

# Sukkot, The Feast of Tabernacles —

## Teaching Notes

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## Feast of Tabernacles

✠ Lev 23:34 "The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD."

— Zec 14:16 "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."

## Commanded Joy

- ❖ Sukkot starts on a full moon, and is known as the holiday of temporary shelters (booths or tabernacles).
- ❖ It is also called the "Festival of Gathering" and the "time of our rejoicing." It is so joyous, it is often simply called "Festival" (*Chag*).
  - Mat 17:4 "Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'"
- ❖ Sukkot is the most joyous of all the convocations, even commanded, and is the only one given to all of the nations to celebrate.
  - Neh 8:10 "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

## Israel's Restoration

- ❖ Sukkot is a pilgrimage festival, and is the festival through which Israel is completely restored to her land and the earth sees its final harvest.
  - Hos 6:11 "Also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed for you, When I return the captives of My people."

— Mat 13:39 "The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels."

### Six Directions

- ❖ Each day on Sukkot, four species are taken, and a blessing recited as they are waived in six directions.
  - The Four Kinds are: an *etrog* (citron), a *lulav* (palm frond), three *hadassim* (myrtle twigs) and two *aravot* (willow twigs).

### The Great Salvation

- ❖ The last day of Sukkot is called the Great Salvation (*Hoshaana Rabbah*), and closes the period of Divine Judgment that began on Rosh Hashanah.
- ❖ The primary observance of *Hoshaana Rabbah* is "the taking of the willow."
  - Mar 11:7-8 "Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road."
- ❖ On this day, the synagogue reading stand (*bima*) is circled seven times.
- ❖ Jewish communities today still celebrate Sukkot with music and dancing, especially since many are still awaiting their Messiah.
  - Isa 12:3 "Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."

### The Millennial Kingdom

- ❖ Sukkot is the period when the earth is renewed and the Millennial Kingdom ushered in.
  - Isa 35:1-2 "The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God."

### The Water Drawing

- ❖ The joyous water drawing in the Temple was done every day during Sukkot (*Simchat Beit Hashoeivah*).
- ❖ The arrival in the Temple of the water was accompanied by trumpet blasts.
- ❖ The water drawing is believed to be accompanied by a great awareness of Godliness and prophetic revelation.

- ❖ This connection to God is so deep, that like water, it has no describable taste, yet it sustains life.
  - Joh 7:37 " On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.'"

### **God's Illumination**

- ❖ The priests kindled fires on large menorahs, lighting up the city of Jerusalem as if it were daytime.
  - Rev 21:23 "The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light."

### **Marriage Supper of the Lamb**

- ❖ Most significantly, it is the day when the earth will celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb.
  - Isa 25:6-8 "And in this mountain The LORD of hosts will make for all people A feast... And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever, And the LORD God will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken."

### **One People**

- ❖ The nation of Israel will be joined with the Church and fully restored; both physically and spiritually.
  - Amo 9:11 "On that day I will raise up The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old."
  - Amo 9:14-15 "I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them... And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them, Says the LORD your God."

## **We are His People**

- α Rev 21:3 "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God."

## **The Eighth Day**

- ❖ The bible tells us that after the seven days of Sukkot, we are to celebrate an eighth day.
- ❖ The Jewish people celebrate that day as *Simcha Torah* (completion of the annual reading cycle), dancing with their Torah scrolls.
  - Joh 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."