

Sukkot (סוכות) "Feast of Tabernacles"

Torah ~ Lev. 23:33-43; Deut. 16:13-17 | Haftarah ~ Zech. 14:1-21 | Brit Chadashah ~ John 7:1-53; Rev. 19:1-10

Sukkot

The Feast of Sukkot is Tishri 15th thru 22nd on the Biblical calendar and in September or October on the Gregorian calendar. Sukkot is an ingathering Feast where the people thanked God for this years harvest and prayed for rain in the upcoming growing season (*Leviticus 23:33-43 & Numbers 29:12-39*).

Sukkot is also one of the three Pilgrim Feasts along with Passover and Pentecost where all heads of the household was required to come up to the Temple and not come empty handed (*Deuteronomy 16:13-17*).

Sukkot is to remind us that God provided shelter for the Israelites as they traveled in the wilderness for 40 years and how God provides all of our needs at all times. Each year we celebrate with a Lulav and Etrog (*Leviticus 23:40*). We also build small booths called "sukkahs" to dwell in during Sukkot (*Leviticus 23:42*).

Sukkot and Thanksgiving

The Sukkot holiday resembles the American tradition of Thanksgiving. Believe it or not, the similarities between Sukkot and Thanksgiving actually have a historical frame of reference. Before coming to the New World, the Pilgrims lived for a short time among Sephardic Jews in Holland. In fact, our American Thanksgiving tradition may have been indirectly inspired by the Jewish holiday of Sukkot.

The first Thanksgiving meal in 1621 is said to have been eaten out-of-doors, which would correspond to the Sukkot tradition of dining outside in the sukkah. Sukkot, like Thanksgiving, is a holiday of welcoming; the Pilgrims welcomed the Native Americans to the original Thanksgiving table just as Jews are encouraged to welcome friends and extended family to dine in the sukkah.

We know very little about that first Thanksgiving meal but we do know according to a letter dated December 11, 1621 from Edward Winslow that it was a multi-day celebration, similar to Sukkot— some accounts say it lasted three days, others say seven days that was held after the crops were harvested.

Sukkot in the books of the Prophets

We see Sukkot being kept during the times of the prophets in *1 Kings 12:32*, *2 Chronicles 8:12-13* and *Ezra 3:1-6*.

Sukkot in the New Covenant

Moses and Elijah visit Yeshua in *Matthew 17:4*, *Mark 9:5*, & *Luke 9:33* on what was most likely the Feast of Sukkot.

We see Yeshua and the disciples keeping Sukkot in *John 7:1-53*. On Sukkot the High Priest had a sacrificial pouring out of water ceremony at the Temple which Yeshua refers to in *John 7:37-38*.

Prophetic Fulfillment of Sukkot

The Fall Feasts is a picture of an ancient Jewish wedding. Rosh HaShanah is when our Groom (Yeshua) will come to take us (bride) to the Fathers house, Yom Kippur is the wedding ceremony and Sukkot is the wedding party (supper). The wedding ceremony and supper (reception) would take place at the Groom's home which was called a chuppah (sukkah) and it would last for seven days (Sukkot).

Therefore Sukkot will be completing fulfilled with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (*Revelation 19:7-9*). Sukkot is also the ushering in of the Millennial Kingdom (*Revelation 20:4-6*) in which all nations of the earth will be commanded to go up to Jerusalem and celebrate the Feast of Sukkot (*Zechariah 14:16-19*).

Aliyah to the Torah

Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) - 10/09/14

Torah ~ *Leviticus 23:33-36 NKJV*

33 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

34 ‘Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the Lord.

35 On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it.

36 For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it.

Haftarah ~ *Zechariah 14:16-19 NKJV*

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.

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.

Brit Chadashah ~ *Revelation 19:7-9 NASB*

7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.’

8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

9 Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.”