

WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015-2016

THEME: SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS

UNIT THREE – “Holy Days”

“THE MEMORIAL OF CELEBRATIONAL REMEMBRANCE... THE FEAST OF BOOTHS OR “INGATHERING”



Sunday School Lesson No. XIII – February 28, 2016 Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Leviticus 23:33-43

Required Reading: Leviticus 23:1-2, 33-43; Numbers 29:12-38; Deuteronomy 16:13-15; Nehemiah 8:14-18

Motto Text: Leviticus 23:42-43, *“Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: 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.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Life Application Study Bible (Tyndale); Libronix Electronic Library; The Jeremiah Study Bible and Resources; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; Wilmington’s Bible Handbook; Bible.org

INTRODUCTION

Beloved, we now arrive at the final of the seven feasts of Israel as directed by Moses. (A handful of others was added years later: Ninth of Ab, Purim and Hanukkah). Now we close our studies by examining the seventh Mosaic feast known as **“Feast of Tabernacles, Booths, or Ingathering.”** According to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible, “The purpose of this feast was to remind the children of Israel of the tabernacles, or tents, they had lived in for forty years in the wilderness as they waited to enter the Promised Land. For this celebration the people were to gather together and build shelters or “booths” from tree limbs and palm branches. They were to live in these temporary shelters for a week. This feast was a time of joy and rest, a time to remember God’s deliverance and to thank Him for blessing them with their own land and homes.”

I am truly moved to totally appreciate **“God’s Sacred Gifts and Holy Gatherings”** which we have reviewed this quarter. I hope that we as Christians will learn to celebrate the greatness of our God as we have observed His workings with the Israelites. (Read I Corinthians 10:11). Now let us visit the Israelites as they celebrate **“The Memorial of Celebrational Remembrance...The Feast of Booths or Ingathering.”**

Anticipated Power Points.

- **Announcing the Feast. Leviticus 23:33-34**
- **Arranging the Feast. Leviticus 23:35-38**
- **Addendum to the Feast. Leviticus 23:39-40**
- **Analyzing the Feast. Leviticus 23:41-43**

LESSON OUTLINE

I. Announcing the Feast. Leviticus 23:33-34

After the Lord allowed Moses to present six great feast days of Israel, he is now ready to announce the third of three celebrations which occurred in the seventh month on the Jewish religious calendar called “Feast of Tabernacles.” Remember the month Tishri, which fell during our months September-October, was a month with several special Sabbath days and called for “holy convocations” (meaning the people had to gather together and all manner of labor was to close so all, both great and small, could celebrate the work of the Lord!) Like the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Tabernacles occurs based on the full moon. But unlike Unleavened Bread, Tabernacles was a feast of substance, because in the ingathering harvest there was no restriction of leaven, and food was to be enjoyed to the fullest (Neh. 8:10-12).

II. Arranging the Feast. Leviticus 23:35-38

First day would be a day gathering for rest and holy reflections by all. The Book of Numbers 29:12-38 describes the abundance of sacrifices that were offered unto the Lord. Remember the people are celebrating God’s great grace that delivered their forefathers during the 40-year pilgrimage through the wilderness. When reading Numbers 29, they were to offer the Lord 199 special sacrifices and to not forsake the daily sacrifices of the two lambs a day at morning and evening for their burnt offerings! In that week about 215 animals sacrificed represented burnt offerings, meat offerings of grain, and sin offerings. (How could Christians today be so slightful in our giving?) Someone may ask, “Why is all this necessary?” The Bible answers in verse 43, “...*I am the Lord your God.*” May we not forget that daily!

III. Addendum to the Feast. Leviticus 23:39-40

The Lord determines that the people are to keep the weekly Sabbath and special Sabbaths that make the Feast Day, one at the beginning and the other at the end. According to Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator, “God instructed the Israelites to gather branches...Using these branches, the people were to build shelters in which to live during the festival. Every Israelite by birth was to live outdoors in a booth. This was a giant national campout that must have been fun, especially for the children.

Living in a booth was a teaching tool for future generations. God wanted the Israelites to always remember that He had cared for their ancestors as they journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land. Knowing their history would affirm to each generation that God would care for them too.”

IV. Analyzing the Feast. Leviticus 23:41-43

God’s command to Israel was for all posterity. Keep the feast throughout all your generations. If this was done, the people would never forget the faithfulness of Jehovah. Beloved, as Christians, we have been told to not forget or forsake the Lord’s Supper. I Corinthians 11:26, “*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.*” Beloved, God wants His people to always be mindful of His labor among His people, be it Israel or the Church!

CLOSING

“In this feast there are pictures of times yet future. Israel can look forward to the time of joyful peace and rest when they will reign on earth with Christ their Messiah (Zech. 14:16). Christians have much to look forward to as well. This feast reminds us that our homes on earth are as temporary as were the Israelites’ shelters. We are on our way to a perfect, permanent home (Heb. 13:14).” Children’s Ministry Resource Bible.

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Looking Ahead:

March 6, 2016

Mark 9:14-29

Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!

