



7 FEASTS OF ISRAEL PART 4

Leviticus 23:1- 44

1. 7 Feasts

1. Passover
2. Unleaven Bread
3. Sheaf of First Fruits
4. Weeks (Pentecost)
5. Blowing of Trumpets
6. Day of Atonement
7. Booths or Tabernacles

2. Booths or Tabernacles (vs 33-44)

A. Historic Observation

- The people were to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles on the fifteenth day of the seventh month (v.34).
- It was to last for seven days, a full week of festivities and worship.
- The people were to begin with a sacred assembly on the first day, doing no work whatsoever (v.35).
- They were to approach God for atonement (reconciliation) during each of the seven days, approach God through the Burnt Offering (v.36).
- On the eighth day, they were to hold another sacred assembly to close the festival.
- The body of the whole nation was called together to approach God for atonement or reconciliation - through another Burnt Offering (v.36).
- Note that the importance of the Feast of Tabernacles and the other feasts was stressed:
 - a. They were all annual sacred assemblies for worship, a time when the whole nation was to assemble together to approach God (v.37).
 - b. They were for the purpose of approaching God for atonement or reconciliation - through the sacrifices and offerings (v.37).
 - c. They were to be additional celebrations, not to replace a person's regular approach to God. They were to be in addition to all other approaches to God.

- d. They were not to replace the freewill offerings, nor the regular Sabbath day worship, nor any other gift or offerings that the people brought to God.
 - e. They were, as stated, to be an additional period of worship or celebration of the LORD (v.38).
- Note that the importance of the Feast of Tabernacles is reemphasized (v.39 - 40).
 - a. It was to be celebrated on the fifteenth day of the seventh month and last for seven days.
 - b. It was to be celebrated after the crops had been harvested.
 - c. Both the first day and the eighth day were to be days of rest.
 - Note that the people were to build booths or shelters from tree leaves on the first day.
 - a. They were to live in these booths or shelters for seven days (v.40, 42).
 - b. The festival was to be a celebration of great joy and rejoicing before the Lord (v.40 - 41).
 - c. The festival was to be a lasting, permanent law (v.41).

B. Historical Purpose for the Festival:

- It was to teach all descendants that their ancestors had to live in booths when God delivered them out of Egypt.
- Note that this was a symbol of how temporary this world is.
- Also note the warning of God: "I am the Lord your God" (v.43).
- God expected His people to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.
- If they failed, His judgment would fall upon them.
- He is the Lord their God, able to execute judgment.

C. Application for us Today

- God Wants His People to Have Joy
 - a. God wanted to remind the people that He had led them out of Egypt, had led them through the wilderness, and had been good to them.
 - b. The Feast of Tabernacles was a reminder to the Jewish people that everything they had came from God.
 - c. We need to remember this also.
 - i. Sometimes folks in church take everything for granted -the church building, the ministry.
 - ii. But we need to remember that people sacrificed, worked and gave that the building and ministry might be here.
 - iii. Look back and be grateful for God's past mercies.
 - d. God also wants us to be grateful for the present blessings.
 - i. The Feast of Tabernacles was a harvest festival.

- ii. So Israel could look back and be thankful for God's provision, protection and direction.
 - iii. They once lived in booths - now they were living in houses.
 - iv. They once had to wander - now they were settled down.
 - v. They once had to ask Him for water - now they had plenty of water.
 - vi. They could rejoice over past and present mercies from the generous hand of God.
 - vii. We need to be reminded to enjoy what God has given us, and use it for His glory and for the good of others.

- Joy Always Follows Cleansing
 - a. The Day of Atonement was followed by the Feast of Tabernacles.
 - b. Nothing robs us of joy like sin. – Ps 51:12
 - c. Sin robs us of joy, but joy always follows cleansing.
 - d. This was true of the Prodigal Son; when he went home, and the father received him and forgave him, and there was great joy.
 - e. First the cleansing and then the joy.
 - f. The same is true for us today, first sin has to be taken care of, and then there can be joy and happiness.
 - g. God wants His people to have joy, and joy follows cleansing.

- Joy Leads to Sacrifice
 - a. During the Feast of Tabernacles, nearly 200 different animals were sacrificed.
 - b. Numbers 29 gives you the details on this.
 - c. When we are joyfully thankful to God, sacrifice is no problem.
 - d. When we are happy in the Lord, rejoicing in His goodness, it is no problem at all to share what God gives us.
 - e. Jesus Christ became poor that we might be rich - 2 Cor. 8:9

- The Greatest Joy Is Yet to Come
 - a. The Feast of Tabernacles is a picture of the future kingdom when Jesus shall reign. – Zec 14:4,9,16
 - b. The Feast of Tabernacles will be a time of great rejoicing.
 - c. The greatest joy is yet to come, when you and I will enter into the glory of the Lord, when His Kingdom is established.
 - d. Let's not fix our hearts on the joys of this world because they will not last.
 - e. And let's not get discouraged because we are going through some difficulty; it will not last either. - Ps 30:5
 - f. Jesus is coming soon; He will establish His Kingdom, and we shall reign with Him. – Rev 20:6

3. Summary

The price has been paid for us