

The Feast of Tabernacles 2021 Tabernacles: The Feast of Sukkahs

The more I grow closer to YeHoVaH, the more I desire to please Him. I ask what would that look like today versus what was done thousands of years ago. I know I need to look back and imagine what life was like when YeHoVaH gave His Commandments, but I also have to imagine, and try to figure out, how do I live a pleasing life now in this generation of today.

I see images of gatherings on the internet that I could try to emulate, but do those images translate into a satisfactory Feast observance today?

For instance, when I look on the internet for what a booth or sukkah looks like, I cannot afford to think like an American because when I hear booth, I think of a conference and people setting up booths to present and possibly sell their wares. When I think of Sukkahs, what I have is images on the internet of what those booths would have looked like, and I must say that I am not sure they represented what actually took place in the wilderness.

The people lived in houses with doorposts in Egypt. They were what appeared to be houses constructed according to the Egyptian standard. When I see certain images, am I to surmise that all the people had tents to live in, as the images depicted in some of the wilderness images?

From the Passover Celebration to the Eighth Day Assembly, YeHoVaH reveals Himself and the story He wants the Children of Israel, and those who joined themselves with Israel, to remember. The story is about their deliverance and journey from a land of bondage and poverty to a promised land flowing with milk and honey. Each Feast was designed to be a celebration, but also a reminder of issues the Children of Israel had with YeHoVaH and issues YeHoVaH had with the Children of Israel.

The Children of Israel's hasty departure from Egypt and sojourning in the wilderness made them vulnerable and subjected them to the wilderness and its natural resources for survival in an unforgiving desert land. Throughout their wandering in the wilderness, Israel had to be totally dependent on YeHoVaH as He led them from place to place. They had to hearken to every word that proceeded from His mouth in order to survive and reach their destination and destiny.

The Instructions for the Feast of Tabernacles is a continuation of YeHoVaH's story and message to the Children of Israel and those who joined themselves with them.

Lev 23:34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the feast of **tabernacles** for seven days unto the LORD.

There are three Hebrew words for Tabernacles in Torah:

Mishkan, Ohel, **Sukkah**

Tabernacles – **05521** כִּכָּהּ *cukkah* {sook-kaw'}

Meaning: 1) thicket, covert, booth 1a) thicket 1b) booth (rude or temporary shelter)

Usage: AV - tabernacle 12, booth 11, pavilion 5, cottage 1, covert 1, tents 1; 31

Lev 23:35 On the first day *shall be* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

Lev 23:36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it *is* a solemn assembly; *and* ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

Lev 23:37 These *are* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: ^{Lev} 23:38 Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD.

Lev 23:39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day *shall be* a sabbath, and on the eighth day *shall be* a sabbath.

Fruit – 08393 תְּבוּאָה

tebuw'ah {teb-oo-aw'}

Meaning: 1) produce, product, revenue 1a) product, yield, crops (of the earth usually) 1b) income, revenue 1c) gain (of wisdom) (fig) 1d) **Usage:** AV - increase 23, fruit 13, revenue 5, gain 1; 42

Lev 23:40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

Boughs of goodly trees

06529 פֶּרִי *periy* {per-ee'}

Meaning: 1) fruit 1a) fruit, produce (of the ground) 1b) fruit, offspring, children, progeny (of the womb) 1c) fruit (of actions) (fig.)

Usage: AV - fruit 113, fruitful 2, boughs 1, firstfruits + 07225 1, reward 1, fruit thereof 1; 119

Boughs of thick trees

06057 אָנָפִי `anaph {aw-nawf'}

Meaning: 1) bough, **branch**

Usage: AV - branch 4, boughs 3; 7

Lev 23:41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. *It shall be* a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

Lev 23:42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

Booths – 05521 סֹכֶה

cukkah {sook-kaw'}

Meaning: 1) thicket, covert, booth 1a) thicket 1b) booth (rude or temporary shelter)

Usage: AV - tabernacle 12, booth 11, pavilion 5, cottage 1, covert 1, tents 1; 31

Lev 23:43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.

Lev 23:44 And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

How long did YeHoVaH make the Israelites dwell in booths/sukkahs?

The Feast of Tabernacles is a vitally important portion of the story and journey as YeHoVaH tabernacled in their midst as they dwelled in sukkaahs.

The first mentioned of sukkaah was in reference to Jacob after he became Israel.

Jacob moved to Succoth built a house for himself and built sukkaahs for his cattle.

Ge 33:17 And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

The first place the Israelites camped was in the town of Succoth.

Ex 12:37 And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot *that were* men, beside children.

Ex 12:38 And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, *even* very much cattle.

YeHoVaH promised His people a land flowing with milk and honey, houses filled with good things, vineyards, wells, olive groves, etc. built, but He made them dwell in sukkahs.

Dwelling in sukkahs was the result of disobedience.

As with all the Feasts, the focus is always YeHoVaH.

Everything the people were instructed to do was to remind them of what YeHoVaH did for them.

It is amazing that if we do not focus always on what YeHoVaH did, we will forget.

The images I get when I think of sukkahs today do not look like booths or sukkahs constructed of elements found in the wilderness.

Here is a passage found in Nehemiah.

Ne 8:13 And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law.

Ne 8:14 And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:

Ne 8:15 And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as *it is* written.

Ne 8:16 So the people went forth, and brought *them*, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.

Ne 8:17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of

Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

Ne 8:18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

My personal observations and questions I ponder:

When I look at people today in their Tabernacle gatherings in modern-day constructed tents, am I to conclude that those are the true constructions of how a seven-day gathering in the wilderness looked like? I have to think of the hard stuff like, did they have porta potties in the wilderness? Did they have grills with propane tanks, and modern-day tents?

When I assess the 7-day gatherings of people who come together in their seven-day camps with all the modern accoutrements of a modern-day camping experience, believing they are fulfilling the wilderness experience of Tabernacles, and maybe criticizing those who do not gather for the seven days, I ask the question, "Is that how fulfilling the Commandments of Tabernacles is supposed to look like?"

The desire to do it right is always at the forefront of my mind, and yet I am left with the thought, can I do it right without going to Jerusalem? If I go to Jerusalem, can I do it right there when there is no temple? If those of Judaism build a temple, and still reject Yeshua, would I go up to Jerusalem and celebrate with those who reject the Messiah who has come? I find myself with present day issues and problems that affect my observance of this sacred Feast!

Do we lose the meaning and miss the message, or do we understand the meaning, get the message, and apply His message and meaning to our daily lives?

- Are we observing Tabernacles wrong?
- Can we observe Tabernacles right?
- How?
- The answer: No. We can't.
- If we can't, then what do we do?
- We do what we know to do and trust by the grace of YeHoVaH our efforts are acceptable in His sight.

I believe the true essence of our actions and focus should be on pleasing YeHoVaH during His Feasts, on the timetable He set that will keep us on His time clock, and always looking and waiting for His return.

Isaiah was a prophet under King Uzziah before the Babylonian captivity.

Isaiah prophesied, in one of the shortest chapters in the Bible, of a time that appears to be like the wilderness time when YeHoVaH was the cloud and fire.

Isa 4:2 In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth *shall be* excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Isa 4:3 And it shall come to pass, *that he that is* left in Zion, and *he that* remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, *even* every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:

Isa 4:4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

Isa 4:5 And the LORD will create upon every dwellingplace of mount Zion, and upon her **assemblies**, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory *shall be* a defence.

Assemblies – **04744** אָרְבֵּימִיקְרָא' {mik-raw'}

Meaning: 1) convocation, convoking, reading, a calling together 1a) convocation, sacred assembly 1b) convoking 1c) reading

Usage: AV - convocation 19, assemblies 2, calling 1, reading 1; 23

Isa 4:6 And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

Later, Isaiah prophesied concerning what shall be after the New Heaven and Earth.

Isa 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

Isa 66:23 And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

Isa 66:24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Zechariah, a prophet born in Babylon and returned after the captivity during the time of Zerubbabel (who was the grandson of King of Jehoiachin, King of Judah, who surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar and was taken into captivity in Babylon), prophesied:

Zec 14:16 And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of 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.

Zec 14:17 And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

Zec 14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that *have* no *rain*; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zec 14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Prayer of Firstfruits

Dt 26:1 And it shall be, when thou *art* come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee *for* an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein;

Dt 26:2 That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put *it* in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.

Dt 26:3 And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto the LORD thy God, that I am come unto the country which the LORD sware unto our fathers for to give us.

Dt 26:4 And the priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of the LORD thy God.

Dt 26:5 And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God, A Syrian ready to perish *was* my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous:

Dt 26:6 And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage:

Dt 26:7 And when we cried unto the LORD God of our fathers, the LORD heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression:

Dt 26:8 And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders:

Dt 26:9 And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, *even* a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Dt 26:10 And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God:

Dt 26:11 And thou shalt rejoice in every good *thing* which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that *is* among you.