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*“The Feast of
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The Feast of Tabernacles

Called the Feast of Booths and *Sukkot* in Hebrew, it is the seventh and last feast that the Lord commanded Israel to observe. It is one of the three feasts that Jews were to observe each year by going to “appear before the Lord your God in the place which He shall choose” (Deut 16:16).

It was during this Feast Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 7:37–39).

The Feast of Tabernacles takes place on the 15th of the Hebrew month Tishri. This seventh month usually occurs in late September to mid-October. The feast begins five days after the Day of Atonement and, at the time of Jesus, the fall harvest had just been completed. It was a time of joyous celebration because the Jews celebrated God’s *current* provision for them in the harvest and they remembered His *past* provision during the 40 years in the wilderness.

Tabernacles one of the three feasts that all “native born” male Jews were commanded to celebrate in Jerusalem. The other two were Passover and Pentecost. For all of the pilgrim feasts the Jewish males went to Jerusalem not only to celebrate but to bring their tithes and offerings to the Temple. Thousands of people came together to remember and celebrate God’s deliverance and His provision. They lived in temporary shelters or booths for the entire eight days. The booths, temporary shelters, were covered with the branches of the date palm, the citron, the myrtle and the willow. All of these trees symbolized the blessings the Lord provides to the nation, the richness of the fall harvest.

God’s instructions for celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles are found in Leviticus 23, given to Moses after God had delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt. Like all feasts, it begins with a “holy convocation”, a Sabbath day, when the Israelites were to stop working and set aside the day for worshipping God. On each day of the feast they offered an “offering made by fire to the Lord”. After seven days of feasting, the eighth day was “a holy convocation”, another Sabbath day. The Feast of Tabernacles begins and ends with a Sabbath day of rest.

The Feast of Tabernacles, like all the feasts, was instituted by God as a way of reminding Israelites in every generation of their deliverance by God from Egypt. Of course, the feasts are also significant in that they foreshadow the work and actions of the coming Messiah. Much of Jesus’ public ministry took place in conjunction with the Feasts set forth by God. We know with certainty that Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are symbolic of Christ’s atoning sacrifice on the cross. Likewise, we know that Pentecost, which marked the beginning of the Feast of Weeks, was the beginning of the Church: the Bride of Christ. It is certain that the Feast of Tabernacles looks forward to Christ’s Second Coming. But Jesus will not come to dwell in a tent, but He will establish His Kingdom on a New Earth, with a New Temple, next to a New Jerusalem. The restoration of *ALL* that Adam lost. We look forward to *That Day!*