

119

MINISTRIES

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The Mo’edim Series - Sukkot

What is the Feast of Sukkot or Tabernacles? What does this feast mean, and how is it relevant to believers today? Well, Sukkot is one of YHWH’s *mo’edim*, one of his holy days. Before we get into the specifics of Sukkot, it is worth giving an overview of all of YHWH’s *mo’edim*. We simply want to give a better understanding to these important days in the eyes of YHWH.

Quite often we receive questions asking about the *mo’edim*. YHWH’s holy days. What are the “*mo’edim*” and what is their point? While there are many opinions held concerning the holy days, we want to do our best in giving a general overview to them. We simply want to help give a better understanding to these important days in the eyes of YHWH.

Many have looked at these days as just for the Jews. However, we also know the commandments surrounding the holy days are given to all who chose to follow YHWH regardless of whether they are native born Israelite, or simply grafted in through faith.

Deuteronomy 31:12

Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD [YHWH] your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law,

The *mo’edim* are given to the native born and sojourner alike. (For example, **Passover**: Exodus 12:19, 48; Numbers 9:14; **Shavuot**: Deuteronomy 16:10-11; **Yom Kippur**: Leviticus 16:29; **Sukkot**: Deuteronomy 16:13-14.

Because many do not understand that YHWH gave his holy days to all in the faith, many in mainstream Christianity today do not keep the *mo’edim* festivals. Sadly, the same also do not understand that the substance of these holy days are all about teaching us about the Messiah.

Colossians 2:16-17

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. **These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.**

This teaching in particular will teach how to observe Sukkot and some of the exciting messianic prophecy attached to this feast.

In review, there are eight *mo'edim*, or appointed times.

The first of the *mo'edim* is the Sabbath, in which a rest occurs every seven days.

The rest of the *mo'edim* are annual observations, which are:

- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- First Fruits
- Shavuot (Pentecost)
- Yom Teruah (Trumpets)
- Yom Kippur (Atonement)
- and Sukkot (Tabernacles)

Three of these *mo'edim* are specifically called feasts, meaning they are *mo'edim* that involve feasting.

Those are:

- Unleavened Bread
- Shavuot
- And Sukkot

Sukkot, also known as Tabernacles or the Feast of Booths, is the last and final annual feast and is the focus of this teaching.

Leviticus 23:33-43

And the LORD [YHWH] spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the LORD [YHWH]. On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. For seven days you shall present food offerings to the LORD [YHWH]. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the LORD [YHWH]. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work.

“These are the appointed feasts of the LORD [YHWH], which you shall proclaim as times of holy convocation, for presenting to the LORD [YHWH] food offerings, burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its proper day, besides the LORD [YHWH] Sabbaths and besides your gifts and besides all your vow offerings and besides all your freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD [YHWH].

“On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land,

you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD [YHWH] seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest. And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD [YHWH] your God seven days. You shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD [YHWH] for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD [YHWH] your God.”

From this we learn that Sukkot begins on the 15th day of the 7th month of the Hebrew calendar. It lasts for seven days and then there is a set apart bonus day called the 8th day. Both the 1st and 8th day are considered rest days.

So this is the 7th annual *mo'edim*, occurring for 7 days, in the 7th month.

The extra 8th day is sometimes referred to as “*The Last Great Day*.” This day is very interesting prophetically, and we will discuss that in the prophecy section of this teaching.

During the seven-day period all native Israelites are instructed to dwell in booths, or temporary dwellings.

Sometimes the mention of “*native born Israelites*” in Leviticus 23:42 confuses people, as if all the other *mo'edim* are for everyone, except for Sukkot is only for native Israelites. Remember, in the faith, all are treated as native Israelites. Many are grafted in and are treated just the same...even the grafted in are the same as native born before YHWH. For more on this, please see our teaching “[Grafted In](#).”

Deuteronomy 31:12

Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, **and the sojourner within your towns**, that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD [YHWH] your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law,

If the mention of native-born Israelites still compels you to believe that Sukkot might not be for all in the faith, we will mention one more point at the end of this teaching.

Also, on the first day of this feast we are to “take the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD [YHWH] your God seven days.”

Many times, these items are attached to a *sukkah*, which is the singular form of the Hebrew word Sukkot.

In observation of the feast, not everyone lives in a *sukkah* for seven days.

In a literal sense, a *sukkah* is simply a temporary hut or dwelling. A *sukkah* traditionally has no roof or shielding from cold weather or rain. While a *sukkah* works well for a dry and warm climate like Jerusalem, many utilize tents or other temporary dwellings during this time outside of Jerusalem.

Deuteronomy’s account of Sukkot specifically mentions that we should rejoice, or be joyful during this

time. YHWH is literally commanding us to be joyful!

Deuteronomy 16:13-17

“You shall keep the Feast of Booths seven days, when you have gathered in the produce from your threshing floor and your winepress. **You shall rejoice in your feast**, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your towns. For seven days you shall keep the feast to the Lord (YHWH) your God **at the place that the Lord (YHWH) will choose**, because the Lord (YHWH) your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.

“Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord (YHWH) your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot), and at the Feast of Booths (Sukkot). They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord (YHWH) your God that he has given you.

You may have also noticed that this feast, like the other two feasts, are to occur in Jerusalem, and involve the temple, which is the place that YHWH put his name.

Of course, there exists no temple today, so we cannot come before YHWH with gifts. As a result, many memorialize this feast by doing it the best they are able absent being able to go before YHWH at the temple.

And of course, finally, this feast is about feasting! Eight days of eating in fact. At this time, in Jerusalem, the harvest was coming to a close. This feast is an agricultural feast, taking advantage of all the food YHWH has blessed us with during the harvest. This also has a prophetic significance that we will discuss later in the teaching.

Sukkot is often the favorite of all the feasts. It is a time of focused fellowship with YHWH and all those in the faith, celebrating with worship, food, and all sorts of traditions.

Sometimes Sukkot is observed in the backyard. Other times hundreds of families may Sukkot together for one large, amazing event. However you do it, it always proves to be a blessed and joyful time.

The Meaning of Sukkot and Prophecy

The first time Sukkoth is mentioned in Scripture is found in Genesis.

Genesis 33:17

But Jacob journeyed to **Succoth**, and **built himself a house** and **made booths for his livestock**. Therefore the name of the place is called **Succoth**.

After bowing 7 times in verse 3, and leaving Esau behind in verse 17, Jacob arrives to a place he names Sukkot.

The mention of a “seven” is connected with Sukkot.

One of the things that YHWH mentions as the purpose of Sukkot is to remind us when Israel dwelt in booths after coming out of Egypt.

Leviticus 23:42-43

You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, **that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD [YHWH] your God.**”

Which is interesting because the first place they stop is at Sukkot:

Exodus 12:37

And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to **Succoth**, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.

So when we dwell in booths for Sukkot, we are to be reminded of the wilderness, when YHWH took His people out of Egypt and brought them into temporary dwellings in the wilderness.

Sukkot is mentioned by our Messiah Yeshua as well.

John 7:37-38

On the last day of the feast, the great day (meaning the 8th day), Jesus [Yeshua] stood up and cried out, **“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”**

Yeshua may have been giving more understanding of Isaiah 55.

Isaiah 55:1

**“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.”**

But here is what is rather interesting, specifically on the eighth day, Yeshua mentions *“living waters.”*

This commands attention to the New Jerusalem.

Zechariah 14:7-8

And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD [YHWH], neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light. **On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem**, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

In the context of the New Jerusalem, we also read:

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the **river of the water of life**, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of

the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Many believe the New Jerusalem will arrive after Yeshua reigns for 1,000 years. Following the story of creation, there are 6 days, and the 7th day is a rest. There is a Biblical principle that uses the days of creation, each day as 1,000 years. That is here will be 6,000 years of man, and then on the 7th day, Yeshua arrives and we rest and reign with him for 1,000 years, or one day, specifically the Sabbath day. After the 7th day, technically the 8th day, the New Jerusalem will arrive. For more on this, we would recommend the teachings [*The Creation Prophecy*](#), [*The Fourth and Seventh Day*](#), and [*Hebrews 4: In His Rest Now or Later*](#).

Meaning this, it was not likely an accident that Yeshua mentioned the “living waters” on the 8th day of Sukkot, as we are presented with the “living waters” from the New Jerusalem on the 8th day.

This is why the feast of Sukkot groups the seven days together, and then mentions another 8th day as separate from the initial seven days.

In addition, the New Jerusalem arrives after the old Earth and old Heaven pass away and we are presented with a New Heaven and a New Earth. Thus, Sukkot also reminds us that this life and this Earth is temporary.

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

It should also be noted that all harvests will have occurred by then...the barley harvest, the wheat harvest, and the grape harvest. That is the purpose of Sukkot, to feast on the completed harvest.

There is a prophetic implication to consider here as well.

Yeshua was referred to as the firstfruits of the harvest, which is the barley harvest.

1 Corinthians 15:20

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

There is also the wheat harvest:

Mathew 13:24-30

He [Yeshua] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds **among the wheat** and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell

the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”””

Mathew 13:36-43

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

The grape harvest are the rebellious:

Revelation 14:17-20

Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, “Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for **its grapes are ripe.**” So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the **grape harvest of the earth** and threw it into the **great winepress of the wrath of God.** And the **winepress** was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia

Sukkot follows the completion of all harvests, and is also a feast of the harvests. Often it is proposed that Sukkot will be the timing of the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:6-9

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;
it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure” —
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, “Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

So the reason that the marriage supper of the lamb is speculated to be at Sukkot is because all of the harvests have been completed and it is also found as the last and final feast.

Another interesting connection is found in the timeline of the first temple dedication. The temple was dedicated on the 8th day of Sukkot.

2 Chronicles 7:8-10

At that time Solomon held the feast for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly, from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt. **And on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for they had kept the dedication of the altar seven days and the feast seven days.** On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their homes, joyful and glad of heart for the prosperity that the LORD [YHWH] had granted to David and to Solomon and to Israel his people.

Likewise, this appears similar to the New Jerusalem in which the temple is the *Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb*.

Revelation 21:22

And I saw no temple in the city [New Jerusalem], for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

Those are simply the prophetic highlights related to Sukkot. There exists hours of prophetic depth in the context of Sukkot. We simply wanted to offer you a start on Sukkot prophecy.

One last thing to note...after the Great Tribulation ends, the Antichrist is defeated, and we enter into the 1,000 years reigning with Messiah Yeshua...guess what...all nations will be observing Sukkot.

Zechariah 14:16-19

Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD [YHWH] of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD [YHWH] of hosts, there will be no rain on them. And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD [YHWH] afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

This helps prove two things:

- 1) The holy days found in Leviticus 23 are not abolished like many Christians teach.
- 2) It is not just the native-born Israelites that are to observe Sukkot.

If you do not already observe Sukkot, consider and understand that YHWH gave us these days for a reason. ...To teach us about our Messiah, to spend time in worship of YHWH, to get away from daily life and instead spend time with our family and those in the faith...

We hope that this teaching has blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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