

Teaching series by Pastor Trey Graham



BIBLICAL HOLIDAYS

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot

September 2022

It was on Mount Sinai that God gave Moses the dates and observances of the seven feasts. Here are their names:

1. Passover (*Pesach*) - *Nisan 14-15*
2. Unleavened Bread (*Chag Hamotzi*) - *Nisan 15-22*
3. First Fruits (*Yom habikkurim*) - *Nisan 16-17*
4. Pentecost (*Shavu'ot*) - *Sivan 6-7*
5. Trumpets (*Yom Teru'ah*) - *Tishri 1*
6. Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) - *Tishri 10*
7. Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) - *Tishri 15-22*

25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Rosh Hashana					

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Yom Kippur	6	7	8
9 	10 Sukkot begins	11	12	13	14	15
16 Sukkot ends	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Feast of Booths

Sukkot סוכות




Sukkot marks the conclusion of the Fall Holidays and is the last of the three Shelosh Regalim (שלוש רגלים), the three annual pilgrimage festivals: Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost), and Sukkot (Booths/Tabernacles). It can be argued that Sukkot is the climax of all the festivals in Scripture: Everything leads to it as a culmination in God's prophetic plan. It is interesting to compare the use of words relating to *simchah* [joy] in the description of these three festivals. Regarding Pesach, the word *simchah* does not appear at all (Deut. 17:1-8); regarding Shavuot, it appears only once (Deut. 17:11); but, regarding Sukkot, *simchah* appears several times.

Leviticus 23



The Lord spoke again to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord’s **appointed times** [מוֹעֲדִים moedim] which you shall proclaim as **holy convocations**—My appointed times are these:’
Leviticus 23:1-2

The term “feasts” [מוֹעֲדִים moedim] in Hebrew literally means “appointed times” and in Scripture the feasts often are called “holy convocations.” They are times God has appointed for holy purposes.



Sukkot/Feast of Booths

Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘**On the fifteenth of this seventh month** (Tishri) is the **Feast of Booths** (Sukkot סֻכּוֹת) for seven days to the Lord. On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind. For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the Lord. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to the Lord; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work.” Leviticus 23:33-36

*15th of Tishri in 2022 begins Monday night, October 10



Sukkot/Feast of Booths

“These are the appointed times [moedim מועדים] of the Lord which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, to present offerings by fire to the Lord—burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each day’s matter on its own day—besides those of the sabbaths of the Lord, and besides your gifts and besides all your votive and freewill offerings, which you give to the Lord. On exactly the **fifteenth day of the seventh month**, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the Lord for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day.”

Leviticus 23:37-39



“Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful **trees** (etrog), **palm branches** (lulav) and boughs of **leafy trees** (hadas) and **willows** of the brook (aravah), and **you shall rejoice** [verb שמח *samach*] before the Lord your God for seven days.”
Leviticus 23:40



- 1. Etrog (citron fruit) 2. Lulav (frond of date palm)**
3. Hadas (myrtle bough) 4. Aravah (willow branch)

The Four Species ארבעת המינים *arba'at ha-minim*

- An observance carried out each day of Sukkot except Shabbat is the **Four Species** (Arba Minim): an **etrog** (citron), a **lulav** (palm frond), three **hadassim** (myrtle twigs) and two **aravot** (willow twigs).
- Facing east where the Temple in Jerusalem once stood, the Four Species are then shaken in all six directions: right, left, forward, up, down and backward.
- They are held together and a blessing is recited over them to bless the unity of all people, which is emphasized on Sukkot.
- The lulav, hadassim and aravot are first taken up with the right hand and then the etrog is taken with the left hand.
- A blessing is recited over the Four Species: **“Blessed are You, God ... who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to take the lulav.”**

Why these four?

Etrog symbolizes the heart (wisdom).

Lulav symbolizes the backbone (uprightness).

Hadas symbolizes the eyes (enlightenment).

Aravah symbolizes the lips (prayer).



- 1. Etrog (citron fruit) 2. Lulav (frond of date palm)**
3. Hadas (myrtle bough) 4. Aravah (willow branch)

Sukkot/Feast of Booths

“You shall thus celebrate it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. **You shall live in booths** (Sukkot סֻכּוֹת) for seven days; all the native-born in Israel **shall live in booths**, so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel **live in booths** when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.’ ” So Moses declared to the sons of Israel the appointed times [moedim מועדים] of the Lord. Leviticus 23:41-44



סוכה sukkah booth

The sukkah walls can be constructed of any material (wood, canvas, aluminum siding, sheets). The walls can be free-standing or include the sides of a building or porch. The roof must be of organic material, known as *s'chach* in Hebrew, such as leafy tree overgrowth, *s'chach* mats or palm fronds, to provide shade and to allow the person to see the stars. It is customary to decorate the interior of the sukkah with hanging decorations of the four species.

Source: Wikipedia

סוכה sukkah booth



Sukkah in Melissa, TX
Home of the Easton family



Later, the Lord said to Moses...

“Then **on the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation**; you shall do no laborious work, and you shall observe a feast to the Lord for seven days.”

Numbers 29:12


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[Later...] The Lord said to Moses, “You shall celebrate the **Feast of Booths** (Sukkot סֻכּוֹת) **seven days** after you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; and **you shall rejoice** [verb שָׂמַח *samach*] in your feast [שְׂמֵחָה בְּחֻגְךָ], you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns.”

Deuteronomy 16:13-14



The Lord said to Moses, “Seven days you shall celebrate a 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 will be altogether joyful** [adjective שְׂמֵחַ *sameach*].” Deuteronomy 16:15



The sages call Sukkot “z’mān simchateinu,” the “season of our joy.” In ancient Israel, the joy of Sukkot was so renowned that it came to be called simply "the Feast" (1 Kings 12:32). Sukkot was a time when sacrifices were offered for the healing of the nations (Num. 29:12-40), and it was also a time when (on Sabbatical years) the Torah would be read publicly to all the people (Deut. 31:10-13).

From a spiritual perspective, Sukkot corresponds to the joy of knowing your sins were forgiven (during Yom Kippur) and also recalls God’s miraculous provision and care after the deliverance from bondage in Egypt (Lev. 23:43). Prophetically, Sukkot anticipates the coming kingdom of Messiah Yeshua wherein all the nations shall come up to Jerusalem to worship the LORD during the festival (see Zech. 14:16). Today we celebrate Sukkot as a time to honor God’s Sheltering Presence and Provision for us for the start of the New Year.

Source: Hebrew for Christians




“Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, at the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** (Pesach פֶּסַח Passover) and at the **Feast of Weeks** (Shavuot שבועות Pentecost) and at the **Feast of Booths** (Sukkot סֻכּוֹת), and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.”
Deuteronomy 16:16-17

*Shelosh Regalim = 3 Pilgrimage Festivals



Then Moses commanded them, saying, “At the end of every seven years, at the time of the year of remission of debts, at the **Feast of Booths**, when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place which He will choose, you shall read this law in front of all Israel in their hearing. Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the Lord your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law. Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live on the land which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.” Deuteronomy 31:10-13



Ezekiel 37

Sukkot is a biblical
holiday for the Jews




“Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I will take **the sons of Israel** from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but **I will deliver them** from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And **they will be My people, and I will be their God.**” ’ ”

Ezekiel 37:21-23

“My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them. **They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant**, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons’ sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever. **I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them.** And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. **My dwelling place** [מִשְׁכָּן mishkan] also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when **My sanctuary** is in their midst forever.” ’ ” Ezekiel 37:24-28

Nehemiah 8

Sukkot is a biblical holiday for the Jewish exiles who returned to the Holy Land from captivity in Babylon


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Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, **“This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.”** For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for **this day is holy to our Lord**. Do not be grieved, for **the joy of the LORD is your strength**.” So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.” All the people went away to eat, to drink, to send portions and to celebrate a great **festival**, because they understood the words which had been made known to them.

Nehemiah 8:9-12



Then on the second day the heads of fathers' households of all the people, the priests and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe that they might gain insight into the words of the law. They found written in the law how the LORD had commanded through Moses that **the sons of Israel should live in booths during the feast of the seventh month**. So they proclaimed and circulated a proclamation in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the hills, and bring olive branches and wild olive branches, myrtle branches, palm branches and branches of other leafy trees, **to make booths**, as it is written." Nehemiah 8:13-15



So the people went out and brought them and **made booths [סֻכּוֹת sukkot] for themselves**, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. The entire assembly of those who had returned from the captivity **made booths and lived in them**. The sons of Israel had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day. And **there was great rejoicing** [noun שְׂמֵחָה simchah]. He [Ezra] read from the book of the law of God daily, from the first day to the last day. And they celebrated the **feast** seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance. Nehemiah 8:16-18

*Simcha שְׂמֵחָה has same root letters as מָשִׁיחַ Messiah



Sukkot/Feast of Booths in the New Testament

John chapters
6, 7, 8, 9

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Sukkot/Feast of Booths

- Living in temporary booths during Sukkot reminds people of how temporary life is. During Sukkot we remember that God had the Israelites live in booths when He brought them out of Egypt and that God freed them from physical slavery when He brought them out of Egypt.
- God gave food and water to their physical bodies in the desert when He gave them manna and quail.
- Jesus freed us from slavery to sin when He died and rose again.
- Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

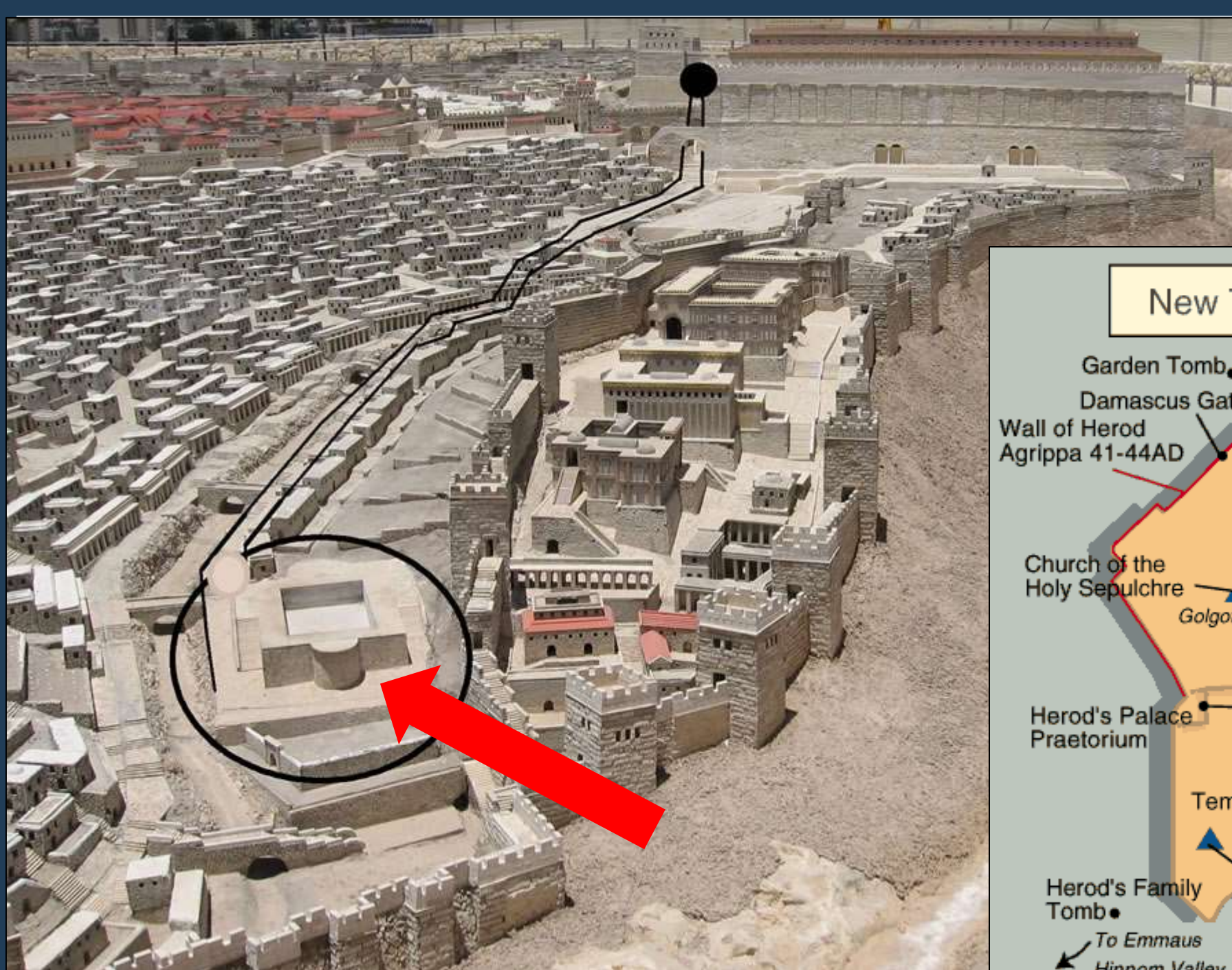
Now the feast of the Jews,
the **Feast of Booths**, was near.
John 7:2

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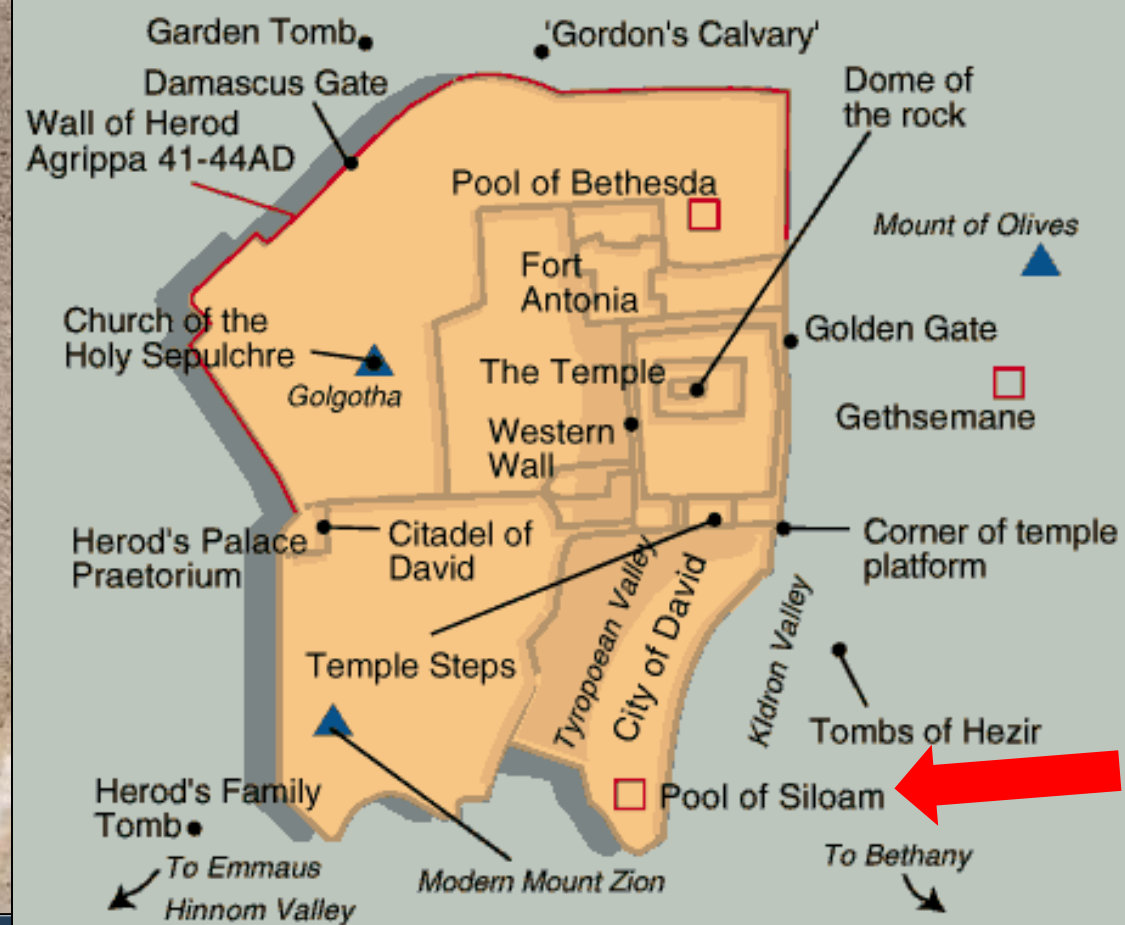
- Every day during Sukkot in Temple times, the priests, along with a procession, would go down to the **Pool of Shiloach (Siloam)**, which was fed by the Gihon Spring, the original source of Jerusalem's water. At the pool of natural running water, they would fill a golden pitcher with water while singing Isaiah 12:3

“Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation.”

- The water was then brought back to the altar in the Temple to accompany the morning sacrifice. This pouring of the water on the altar is called **Nishuch haMayim** (Water Libation Ceremony), “Pouring of the Water.”
- **This water offering not only celebrated the hope of winter rains in Israel, but also symbolized the future Messianic Redemption** when the Spirit of God (symbolized by the water) is poured out upon the nation of Israel.



New Testament Jerusalem





Pool of Siloam

Water Libation Ceremony

Israel's rainy season is from November through March. The Feast of Tabernacles gratefully acknowledges the harvest and beseeches God for the coming moisture necessary for future harvests. Each morning of the feast, the high priest pours a pitcher of water from the Pool of Siloam into a special basin in the inner court of the Temple as a visual prayer for rain. At the same time, a drink offering of wine is poured into another basin. Three blasts of a silver trumpet follow, and the people listen as the Levites sing the *Hallel* (Psalm 113-118). The congregation waves palm branches toward the altar and sing Psalm 118:25: "Lord, save us! Lord, please grant us success!"

The Promised Messiah


- O Lord, do save, we beseech You; O Lord, we beseech You, do send prosperity! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; we have blessed you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and He has given us light...
Psalm 118:25-27a
- Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road. The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!" Matthew 21:8-9

Now on the last day, the **great day of the feast**, John 7:37a

- The seventh and final day of Sukkot is called *Hoshanah Rabbah*. Hoshana comes from two words **hoshah nah**, meaning "Bring us salvation, please," and rabbah, meaning great. This prayer to "bring salvation" was made by the priests every day of Sukkot.
- During the first six days of the feast, the priests would "place willow branches alongside the altar with the heads of the willow branches bent over the altar" to add joy to the holiday. The priests would then sound the shofar, circle the altar once, and say, "**Anah Hashem hoshiah nah. Anah Hashem hatzlichah nah** (Please, God, bring us salvation. Please, God, bring us success)."
- On Hoshanah Rabbah, "The Great Hoshanah," the priests circled the altar seven times.

Now on the last day, the **great day of the feast [Sukkot]**, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is **thirsty**, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of **living water**.’ ” But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:37-39

*Jesus the Messiah offered the people spiritual (eternal) water during the Water Libation Ceremony of Sukkot




- Another fascinating ceremony associated with the **Feast of Booths (Sukkot)** involved a Temple Light Show. Each afternoon four huge menorahs illuminated the court of the Temple and the Levites would play music and dance before the lamps with burning torches in their hands. It is said that the light from these menorahs was so bright it penetrated every courtyard in Jerusalem. This festivity would last all night until dawn.
- The light of the menorahs had two meanings: the first was symbolizing the Glory of God that had filled the first Temple (1 Kings 8:10-11). The second was anticipating the “Great Light” who would soon come and bring light to those who were spiritually dead and dwelling in darkness (Isaiah 9:2).


- Perhaps it was during the light celebration, or when the lights were extinguished on the eighth day, that Jesus said for all to hear, “**I am the light of the world;** he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12
- The crowd understood that Jesus was proclaiming that He is the Great Light who Isaiah (in chapters 9 and 60) said would come, and is God in the flesh—the Glory of the Temple.

Jesus Performed A Miracle Healing During Sukkot

As He (Jesus) passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the **Light of the world.**” John 9:1-5




When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of **Siloam**” (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing. John 9:6-7

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Pool of Siloam

Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?” Others were saying, “This is he,” still others were saying, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the one.” So they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to **Siloam** and wash’; so I went away and washed, and I received sight.” John 9:8-11



With this miracle Jesus validated everything He had said and done during the Feast of Booths (Sukkot) in Jerusalem.

By doing the impossible, He proved He was God in the flesh—the true dispenser of the Holy Spirit and the only source of light and life.

Sukkot is a Holiday for All of Us


Then it will come about that any who are left of **all the nations** that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the **Feast of Booths**.

Zechariah 14:16



Sukkot is a Holiday for All of Us

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, **from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and **palm branches [lulav] were in their hands**; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” ... “For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His **tabernacle** over them.” Revelation 7:9-10, 15



Who is the Messiah we worship on Sukkot?

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1
 - And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14
 - The word “dwelt” is the Greek verb σκηνόω *skenoo* which means “to fix one’s tabernacle, have one’s tabernacle, abide (or live) in a tabernacle (or tent), **to tabernacle**; to dwell.”
 - So that verse teaches... **the Word became flesh, and *tabernacled* among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14**
 - Messiah Jesus is the divine Word of God who left heaven to dwell (to tabernacle) with His followers!
- 