



Hag Ha Sukkot

Leviticus 23:33-44

Numbers 29:12-40



Do you know that the Feast of Sukkot is called by several different names? The Feast of Sukkot is often called the Feast of Tabernacles or the Feast of Booths because God commanded native Yisra'elites (Israelites) to build a Sukkah and dwell in it for seven days during this festival. Just as a tabernacle is not a permanent structure a sukkah is a small, temporary hut or booth.

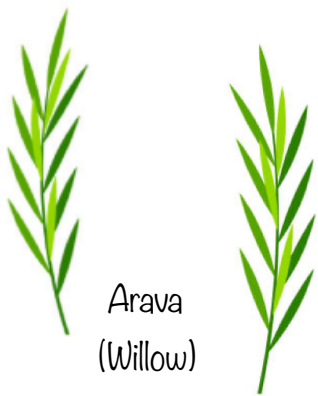
All male Yisra'elites were commanded by God to travel to the city of Jerusalem in order to celebrate the Feast of Sukkot each year at its appointed time. Sukkot always begins on the fifteenth day of Tishrei, which is the seventh month of the year. In Exodus 34:22 this feast is called the Feast of Ingathering because God commanded this festival to begin after all the fruit of the land of Yisra'el had been brought in or harvested. Prayers to God for the blessing of rain were said on the seventh and last day of Sukkot as the season of dew came to an end.

Sukkot is the last of the three Feasts of the LORD which must be celebrated in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) each year. Can you name the first two? If you answered the Feast of Matzah (Unleavened Bread) and the Feast of Shavuot (Weeks), you answered correctly! Which one of these two feasts is also celebrated for seven days?

The first day of Sukkot is a very special day. On this day God commanded a holy convocation to be held with no customary work done. The LORD commanded the Children of Yisra'el to gather the lulav and be joyful before Him on this day. His chosen people's obedience demonstrated they understood He has given them the awesome responsibility of sharing the good news of His glory to the world.

During each of the seven days of Sukkot unblemished bulls, rams and lambs in their first year of life along with their grain offerings were given as burnt offerings to God on the holy altar of sacrifice. A kid goat along with its grain offering and wine offering were also given daily as a sin offering. All these offerings were made to God at His Holy Temple in Jerusalem where He caused His name and presence to dwell in a unique way. The Children of Yisra'el were to spend the entire week of Sukkot in Jerusalem for this festival no matter where they lived in the land.

When a burnt offering is made to God, it is totally consumed by fire, and a pleasing aroma ascends to God in heaven. This aroma pleases God because it demonstrates His redeemed children have complete faith in Him and are willing to obey His Word even if they do not immediately benefit from their obedience.



Arava
(Willow)

In addition to going into the forest to gather wood to build a sukkah, God commanded the Children of Yisra'el to gather four kinds of plants: willow and myrtle branches, a palm branch and a citrus. Once gathered, the hadas, or myrtle leaves, and the arava, or willow leaves, are attached in a unique way to the palm branch which is called a lulav. The lulav is held in one hand while the citrus, or etrog, is held in the other hand.



Hadas
(Myrtle)

The etrog is usually a yellow or green fruit similar to a lime or a lemon. Oftentimes in the Bible the lulav is hinted to as simply branches of trees or palm branches. No matter where the lulav is referenced in Scripture it should remind us that the event taking place is connected to the grace, mercy and loving kindness of the God of Yisra'el (Matthew 21:8-9 and Revelation 7:9-10).



Palm Branch

Lulav



Etrog
(Citrus)

The four plants above are often referred to as the lulav. The Children of Yisra'el were commanded to gather the four plants on the first day of Sukkot and rejoice before the LORD God for seven days. It is customary to wave the lulav in all six directions (forward, right, backward, left, up and down) while rejoicing before the LORD. During the Feast of Sukkot the Children of Yisra'el were to be joyful before the LORD while giving praise and thanksgiving to God for His provision and sustenance. As the nation of Yisra'el obeyed this commandment of God, they testified to all the nations of the world, whether Jew or Gentile, that there is a need for all of humanity to trust, depend upon and have complete faith in the God of Yisra'el Who created all things and provides redemption from sin for all who submit to His Way of salvation.

God commanded the nation of Yisra'el to faithfully celebrate the Feast of Sukkot at its appointed time while living in the land of Yisra'el in order to illuminate themselves as His chosen people. The Children of Yisra'el have been called by God to be a light to all the nations of the world. When the nation of Yisra'el obediently obeys this commandment of God, they will be in the center of God's will. Not only will they be able to receive all the blessings God has in store for them, but they will be a blessing to the entire world.



Four Kinds

All the commandments concerning the Feast of Sukkot were given to Moshe (Moses) by God at Mt. Sinai. After God redeemed the Children of Yisra'el and all those attached to them from Egypt, He gave them everything they needed to worship, serve and honor Him in the Land of Promise. Unfortunately, approximately one year after God redeemed His people from Egypt, they lacked faith in Him. A lack of faith in God always leads to disobedience.

Only two of the twelve spies who were sent into the land of Canaan (Promised Land) came back with a faithful report. Due to their lack of faith in the Word of God the Children of Yisra'el desired to select a new leader and return to Egypt! They feared the inhabitants of Canaan instead of fearing the LORD God! Because of this rebellion against God, ten spies died by the plague, and the remainder of the 603,550 men counted in the census died in the wilderness over the next thirty-nine years. These men would never set foot in the Promised Land to receive the blessings God desired to give them, nor could they fulfill God's purpose for their lives by being a blessing to others. Only their children, the next generation, would enter the Land of Promise after wandering for forty years in the Wilderness (Numbers 14).

God sustained the next generation of Yisra'elites, who their parents feared would be victims, for forty years in the desert as they lived in temporary dwellings. God supplied bread from heaven for them to eat and they drank water from the Rock that followed them. Their clothes and sandals did not wear out and God protected them from all danger.

The Feast of Sukkot is a time for everyone who has been redeemed by God to remember that we are called to be faithful to Him, to trust Him and depend on Him because only God is able to supply all our needs. We should never rely on what we think, how we feel or what we see to determine our behavior. It is very important to remember that faith comes by hearing the Word of God and responding to it accordingly. Only when we demonstrate our dependency on God will we be located firmly in His Will because we cannot enter the Kingdom of God by our own efforts. The only way we can become holy and pure enough to enter the Kingdom of God is through having faith in and depending completely upon the work of redemption Messiah Yeshua achieved on the cross!



Numbers in the Bible



Do you know that numbers are significant in Scripture? They can help us find deeper meaning to God's Word. For instance, the number 7 means holiness, sanctification or being set apart for a purpose. When the number 7 is doubled (14), it indicates a double blessing from God or God's providence. The number 10 means complete, wholeness or in a general sense entirety.

Read Numbers 29:13-34 carefully, and draw a line from the name of the animal below to the total number that were sacrificed during the seven days of the Feast of Sukkot.

Bulls	Rams	Lambs	Goats
24	98	14	44
12	70	7	32
			10

Now that you have calculated the correct total for each animal sacrificed during the Feast of Sukkot does this information help you understand God's deep desire to supply all our needs according to His abundant riches? All we need to do is have faith in Him as we learn to trust and depend on the truth of His Word!

Do You Know?

- Seventy people groups or nations descended from Noah after the flood.
- The need to believe, trust and depend on God applies to all the nations of the world.
- The message of salvation through God's grace is available to anyone who believes, trusts and depends on His provision.





Hoshana Rabbah

The twenty first day of the seventh month

Do you know that Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) traveled to Yerushalayim for the Feast of Sukkot every year of His life in obedience to the commandments of God. However, the last time Yeshua celebrated Sukkot He did not travel with His family and friends as He normally did, rather He went up to Yerushalayim in secret. He did this because He knew that the leaders of Judaism wanted to kill Him!

Yeshua was not willing to die during the Feast of Sukkot because this was not what His Father had sent Him to earth to do. Father God sent His One and Only Son, Messiah Yeshua, from heaven to earth as both God and man to die on the first feast of the year in order to **free** the world from the condemnation of sin. Do you remember the name of the first feast of God? If you answered Pesach (Passover), you answered correctly!

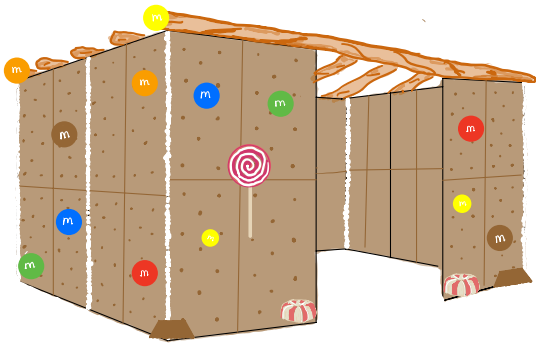
It is important for us to understand that Messiah Yeshua came from heaven to earth as the Lamb of God! Yeshua's resurrection from the dead, which was performed by Father God following His crucifixion and burial, testifies to the truth that Father God was pleased with His Son's obedient submission to perform His will. Messiah Yeshua's total dependence and trust in His Father resulted in His resurrection from the dead. Because Messiah Yeshua endured the curse of death, which is the condemnation of the law for sin, we may have eternal life when we trust, believe, have faith in and depend on Him.

Although the seventh and last day of the Feast of Sukkot is not a Sabbath day of rest, it is a very special and significant day. In the days of Yeshua's lifetime it was the day when the High Priest would make a special prayer for rain. The season for dew which began on the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread had ended. With no more dew falling from heaven rain would be essential to both give and sustain life.

After Messiah Yeshua arrived safely in Yerushalayim for the Feast of Sukkot, He began teaching in the Temple courts. Everyone was amazed as Yeshua demonstrated He was the Son of God by answering all the people's questions with Scriptural truth and complete understanding of each group's beliefs. On Hoshana Rabbah as the High Priest was about to pray on Yisra'el's behalf for rain, Yeshua stepped forward and spoke these words:

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” John 7:37-38

Do you know that when you trust, believe and depend on the Lamb of God
He sent from heaven you are demonstrating your faith in Father God?



Sukkah Sweet Treat

Build an edible sukkah sweet treat! Be sure to finish building your edible sukkah before the 15th day of the 7th month, then give thanks and praise to God as you nibble on your sukkah and enjoy the sweetness of dwelling with Him

Here's what you'll need to get started:

- 1 piece of card stock or cardboard (at least 11x8)
- Piping bag
- 1 box of honey graham crackers (9 sheets)
- Long edibles like breadsticks, twizzlers or candy straws
- All your favorite candy and crackers for decorations



Edible Glue Recipe:

- Ingredients:** 3 large egg whites, 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar, 4 cups of powdered sugar
- Beat egg whites and cream of tartar in large bowl with a whisk until foamy.
 - Add powdered sugar gradually and beat on med/high speed for 7-10 minutes until very fluffy.
 - Immediately spoon into piping bag and use as glue to construct the walls of your sukkah and attach candy for the roof and decorations.

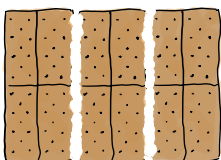


Directions: Attach graham cracker panels together with edible glue (EG) to build your sukkah. Allow to set and secure to card stock or cardboard base using EG. Let sukkah set until firm. Attach breadsticks across top with EG to form the roof. Now decorate with your favorite goodies using the edible glue to secure them.

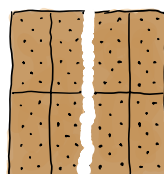
Things to know when building a Sukkah:

It is traditional for a sukkah to have at least three walls. The roof must not be made of solid material. Branches of trees are used to form the roof of a sukkah. This allows sunlight to shine through the roof during the day and allows the moon and stars to be seen through the roof at night.

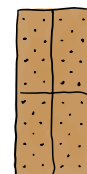
Back Wall
(x1)



Plus side walls
(x2)



Plus door frame
(x2)

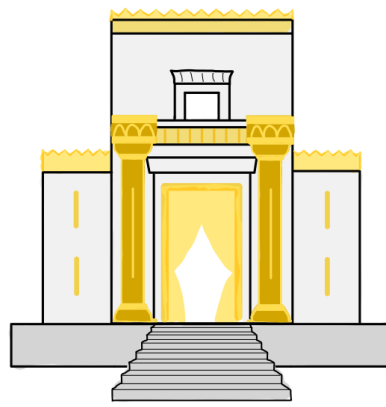


Plus roof



The Kingdom of God

Zechariah 14:1-21



Do you know that the Only Son of God, Messiah Yeshua, is returning from heaven to earth to judge the world? Once He has judged the world, He will establish the Kingdom of God in the land of Yisra'el. This Kingdom is often called the Millennial Kingdom because it will exist for one thousand years before God destroys the world with fire and creates the New Heaven and the New Earth. During His one thousand year reign from Zion (Jerusalem), Messiah Yeshua will rule with a rod of iron from the Temple of God (Psalm 2, Revelation 2:27 and Revelation 19:15).

At the end of the Babylonian exile God sent His prophet Zechariah to speak His Word to the Children of Yisra'el. Do you know that the name Zechariah means God remembers? God remembers the covenant He made with Avraham (Abraham), Itzchak (Isaac), and Ya'kov (Jacob) even when their descendants forget and lack faith in Him.

Do you know that God supernaturally created the nation of Yisra'el and renamed Avraham's grandson Ya'kov Yisra'el? He promised Avraham a son in his old age, and when his wife Sarah was well beyond the age of having children, she conceived and gave birth to Avraham's only promised son, Itzchak. For the sake of His Name God will fulfill His covenant promises to Yisra'el.

In Zechariah 14:16-21 the prophet spoke the Words of God concerning the Feast of Sukkot during the Millennial Kingdom. A remnant from all the nations who come against Yerushalayim will totally depend upon God by placing their faith in Messiah Yeshua as their LORD and King. As they witness Yeshua's second coming to earth they will look upon Him Who was pierced and repent of their sin. Thereafter, they and their offspring will be required to keep the Feast of Sukkot during the Millennial reign of Messiah Yeshua. Their obedience to celebrate Sukkot at its appointed time and place will demonstrate their dependence and faith in God. Any nation who does not participate by coming to Yerushalayim to worship the King, Messiah Yeshua, for the Feast of Sukkot will be justly punished by Him. Messiah Yeshua will withhold the blessing of rain from that nation, and He will visit them with the plagues of Egypt!

In order to worship God we must have complete faith in Him. We are able to demonstrate our faith in Him when we obey His Word. Father God sent His One and Only Son, Messiah Yeshua, from heaven to earth the first time as the Lamb of God to die in our place. Anyone who applies His blood to their life is given eternal life because Messiah Yeshua is eternal. Dependence on His death, burial and resurrection for eternal life immediately gives the believer the indwelling Holy Spirit in his heart. Do you know that rivers of living water flow from God the Holy Spirit?

God alone is our Redeemer, Provider, and Protector. God has given us His Feast of Sukkot to help us remember our covenant with Him. If you have not already done so will you depend completely on God by placing your faith in Messiah Yeshua, the One and Only Son of God and the coming King of the world?

