

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
LESSON 8 –THE JEWISH FESTIVALS (AUTUMN)

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality...found in Christ. Colossians 2:16-17

We have seen that GOD presents a chronology of the coming of the “He” of Genesis 3:15 through the symbols and worship presented during the Jewish Festivals.

SPRING FEASTS – First, the coming of Messiah ben Joseph. (Fulfilled in Christ as the Suffering Servant)

1. **Feast of Sabbath (Fulfillment of GOD’s promises from Creation)**
2. **Passover and Unleavened Bread (The LORD’s Passion)**
3. **Feast of First Fruits (on the 3rd day after Passover Resurrection Sunday)**
4. **Pentecost (Feast of the 50th day and the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church)**

AUTUMN FEASTS – Second, the coming of Messiah ben David. (Yet to be fulfilled in Christ as the Conquering King)

5. ***Feast of Trumpets***
6. **Day of Atonement**
7. **Feast of Tabernacles**

FEAST #5 - THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS (Rosh Hashana)

Although we do not know *when*, it seems very likely that GOD is telling us to look for the coming of CHRIST at the FEAST OF TRUMPETS (Rosh Hashanah) some time near or during a month of October.

THE 7TH MONTH OF TISHRI (7 symbolizes Spiritual Perfection) has **3 feasts**. Rosh Hashanah - **Feast of Trumpets**; Yum Kippor - **Day of Atonement**; Succhot - **Feast of Tabernacles (Feast of the Ingathering)**

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS (Leviticus 23:23-25, Matthew 24:30-31) announces preparation for the promise of the return of Jesus Christ.

The fact that God placed this feast at this time was intended to remind the people that ***the trumpet will sound and the Lord shall descend***. The trumpet will herald the coming of the Messiah ben David (the conquering or Kingly Messiah).

VARIOUS SYMBOLISMS ALL POINT TO THE 2ND COMING

- Feast of Trumpets is the **New Year's day** of the children of Israel and takes place on the 1st day of Tishri the 7th month, in the fall (between mid to late September and early October on our Roman calendar).
- The blowing of the ram's horn called the people to repentance and reminded them the LORD was in a covenant relationship with Israel.
- Trumpets (shophars) were used later in Israel to call Israel to worship, walk, and war.
- The Feast of Trumpets is prophetic of the future regathering of long dispersed people of Israel (Zechariah 14; Matthew 24:29-31).

THE MYSTERY LANGUAGE OF NOAH

When we studied the story of Noah we learned there is more going on than merely animals going in, two-by-two.

THE SYMBOLISM OF WATER ON THE 1ST DAY OF TISHRI

Gen 8:13 And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth:

Just as we saw how Noah equated and predicted the exact day Christ would be resurrected (17th day of Tishri) with the opening of the ONE DOOR of the ark to a new creation... We now see that something happens to "the waters" on the same day as the Feast of Trumpets.

So, what do "the waters" symbolize?

In the 40 days and 40 nights we see the turbulence of water representing the sinful condition of mankind.

The waters in the great basin in front of the Tabernacle represent the nations of the world. (The basin held up by the twelve oxen represented the 12 tribes taking GOD'S Word to the world...hence the waters representing the peoples of the world.)

The waters flowing from the Temple (Ezekiel's vision) represent the word of GOD going into, once again, the world.

And, in Revelation 17:15 we are told that the water from which the beast arises represents... people and nations and languages.

Therefore, if the waters represent people of the earth, and the waters "were dried up from off the earth" on Rosh Hashanah, then the Second Coming may very well occur at "the Feast of Trumpets".

MORE EVIDENCE

One of the major themes in the Hebrew language associated with Rosh Hashanah is *HaMelech*. This term means, "the King". So, what about "the King"? At Rosh Hashanah, the shofar (trumpet) is blown. **This trumpet is known to Jewish scholars as *the last trump* and is what the Apostle Paul is referencing in 1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17.**

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

EVERYTHING POINTS TO THE SECOND COMING OCCURRING AT ROSH HASHANAH.

Jews firmly believe at this time, the believers in the Messiah who are righteous will be taken to Heaven along with the righteous who have previously died.

Jews believe that at Rosh Hashanah, Messiah ben David will be crowned as King over all the earth.

Is it possible for a Christian to miss how the Autumn Festivals mirror the events surrounding the Second Coming of Messiah ben David (the Conquering King)? How can anyone miss it? GOD lays out the Plan of Salvation so clearly through His Holy Festivals.

FEAST #6 – THE DAY OF ATONEMENT (YUM KIPPOR) THE 10TH DAY OF TISHRI THE 7TH MONTH

For the Jew, **THE DAY OF ATONEMENT** is Yum Kippor. It is found in Leviticus 23:26-32.

THE SABBATH OF SABBATHS

It is called the “Sabbath of Sabbaths” by the Jews. It is the Hebrew annual day of fasting falling on the 10th of Tishri (usually in our October). On this most solemn of days, GOD’S people fast, stand in humility, confess their sinfulness. Why? Because it is the day that the blood of the lamb is sprinkled on the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant.

Aaron and Moses selected two goats. Lots were cast to determine which was to be slain as a sacrifice and which to be the “scapegoat”. The high priest took the blood of the slain goat into the Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle and sprinkled it on the Mercy Seat. This symbolized perfect acceptance by GOD. (Our acceptance).

The blood was then sprinkled 7 TIMES (symbol) before the Ark of the Covenant (the dwelling place of GOD). Now humans may stand before GOD in perfection. Not, from anything they have done but rather from what GOD has done through a sacrifice of blood.

The blood of the slain goat is a beautiful type of Christ’s death as a covering for sin (Romans 3:24-26). The wages of sin *are* death (Romans 6:23). Christ is the sin-bearer and dies in our place (Isaiah 53:4 & Galatians 3:13) to give us life.

UNTIL HE COMES

The Jews are instructed to observe this Holiest of Days year after year ...until “He” comes to become the sacrificial Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world (Isaiah).

But, they miss it. At least most, miss it.

The author of Hebrews is careful to explain that Christ’s sacrifice for our sins occurs not on an annual Day of Atonement any longer that must be repeated every year but ***once for all complete and final...*** (***Hebrews 9:11-12; 24-26; 10:12***).

Where did the author of Hebrews get this idea?

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement" (Leviticus 17:11).

...have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. (Leviticus 25:8)

Celebrate!

FEAST # 7 - THROUGH THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

“The WORD became flesh and TABERNACLED (Greek) among us.” John 1:1-2

We finally come to THE 7TH AND FINAL FEAST created by GOD at Sinai for the purpose of helping us to remember *who we are* as well as, *when* the events leading up to the 2nd Coming of Christ, will occur. This Feast symbolizes our return to Eden.

We are now at **the FEAST OF TABERNACLES** also known as, **the FEAST OF INGATHERING**.

Why does GOD call this the Feast of “**Tabernacles**”?

The Tabernacle was the Tent carried by the Children of Israel through the wilderness (symbol) and where GOD dwelt among them. (symbol)

- While Moses was with the LORD at Mt. Horeb GOD gave him specific information for building of this portable Tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting with GOD.
- As you would expect, every detail of this fascinating structure related to the Covenant, Plan of Redemption and “He” of Genesis 3:15.

SYMBOLS OF THE TABERNACLE

The specific information for building this tent, carried specific symbols.

Brass symbolized Fire, Judgment (It was a metal available at the time and could sustain fire)

Gold symbolized Deity (Always represents kingship therefore, deity)

Silver symbolized Blood (The redemption coin of the Temple was silver because it represented blood. Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces silver. Judas said he had betrayed innocent blood and threw the silver on the floor of the Temple)

Acacia Wood symbolized the cross and the thorn which was also acacia wood. (The sacrifice of the “He” of Genesis 3:15. Also the burning bush was the desert acacia)

White linen symbolized righteousness (The purity of the “He”)

Then in **THE HOLY OF HOLIES** was **THE ARK OF THE COVENANT**, a coffin-like structure that held the Ten Commandments and rod of Aaron.

On top of the Ark was **THE MERCY SEAT** (the word means propitiation/offering). It was solid gold with two cherubim over it.

GOD in the form of **THE SHEKINAH GLORY** entered and hovered over the Mercy Seat.

In a very literal sense, GOD was represented in the midst of His people.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES (Leviticus 23:33-36 and Exodus 23:16) commemorated the time when the children of Israel lived in tents during their wilderness journey. It was celebrated an entire week. The people lived in booths out of doors and heard the reading of the Law.

They were to live under the foliage of the beautiful trees and not in walled cities. God would protect as in Eden. (Lev 23.40)

Note: God promised he would keep the heathen from attacking during the festivals (Ex 34.23-24) and Israel had to trust in His strength.

During these feasts walled cities were not necessary (as it will be in the restored Eden) when the nations will beat their swords into plowshares (Micah 4.3).

They were to sacrifice 70 bullocks (Num 29.12-38) because the original nations of the earth numbered 70. (Gen 10). The feast was celebrating the ingathering of all nations (Edenic language).

THE FEAST OF INGATHERING (SUCCOT)

Suk-kat (Tabernacles) is also called the Feast of Ingathering.

Christ taught that the harvest represents the end of the age. (Matthew 13:39; Revelation 14:15; Joel 3:13). Jeremiah sorrowed for a people who were not a part of the harvest. (Jeremiah 8:18-22).

At Succot, Messianic Jews teach that GOD is gathering both Jews and non-Jews together to accept the Messiah into their lives. GOD's harvest.

WHEN WAS JESUS BORN?

Messianic Jews believe *Yeshua* was born during the festival season of *Sukkot* (Tabernacles). Specifically on the Feast of *Sukkot* (which is Tishrei 15 on the biblical calendar, and is analogous to our September/October). With this in mind, let's look for some evidence of this in the Bible.

In Luke 1:5, Zachariah (*Z'kharyah*) is a priest (*cohen*) of the division of Abijah (*Avijah*). What does this mean? Israel was divided into 24 districts at the time of *Yeshua*. Each of these districts sent two representatives to officiate at the temple during the weeks of the year.

In First Chronicles (*Divery Hayamim*) 24, the first division of the priests would serve in the first week of the year, which would be both in the month of Nisan and the month of Tishrei since both months begin the new year. As we saw earlier in this book, Nisan is the first month in the religious calendar set up by G-d in Exodus (*Shemot*) 12:2 and Tishrei is the first month of the year according to the civil calendar.

During the third week in the month of Nisan, the priests from all 24 districts would come to the temple to help during the week of Passover (*Pesach*). This would also be the case for the festival of Pentecost (*Shavuot*) and for the festival of *Sukkot* (Tabernacles) when all males were required to go to Jerusalem (*Yerushalayim*) as specified by G-d in Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 16:16.

In First Chronicles 24:10, we see that *abijah* was the eighth division or course of priests. The course of *abijah* would minister during the tenth week of the year.

Remember, the weeks of Passover and *Shavuot* would not be counted because all the priests were required to go to Jerusalem then.

In Luke 1:9-10, we see that Zacharias is burning incense. This is done in the room of the temple known as the Holy Place. As the incense (which represents the prayers of G-d's people [Psalm (*Tehillim*) 141:2; Revelation 8:3-4]) is being burned by the priests in the temple, 18 special prayers are prayed.

These 18 prayers would be prayed every day in the temple. One of these prayers is that Elijah (*Eliyahu*) would come. This is important because it was understood by the Jews from the twenty-fifth of Kislev and add eight days for the festival of *Chanukah* plus nine months for Mary's (*Miryam*) pregnancy, this will bring you around the time of the festival of *Sukkot*, or Tishrei 15. On Tishrei 22, known as *Shemini Atzeret* or the eighth day, *Yeshua* was circumcised {Luke 2:22-23; Leviticus [*fayikra*] 12:1-3}.¹⁶
Other Evidences of *Yeshua* _ Birth During *Sukkot*

As we have stated earlier in this chapter, the Feast of *Suk-kot* (Tabernacles) is called "the season of our joy" and "the feast of the nations." With this in mind, in Luke 2: 10 it is written, "And the angel said unto

them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings [*basar* in Hebrew; otherwise known as the gospel] of great joy [*Sukkot* is called the 'season of our joy'], which shall be to all people [*Sukkot* is called 'the feast of the nations']." So, we can see from this that the terminology the angel used to announce the birth of *Yeshua* were themes and messages associated with the Feast of *Sukkot* (Tabernacles).

In Luke 2:12, the babe (*Yeshua*) was wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. The swaddling cloths were also used as wicks to light the 16 vats of oil within the court of the women during the festival of *Sukkot*. So, swaddling cloths are associated with the festival of *Sukkot*.

Notice also in Luke 2:12 that the baby *Yeshua* was laid in a manger. The word *manger* is the Greek word *phatn* 'e. It is the same word translated as "stall" in Luke 13:15. By seeing how the word is used in Luke 13:15, we can see that the Greek word *phatn* 'e means a place for hitching cattle. The Hebrew word for stall is *marbek*, which can be found in the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. " Once again, remember that *Sukkot* is called "the season of our joy." In Matthew 2:2, the rabbis saw the star from the East. Salvation was seen by the Jewish people as coming from the East. *Yeshua* descended from the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5 :5). The tribe of Judah was positioned on the east side of the tab-ernacle of Moses (*Moshe*) in the wilderness. Finally, in Luke 2:32, *Yeshua* is called a light to the Gentiles. Once again, *Sukkot* is called "the festival of lights" and "the festival of all nations.

Therefore, studying and understanding the festival of *Sukkot* and the themes and messages that G-d desired to be conveyed during this festival enables us to read the Bible in a new light; it enables us to understand that ***Yeshua* was born during the season of *Sukkot* and that He is the Star we are all called to see with our (spiritual) eyes!**