

Understanding The Feast of Tabernacles:

The significance of tabernacles-*Sukkot*. The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) started out being a week-long fall festival commemorating the 40-year journey of the Israelites in the wilderness.

*It is one of the three great feasts recorded in the Bible when **God's people** were required to appear before the Lord in the Temple in Jerusalem.*

The seven-day Feast of Tabernacles, which begins with an annual Holy Day is found in **Lev 23:34-35 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the Lord. 35 On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it.** This feast also reflects the "rest" symbolized by the weekly Sabbath for the Jews and later in Christ Jesus for all believers **Hebrews 4.**

This feast will be kept during Jesus 1000 year reign. **Zech 14:16-19** is where we see it being such an important time of observance, that those who do not keep it will be punished in the 1000 year reign of Christ. **16 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain. 18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.**

The word *Sukkot* means "booths." These booths were temporary shelters the Israelites would live in while they were attending the feast. This joyous celebration is a reminder of God's protection, provision, and faithfulness to His people.

We celebrate because-this feast is a reminder of being released from bondage. It reminded the Israelites of their release from slavery and their dwelling in booths when God brought them out of Egypt. **Lev 23:34-35 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the Lord. 35 On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it.**

Living in the booths for the Israelites, is a type and shadow of the transitory physical life of the believer. We too live in temporary structures (our natural bodies) after we were delivered from the bondage to sin and the devil. The apostle Paul's writings reflect this theme: **2 Corinthians: 5:1-2"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven"**

This is a time to rejoice as we look forward to what is in our future.

We celebrate because -This festival reminds us that, despite our material possessions, we still dwell in physical mortal human bodies waiting on our last stage of glorification so we can rule and reign as the supernatural being we are called to be in a supernatural body just like Jesus.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him.

How was Jesus glorified Body? 1. Flesh and bone. (Luke 24:39). 2. Can eat food. (Luke 24:41–43). 3. Be touched and felt. (Matthew 28:9), (John 20:27). 4. Transend time and space, He enter rooms without using entry points. (John 20:19). 5. Able To Disappear and Reappear (Luke 24:30-31). 6. Go to different dimensions, He Ascended Into Heaven (Acts 1:9-11). 7. He Never Needed Rest.

We celebrate because -God's plan for mankind involves restoration. The Feast of Tabernacles symbolizes the restoration process. The apostle Peter summed up God's instruction for the restoration of mankind in **Acts 3:19-21 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.**

But what are these "times of refreshing" and "times of restoration" of which Peter spoke? These "times of refreshing" start at the very time of salvation and continues through the life of the believer. We are being restored back to what we are purposed to be.

The Feast of Tabernacles also symbolizes the restoration process for all creation, which started at the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and will continue with the return of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate because -The Feast of Tabernacles is also called the Feast of Ingathering (**Exodus 23:16; Exodus 34:22**). The Israelites rejoiced in the abundant agricultural harvest in late summer and early fall the Lord had blessed them with. For believers today we celebrate God bringing in a great harvest of blessing from souls to resources, now and in the future.

Ingathering for Now-We are the generation to see the later rain. If we are respond correctly to the Word of God, It's Harvest time. **Deut 11:13-16 'And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, 14 then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. 15 And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.'**

Joel 2:23-26 Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the Lord your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you. The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month. 24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. 25 "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. 26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.

All we have to do is ask for it. **Zech 10:1 Ask the Lord for rain In the time of the latter rain. The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone.**

Ingathering for Then-(**Luke 10:2; John 4:35**). More and more people are destined to become part of God's spiritual family. Following Christ's return will come the greatest time of salvation harvest ever, with blessings and abundance overflowing.

The Spirit of God will influence people to willingly and enthusiastically obey God from their hearts. People will begin to place the interests of others before their own. They will start thinking of others as "better than themselves" (**Philippians 2:3**,). Instead of exclusive self-concern, their goal will be to help their fellow human beings.

The basis for this 1000-year rule of Jesus will be God teaching people His ways. Again, as Isaiah foretold in **Isaiah 2:2-3** "It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem".

During this 1,000-year period, God will change even the nature of wild animals, reflecting the peace that will descend upon society. Describing this tranquil time **Isa 11:6-9** says "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

The overall picture of the Millennium reign of Jesus Christ is found in **Rev 20:1-14** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. 7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades

delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.