

## Parashah - Sukkot

Vayikra / Leviticus 16:1–34; 23:33-44

D'varim / Deuteronomy 16:13-15; 16:16

Haftorah: Z'kharyah / Zechariah 14:1–21

***This special portion is from Leviticus 16:1–34; 23:33-44; Deuteronomy 16:13-15; 16:16***

(Bold, Underlining and Italics added for emphasize) – (NKJV) = New King James Version; (CJB) = Complete Jewish Bible

This is the seventh and final feast given to Israel. Note these are feasts given to Israel, not made up by Israel for celebration. G-d Almighty, Adonai, Elohim gave these feasts to Israel for observance and called them HIS FEASTS.

**Leviticus 23:1-2 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> And ***the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,*** <sup>2</sup> "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, ***these are My feasts.***

**Leviticus 23:1-2 (CJB)** <sup>1</sup> (iv) ***Adonai said to Moshe,*** <sup>2</sup> "Tell the people of Isra'el: 'The designated times of Adonai which you are to proclaim as holy convocations ***are my designated times.***

*Therefore quite contrary to the misconceptions and the misstatements, these are not the Feasts or Festivals of the Jews/Israel, THESE ARE THE FEASTS OF THE LORD!*

***Let us start with this prayer from Psalm 86:11:***

**Psalm 86:11 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> ***Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth;***

Unite my heart to fear Your name.

**Psalm 86:11 (CJB)** <sup>11</sup> ***Adonai, teach me your way, so that I can live by your truth;***

make me single-hearted, so that I can fear your name.

Sukkot or the "Feast of Tabernacles" is commanded to be observed in the fall, from Tishri 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Leviticus 23:34 (NKJV)** <sup>34</sup> "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.

**Leviticus 23:34 (CJB)** <sup>34</sup> "Tell the people of Isra'el, 'On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the feast of *Sukkot* for seven days to Adonai.

Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles has with "tradition" come to mean several things in Judaism and Christianity. By tradition Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles is known and observed for this day in time with a couple of

misdirected theologies or man made standards:

- ✚ Remembering the sukkahs/huts Israel lived in *during their 40 years in the wilderness*
- ✚ Remembering the sukkahs/huts which harvesters stayed in at the edge of the fields during harvest

Did G-d Almighty command the Feast of Sukkot, the "Feast of Tabernacles", HIS FEAST to be observed as a remembrance of the judgment and punishment on the generation of Israel who when at the threshold of the Promised Land were disobedient and faithless in the Heavenly Father? When did G-d command this feast? Let's turn to the authority on the subject to find the correct answer, G-d's very word.

**Leviticus 23:33-44 (NKJV)** <sup>33</sup> *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,* <sup>34</sup> "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.*** <sup>35</sup> On the first day *there shall be* a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work *on it.* <sup>36</sup> For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It *is* a sacred assembly, *and* you shall do no customary work *on it.* <sup>37</sup> *These are the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations,* to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day-- <sup>38</sup> besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD. <sup>39</sup> 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, *when you have gathered in the fruit of the land,* you shall keep the feast of the LORD *for* seven days; on the first day *there shall be* a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest. <sup>40</sup> And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; *and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.* <sup>41</sup> *You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.* <sup>42</sup> *You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,* <sup>43</sup> *that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.'* " <sup>44</sup> *So Moses declared to the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.*

Verse 44 does say that G-d did make the children of Israel dwell in booths when HE brought them out of the land of Egypt. However when did G-d Almighty give this command to Moses who then passed it on to the children of Israel?

Backing up to verse 1 and 2 of chapter 23, we see the Lord has given a list of seven Feasts and instruction for observation or celebration of these Feasts:

**Leviticus 23:1-2 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,* <sup>2</sup> "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: '*The feasts of the LORD,* which you shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *these are My feasts.*

**Leviticus 23:4 (NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> *These are the feasts of the LORD,* holy convocations which *you shall proclaim at their appointed times.*

But when did this occur? Let us back up again, to Leviticus chapter 16 to find the time of the commands about the Feasts.

**Leviticus 16:1 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Now the LORD spoke to Moses *after the death of the two sons of Aaron,*

*when they offered profane fire before the LORD, and died;*

When did this occur? Now we need to back up even further to get the time frame and events to see when G-d Almighty commanded the Feasts. To find this out, let us go back to when Israel was freed from Egypt and work forward this time.

AFTER LEAVING EGYPT:

- Fifteenth day of the second month, Israel arrives at Wilderness of Sin (Seen) – Exodus 16:1
- Third Month arrived at Sinai and camped – Exodus 19:1
- First month of the second year still camped at Sinai – Number 9:1
- Passover kept and observed (14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month of the second year)
- Make up Passover kept and observed (14<sup>th</sup> day of the second month of the second year)
- *The Tabernacle of the Lord had been constructed and was being used at this time also*
- Twentieth day of the second month of the second year, Israel prepared and moved to Paran – Numbers 10:11-13

From the time Israel was freed from Egypt and arrived at the threshold of the Promised Land, the time was over TWO YEARS. It was during this period, mostly at Mt. Sinai that G-d consecrated the Covenant with the children of Israel. During this period, G-d commanded and the Tabernacle was constructed. This period of time was *the preparation phase*. G-d, using Moses, was establishing the foundations, standards, commands and means of proper, acceptable worship.

*The children of Israel were being prepared to enter, take possession of and live in the Promised Land.*

The Levitical Priesthood was established and the system of sacrifices was begun. It was during that time the two sons of Aaron (High Priest) disobeyed G-d's instruction concerning serving at the Tabernacle and the proper manner of sacrifice, resulting in the judgment and death they suffered.

*Sukkot, the "feast of Tabernacles" was given during this time frame, during the preparation phase!*

It is obvious the command to observe and celebrate Sukkot, the "Feast of Tabernacles" was given by G-d Almighty months before Israel arrived at the borders of the Promised Land, where they sinned, were judged and punished, resulting in the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness before they could again go to and enter the Promised Land.

*Almighty G-d, Adonai, Elohim commanded the Feast of Sukkot, the "Feast of Tabernacles" to be observed prior to the judgment resulting in the extra 40 years in the wilderness! Sukkot was to remember the time spent in the temporary shelters while sojourning to the Promised Land and to rejoice in and remember that G-d Himself was present and Tabernacleing with them during this journey from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. The 40 years of being in temporary shelters-sukkahs-huts was merely a byproduct of disobedience and lack of faith.*

*Sukkot recalls the miraculous delivery of Israel from bondage in Egypt, G-d's miraculous provisions and care after that deliverance while Israel was in the wilderness. Sukkot recalls and celebrates G-d's awesome, divine and powerful presence in the midst of Israel, leading them through the wilderness and tabernacleing with them while camped on their journey to the Promised Land.*

*Sukkot is a time of renewed fellowship, tabernacleing with G-d. It is a time of remembering G-d's miraculous and marvelous provision and care for us. The Sukkah is symbolic of our dependence on G-d's care, grace, love and sustenance. Sukkot is time of joy and celebration. Today Sukkot gives us cause for celebration also, in that we are looking forward to return of the Messiah, Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ and his millennial reign, tabernacleing with us again.*

As we study and learn from the book of Deuteronomy, the last book of the Torah, of Moses' writings, it is important to note the commands about Sukkot are a repeat along with the other commands. Moses does this trying to make sure the children of Israel are spiritually prepared for entrance into the Promised Land and the work as well as the manner of worship prescribed by the Heavenly Father. This time emphasis is made by Moses about the harvest of the fruit for Sukkot because once in the Promised Land, Israel will be able to farm and tend to fields bringing forth the bounty of the land through the grace and provisions of G-d Almighty.

**Deuteronomy 16:12-16 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you ***shall be careful to observe these statutes.*** <sup>13</sup> "You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, ***when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress.*** <sup>14</sup> ***And you shall rejoice in your feast,*** you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, ***the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates.*** <sup>15</sup> Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in the place, which the LORD chooses, ***because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.*** <sup>16</sup> Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

There are some requirements set forth by the Heavenly Father regarding Sukkot, the "Feast of Tabernacles":

- 1) Gather the "four species" – Leviticus 23:40
- 2) Rejoice before the Lord – Deuteronomy 16:13-14; Leviticus 23:40
- 3) Construct and live in a sukkah – Leviticus 23:42
- 4) It a ***mandatory, required*** Feast/Festival of the Lord (one of three) – Exodus 23:14; Deuteronomy 16:16

Celebrating Sukkot:

- 1) Build and/or decorate a Sukkah
- 2) Obtain lulav

- 3) Be happy – We are commanded to REJOICE during the celebration of Sukkot for the blessing of G-d's provision and care
- 4) Give tzedakah (charity)
- 5) Plan Sukkot parties and meals. Very important to celebrate with family and friends
- 6) Show hospitality to others. If you have a sukkah, invite other to share a meal and rejoice with you
- 7) Read the Torah Portions about Sukkot and the provisions G-d provided for His people

***Haftarah - Prophets***  
**Z'kharyah / Zechariah 14:1–21**

**Zechariah 14:16 (NKJV)** <sup>16</sup> 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.*

**Zechariah 14:16 (CJB)** <sup>16</sup> Finally, *everyone remaining from all the nations* that came to attack Yerushalayim will go up every year to worship the king, Adonai-Tzva'ot, and *to keep the festival of Sukkot.*

When Yeshua HaMashiach returns, bringing the Kingdom of G-d to earth as it is in Heaven, those who remain, will, as commanded in Deuteronomy, go to Jerusalem for observance and celebration of Sukkot, the "Feast of Tabernacles".

***Sukkot, the "Feast of Tabernacles"***  
***Basic Information on celebrating***

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Steps for the celebration:

- 1) Light the Holiday Candles – just before sundown – say the blessing then light the candles
- 2) Give thanks to G-d Almighty for the Season, His Love, Grace, provisions and sustenance
- 3) Say Kiddush Blessing (Blessing over the Wine)
- 4) Recite the Sukkah Blessing
- 5) Recite Ha-Motzi (Blessing over the Bread)
- 6) Wave the Lulav while reciting the Lulav Blessing
- 7) Sing Praises to the Lord
- 8) Celebrate with Family and Friends in the Sukkah



**Time to review and summarize this teaching and study.**

Sukkot has a prophetic meaning, awaiting fulfillment. Just as the Day of Ingathering (harvest), Sukkot foreshadows the gathering of the Jewish People in the days of the Messiah's return and reign on earth. All the nations of the earth will come to worship in Jerusalem during Sukkot, the "Feast of Tabernacles" and observe with celebration, G-d Almighty tabernacleing with mankind again.

Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ the Messiah came to "sukkah", "tabernacle" or dwell with us. By doing so Yeshua came to purge our sins away and to redeem us to Himself and the Heavenly Father, G-d Almighty. By Faith, we see the revelation of the true Shekhinah of the Lord in His only begotten Son, Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ the Messiah. We now eagerly await and anticipate Yeshua's return as our warrior King, bringing the Kingdom of G-d with Him to earth as it is in Heaven, setting up His everlasting, eternal Sukkah with us that we may abide with Him forever!

**John 1:12-14 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> *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.*

*YOU HAVE TO BE IN THE WORD,  
FOR THE WORD TO BE IN YOU!*

***Shalom, G-d Bless and Keep you!***

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