

Shabbat Chol Sukkot (שבת חול סוכות) "Sabbath of Tabernacles"

Torah ~ Lev. 23:33-43; Num. 29:12-39 | Prophets ~ Ezek. 38:18-39:16; Mic. 4:1-13 | New Covenant ~ Jn. 1:10-14; Rev. 20:4-6

The Birth of Yeshua

One of the main things that believers remember during Sukkot is how Yeshua came to earth to dwell (tabernacle) among us. It is well known within Christianity that Yeshua was not born on December 25th. But we have strong evidence that points to the date of Yeshua's birth being on The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot).

Evidence from Zacharias

John the Baptist's father (Zacharias) was a Priest that served in the Temple. King David divided the Priesthood into 24 "courses" or groups to create an orderly schedule by which the Temple could be staffed for the whole year (*1 Chron. 24*). The schedule for the courses started each year on the first Shabbat of the month of Nisan.

Zacharias would have been assigned to serve in the temple during the course of "Abia," the 8th course of the year. The 8th course would have served on the 10th week of the year according to the Religious Calendar in the month of Sivan (June). The Jewish historian Josephus, that lived during the time of Yeshua, confirms that this Priesthood schedule was still being used in the first century during the time of Zacharias service.

John & Yeshua's Conception

It is written in *Luke 1:23-24* that John the Baptist was conceived shortly after his father's service in the Temple which would have been in mid to late Sivan (June). We see in *Luke 1:26-31* that the angel Gabriel visited Mary six months into Elizabeth's pregnancy with John. Therefore Yeshua was six months younger than John, and would have been conceived in late in the month of Kislev (December) during the Feast of Hanukkah.

John & Yeshua's Birth

If we add nine months to John's conception in Sivan (June) we get his birth being on Passover (April). Therefore Yeshua, being born six months later, would have been born on Sukkot (October). John the Baptist said in *John 1:14* that Yeshua came to the earth and Tabernacled (dwelt) among us.

We can simply get the date of Yeshua's birth by taking His age (33½) when He was crucified on Passover and subtract the ½ year from his age to get the date that Yeshua turned 33. The answer we get is Sukkot.

This explains why there was no room in the Inn (*Luke 2:7*) in the little town of Bethlehem? Because it was Sukkot when all Jewish heads of the household were required to make pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem which is next to Bethlehem.

The exact location of Yeshua's Birth

It is often said that since Yeshua was born on Sukkot that He must have been born in a Sukkah. But a Messianic prophecy in *Micah 4:8* gives us another place for Yeshua's birth. This location was a field just outside the walls of Bethlehem at the "tower of the flock" (Migdal Eder) where the Passover lambs were kept by Priestly shepherds.

These priestly shepherds would strictly maintain a ceremonially clean birthing place in the basement of this watch tower. Once the lambs were born they were inspected to see if they were spotless and without blemish. Once they were certified spotless, they would be wrapped in special swaddling clothes and placed in a manger (*Luke 2:6-16*).

In Closing

Therefore Yeshua, the Lamb of God, was born in a temporary dwelling place (tower of the flock) on Sukkot in the very same way of the sacrificial lambs. In this way Yeshua once again fulfilled the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament right down to the very detail. Upon leaving the watchtower, He would have went to the home of His family members in Bethlehem where they would have dwelled in a Sukkah during Sukkot. Then on the eighth day of the Feast of Sukkot (Simchat Torah), Yeshua would have been circumcised.