

# SUKKOT

סוכות

*The Feast of Tabernacles*



## Living a Sheltered Life

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (Psalm 91:1)

**My Tree Huts.** Growing up without TV, Internet, or cell phones, building tree huts was one of my favorite past times (that and damming up creeks). Built with nothing but locally sourced sticks - no nails, no hammer. We hid in them, spied on passersby (human and animal!) and experienced that sense of security shelters provide.

**Under the stars!** During summer camp in Colorado my cabin loved camping outside; under the stars, no tent. Only later did I find out that there were bears (which attacked a staff member)!

**Life of a Nomad . . .** In Israel my wife and I lived in a tent during a semester abroad. If nothing else it added to the nostalgic feel of Abrahamic times (nomadic culture tells us that his tent was much fancier than ours!).

**Cozy Coups . . .** not a word found in the dictionary, but that’s what I called my little boys’ shelters made of pillows, mattresses, sheets, and furniture (Quick! Hide! Here comes Mom!). So cozy. Fun times!

### BACKGROUND CHECK

by Ingo Sorke, PhD

### HARVEST & EXODUS

**Sequence:** Sabbath (weekly)

**Spring:** Passover & Unleavened Bread · Pentecost (Firstfruits) · Weeks (Shavuot)

**Fall:** Trumpets (Rosh Hashana) · Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) · Tabernacles (Sukkot)

### OLD TESTAMENT

### REVIEW

- **Leviticus 23:** Holy Convocation 1st day + 8th day (Ex 23:16; Deut 16:13, 15)
- **Numbers 29:12-38 sacrifices:** 13+12+11+10+9+8+7 = 70! → for existing nations?!

#### You Shall

- have a holy convocation (36)
- offer an offering of fire (36, 37)
- take fruit and branches (40)
- rejoice before the Lord your God (40)
- keep (it as) a feast (39, 41)
- celebrate it in the seventh month (41)
- dwell in booths (42)

#### You Shall Not

- 1st & 8th day: you shall do no customary work (35, 36)

#### Purpose

“... 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 the LORD your God**” (Leviticus 23:43).

- **Zechariah 14:16** “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, the LORD of hosts, **and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles** [חג הסוכות]. 17 “And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD 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 the LORD 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**.”


“Because you have made the LORD, *who is* my refuge, *even* the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling” (Psalm 91:9-10).

**John 1:14** “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. **NET:** “took up residence among us”

**Greek:** σκηνώω, *skēnoō* → Shekina

 **Revelation 14: Final Harvest**

**John 7:37-39** “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

 **Water from Pool of Siloam:** “Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (Isa 12:3).

**Isaiah 55:1** ““Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”

**Revelation 21:3** “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

**Revelation 22:17** “And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

 **INSPIRATION**

**“THE CROWNING FESTAL GATHERING OF THE YEAR”**

“At these yearly assemblies the hearts of old and young would be encouraged in the service of God, while the association of the people from the different quarters of the land would strengthen the ties that bound them to God and to one another. **Well would it be for the people of God at the present time to have a Feast of Tabernacles—a joyous commemoration of the blessings of God to them.** As the children of Israel celebrated the deliverance that God had wrought for their fathers, and His miraculous preservation of them during their journeyings from Egypt, so should we gratefully call to mind the various ways He has devised for bringing us out from the world, and from the darkness of error, into the precious light of His grace and truth” (PP 540).

“With those who lived at a distance from the tabernacle, more than a month of every year must have been occupied in attendance upon the annual feasts. This example of devotion to God should emphasize the importance of religious worship and the necessity of subordinating our selfish, worldly interests to those that are spiritual and eternal. **We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God. The truths of His word lose their vividness and importance in our minds. Our hearts cease to be enlightened and aroused by the sanctifying influence, and we decline in spirituality.** In our intercourse as Christians we lose much by lack of sympathy with one another. He who shuts himself up to himself is not filling the position that God designed he should. We are all children of one Father, dependent upon one another for happiness. The claims of God and of humanity are upon us. It is the proper cultivation of the social elements of our nature that brings us into sympathy with our brethren and affords us happiness in our efforts to bless others” (PP 541.1).

“The Feast of Tabernacles was not only commemorative but typical. **It not only pointed back to the wilderness sojourn, but, as the feast of harvest, it celebrated the ingathering of the fruits of the earth, and pointed forward to the great day of final ingathering,** when the Lord of the harvest shall send forth His reapers to gather the tares together in bundles for the fire, and to gather the wheat into His garner. At that time the wicked will all be destroyed. They will become “as though they had not been.” Obadiah 16. And every voice in the whole universe will unite in joyful praise to God. Says the revelator, “Every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.” Rev. 5:13 (PP 541.2).

“The people of Israel praised God at the Feast of Tabernacles, as they called to mind His mercy in their deliverance from the bondage of Egypt and His tender care for them during their pilgrim life in the wilderness. They rejoiced also in the consciousness of pardon and acceptance, through the service of the day of atonement, just ended. But when the ransomed of the Lord shall have been safely gathered into the heavenly Canaan, forever delivered from the bondage of the curse, under which “the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now” (Rom. 8:22), they will rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Christ’s great work of atonement for men will then have been completed, and their sins will have been forever blotted out” (PP 542.1).

“It is a cloudy and dark day here- the sheep are scattered - and the Lord has not come yet. . . . But the brethren here are firm as a rock - **the[y] hope to see the Lord yet before the feast of Tabernacles ends. I hope so too**” (Josiah Litch to William Miller and Joshua V. Himes, Philadelphia, Oct. 24, 1844).