

People on the Move with God – Feast of Booths

Thomas Robinson, September 16, 2018

Leviticus 23:33-44

³³ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ³⁴ “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is **the Feast of Booths (Sukkoth) to Yahweh**.

³⁵ On the **first day** shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. ³⁶ For seven days you shall present food offerings to **Yahweh**. On the **eighth day** you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work.

³⁷ “These are the **appointed feasts of Yahweh**, which you shall proclaim as times of holy convocation, for presenting to the LORD food offerings, burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its proper day, ³⁸ besides **Yahweh’s Sabbaths** and besides your gifts and besides all your vow offerings and besides all your freewill offerings, which you give to **Yahweh**.

³⁹ “On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when **you have gathered in the produce of the land**, you shall celebrate the **feast of Yahweh** seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest. ⁴⁰ And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of **palm trees** and **boughs of leafy trees** and willows of the brook, and **you shall rejoice** before **Yahweh** your God seven days. ⁴¹ **You shall celebrate** it as a feast to **Yahweh** for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall **celebrate it** in the seventh month.

⁴² **You shall dwell in booths** for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, ⁴³ that your generations may know that **I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am Yahweh your God.**” ⁴⁴ Thus Moses declared to the people of Israel the appointed **feasts of Yahweh**.

John 7:1-5, 37-44

¹ Jesus was traveling on foot around Galilee, but he didn’t want to go about in Judea because the Judeans there were seeking to kill him. ² Now the Feast of Booths among the Judeans was coming soon, ³ and Jesus’ brothers told him, “Leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the deeds you do. ⁴ Nobody does things in secret who wants to become famous. If you’re going to do these things, show yourself to the world.” ⁵ For even his own brothers didn’t believe in him. ...

³⁷ On the **last day of the Feast, the great day**, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, **“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”** [Isa 55:1-3; 44:3]

³⁹ By this he meant **the Spirit**, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since **Jesus had not yet been glorified**.

⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is **the Prophet**.” [Deut 18:15] ⁴¹ Others said, “He is **the Messiah**.” Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee? ⁴² Doesn’t Scripture say that the Messiah will come from **David’s descendants** and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” [Micah 5:2] ⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

Isaiah 44:3; 55:1-3

44:³ **For I will pour water on the thirsty land, I and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, I and my blessing on your descendants.** ...

55:¹“Come, everyone who thirsts, I come to the waters; I and he who has no money, I come, buy and eat! I Come, buy wine and milk I without money and without price. I² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, I and your labor for that which does not satisfy? I Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, I and delight yourselves in rich food. I³ Incline your ear, and come to me; I hear, that your soul may live; I and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, I my steadfast, sure love for David.”

Psalm 42:1-5

¹As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?... ⁴These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping the Feast. ⁵Why are you cast down, O my soul? ...Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation ⁶and my God.

Calendar beginning the year 5779 (Leviticus 23:1-44)

Sep 9 29 Elul Eve of Rosh Hashanah	10 1 Tishrei Rosh Hashanah (Trumpets)	11 2 Tishrei Rosh Hashanah	12 3 Tishrei	13 4 Tishrei	14 5 Tishrei	15 6 Tishrei
16 7 Tishrei	17 8 Tishrei	18 9 Tishrei Eve of Yom K.	19 10 Tishrei Yom Kippur	20 11 Tishrei	21 12 Tishrei	22 13 Tishrei
23 14 Tishrei Eve of Sukkoth	24 15 Tishrei Sukkoth	25 16 Tishrei Sukkoth	26 17 Tishrei Sukkoth	27 18 Tishrei Sukkoth	28 19 Tishrei Sukkoth	29 20 Tishrei Sukkoth
30 21 Tishrei Hoshanah Rabbah	Oct 1 22 Tishrei	2 23 Tishrei Simchat Torah	3 24 Tishrei	4 25 Tishrei	5 26 Tishrei	6 27 Tishrei

Lev 23:3 **Sabbath**, weekly, creation, slavery. Shifted to First Day, Sunday, Jesus' resurrection.

Lev. 23:4-14 **Pesach**: Passover/Unleavened Bread/First Fruits (Begin religious year Abib 1) Barley harvest. (Abib 14-22/ Nissan 14-22) Exodus from Egypt. Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus.

Lev. 23:15-22 **Shavuoth**: Feast of Weeks/ Pentecost (7 weeks after Passover) Wheat harvest.

(Sivan 6, May 20) Giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. Coming of the Holy Spirit on Disciples.

Lev. 23:23-25 **Rosh Hashanah** Feast of Trumpets / New Year (royal year?) (Tishrei 1, Sept. 10)

Lev. 23:26-32 **Yom Kippur**, Day of Atonement (Tishrei 10, Sept. 19). Fast and Sacrifice of Atonement.

Lev. 23:33-44 **Sukkoth**, Feast of Booths/ Ingathering. Harvest completed. (Tishrei 15-23). Last day is

“Great Hosanna,” End is “Joy of Torah.” God’s care for Israel in wilderness. Water. Tabernacle.

Other Feasts: **Purim** (Mar); **Tisha B’Av**/ Fast for Destruction of Temple (Jul); **Hannukah** / Dedication (Dec).

Autumn in New York

New York has 2 new years: Jan 1 and Sept. Israel also had 2 new years: Passover & Trumpets.

God gave to Israel a cycle of Festivals and other annual days: To remember the story of God’s deliverance, how God made them a people, preserved them. To have times of communal celebration and grief. To harmonize religious life with cycles of nature through the year.

Three pilgrimage feasts. Often neglected till after Exile. Great power for renewal (Ps 42).

Passover & Pentecost were permanently linked to Jesus’ crucifixion/resurrection and to the coming of the Holy Spirit: Exodus the great event of deliverance and Giving the Torah.

The Fall with New Year, Day of Atonement, and Sukkoth carried the joining of penitence and celebration (Isa 55). Entering Holy of Holies (Heb 9:24-25), Booths & water in the desert.

Jesus at Sukkoth – the Feast of Booths

Jesus travels from Galilee to Jerusalem for Sukkoth (Jn 7). People are expecting the prophet.

Who is he? Messiah? His brothers don’t believe. People know about him but don’t know him. Jesus links to the Sukkoth ritual of bringing water from Siloam to the Temple.

Jesus gives Living Water (Jn 4:10)—a future unfolds of God’s Spirit/Life in us. Water in the desert!