



THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES - ENTERING INTO THE REST OF GOD

Sunday Sermon – 10/1/2023

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Leviticus 23:33-39 NIV - The LORD said to Moses, (34) Say to the Israelites: 'On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the LORD's Feast of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days. (35) The first day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work. (36) For seven days present offerings made to the LORD by fire, and on the eighth day hold a sacred assembly and present an offering made to the LORD by fire. It is the closing assembly; do no regular work. (37) (' 'These are the LORD's appointed feasts, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies for bringing offerings made to the LORD by fire--the burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings required for each day. (38) These offerings are in addition to those for the LORD's Sabbaths and in addition to your gifts and whatever you have vowed and all the freewill offerings you give to the LORD.) (39) 'So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the LORD for seven days; the first day is a day of rest, and the eighth day also is a day of rest.

There are seven Feast of the Lord mentioned in Leviticus 23.

Four feast are in the Spring - Jewish months Nissan to Sivan - these are: *The Feast of the Passover, The Feast of Unleavened Bread, The Feast of Firstfruits, The Feast of Pentecost*

Three feast in the Fall - Jewish month Tishri - these are: *The Feast of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement, The Feast of Tabernacles*

What exactly is a 'feast'?

Feast - Hebrew word is 'mo'ed' which means 'an appointed time, place, or meeting. It denotes a fixed time or season. The Feasts of the Lord are specific appointed times and season designated by God.

Sacred Assemblies - Hebrew word is 'miqra' which means 'something called out, a public meeting.' But it also has the thought of 'a rehearsal'.

We see from the words feast and assembly, that God set up 'fixed times' every year when the nation of Israel would be 'called out' to gather together to 'rehearse' future coming events. We recognize today that these future events relate to God's divine plan and purpose to redeem, reconcile, and restore mankind through Jesus Christ. Each of the seven Feast of the Lord find their fulfillment in the life of Jesus and in God's plan of redemption for mankind and this world.

The Feast of Tabernacles, known as *The Feast of Booths, The Feast of Ingathering* or *Sukkot* in Hebrew is the seventh Feast of the Lord.

Prophetically - represents the soon coming 1000 Year Reign or Millennial Reign of Jesus when the Kingdom of God is established here on the Earth.

Historically - related to the celebration of Israel coming into the Promised Land.



Symbolically - the Body of Christ entering the rest of God, living in the rest and joy that is in Christ in our daily lives.

If we look around the world today, we see many crazy and sometimes unbelievably horrific things happening. In such days we can be tempted to think that things are falling apart when in reality, things are falling into place. All of these things are playing their part in leading up to the return and rule of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Tabernacle means “dwelling place”. God has always wanted to tabernacle or dwell with us in order to draw closer to us and draw us closer to Himself. We see this from Genesis to Revelation.

Genesis 3:8 NKJV - 8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Isaiah 1:18 NKJV - “Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

After the fall we still see this same desire of God to dwell with mankind in the construction of the Tabernacle during the Exodus of Israel from Egypt. God gave them the divine design of how to build what would be acceptable for Him to dwell or tabernacle with them. This later evolved into the first temple (built by King Solomon) and second temple (built by the Persian King Cyrus) where the presence of God would manifest.

When Jesus first came on the scene, John described Him in this same exact language - the Word of God coming to tabernacle with us:

John 1:14 NIV - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 AMPCE - 14 And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honor, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favor, loving-kindness) and truth.

Later, in the Gospel of John, Jesus promises both He and the Father will dwell with the ones who love and follow Him.

John 14:23 NIV - 23 If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

And in the last book of the Bible, we see the ultimate fulfillment of God's desire to eternally dwell with us in Revelation. This passage is after the Millennial or 1,000 Year Reign of Jesus Christ and a picture of eternity.

Revelation 21:3-4 NIV - (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."



The ultimate fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles is found in the kingdom age, the Millennial Reign, when Jesus rules and reigns on this earth from Jerusalem. During the period of the Law, rest came one day a week on the seventh day. During the Millennial Reign, the whole planet will experience rest. The Bible says that the lamb will lie down with the wolf and nation will not take up sword against nation any longer (**Isaiah 11:1-6**).

On a personal level, the feast of Tabernacles does remind us that these same things are ours in Christ today. There is a rest in Christ today and we are to enter into that rest.

Hebrews 4:7-11 NIV - (7) Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." (8) For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. (9) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; (10) for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. (11) Let us, therefore, make every effort (*labour*) to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

Greek word in **Hebrews 4:11 - labour** - *spoudázō* - means to make haste, to give diligence. It is rendered "labour", "diligence", "give effort", in English translations.

Our example, type, and shadow of entering rest is that of Joshua and Israel entering their Canaan rest.

Deuteronomy 6:10-11 AMPCE - 10 And when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you, with great and goodly cities which you did not build, 11 And houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and cisterns hewn out which you did not hew, and vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and when you eat and are full,

Even though God promised them a land flowing with milk and honey, they would still have to deal with conflict. *They would still confront and come against the enemy within and the enemy without.* For Joshua this represented the inhabitants of the land: Canaanites, Amorites, and foreign attackers such as Midian, Edom, Moab, Aram. *For us this means the old man, sinful actions, habits, strongholds, as well as our adversary the devil.*

Now the rest of God is not a rest from work—it's a rest in work. It's partnering with God to do what He is calling you to do by His grace, and leaving the part you can't do in His hands, trusting Him to do it.

What kept a whole generation of Israel from not entering the rest of God, from not entering the Promised Land? Simply, it was their disobedience and unbelief. Their lack of belief in God's word and promises kept them from entering the rest God had for them. **Numbers 13 and 14.**

Matthew 11:28-29 - 28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.