draw water out of the wells of salvation.**

The Pool of Siloam from which the water drawing ceremony took place at was built during the first temple era being somewhere around 730-695 B.C and it was built by King Hezekiah we read in **2 Kings 20:20** **and the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool and a conduit, and bought water into the**

city, are they not written in the book of chronicles of the Kings of Judah.

This was an important ceremony to the Jews because it demonstrated the people's awareness of their dependence upon God and their gratitude for His gracious blessing of rain for their precious harvest and for God's loving and gracious provision for His people.

This was known as the outpouring of water ceremony the word Siloam means sent as we read in **John 9:7** and He said to him, go and wash in the pool of Siloam, which is, by interpretation, sent, then he went and washed, and came from there seeing.

This water from the pool of Siloam was also drawn by the priests in commemoration of the refreshing stream of water which had come forth miraculously out of the rock at Meribah as recorded in **Exodus 17:1-7**.

On the Eighth day or the last day which is called the last great day of the feast the priests made no procession and poured no water onto the pavement and this too was very significant because it symbolized the fact that God had fulfilled His promise to their fathers because He had now brought them into this land which was well watered flowing with milk and honey they no longer needed the miraculous supply of water out of the Rock.

But I believe that we always need the refreshing precious water which pours out from our Rock LORD Jesus Christ.

It was on this day the last day that Jesus stood and cried out in **John 7:37-38** now in the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and called out, saying, if anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink, the one who believes in Me, as the scriptures has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

The illumination ritual at the temple began on the second night and continued every evening through the rest of the 7 days of the feast.

The Levites the priests and the musicians began a slow procession from the court of the priests and they moved through the Nic-anor Gate and down the 15 steps into the Court of the Women. As they made their way to this part of the temple they sang songs from Psalms 120-134 which were known as the Psalms of Ascent.

Standing In the Court of the Women stood four giant candelabras each candelabra rising over 150 feet tall.

And on top of each candelabra were 4 bowls for lamps making a total of 16 giant bowls each bowl was filled with 20 gallons or about 75 litres of olive oil.

The wicks for the bowls were made from discarded priests garments because the priests were not allowed to throw away their holy garments they were to still be used in the worship of God and what better way to light the lights the priests would every year at the beginning of the year be issues with new garments.

Once these giant lampstands were lit there was not one courtyard in all of Jerusalem that was not illuminated from their light.

We read that Jesus said at the FOT in **John 8:12** **I am the light of the world, the one who follows Me shall never walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

Just as the water pouring ceremony reminded the Israelites of God's provision for them during their wandering the Illumination ceremony reminded them of the LORDS continued presence amongst them as in the pillar of fire at night which had served as their guide through the desert as found in **Numbers 14:14**.

Our Great God dwells in unapproachable light yet He has made Himself available to us 24 hours a day His presence is always with His people.

His presence among His people gives us **great joy** and the Jews longed for the presence of their Messiah Who is still yet to come they believe sometime in the future.

Also we cannot forget the dedication of Solomon's temple which took place on the Feast of Tabernacles this is recorded in **2 Chronicles 7:1-2**, God's Shekinah Glory shone for all to see and when Solomon had made an end to praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and The glory of the Lord filled the house and the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house.

Prophetically the Jews say the water pouring and the illumination ceremonies point to the coming of the Lord and His presence with His people throughout the Millennial Kingdom.

But more about that later.

Now how Tabernacles Was Celebrated Notice in **Leviticus 23:34** Moses taught **The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.**

The Israelites were taught about the 7 appointed days of the LORD and also What the seventh day or Sabbath day was in the week it was a day of rest they were taught what the seventh month was to the year as in the feast and they were taught how the 7 year cycle was a Sabbatical year and it's relation to the Jubilee year.

And they were taught that there were 7 times 7 Sabbatical years plus 1 year to a Jubilee.

The Jews say that the seventh month feast closed the sacred 7 cycle as well as the agricultural or working year.

The feast of Tabernacles fell on that time of year when the hearts of the people would naturally be full of thankfulness and gladness.

All of the crops had been stored and now in the final harvest of the year **all the fruits** of the Earth were gathered in which pointed to the ingathering of the fruits of the Earth to God.

After the feast winter was approaching and the land awaited the softening and refreshment of the latter rain to prepare it for a new crop.

In terms of God's calendar the beginning of the harvest had pointed back to the birth of Israel in their Exodus from Egypt and looked forward to the true Passover sacrifice in the future.

Pentecost spoke of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and **the harvest of the nations** and now the Feast of Tabernacles reminded Israel on the one hand of their dwelling in booths in the wilderness while on the other hand it pointed to the final harvest when Israel's purpose should be completed and all nations gathered unto the Lord.

The celebration of the Feasts of Tabernacles was to begin and end with a special Sabbath day as found in **Leviticus 23:39** in which the Israelites were to cease working and gather for worship.

Also there was an eighth day or the last Great day which was on to the end of the feast this also is a special day when all the people came together for worship and sacrifice.

The three main characteristics of the Feast of Tabernacles were.

The dwelling in booths because living in booths served as a reminder of God's protection during the forty years of wandering in the desert as recorded in **Leviticus 23:42**.

The temporary booths symbolised the need for all of us that we must depend upon God for His provision of our food water and for our

shelter because without His deep love and provision for all of our needs to survive we would certainly die.

The prophet Isaiah describes how God will protect the faithful remnant during the time of trouble by sheltering them with the cloud by day and the flaming fire by night.

Isaiah 4:6-7 And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and over her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for over all the glory shall be a canopy. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shade by day from the heat, and for refuge, and for shelter from storm and from rain.

Also lets now look closely at the unusual number of sacrifices which were required for the Feast of tabernacles.

Every day the sacrifices consisted of two rams and fourteen lambs that were to be offered with their respective grain offerings and a male goat daily as a sin offering.

Also bulls were also sacrificed each day although their numbers decreased from thirteen on the first day as recorded in **Numbers 29:13** to just seven on the seventh day of the feast **Numbers 29:32.**

So what is so interesting about the sacrifices well the interesting thing in all of this is how the number of the burnt sacrifices whether taking each kind by itself or all of them together is always divisible by the sacred number seven.

Just like 7 bulls on the 7th day both seven's
Over the week they sacrificed 70 bullocks 14 rams and 98 lambs which added together equals 182 sacrifices being 26 times 7 plus 7 male sin offering goats making 189 sacrifices or 27 times 7 and to this must be added 336 or 48 times 7 tenths of ephahs of flour for the meat offering.

The number Seven appears and is stamped all over the Feast of Unleavened Bread which is just after Passover as well but only in the number of its days and then at Pentecost in the period of the

observance or counting of the omers being 49 days or 7 times 7 days after the Sabbath directly after the Passover.

However in the Feast of Tabernacles its duration was seven days it took place when the seventh month was at its full height and as I said had the number seven impressed on all of its characteristic sacrifices.

And of course the number 7 in Scripture is the number of completeness.

Tabernacles is about the culmination of God's plans.

Also the joyous festivities In contrast to the Feasts of Trumpets and Atonement which were a time of self examination and repentance the Feast of Tabernacles is a season of rejoicing.

Leviticus 23:39-40 says **you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days**.

However that said the seven days of rejoicing were brought to a halt by one final day the eighth day which is a Sabbath of rest.

The feast of tabernacles Pictures Christ as God Tabernacling with Us. **John 1:14** and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us [and we ourselves beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten with the Father] full of grace and truth.

The word "Dwelt" literally means "tabernacled"

The word "Skenoo" means tent or encamp also to occupy or to reside just as God did dwell in the Old Testament Tabernacle.

Let's look at **Mark 9:1-9** And He said to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those standing here who shall not taste of death until they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. And after six days, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, leading them alone up into a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured in their presence; And His garments became exceedingly white, like glistening snow, such a white as no bleacher of cloth on earth is able to make. Then appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and

they were talking with Jesus. And Peter responded by saying to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here. Now let us make three tabernacles; one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. For he did not know what he should say because they were terrified. Then a cloud came and overshadowed them; and there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him! And suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with themselves. Now as they were descending from the mountain, He charged them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of man had risen from the dead.

The Lord takes Peter and James and John with Him and heads up the mountain for what we now call the Transfiguration but what is interesting about this experience is Peter's response in verse 5 Master, it is good for us to be here. Now let us make three tabernacles; one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. For he did not know what he should say.

Why would Peter mention making tabernacles or booths because I feel this transfiguration took place during the Feast of Tabernacles when the Jews dwelt in booths.

I have read how some preachers mocked Peter for this statement as though Peter was silly and that he tried to capture the moment. But Peter isn't the silly one because Peter understood what he was being given a glimpse of.

Peter's offer to build three booths was an expression of great Messianic significance because the scene which he, John and James were blessed to witness of the Transfiguration represented **for Peter** the realisation of the Messianic times foreshadowed by the Feast of Booths.

The only mistake Peter really made here was in believing the kingdom was actually coming at that time however there was nothing foolish in his offer to erect booths and it is interesting

how Jesus used the customs of the feast of Tabernacles to describe Himself.

You will recall that part of the Tabernacle festivities included a procession followed by the pouring of water and that the rabbis saw in the water pouring of the Feast of Tabernacles a representation of the wilderness miracle of the water from the rock being a ceremony that pointed to the coming of a Redeemer who would bring forth new water from the rock.

In the light of this Messianic understanding of the water ceremony of the Feast of Tabernacles don't you think that it is interesting that LORD Jesus chooses this moment to present Himself as the one out of whom living waters will flow?

Then there is that great Menorrah light.

John 8:12 then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, I am the light of the world, the one who follows Me shall never walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

So tabernacles played a pivotal role in presenting Christ as God dwelling with us as Jesus bringing the water of life and proving Himself to be the light of the world.

But remember Tabernacles must also have an end time significance the **seven specific feasts** as listed in Leviticus 23 are for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years they are appointed times and collectively they form God's calendar.

The appointed feasts of the LORD what do they all mean to the ordinary Jew.

Well let's bring together all that we have learned so far from the Christian Jews about the feasts or appointed times.

At Passover LORD Jesus Christ died for our sins He took our rightful place and LORD Jesus also began the new covenant ceremony of the bread representing His broken body the wine representing His precious blood and the foot washing representing humility.

Unleavened Bread represents Christ being buried and His body being untouched by corruption.

Also unleavened is a symbol of sin or haughtiness being removed. Firstfruits or the wave sheaf offering LORD Jesus Christ rose triumphantly from the grave and ascended to the Father becoming the firstfruit of the firstfruits of all those who sleep.

This day **may also** represent the day when the first fruits are raised as Jesus was the first or the firstfruits.

Pentecost is the time when God has sent the Holy Spirit which joins believing Jews and Gentiles in the church so that together they may enter the harvest fields as pictured by the barley and wheat harvests.

Trumpets pictures a time when the Jewish people are regathered from the four corners of the earth this also pictures Christs return to Earth and the shofar is blowing **the alarm of war** trumpets in the future will be a time of war when Christ returns to Earth and fights for His people.

Atonement the end time nation of Israel turns from their rejection of the Messiah and look upon Him whom they have pierced and we know that we have a great High Priest Who is in heaven Who lovingly intercedes for us on our behalf to the Father it is also the day when Satan is bound for 1000 years.

So tabernacles brings us to one last great prophetic event involving Israel this is when God the Son comes to the earth and establishes His kingdom in the land of promise.

Look up **Revelation 7:9-17** in verse 15th we read **and the one Who sits on the throne shall dwell among them.**

I just read the word dwell in that verse well have a guess what it means.

Give in well It's the same Greek word that we read in **John 1:14** and the **Word became flesh and Tabernacled amongst us.**

The word is skenoo and it means to tent or encamp.

The prophet Zechariah in **Zechariah 14-16** foretold of a day when **all the nations which came against Jerusalem** shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

God's plan for the purpose of Israel goes way back to His covenant with Abraham In that covenant which God promised Abraham in **Genesis 12:3** **I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

That covenant still stands today and far into the future

The meaning of this mysterious observance of the Feast of Tabernacles by the nations of the world can be understood in the light of Israel's calling and mission.

Israel's mission from the LORD was to bring the knowledge of the truth and of the One true God and of His plan of salvation to all the nations of the world.

As I just read to you the prophet Zechariah foretold of the fulfilment of God's plan when the faithful **among the nations will come to Jerusalem from year to year to worship the King the LORD of hosts and to keep** the feast of tabernacles.

OK so Why did the Zechariah mention **specifically the Feasts of Tabernacles** and not one of the other major feasts which we celebrate as the sign of obedience of the Unbelievers being the Gentile nations.

Possibly because the joyous Feast of tabernacles also known as the Feast of Ingathering so fittingly represents the ingathering of the redeemed from every nation of the earth.

The millennium which the Feast of Tabernacle is a picture of will give us a little taste of heaven on earth but it won't be heaven yet.

This will be a time of great peace no war no threats of war finally **at last** the desire of all the nations on the Earth will be to turn their swords into ploughshares what a great time.

There will be great prosperity because there will be no want of food or clothing upon the earth all man's needs will be catered for by GOD for His people. As I read in **Deuteronomy 16:14-15** at the beginning of this message.

It will be a time of little suffering why well I believe because many people by now may be in their glorified bodies. Of those who remain without glorified bodies there will be very little sin and temptation to sin.

Yes there will indeed be great joy upon the earth **but do not hold your breathe yet.**

At the very end of the millennium in **Revelation 20:7** we read that Satan is loosened out of his prison and there is one final rebellion against God by Satan and his once again foolish followers.

This is pictured in the last great day.

Everyone may have been sitting back all cosy happy however contrary to the notion that all of mans' problems have been created by his social environment because we do have a habit of blaming our problems on everything but where the real problem lies that is why God allows Satan to have one last throw of the dice

why to reveal once and for all that all of man's problems are caused by sin.

Sin is pride jealousy want anything which causes us to turn away from the wonderful plan which God the Father and the LORD Jesus Christ has prepared for us.

People **sin** because they **want what they can't have** they **get jealous** and **that leads them to sin.**

Arrogance leads us to sin thinking that we are above others leads us down the path of sin Satan was once a trusted covering cherub **pride jealousy greed was his downfall.**

So for all who love the Father and LORD Jesus Christ there we have it all laid out in God's great view of time.

His calendar for the nation of Israel.

Well Leviticus chapter 23 takes us from **the cross to the crown.** From **grief to glory** and yet there is one final day a solemn day tagged on to the tail end of the Feast of Tabernacles this is a day when the rejoicing momentarily stops this is the **eighth day** known as **the Last great day.**

The Eighth day depicts the Great White Throne Judgment as described in **Revelation 20:11-15** and as I may have said before in another message all mercy has now been removed because the One sitting on the throne being a white throne judges in truth and righteousness this is a time when all those who would **not bow the knee to Jesus** and claim Him as their personal Saviour and who refuse to confess Him as Lord will meet their terrible end.

One day maybe we will all witness **Revelation 20:11-15.**

Why well maybe it is because we bear witness to this scene in order that before all tears are wiped away and the former things

are passed away that God allows us to witness **the tragedy of lost mankind** and we will know that God's judgment and ways are true.

All around us men and women may be perishing I said **may**.

Why well because they are heading for a Christless eternity because of what they believe in and for what they hold dear in their thoughts which completely blocks out any attempt to reason with them with the word of God.

When we look around us here in Australia and then look at the world around us this world really needs the LORD now this world needs **His word now** more than ever **this world needs His truth**.

But I am sad to say many people worldwide **do not want to hear the Word of God** they do not want to read the Word of God they just want the lusts **of the rainbow of their faith** they sadly like the Israelites in **1 Samuel 8:7** have rejected God and they want to rip every page from the Word of God out of His bible His handbook of life which does not suit them.

Yes the feasts of God do have very special meanings just as the Feast of Tabernacles does I pray for all of the LORDS people that they open up their hearts and their minds before it is too late I have prayed for my family that they might wake up and that they come to LORD Jesus repent and accept LORD Jesus as their personal LORD and Saviour so far they have not but it is still not too late I believe for them to change their minds I pray that I do not have to wipe away tears for all of them.

I pray that you also do not have to. **4942**