



# Chosen by God

## The Jewish Roots of Christianity

### Sukkot

### Feast of Tabernacles

God's plan has always been to dwell among His people. He walked in the Garden with His cherished people until the effects of sin entered their world. Then He provided a way to dwell among His people in first the tabernacle, then the temple. Yet, sin still stood in the way. Then, in the most intimate living arrangement yet, He came as one of us. He came to truly live among us, not as fire, or cloud. Not separated by a veil in the temple. But as a human like us.

In John 1 :14, Scripture says that "the Word became flesh , and dwelt among us..." Dwelt, Greek *skenoo*, to tent, encamp or reside. His tent parked right next to ours in this wilderness that is only our temporary home. Derived from Scriptural clues about the timing of Zechariah's service in the temple, and therefore the timing of John's birth, which leads to a good guess about the time of year of the birth of Jesus.....the season in which the Word became flesh to dwell among us was quite likely during the Feast of Tabernacles!

Now, we enjoy an even more intimate dwelling of God who is not just among us, but resides through His Spirit WITHIN us! We are now the tabernacle of God, the site for the holy of holies, His dwelling place in His created world. And we await the return of Christ, of the Word that will set things right and vanquish evil for good. There will be a new heaven and a new earth where again man and God will walk together. Sin will no longer be able to separate us from the presence of the Father. His Spirit will have free, and uninhibited reign. We will live in the land of rest that we have only seen and known in part. Blissful rest, perfect peace. The Feast of Tabernacles in its full reality, with rejoicing that never ends.

There are so many images within the Feast of Tabernacles of the reality of Christ and our relationship with God. The ingathering of the harvest, as it will also occur in the "day of the Lord". The water and the light that Christ compares Himself to in John. The tabernacle, and the temple that will rise again in three days, and now the temple of our own bodies which houses the very Spirit of God!

What is the role of the Feast of Tabernacles in the life of the Christian today? \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways would an observation of this Feast be beneficial? \_\_\_\_\_

What would that look like? \_\_\_\_\_

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## FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Fill in the blanks in the statements about the Feast of Tabernacles below by referring to Lev. 23:33-43.

Celebrated on the 15th day of the \_\_\_\_\_ month, the Feast of Tabernacles last \_\_\_\_\_ days. On the first day there is a \_\_\_\_\_ and no \_\_\_\_\_ is to be done. Offerings are to be made to the Lord by \_\_\_\_\_. On the \_\_\_\_\_ day is a sacred assembly, which is also the \_\_\_\_\_ assembly. This will also be a day of \_\_\_\_\_.



The Feast of Tabernacles is celebrated after the \_\_\_\_\_ have been gathered. On the first day, \_\_\_\_\_ from the trees, \_\_\_\_\_, leafy \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ were gathered. The people were to \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord for 7 days. \_\_\_\_\_ this feast as a lasting ordinance for generations to come. The people were to live in \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ days to represent the time that the Israelites lived in them when God brought them out of \_\_\_\_\_.

Read Deut. 16: 13-17.

According to verse 14, who was to celebrate this Feast? \_\_\_\_\_

In verse 16, what were the three Feasts which required the attendance of all Israelite men?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

In verse 17, what were they to bring with them? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the overriding theme of the feast of Tabernacles? (Lev. 23:40 and Deut. 16:13-15) \_\_\_\_\_

At what time each year did Hannah visit Samuel at the temple? (1 Sam. 2:19) \_\_\_\_\_

Was the Feast of Tabernacles observed when Solomon dedicated the Temple? (1 Kings 8:1-2) \_\_\_\_\_

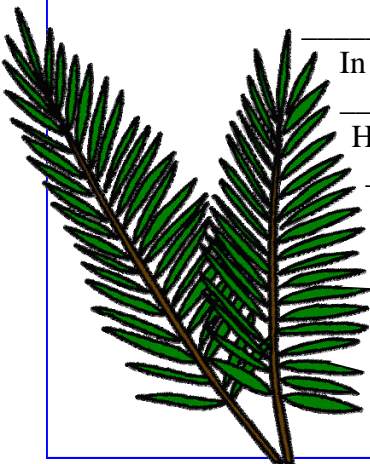
In 2 Chron. 5:1-3;11-14, when was the Temple completed? \_\_\_\_\_

How did the priests praise the Lord at its completion? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the evidence of God's presence in the Temple? \_\_\_\_\_

In Neh. 8:1-18, what was the attitude about this Feast among the Jews who had returned from captivity? \_\_\_\_\_

What is yours? \_\_\_\_\_





## HARVEST TIME

In Exod. 23:14-17, when was the Feast of Tabernacles celebrated?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why was it called the Feast of Ingathering? \_\_\_\_\_

In Israel, this harvest season of grapes and olives and fruits is the biggest harvest of the year.

What does Jesus say is the field in Matt.13:38-41? \_\_\_\_\_

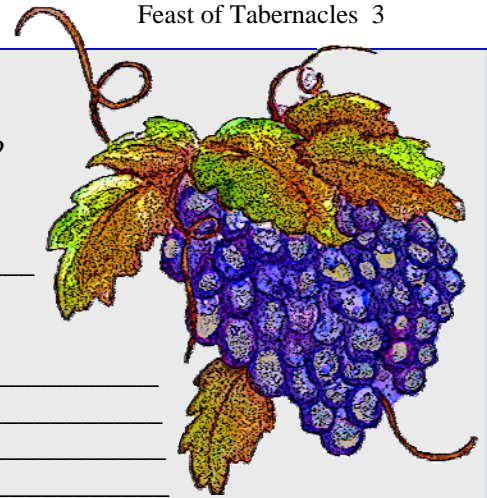
When is the harvest? \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the reapers? \_\_\_\_\_

What happens to the weeds? \_\_\_\_\_

What is harvested in Rev. 14:14-19? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is holding the sickle? \_\_\_\_\_



## POURING OF THE WATER

The last day of the Feast of Tabernacles was called Hoshanah Rabbah, which means the Day of Great Hosanna, or in English, “save now” or “deliver us”. It was a day when the Jews would pray for rain as well as for God’s salvation through the Messiah. (Booker 146) Rain was a big deal in Israel and in addition for being crucial at this time of year for the next crop, it was also a sign of God’s care and provision as delivered through the Living Water.

A priest would draw water from the Pool of Siloam with a golden pitcher, which would be taken to the High Priest at the Temple where the water would be poured into a basin at the foot of the altar. As this was being done, priests were blowing their trumpets and the people were waving their palm branches and singing to the Lord the words from Isaiah 12:3. What were those words? \_\_\_\_\_

According to rabbinic tradition, the practice of carrying water to the temple was to serve as a reminder of the event recorded in Num. 20:2-13. What was that event? \_\_\_\_\_

Considering that the “festival” referred to by John in John 7:37-39 was the Feast of Tabernacles, what becomes very significant about the words of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

How does that fulfill the words of Isaiah 44:3? \_\_\_\_\_

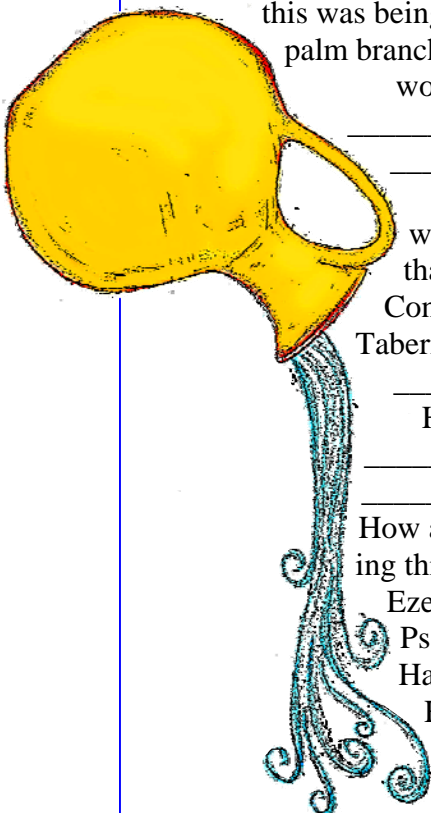
How are God’s blessings and teachings related to water, and the rain prayed for during this season, in the following passages?

Eze.34:26 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 72:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_

Hab. 2:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Hosea 6:3 \_\_\_\_\_



## THE LIGHTING OF THE TEMPLE

When the torches were lit in the temple, the city on the hill (Jerusalem) would be visible from quite a distance. What did Jesus compare Himself to in John 8:12, apparently still at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles mentioned in chapter 7?

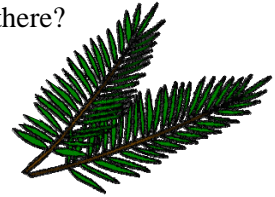
How is that idea introduced in John 1:4,5? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THE FOUR SPECIES

Lev. 23:40 specifies foliage that is to be gathered in observing the Feast of Tabernacles. Another listing is found in Neh. 8:15. What types of foliage do you find listed there?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



How were branches used in Mark 11:7-11? \_\_\_\_\_

The chant of the people comes from Ps. 118:25-26, sung at the Feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

What were the saints of Rev. 7:9-10 holding in their hands?

\_\_\_\_\_

## PRESENT AND FUTURE REST

The Feast of Tabernacles commemorated God's rescue of the Israelites from Egypt by recreating the experience of living in temporary dwellings and rejoicing in God living in the tabernacle among them. How had God's presence been manifested during that time of leading them through the wilderness?

In Hebrews 3:7-19, God reminds the Israelites of the rest He had intended for their forefathers, and of the rest He still has in store for us. What prevented the first generation out of Egypt from entering God's rest and dwelling in His land? \_\_\_\_\_

If Egypt is the world, and the Promised Land is God's rest, then what must we do to enjoy that rest both now and for all eternity?

God's rest was pictured in the Promised Land, is available to us now in our own wilderness age, and is a promise for the future.

In Lev. 23:41, and Zech. 14:16-19, how long is this Feast to continue being observed? \_\_\_\_\_

The Hebrew word for this is *owlam*, and means everlasting, continuous existence, unending future, or eternity. In what ways would you consider this Feast of the Lord here for good? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the Promised Land we await according to 2 Peter 3:12,13? \_\_\_\_\_

What is special about the Feast of Tabernacles observed during a Sabbath rest year (every seventh year) according to Deut. 31:10-12? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the prophecy in Micah 4:1,2? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



The month  
Ethanin was the  
original Hebrew  
name for the 7th  
month, and meant  
the month of  
“permanence and  
permanent things”

# Names of the Feast of Tabernacles

1. from the Hebrew word for hut  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. A temporary dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. One bull was offered for each of 70  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Refers to the bringing in of the harvest  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Means to dwell among  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. A name for a temporary shelter  
\_\_\_\_\_



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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Name the feast of the Lord that occurred in the month of Tishrei.

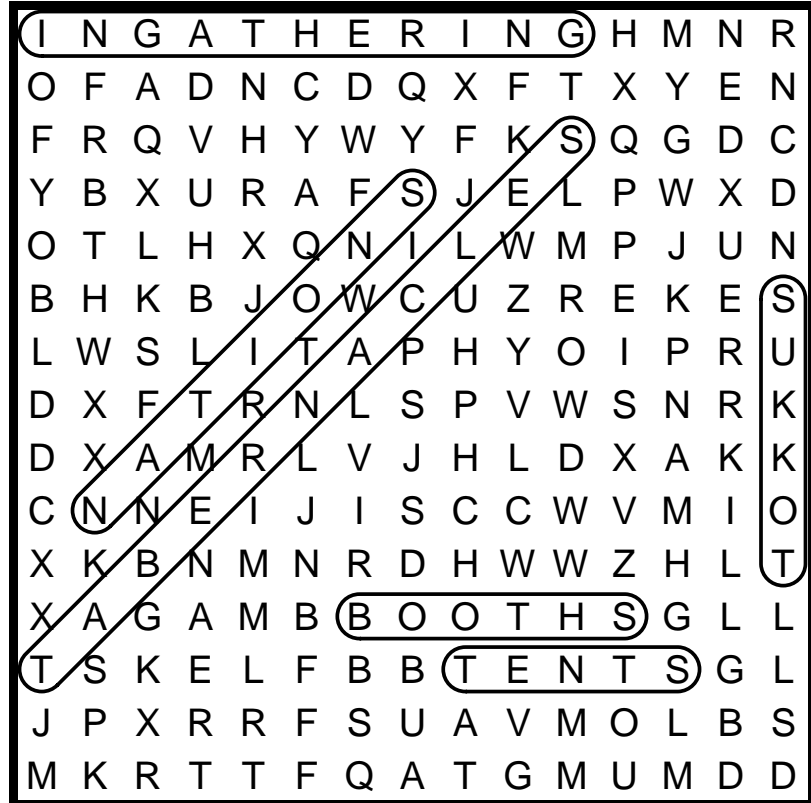
When do these occur on the Gregorian calendar (the one we use!)? \_\_\_\_\_

What lies 6 months before, and 6 months after? \_\_\_\_\_

What harvest season occurred with the fall feasts? \_\_\_\_\_

## Puzzle Answers

1. SUKKOT
2. TENTS
3. NATIONS
4. INGATHERING
5. TABERNACLES
6. BOOTH



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