

Sukkot – Feast of Booths
It's time to party ☺

The Feast of Tabernacles

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Why do the Jews party at the Feast of Tabernacles?

They had been forgiven
Atonement

They had been delivered
Trumpets

They had been provided for.
Passover, unleavened bread, firstfruits and Pentecost

“The LORD said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites: ‘On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the LORD’s Festival of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days...On the first day you are to take branches from luxuriant trees—from palms, willows and other leafy trees—and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. Celebrate this as a festival to the LORD for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month. Live in temporary shelters for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in such booths”
Lev 23:33-34, 40-42

The Feast of Tabernacles is the culmination of the previous six feasts.

At the FT, or the Feast of Ingathering (similar to our Thanksgiving), there is nothing left but the shouting, rejoicing, and celebrating. No more work (at least not as they knew it), no more

worrying, and no more struggling and it was time to enjoy themselves.

Lets fast forward the movie a few hundred years into the future, when the Jews were in the Promised land, Jerusalem belonged to them and Solomon’s Temple had been built, the Jews would celebrate as follows:

The fall crops were in...and would be hung like a string of chili’s from the booths that they would erect and live in for a week, as a reminder of what their forefathers lived in while roaming around in the desert for 40 years.

Each day that week there was to be a different party or celebration. Big fun was had by all. I will spare you the details of the daily events but you must understand that - this was what everyone had been waiting for, for the entire year.

1. The Great Light (Day 6)

In preparation for this awesome party, 4 Menorah lamp stands would be erected in the city:

- 150 feet high in the air...lit the entire city of Jerusalem; wicks made from worn-out priests garments
- Young priest climbed ladders to fill four great bowls that held over 20 gallons of oil in each one.
- the predecessor to night baseball games...

I’m not sure, but I wonder, if Jesus made the following statement at the Torah Dance while pointing at the Great Lights:

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

It was under these lights that lit all of Jerusalem, on the day before the pouring out of water, that the people had a giant celebration called the “Torah Dance.”

This was similar to a street party, picture in your mind, a type of holy Marti Gras, where people flooded the streets of Jerusalem and watched the parade and join in with the festivities.

It was a happy, even ecstatic occasion, with a torchlight parade, including musicians, jugglers, and dancers, marching to the Temple, at night, as the whole city of Jerusalem was lit up by giant torches and the light of giant menorahs. As the lyres, drums, cymbals, trumpets, and horns played, the Rabbis entertained and clowned, adding to the joy.

2. The Pouring out of Water (Day 7)

All of this was to set the stage for the Pouring out of Water at the Temple. The next day all of the people who were partying in the streets return for the big event that they had been celebrating the night before and down from the Temple Mount enters the High Priest – making his way to the Pool of Siloam.

I wish we could have heard the cheers, and the excitement.

All of the people had done their part during the Feast of Atonement: sacrifice, obedience, repentance...but they needed the High Priest to do what only he could do as their High Priest. The people adorned this man because he had saved them. He alone had entered into the Holy of Holy's, and offered the sacrifice that would be acceptable to God for the remission of sin.

Does this sound like anyone you know?
He is a picture of our Savior – Jesus Christ.

At the Pool of Siloam the HP paused briefly, filling a pitcher of water, and the procession returns back through the streets to the Temple Mount through the Water Gate.

The HP would then makes his way to the great stone altar in the Temple. He pours the water out into a silver basin which drains to the base of the altar and then down the stairs.

In Israel, the rains normally stop in March, and there is no rain until late October – 6 or 7 months. The Pouring of Water, was in request of His people for God to send rains to break up the hard soil, otherwise there would be no Spring crops, and famine would be at their doors.

It is in connection with the Feast of Tabernacles that the Gospel of John records a fascinating event:

“On the last and greatest day of the festival (the Feast of Tabernacles), Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” John 7:37-38

The Seven Feast of the Lord

The Spring Feasts

These have all be fulfilled

1. Passover: Jesus died for our sins

2. Unleavened Bread: Jesus was in the grave for 3 days and yet his body did not decay

3. Firstfruits: Christ rose from the dead

4. Pentecost: God has sent His Spirit who joins believing Jews and Gentiles so that together they may enter the harvest fields

The Fall Feasts

We wait for these to be fulfilled

5. Trumpets: Jesus will return and we shall meet Him in the air when the trumpet sounds

6. Atonement: The Earth will enter a period of atonement that will last for seven years. The nation of Israel will turn from their rejection of the Messiah and look upon Him whom they have pierced

7. Tabernacles: Jesus will tabernacle on the earth and establish His kingdom for a thousand years.

- At the end of the millennium, God will remove the curse and make everything new. God will move Heaven to earth, where He will live with His people forever.

“On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines.” Is 25:6

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.”
Rev 22:1-3

- The Feast of Tabernacles is a celebration of the victory won by our Savior, Jesus Christ and a harbinger of his promise to meet our needs forevermore.