

**"ISRAEL'S THANKSGIVING DAYS"
(THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES)**

TEXT: *Lev.23:33-44 It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath. {celebrate: Heb. Rest 33 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD. 35 On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. 36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein 37 These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: 38 Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD. 39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. 40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. 41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. 42 Ye shall dwell in booths (tabernacles) seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: 43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. 44 And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.*

INTRO.: A. Our Sept.- Oct. corresponds to Israel's month called Tishri. It is the 7th month on their calendar. Three of their great Feasts were observed in this month: Trumpets, the Day of Atonement & The Feast of Tabernacles. This is the last of the 7 Feasts listed in Lev.23. (cf.v.33-38)

B. There is great typical significance in these 7 feasts both for us & for Israel:

SPRING: (1st Advent) (Christ/Believer)

- 1 - Passover (v.1-4).....Calvary/Salvation
- 2 - Unleavened Bread (v.5-8)....Sinlessness/Holiness
- 3 - Firstfruits (v.9-14).....Resurrection/Believer's Resurrection
- 4 - Pentecost (v.15-22).....Ascension - Holy Spirit/Church

FALL: (2nd Advent) (Israel/Church)

- 5 - Trumpets (v.23-25).....Israel's Regathering/Rapture
- 6 - Day of Atonement (26-32)....Israel's Conversion/ -----
- 7 - Tabernacles (v.33-44).....Israel's Millennial Blessings/-----

I. CALLED "THE FEAST OF INGATHERING": v.39-41

Ex.23:16 *And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.*

A. The Time:

- 1. "...in the end of the (harvest) year." (see above)
- 2. "...when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land..." v.39
- 3. The emphasis is on thanking the Lord for His faithfulness.
 - a. Their first month was equiv. to our March-April.
 - b. The Feast of Firstfruits was held on that month.

- c. That was the beginning of harvest during the early rains.
- d. Now comes the main body of the harvest.

ILLUS.: Christ is the firstfruits of our resurrection (along with those who were resurrected with Him then. Nearly 2000 years have gone by now & we are still waiting for the Rapture...harvest time!

B. Thanksgiving:

1. They didn't hold Thanksgiving days till the harvest. (!)
2. We can only be partially thankful now...but wait till we see Him face-to-face & see all He has prepared for us!

NOTE: There were two Sabbaths during this Feast. One on the first the Feast & the other eight days later. Then there were all the offerings & sacrifices. It was a solemn occasion, but also a joyful one. Perhaps that is the way we will view the Rapture...followed by the Judgment Seat of Christ.

3. It was a very festive occasion. cf. v.39-41
4. This Feast Time speaks of Israel's Kingdom age & Millennial blessings.

Zech.14:16-19 *And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles 17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. 18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.*

Zech.14:20-21 *20 In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. 21 Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.*

II. CALLED "THE FEAST OF BOOTHS": V.42-44

A. The Picture:

1. "Booths" were temporary structures made out of tree branches.
2. They symbolized the temporary housing of the Israelites during their 40 years in the wilderness.

B. The Providence:

1. God was showing them that not only did they need to praise Him for His blessings in a good harvest, which they could not have in the wilderness.
2. But that His power & providential protection was with them in the wilderness & would surely be with them when they came into the Promised Land.

CONCL.: This is the final Feast of Israel in this Passage. The number of the feasts is 7 to this point & gives a wonderful picture of both the believer & the church & Israel as well as of the perfections & work of our Savior.

Rom.11:33 *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*