

**THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES**  
by Pr. Abri Brancken – 16 Oct 2016

**A QUICK RECAP OF TWO WEEKS AGO**

**FACTS ABOUT THE 7 FEASTS**

- There are 7 Biblical Feasts
- They are all celebrated within 7 months
- Three(3) were mandatory feast in which all the men had to travel to Jerusalem (Passover, Shavuot, Sukkot)
- The Feasts tell the story of God's plan with the human race (salvation)
- All 7 of the Feasts point towards Jesus Christ
- The Feasts are rehearsals and blueprints
- The Feasts help us to refocus on God. It helps to preserve our faith

**FEASTS OVERVIEW**

*And the Lord said to Moses, say to the children of Israel, These are the fixed **feasts** of the Lord, which you will keep for holy **meetings**: these are my feasts."*

*Lev 23:1-2*

The word "Feasts" in Hebrew is "Moade" - "seasons" - Ha-moa-diem ( [המועד](#) )

Moade Meaning: "an appointment, that is, a fixed time or season; specifically a festival;"

The word "Meetings" in Hebrew is "Miqra".

Miqra Meaning: "public gatherings; rehearsal for the future; exercise for the real thing!"

The Feasts serve as blueprints, a coming together to look at the blueprint which points towards the real event, which is Jesus Christ.

Now, let's take a closer look at the last of the 7 feast, the Feast of Tabernacles.

**SCRIPTURE**

***Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep a feast to Jehovah seven days. On the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. And you shall take the fruit of majestic trees for yourselves on the first day, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the valley. And you shall rejoice before Jehovah your God seven days. And you shall keep it a feast to Jehovah seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall keep it in the seventh month. You shall live in booths seven days. All that are born Israelites shall live in booths, so that your generations may know that I made the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am Jehovah Your God. - Leviticus 23:39-43, MKJV***

**GOD DELIVERED ISRAEL FROM EGYPT**

The Feast of Tabernacles was instituted by God as a way of reminding the Israelites, throughout all their generations, that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was the One who delivered them from slavery in Egypt. The Feast of Tabernacles is significant in that it foreshadows the work and ministry of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. Its truths can be applied to all of our lives. The Messiah is the One leading those who believe in Him out of spiritual bondage and slavery towards the Promise Land, which is Himself.

It is the final harvest of the year and the Hebrews would bring fruit to the Temple in Jerusalem.

### **TRUTH NO 1 – “BOOTHS”**

#### **THEY HAD TO LIVE IN BOOTHS**

During Sukkot, the Israelites are required to leave the comfort of their homes. Each family has to build a Sukkah or Booth. For seven days they have to live in this temporary dwelling place. A Sukkah is a three-sided structure with its roof made of palm leaves. The roof had to be made in such a way that you were able to see the stars when sleeping at night.

#### **OUR LIVES ARE TEMPORARY HERE ON EARTH**

Also, living in booths reminded them that their lives on earth is temporal. The booths were temporary dwellings. The apostle Peter reminds us as believers in Jesus that we too are but pilgrims here on earth. Our lives on earth is temporary and therefore it is important that we live our lives focused on the heavenly things, that which is eternal.

***Dearly beloved, I exhort you as temporary residents and pilgrims to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,*** - 1 Peter 2:11

***For we know that when this tent we live in - our body here on earth is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever*** – 2 Corinthians 5:1, GNB.

### **TRUTH NO 2 – “REJOICE”**

Thou wilt show me the path of life: In thy presence is fulness of joy (Shimchah); In thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. ASV - Psalm 16:11

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!” - Philipians 4:4

Abiding joy in the Lord should be the aim of every Christian. To rejoice in God is not a feeling, but an act of obedience.

#### **Why does God want us to rejoice?**

We rejoice because God is our deliverer!

We rejoice because our lives are secure in Him!

We rejoice because He holds our future!

We rejoice because of the blessings of His goodness upon us!

We rejoice because it demonstrates our faith in God & who He is!

We rejoice because God will Tabernacle with us in fullness!

### **TRUTH NO 3 – “THE SPECIES”**

#### **The Four Species**

***And you shall take the fruit of majestic (goodly) trees for yourselves on the first day, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the valley. And you shall rejoice before Jehovah your God seven days.*** Lev 23:40 MKJV

The Israelites had to take the branches of three types of trees and the produce of “goodly trees” and they had to wave them before the Lord as a thank offering.

The three type of branches were:

- a. **Palm** branches (called a lulav).
- b. **Myrtle** (called hadasim).
- c. **Willow** (called aravot).
- d. **Etrog** (lemon-like fruit, also called citron in some areas).

Another element that plays an important part is the fruit or product of “goodly trees”, symbolised by the Etrog. The Etrog was symbolic of the fruit of the promised land. (When we remain in Jesus, who is our true Promised Land, we will bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.)

### **Symbolism of the “Species”**

#### **Palm Branch:**

Taste comes from it, but no smell

**Symbolises** - The person who has a good heart, but is lacking in good deeds

#### **Myrtle Branch:**

Has a smell, but no taste

**Symbolises** – A person with some good deeds, but not a good heart.

#### **Willow Branch:**

No smell and no taste.

**Symbolises** – A person without a good heart or deeds

#### **The Etrog:**

Taste and smells good

**Symbolises** – A person who has a good heart and good deeds.

They wave the 4 species to the North, East, South and West, calling all people of the world to rejoice before God.

#### **The Palm Branch:**

Represents the spine.

#### **The Willow Branch:**

Represents the eyes

#### **Myrtle Branch:**

Represents the eyes

#### **The Etrog:**

Represents the heart

My whole being must rejoice before God.

### **TRUTH NO 4 – “WATER & WINE PRAYER”**

Two aspects of the Temple service stand out during the Feast of Tabernacles.

#### **The pouring out of water in the Temple**

During Temple times, a specially appointed Priest would go to the Pool of Siloam (close to Temple Mount) to collect water there. He would then bring it back to the High Priest who would then take the golden pitcher of water from the Priest and will begin to pour the water out into a basin at the foot of the altar. This was done with joyful thanksgiving. From another pitcher, wine was poured out into the same basin at the foot of the

altar. The water and the wine would then mix and together it flowed back through special pipes to the Brook of Kidron. The joy in which this ceremony was done was almost uncontainable.

This action was a visual prayer for physical and spiritual rain.

***And in the last day of the great feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes on Me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."***  
- John 7:37-38

Jesus offered all the people "mayim chayim" ("living water" in Hebrew). Jesus stood at the Temple in front of all Israel praying for the Messiah to come and basically said, "I am the answer to your prayers. I am the One giving the true and living water." Everyone knew exactly what Jesus was saying. There was no doubt about it. He claimed to be the Messiah. This brought about a division among the people, for some believed Jesus, but other did not.

### **TRUTH NO 5 – "TEMPLE LIGHT"**

#### **The Illumination of the Temple**

Those who came to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast came with torches and lights. It lit up the Temple area, making it an adorable focus point at night. The lights from the people's torches transformed Jerusalem into a golden glow and beautiful radiant city. Seeing that the Temple was on a hill, the magnificent glow of the temple was a sight for everyone to see and it reminded the people of how God's Shekinah glory had once filled His Temple.

Once again, throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, we read that God had promised that a great light would shine out of Galilee. A spiritual Light will come to shine God's truth over His people and now, through Jesus, that time has come.

***but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan— The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.***  
- Isaiah 9:1-7, NIV.

Many years later, during this great Feast, Jesus said;

***Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."*** - John 8:12, NASB.

By making this statement, Jesus was claiming that He is the exclusive source of spiritual light and the Light of this world. Through Him, the Messiah comes all spiritual truth and in Him is fulfilled the words of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 9:1-7). Jesus came from Galilee. He is the Light of the world.

The "Hosanna" Psalms mostly sung were (and still is) Psalms 113-118. Because of all the Hosanna Psalms that were sung, the Feast of Tabernacles was also referred to as the "Hosanna". Also, the above-mentioned fruit and leafy twigs that are being used during the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles signifies the Tree of Life (Genesis 2:9 & Revelation 22:2) from which healing, peace, joy and immortality flows.

**Transfiguration** - Matthew 17; 2 Peter 1:16-18.

Voice spoke from heaven confirming Jesus as the Son of God. Moses represented the Law and Elijah represented the prophets. Jesus came to fulfil both.

Peter offered to build three booths (sukkahs). The glory of God will reside with us, tabernacle with us one day in full.