

Key Elements of the Feast of Tabernacles

The Season of our Joy; Let's come worship the King.

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Summary: Learn all about the main points concerning the Feast of Tabernacles as we celebrate the reign of our beloved King Yeshua. Why we dwell in booths. Do Christians have to keep the Feast? What is the Feast pointing to? What was to be done every 7 years at the Feast? How can you and I have a most wonderful Feast of Tabernacles? And – Happy Feast to all of you. I'll try to have more feast messages later.

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Well hello everyone and welcome to Light on the Rock. This is your brother Philip Shields with a teaching on **Hag haSukkot**, the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles. I'm preparing this before the Feast, and trying to get my other work done too, and pack up, and get the house ready, and be sure all our bookings are good, and on and on. But it's also very exciting.

So welcome, and hello, to all of you around the world who hear these messages. A special greeting to our family in Kenya, and I hope you're having a wonderful feast too. Many of you keep the feasts in the Philippines too, and England, the USA.

I'm looking forward to hearing from those of you who are in the Ukraine, China, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Germany, Israel, France -- and so many other countries. Though we're not all together in one place, in spirit I pray for you all and look forward to the time ahead this Feast pictures: the Millennial reign of Yeshua, the Messiah – Jesus the Christ. For some of you, this is all very new. Welcome to Yahweh's feasts. Welcome in the name of Yeshua as so many are now learning about these feasts.

I'm hoping the Feast of Tabernacles exciting because of what it pictures – and NOT to so much of the fact we get to have an exciting trip. Many have turned the Feast into a vacation time. I have no problem with going to exotic places, but we must never, never forget the Feast of Tabernacles is about the millennial reign of our King Yeshua. Sukkot – the Feast – was after the big fall harvest and it pictures the time when YHVH will now start to convert the whole world. It has everything to do with the plan of Salvation of YHVH. We'll get into all of that today and so much more.

So before we get going too far, let's begin with our Abba's blessing and blessing Him, and asking His inspiration. **(Opening Prayer)**

I said before the prayer that the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the big autumn harvest of souls. The smaller harvests in the spring – the barley then the wheat, though very important, was a much smaller harvest than in the Fall. The Spring harvest focuses on the grains from the land. The Fall harvests were about the fruit of trees, vineyards, and fruits and vegetables. It was a larger harvest so this feast was called the Feast of Ingathering.

This has everything to do with Yah's plan of salvation. The traditional teaching is that Satan is winning the war! There certainly are *far* more unsaved people, unconverted people, and people not being led by Yah's spirit – than who are. And if Yahweh was trying to save the whole world right now, He definitely would be losing. Well, YHVH doesn't lose and He isn't losing now. So YHVH is calling only a few people right now to be His firstfruits (right now).

If you don't understand how you are "firstfruits" – study these verses: James 1:18; Rev. 14:4; Romans 8:23; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 15:20,23; 1 Cor. 16:15. Let me know if you'd like me to give a whole sermon on it, perhaps before the Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost).

IF you are searching into these things, very likely the Most High is calling YOU to be part of His family. Yes, YOU. Your calling is very special. John 6:44-46 makes it clear that Abba, our Father, God Almighty – is the one who calls people then gives them to Yeshua (Jesus) to work with. Father calls us, gives us to Yeshua to work with, then Yeshua in turn brings us into a strong close-knit relationship with His Father and our Father: God Almighty.

So as Paul says, "each in his own order". So we'll come back to that, but I wanted to hit the topic of the feasts centering on the harvests in Israel as much as anything.

(Next I tell the story of my earliest Feasts as a 13 year old in Squaw Valley, CA). Big tent meeting with 6,000- 8,000 or more.... Opening night, opening songs, the thrill and joy of worshipping Yah with so many, all together, as one.

- Cars had little stickers so we knew they were part of the group
- Sit together with friends, take notes, eat together, outings by Lake Tahoe, A – frames...
- Felt it pictured the beautiful world tomorrow.

WHY talk about the Feast of Tabernacles? What's the GOAL of this teaching today?

- We need to remember WHY we're going to the Feast of Tabernacles
- What are the main commands we need to keep in mind
- What will make the feast a great feast for you and everyone?
- Is there an offering we are to bring?
- Is keeping the feast still required of on new covenant believers?
- What does the FEAST picture?

We'll cover a lot of ground today and so put your seatbelts on, grab your pen, notebook and Bible – and let's get started!

WHAT WILL MAKE THE MILLENNIUM SUCH A GREAT TIME; WHAT MAKES FOR A GREAT FEAST OF TABERNACLES

What I learned in Guyana in 1984

In 1984 my wife and I had a very unique and special feast of Tabernacles – and I'm telling this story because it bears powerfully on the Millennium.

We had been asked to go to Guyana, in South America, one of the poorest countries on earth -- to speak to the brethren there. It was so poor, that the brethren usually had no food or money for food, during the "lunch" hour between morning and afternoon services. The

church outing was on an overcrowded barge chugging down a brown river. This was a poor group. There were no big tourist sites to see while you were “in the area”. There were no destination restaurants, pubs, or even fast food places you could hang out at. There were no great shopping districts, no malls, no arcades, no seaside walks or Jacuzzis in your room. The water out of the tap was brown. You couldn’t safely drink the local water, or even use local ice cubes. There were warnings about malaria. There were cockroaches – the huge palmetto kind – here and there on the walls from time to time.

And yet – are you ready for this – **Guyana 1984** ranks as one of my best feasts ever. You know why?

It was because of the evident JOY and deep spiritual *mindset* of the PEOPLE of God we met there. They spoke non-stop of the things which filled their heart: the things of YHVH. The sermon. Their recent Bible study. Most conversations was spiritual. There was *never* once a discussion about which site to go see next, which restaurant to hang out at, nothing like that. Just *spiritual* food and drink. They didn’t care about fancy shopping malls, they only wanted to be clothed from on High with Yeshua. .

Near the end of the feast, I remember telling them I had come as a pastor ready to teach them, but was leaving as a student who had *been taught* a great deal *by* them, by their lives, by their conversations. There was a sense of oneness. A feeling of family and fellowship – in spite of the fact I am white and they were dark black. It made no difference at all. A people who didn’t seem to be on any agenda, except to mingle, fellowship and rejoice in their God and His family.

What makes for a great feast site and a great feast year? Not the quality of motels or hotels, or the meals. It’s the flowing of YHVH’s Spirit in His people, it’s the JOY of worshipping Yahweh together as one – especially with people from all over the world, all skin colors, all backgrounds, all ages, all everything as ONE!

How majestic! How godly! How Spirit-led! How ONE it is! It is the kindness to one another, it’s the sharing of like minds, it’s the praise and worship, and it’s the celebrating of our heart’s desire – the kingdom of YHVH.

It’s the Millennial reign being real to us. The quality of the flowing of the Spirit is even more important than the quality of the sermons. You’ll get a thousand “sermons” from the converted lives and conversations you’ll have as you talk to spirit-led brethren.

Guyana 1984 pictured a part of what the Feast pictures: the most important part. New people devoted to YHVH, new creations all around the world being led by YHVH’s spirit. Eventually the whole world, and the Gentiles, will be holy to Abba. That’s what the Feast of Tabernacles is really all about.

At that time, you will have brethren from all nations mingling happily with brethren from nations they used to hate. The Jew and the Arab. The white and the black. Those in Belfast, Ireland who once hated one another will come to love another. Those from the inner city ghettos will be converted. Hutu and Tutsi. Luo and Maasai. Chinese and Filipinos will feast happily with Kenyans and Argentineans.

How and why? Because the greatest of all restorations will be in the human spirit, now given another component, the Spirit of YHVH. This is what the Feast – and the Millennium-- is about: when the whole world will be one with YHVH and one with each other. When the whole world is converted and changed. When peace, love and joy reigns supreme everywhere – because YHVH has changed the natures of all mankind everywhere. That's what the Feast is really about.

When our forefathers were in the Garden of Eden with YHVH that was a type of what it should be like and once again *will* be like all around the world. They walked with YHVH every day in the cool of the evening – until they decided to listen to the Adversary. SIN entered their lives, their natures were changed, and all their children are born with that nature too. "In sin did my mother conceive me", David says in Ps. 51.

Something devoted to YHVH makes it holy – Lev 27 – set apart, "kadosh" in Hebrew. The word "holy" in Hebrew has the meaning most of being "set apart", the "set apart spirit", the "set apart people", kadosh. (Hear my sermon on "Guarding Holiness" I gave earlier in the year.) This whole 1000 years will be devoted to YHVH. Just like the 7th day was devoted to Yahweh by Yahweh Himself in Genesis 2:1-3, the 7th thousand years (called "the Millennium") will be devoted to Yeshua and our Father. Our FEASTS should be devoted to YHVH too. It's SO easy to emphasize the physical at the Feast and forget the real reason we are there.

Our entire feast of Tabernacles should also be a time completely devoted to YHVH, set-apart time, holy time and the things He says to do at the Feast. It is not a time for self-centeredness. It is a time to focus on Abba. It is a time to focus on family, relationships, Bible study, praying, getting ample sleep – and avoiding wild partying late into the night. So let's devote our time to God. It's the time for Abba's spiritual family to be getting along just great. We are all one body – at least we're supposed to be. Read Romans 12:5 some time. We are part of one another, and all of us part of the Body of Yeshua.

Let's move on:

Amos 9:11-15

"On that day I will raise up **The Tabernacle of David**, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; [be SURE to hear my sermons recently about The Tabernacle of David! It's exciting stuff!]

12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, **and all the Gentiles who are called by My name**, "says YHVH who does this thing.

13 "Behold, the days are coming," says YHVH, "**when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.**

14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. 15 I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them, "says YHVH your God."

So this why the coming world is going to be a place where there is no more war: how can you go fight and kill your brother and sister? When we are all in fact brothers and sisters, regardless of race, ethnic group or tribe or background – how *could*

there be war? This is what is meant by turning swords into plowshares. Tanks will be scrapped and used for tractors.

This will be a wonderful time for Gentiles as well as Israelites, for we all shall become children of Abraham, children of faith. All of us will be believers and worshippers of the Almighty. The veil that covers people's understanding will be removed.

Isaiah 2:1-4 (also Amos 4:3-4)

The word that Isaiah the son of Amos saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of YHVH's house shall be established on the top of the mountains [governments], and shall be exalted above the hills; **And all nations shall flow to it.** 3 **Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of YHVH, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths."** "For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of YHVH from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; **They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore"**

How many hundreds of people, men, women and children, have been terrorized and horrified, killed and maimed, by war? That will all become a thing of the past. God hasten that day. Man's history is really a story of decisive battles and wars – one after the other. It's about man killing fellow man. A time is coming, when the great Naval Academies, the West Points of the world, and so on – will never again have another student come learn the Art of War.

So here are central points to remember about the Feast:

- this life is temporary and we look forward to the eternal kingdom of YHVH.
- It's also the time of **the Great harvest of humanity**, when the world will be converted. This is pictured by the great feast of ingathering, when YHVH converts the world. *We'll see much more about this in the next sermon.*
- There will be **Righteous government: The Millennium is ruled by the kingdom of YHVH's** spirit born, spirit-being sons and daughters. The Millennium is about those who are still flesh and blood on the earth. It's their time to come to YHVH, be converted, and learn of His ways – taught by members of the kingdom of YHVH, hopefully you and me. We'll be getting 1,000 years' experience before the great resurrections at the end of the thousand years.

Isaiah 11:1-5 A prophecy of the righteous rule of King Yeshua, the Branch of Jesse

"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of YHVH shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of YHVH.

3 His delight is in the fear of YHVH, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist."

ARE NEW COVENANT BELIEVERS REQUIRED TO KEEP YHVH'S FEASTS?

To me this is an easy answer because it certainly will be kept in the Millennium according to Zech 14. And we know as a fact that the early believers even after the resurrection kept the holydays – **Acts 2 on Pentecost** is a clear example. So is **Passover in 1 Cor. 7 and 11**. So whatever people's interpretations are of certain verses in Colossians that speak of a shadow, and Gal. 4:10 that seem to refer to holydays, let's go with the clear FACT that the early church is recorded as having kept them. So maybe the protestant interpretation of these verses that seem to dismiss the feasts of Yahweh is the problem!

Zechariah 14:16-19

16 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, on them there will be no rain. 18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which YHVH strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

These are not just the feasts of the Jews, but Yahweh originally told Israel in Lev 23:1-2 that **they are HIS feasts, the "Feasts of YHVH (YHVH)"** – and "MY feasts". I've covered this before so I won't dwell on this part.

I've often covered how the word "feast" comes from the Hebrew "**moed**" meaning "divine appointment" with Yahweh. I'd think twice about throwing out a divine appointment.

Even in the First half of the Book – commonly called the "old Testament" – **aliens and strangers who lived in Israel had to keep the feasts**, had to fast on Atonement and so on (**Ex. 20:10** the weekly sabbath; Atonement - **Lev. 16:29**; Feast of Tabernacles **Deut. 16:14**). Only native born Israelites actually had to build a *sukkah* – a booth, however (Lev. 23:42). [I'm going to refer to Feast of Tabernacles from here on out as FOT to save typing time!]

Let's read the clear command first with a few comments. I want you to notice there are 2 final feasts – the SEVEN day Feast of Tabernacles (FOT) and the 8th day is a separate Feast. So the last day of the *Feast* of Tabernacles is the 7th day, the 8th day is a separate one day feast.

- FOT is 7 days (verses 34, 39, 40, 42).
- We are to dwell in booths for SEVEN days, not 8, 9, 10. (Lev. 23:42)

Leviticus 23:33-44

33 Then YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, 34 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The **fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to YHVH.** 35 On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it. 36 For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to YHVH. **On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation,** and you shall offer an offering made by fire to YHVH. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it.

37 'These are the feasts of YHVH which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to YHVH, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day — 38 besides the Sabbaths of YHVH, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to YHVH.

39 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you ***shall keep the feast of YHVH for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest.***

40 And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; **and you shall rejoice before YHVH your God for seven days.** 41 You shall keep it as a feast to YHVH for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

42 You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 43 that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am YHVH your God." 44 So Moses declared to the children of Israel **the feasts of YHVH.**

So the commands so far we have:

- Keep the feast of Tabernacles in a booth, a sukkah.
- REJOICE (v.40)

Now let's look at another command for the feast.

DO NOT APPEAR BEFORE YHVH EMPTY. Holyday offering.

Deuteronomy 16:13-17

13 "You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress. 14 And you shall rejoice in your feast, *you and your son and your daughter*, your male servant and your *female* servant and the Levite, **the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates.**

15 **Seven days** you shall keep a sacred feast to YHVH your God in the place which YHVH chooses, because YHVH your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.

16 "Three times a year all your males shall appear before YHVH your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at **the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before YHVH empty-handed.**

17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of YHVH your God which He has given you.

Be sure to bring a prepared HOLYDAY OFFERING to Yahweh. This is not the tithes, but a freewill offering of any amount "according to how much you think Yah has blessed you".

Paul teaches that Yahweh loves a cheerful giver, not one giving begrudgingly.

If we feel we haven't been as blessed materially as we would have liked, remember that it may have a correlation to how much we have been giving and sharing what we have with others.

Turn to Haggai 1, when Yahweh was eager for his House to be rebuilt, but the returning Jews were more interested in their own plans, their own houses, their own projects and priorities. Sound familiar?

Haggai 1:9-11

9 "You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says YHVH of hosts. "Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.

10 *Therefore* the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. 11 **For I called for** a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."

Proverbs 3:9-10

9 Honor YHVH with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;
10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

When Paul was urging the Corinthians to be generous in helping the other needy saints, this is what he said, and it's written for OUR admonition:

2 Corinthians 9:6-9

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

So the bottom line is this: on the holydays we take up a holyday offering if we are being obedient to Yah's commands. And we will give cheerfully.

WHY WE DWELL IN BOOTHS, OR TEMPORARY ABODES

"Booth" or sukkah: God's people usually gather together at larger group sites around the world, meeting in temporary dwellings, or "booths". A booth in Hebrew is *Sukkah*, and plural word "booths" is *sukkot*. So in Hebrew, "Feast of Booths" or Tabernacles is **Hag hasukkot**. "Hag" is another word for feast; sukkot is the plural of sukkah.

Most of us rent a motel room or a temporary home or condo during this Feast. Scripture actually describes a booth or structure made of certain tree branches and leaves, not the comfy Marriott or Hilton. I know many of the “Hebrew roots” folks do that, or versions of that. Others stay in rented cabins, or bring a tent – but the point is: for the Feast of Booths (tabernacles), stay in a temporary structure.

I want you to notice it says the Feast of booths, and staying in booths, is for SEVEN days, not eight (Lev. 23:42) and then come together again for a holy convocation on the 8th day, which is a separate holyday. I don't know how we don't stay in a temporary abode on the 8th day if we're hundreds of miles from home. But I just want to be sure to preach what Scripture says.

Leviticus 23:42-43

2 You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,

43 that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am YHVH your Elohim."

We dwell in booths or temporary abodes to remember when God brought our physical and/or spiritual forefathers “Israel” out of Egypt. We too, are being called out of *spiritual* Egypt and sin and we too are in a temporary spiritual wilderness prior to receiving our real, spiritual promised land. We also dwell in booths to remember ***our bodies are only temporary*** “tents” tents if you will, prior to receiving a permanent, immortal body made in the heavens. The booths – or motels – picture that this life, ***every aspect of it***, is temporary.

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

“For we know that if **our earthly house, this tent** [NOT a huge permanent building], is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,** **3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.** **5** Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”

2 Peter 1:12-14 “Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent [i.e., body], to stir you up by reminding you, **14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent** [i.e., die], just as our Lord Yeshua Christ showed me.”

So we dwell in temporary abodes to remember them coming out of Egypt but to also remember this life we now live is not “where it's at”. This life is not the big deal, though we all seem to forget that. I do too, from time to time; I admit that and repent of that. The big deal is the life to come, as spirit immortal beings, when all corruption puts on incorruption. **There's a saying: “you only live once” – but that's a lie.** We shall all have a 2nd life – either to praise or condemnation. Those who refuse God's way will suffer a 2nd death, which I will cover in a future sermon soon.

The temporary abodes, or booths, also picture that *the Millennium itself is only a temporary condition*. Just for 1,000 years. After the Millennium comes the new heavens and new earth (read Rev. 21:1-4) and it's *after* the Millennium that God the Father returns with heavenly Jerusalem. At that time, everything is indestructible and permanent. I believe at that time that everything is made of spirit, even the new heavens and new earth -- so it will never age, never be destructible or corruptible. Hence God's word says -- and this part is *not* observed by most -- we are to dwell in booths for *seven* days, not eight.

Why? Because by the 8th day, which symbolically pictures the time after the Millennium, and after the Feast of Tabernacles therefore, there's nothing temporary. Hence no booths or temporary abodes on the 8th day. Read it for yourself. The Feast of Tabernacles is for 7 days. Dwelling in *booths* was to be for 7 days only, not 8, as practiced by just about everyone today. So by the 8th day, we're picturing a time when there is nothing temporary anymore.

I'll give a full-fledged sermon on the meaning of the 8th day soon with many more details, and why the Jews believe it is also tied into the marriage vows and wedding chamber and much more.

WHAT ELSE are we supposed to do or to learn at the FEAST?

The Torah, the law of God, is to be read in its entirety -- Genesis thru Deuteronomy -- every seventh year. Not every year, but every 7th year! I think sometimes we want to be more righteous than God's own requirements.

Deuteronomy 31:9-13

9 So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who bore the ark of the covenant of YHVH, and to all the elders of Israel.

10 And Moses commanded them, saying: "**At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles,** 11 when all Israel comes to appear before YHVH your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

12 Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may **learn to fear YHVH your God** and carefully observe all the words of this law, 13 and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear YHVH your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess."

So every 7th year, the whole first 5 books is to be read. We can see this happening several times. King Josiah had the whole covenant read (2 Kings 23:1-3), though it's not clear when he did that. A very prominent case where this did happen was in Nehemiah's day, when the Jews had been allowed to return to Jerusalem out of captivity.

Nehemiah 8:17-18

17 So the whole assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and sat under the booths; *for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun until that day the children of Israel had not done so.* And there was very great gladness. 18 Also day by day, from the first day until the last day, **he read from the Book of the Law of God.** And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day there was a sacred assembly, according to the prescribed manner.

Another goal of the feast: re-instill a healthy respect for Yahweh and a real fear to disobey Him!

Deut 31:12-13 again:

"...that they may hear and that they may **learn to fear YHVH your God** and carefully observe all the words of this law, 13 and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and **learn to fear YHVH your God** as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess."

Family of Yahweh: we are all – including me – way too casual with God's law and God's way. If Yeshua is really living in me and in you, He will live in us the way He lived the first time: obediently!

So it's time we quit "playing church", and going for the socials and friendships, and start to really use the time to worship and praise and OBEY our Maker. I preach to myself very much so! We all need to tighten up our efforts at letting His Spirit truly guide us, lead us and show us the obedient way.

Look, I can't cover the whole Feast in one sermon. That's why we go for 7 days and then the 8th day, where we hear a lot of anointed sermons.

Let me wrap up with an overview of a few more things:

- **The Feast is a great time for our light to shine.** For the communities we're in to see a people who are happy, whose children are happy while also disciplined and obedient to their parents, where a group gets along, where they sense something different about us – a friendly warmth, a gentleness – and yet a fierce loyalty to our King and to His words. The uncalled are simply that: not yet called. But they also will be brought into the Family when it's their turn.
- **Use this time to teach children about the coming kingdom.** That God's way will OPEN THE DOORS for them to be leaders in a new kingdom that is coming soon.
- Read the millennial scriptures to your children and to yourself. I'll give you a few to start with:

I'd read parts of **Ezekiel 36** – the new heart, the new spirit, the repentance of God's people; then the last half of **Ezek 37**, the divided nation of Israel (Kingdom of Judah and Kingdom of Israel) will become one again.

I'd read **Jer. 31:31-35** – the new covenant with Israel, and eventually to all people everywhere who through faith become a spiritual descendant of Abraham as I covered in 2 recent sermons.

ISAIAH 11 the whole chapter is a great one to read. – The Root of Jesse ruling righteously, the lion and lamb dwelling together, and our King bringing back all the people of Israel to their land.

Isaiah 2:1-4

The word that Isaiah the son of Amos saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of YHVH's house
Shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills;
And all nations shall flow to it.

3 Many people shall come and say,

"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of YHVH, to the house of the God of Jacob;
He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of YHVH from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people;

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Isaiah 35 – the whole short chapter – is a great one about the desert
blossoming as the rose, the parched lands becoming like Eden.

It also includes this passage:

Isaiah 35:5-7

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing.

For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

7 The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water;

In the habitation of jackals, where each lay,

There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

The Feast of tabernacles, or Sukkot, pictures the time when Yahweh goes about harvesting the whole world, one person – and then one nation – at a time. The usual teaching is that Hell is going to be chock full of people, because the vast, vast majority of people around the world have not even known Yeshua, let alone call on Him for their salvation.

The true teaching is that they haven't really had their first chance at salvation yet. You and I have been given the opportunity; so you and I are being judged right now (read 1 Peter 4:17). The world's judgment will come after they have their minds opened and the way explained to them. Scripture is clear that there is a sequence to when and how God works converts people. Let me say it again: He is not losing a battle to Satan, to save mankind. YHVH has never lost and is not losing now. When Abba decides to call and work with people, the vast majority will end up in salvation.

1 Corinthians 15:21-27

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 **But each one in his own order:** *Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.* 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to Abba the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."

Can you imagine a world without Satan!? Can you picture a world where nations cooperate, get along, work together as one – and every year representatives from ALL the nations come to worship at Jerusalem.

The world will be beautiful, there won't be mass starvations, there won't be drug wars going on – it will take time, it won't happen all at once – but gradually, over the 1000 year reign, the whole world will be turned into a Garden of Eden. No need to worry if people are lying or not. No need to lock doors and cars. No keys to lose. No porn, no violence, nothing like this stuff we see in this world. Natures will be changed. Human nature with God's spirit added can be nice. Animal natures also will be changed – the lion and lamb playing together.

So I can't wait! You're going to hear many fine sermons, so let me end it with that.

In your busy feast, take time to meditate. Take time to pray a lot. *Take time with your family. Don't be so involved that you forget this can be tough on 4-5-6 year olds.* Take time to serve and pitch in – whether it's the choir, or financially, or with ushering, the parking crew, the set up – and don't forget to help with take down afterwards.

Remember those who couldn't go. Take time to call them, to write them a card.

Pray for those speaking that they will submit to the mind of Abba and speak HIS words. Listen as if the words you're hearing ARE the words of Abba himself. Pray for the choir, that their hard practice will bear fruit in praise to Yahweh. Pray for the sound systems, pray that everything goes smoothly.

And also pray that Yahweh stays Satan's attacks. He won't be around for the millennium, but for now – he's still around this planet. Satan will try to ruin your feast with envy, bitterness, problems, hurt feelings – and just don't let him. Realize where that's coming from. I preach to myself again here. We're all human. I have let ministers and brethren ruin some of my feasts....but in the end, it was my reaction to them that caused the problem for me. So let's allow Christ's mind to rule us at the Feast. REMEMBER we're there to worship Him, to learn to fear him. Focus on Him.

Pray for safety and protection. It seems every year there is someone, somewhere out of thousands of brethren, who gets into a car accident, or drowns in the pool, or something bad happens. Pray for Satan's evil schemes to be thwarted. Pray for protection.

And then let's go and celebrate the Millennial rule of our beloved King, our Saviour, our God and our High Priest – Yeshua!!! Let's sing our hearts out as we worship in song. Let's put our Savior front and center from beginning to end in this feast.

That should do it for now....

May Yahweh bless you and guard you. May His face shine upon you and bring you shalom. May He bless you with a wonderful, inspiring and uplifting Feast of Tabernacles. Until next time – your brother Philip Shields sharing the good news in Yeshua and in His coming Kingdom.

Have an awesome and joyous Feast of Tabernacles, Hag haSukkot! Yah be with you!