

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

Torah ~ Lev. 23:33-43; Num. 29:12-39 | Haftarah ~ Ezek. 38:18-39:16; Mic. 4:1-13 | Brit Chadashah ~ 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).

#### 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. The Jewish historian Josephus, that lived during the time of Yeshua, confirms that this Priesthood schedule was still in use when the second Temple was destroyed in 70 AD.

#### Conception

It is written that John the Baptist was conceived shortly after his father's service in the Temple (*Luke 1:23-24*) which would have been in mid to late Sivan (May/June). Yeshua was six months younger than John (*Luke 1:26-31*), therefore He would have been conceived in late Kislev (Nov./Dec.) during the Feast of Hanukkah.

#### Birth

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

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.

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

#### The exact location of Yeshua's Birth

It is often said that since Yeshua was born on Sukkot that Mary gave birth to Him in a Sukkah. But there is a verse in the Old Testament that prophesied the location of the birth of the Messiah (*Micah 4:8*). This location was a field just outside the walls of Bethlehem at the "tower of the flock" (Migdal Eder) where 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 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 watch tower, He would have went to His families home where they would have dwelled in a Sukkah during Sukkot. Then on the eighth day of the Feast (Simchat Torah), He would have been circumcised.