

WORDS OF
JOY

Jeremiah 15:16




FIRST MELISSA

Theme verse for this teaching series

Your words were found and I ate them,
and **Your words became for me a joy**
and the delight of my heart; for I have
been called by Your name, O Lord God of
hosts. Jeremiah 15:16

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

2021 SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Rosh Hashana begins	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Yom Kippur begins	16		
19 	20 Sukkot begins	21	22	23		
26	27	28	29	30		

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

Fall Feasts

Feast of Booths

סוכות Sukkot

Deuteronomy 16

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, 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. **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 שָׂמֵחַ *sameach*].”

Deuteronomy 16:13-15

“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

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Leviticus 23

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

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 (Tishrei) 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 Tishrei in 2021 begins tomorrow night, September 20

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).
- They are bound together in such a way that they can be held together easily.
- 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.”**

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

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 מוֹעֲדִים] 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

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16



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

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

“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** 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

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Nehemiah 8

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

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

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

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** [סִפָּה **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 שִׂמְחָה 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 שִׂמְחָה has same root letters as מְשִׁיחַ Messiah

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Sukkot/Feast of Booths in the New Testament

John chapters
6, 7, 8, 9

Sukkot/Feast of Booths

- 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
- Living in temporary booths during Sukkot reminds people of how temporary life is. The holiday has become a time of giving, especially food to the needy, sharing the bounty the Lord has given.
- 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.
- Jesus freed us from slavery to sin when He died and rose again. God gave food and water to their physical bodies in the desert when He gave them manna and quail.

Sukkot/Feast of Booths in the New Testament

Now the feast of the Jews,
the **Feast of Booths**, was near.

John 7:2

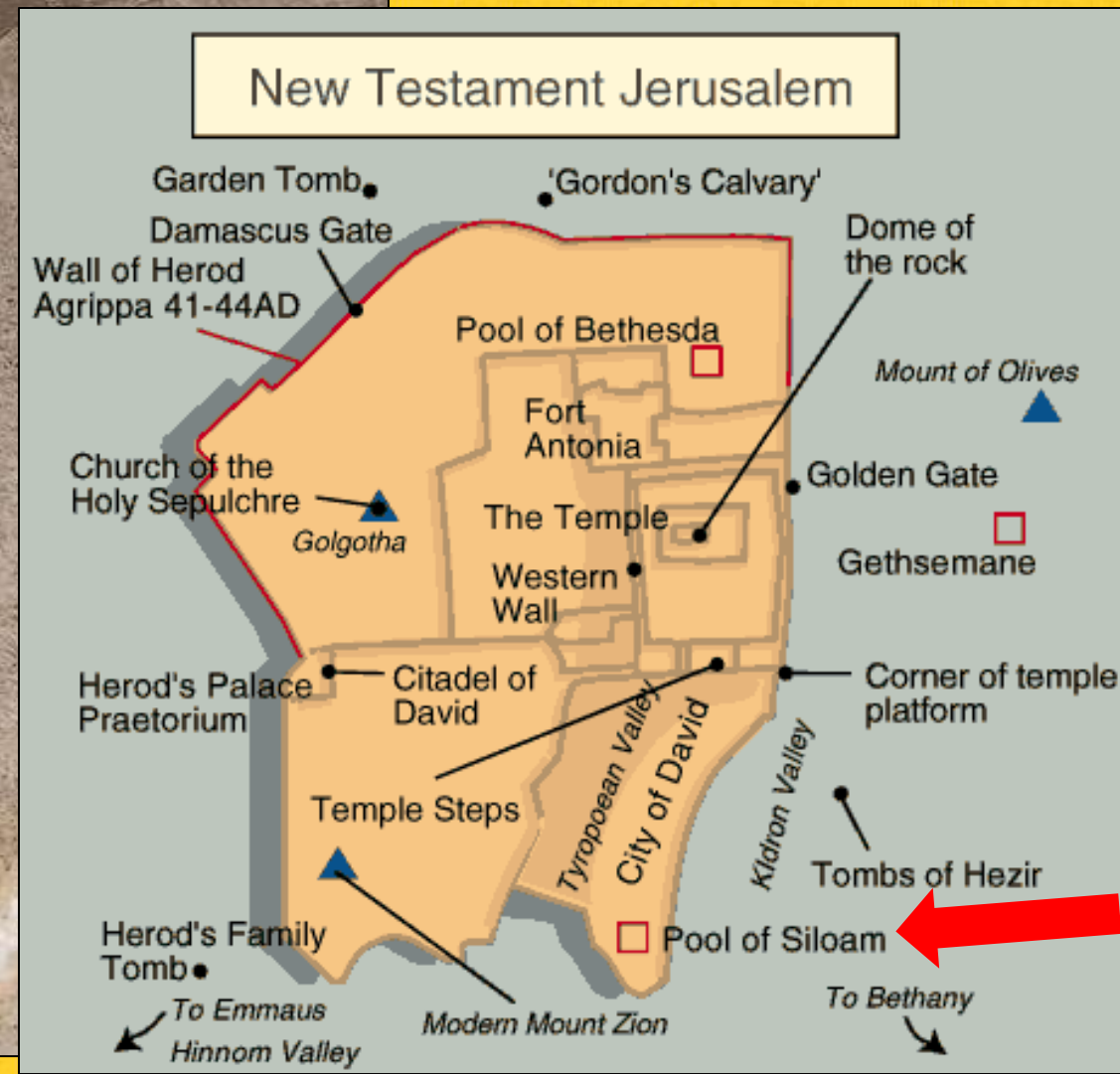
The Water Libation Ceremony

- In Temple times, a special **Water Libation** (offering) ceremony took place daily during Sukkot.
- Every day, 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), literally “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.

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16





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 actually 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.

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Now on the last day, the **great day of the feast**, 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

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

- 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 said would come, and is God in the flesh—the Glory of the Temple (see John 1:14).

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

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. 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.” They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

John 9:6-12

On Sukkot, Jesus Affirmed Who He Was

With this miracle Jesus validated everything He had said and done during the Feast of 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.

<https://int.icej.org/susans-blog/when-jesus-attended-feast-tabernacles>

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found and I ate them, and **Your words became for me a joy** and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts. Jeremiah 15:16

Jesus said, “**These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.**” John 15:11

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

4 Keys to True Simcha (Joy) during Sukkot

1. Have a clear conscience

- Get right with God – the purpose of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
- Forgive yourself
- Forgive others

2. Comparative Happiness (Joy)

- Leviticus 23:43 says remember that you were delivered from Egypt
- Compare your life now to what it was, what it could have been when you were slaves and when you were in the desert
- Some of the saddest people in studies were Olympic silver medalists
- Orient your perspective in the right direction... you could be a slave in Egypt now

4 Keys to True Simcha (Joy) during Sukkot

3. Enjoy simple living with the people you love

- Happiness is found in a simple hut (sukkah)
- Love and enjoy the basics (simplicity of life)

4. Happiness is found in pursuit of a noble goal

- Happiness is found in walking through the desert toward the Land of Israel
- Progress = Happiness
- Every step has a purpose
- Sukkot celebrates the generation in the desert who **never made it into the Promised Land**
- Celebrate a life well lived because it is focused on God

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

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** in your feast, 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. **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.**”

Deuteronomy 16:13-15

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Connect the dots to find real Joy

- 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 us as His followers!

The Lord said to Moses, “Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, **that I may dwell among them**.... There I will meet with you; and **from above the mercy seat**, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, **I will speak to you** about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel.”

Exodus 25:8, 22

Apostle/Rabbi Paul wrote... “being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in **Christ Jesus**; whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation** [ἱλαστήριον *hilasterion*] in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed” Romans 3:24-25

ἱλαστήριον *hilasterion* is a Greek noun translated as “propitiation” or “mercyseat.” Definition: relating to an appeasing or expiating, having placating or expiating force; a means of appeasing or expiating

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

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.**” Deuteronomy 16:13-15

Jesus said, “**These things I have spoken to you** so that My **joy** may be in you, and that your **joy** may be made full.” John 15:11

Celebrating Feast of Booths/Sukkot Today

- Jesus is the Promised Messiah
- Jesus is the King above all kings
- Jesus is the source of true **joy**
- Are you prepared for His arrival?
- Will you surrender your heart to Him?