**Feast of Tabernacles**

(Succoth—booths)

The 7th Feast of the Major 7 Feasts of Israel

This is the last of the Seven main Feasts. This was one of the three Feasts that was compulsory of the Jewish males to attend.

(Of those three feasts, one was in the beginning of the Holy Year,(Nisan),**Passover;** One was in the beginning of the Civil Year,(Tishri),**Tabernacles**, and One was in the middle ,(Sivan), **Pentecost**.

Now it’s interesting to note that the previous Feast-, (Day of Atonement), in which the nation had to be reconciled to God, had to occur before the nation could enter the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles which denotes God dwelling with them. So after the covenant relationship had been restored it was a time of rejoicing.

This feast was a dual celebration, it celebrated the end of the Fruit harvest- so it was also called the "Feast of Ingathering," but it’s main purpose was to celebrate the fact that the Lord was with the Israelites while they wandered in the desert, supplying their daily needs. So to somewhat reenact those conditions, they would erect booths on their roof tops or yards.

The booths had to be somewhat open so the wind could come in and also so they could see the stars. In other words, they had to be **uncomfortable**. In this way this would commemorate their wanderings through the desert.

**Leviticus 23:33-36.**

It was celebrated 5 days after the Feast of the Day of Atonement, and then

for **seven** days from the 15th to and including the 21st day of the month.

**v-36 says** *“ on the eight day hold a scared assembly and present an offering made to the Lord by fire. It is the closing assembly, do no regular work”.* -(this is a final day to conclude the celebration of all **seven** feasts for the year.)

**Lev 23:39 says** *“the first day is a day of rest*"-(a Sabbath)—and the eighth day noted in v-36 is also a day of rest-(a Sabbath)-but this day was not included in the Feast of Tabernacles, it was the annual conclusion of the seven Feasts.

**Lev 23:40**-they were to take the fruit of the harvest and bring it before the Lord and **rejoice** for the seven days.

**Lev 23:42**- they were to live in the erected booths for the entire seven days.

**John 7:37** tells us Jesus celebrated this Feast and did a very special thing.

On the last day of the feast (the 7th day), it was celebrated by a **procession** from the Temple to the pool of Siloam, with the priests leading the way and the singers followings them. When they arrived at the pool, the high priest would dunk a large pitcher into the water and carry it back by way of the procession to the temple area where he would then pour out the water in everyone’s presence to represent the water that God had provided for those 40 years of wandering in the desert. During this time they would sing the Hallel, (Psalms 113-118). The final verses are “Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.” -(and here the Lord is standing in their midst.)

**v-37** tells us Jesus stood up at this very exact time and **hollers** “ *if any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him”*

He was letting everyone know that He is the Living Water, and He was also speaking about the Holy Spirit, Who would be given at the next Pentecost feast. This of course drew the attention of the assembly to Him, and many thought He was the Messiah at that point, while others grumbled against Him. Jesus related Himself with the Feasts.

Jesus did a similar teaching at the special occasion of the **lighting** of the grand Menorah at evening in the inner court of the Temple.

**John 8:12 tells** us Jesus spoke again as they were lighting the Menorah and said “ *I am the light of the world, whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”*

-(Jesus always took advantage of an occasion to give an analogy to show that He was and is truly the Messiah.)

**Zechariah 14: 1-9.**

This of course describes the events when He will return. This is not the rapture, but His final **second** coming, His return to earth.

**v-4**- He returns to the exact spot on which He ascended into heaven, at the Mount of Olives.

**v-5-**indicates they we will be **following** Him as He returns to earth.

**v-6-**shows there will be no night. -(remember in the new Jerusalem, the Lord will be the light.)

**v-9-** shows Jesus will be King over the whole earth, indicating this is the 1**000 year** reign over the earth.

Solomon dedicated the Temple on this Feast of Tabernacles.

When Jesus returns to the earth there will be the judgment of the nations (Matt 25), (see The Five Judgments), and the gathering of the fruit, (Deut 16:13), and then the celebrating in the Millennium for 1000 years with the Lord. The Lord will provide safety and security and there will be no wars until the end when Satan is released from his lock up,(for 1000 years), who will stir up the nations for war, then He will be defeated and cast into the Lake of Fire.

So Jesus will Tabernacle with us at the beginning of the Feast. Perhaps He will dedicate His newTemple at this time as well.

**Zechariah 14:16** says *‘every year on the feast of Tabernacles the survivors from all the nations that have attached Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty and to celebrate the feast of Tabernacles.-And if they don’t go up to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain."*

Everyone must go up on the Feast of Tabernacles to worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

The annual cycle of the appointed Feasts of the Lord is regarded by many as *typical* of God's future program for Israel as a nation. The interrelated spring and early summer festivals are thought to typify the events of Christ's First Advent:

(a) **Passover**-the death of Christ on the cross as the Passover Lamb.

(1 Cor 5:7),-He shed His blood and died to save us.

(b)**Unleavened Bread**, (Christ took our sins upon Him and was hidden in the ground before this Feast); He is our sin bearer. It also gives meaning to the believer's holy walk and complete break from the old life, pictured by the absence of leaven (1 Cor 5:7-8.

(c) **First Fruits**- Christ was resurrected on this Feast as the first of the Fruit to God. (1 Cor 15:20-23).

(d) **Pentecost**- the Holy Spirit birthed the Church to bring in the harvest of men’s souls. (Acts 2; cf. Joel 2:28).

**The fall festivals prefigure events associated with His Second Advent.**

(a  **Feast of Trumpets**- Israel's future regathering at the end of the Tribulation period**. Or could this be the calling out of the Church at the Last Trump. (1 Cor 15: 51-52)-The Rapture?**

(b) **Day of Atonement**- Israel's national conversion at the Second Advent.

Romans 11:26-27and Zechariah 12:10-11- “on that day they will look on Me, the One they have pierced and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”

(c) **Feast of Tabernacels**- Israel's blessing by God on the millennial earth Zech 14:9-20). The Lord Jesus Christ will tabernacle with us for 1000 years.

The first four were fulfilled on the exact day. Therefore, we can expect the same for the last three.!