

## (אָצֶה) “THE Feast”

“Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of YHVH out of the city of David, which is Zion. And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. (1 Kings 8:1-2)

**T**ABERNACLES (SUKKOT) IS THE FEAST EXTRAORDINAIRE IN THE JEWISH CYCLE. In Leviticus 23:34 YHVH commanded Moshe to observe the *Feast of YHVH* known as *Sukkot*, or the Feast of Tabernacles or the Feast of Ingathering, for eight days starting on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month in the Hebrew civil year. This day is also known as the Feast of Joy (the Hebrew word translated as joy is *simcha*). This day begins an 8-day period from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of *Tishrei*, followed by the rejoicing in the Torah (*Simchat Torah*). These eight days are known as the days of our rejoicing or the days of gladness.

### **Sukkot - The Feast of Dedication of the Temple & the Shekinah**

“Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of YHVH was finished: and Solomon brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God. Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of YHVH out of the city of David, which is Zion. Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which was in the seventh month. And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark. And they brought up the ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, these did the priests and the Levites bring up. Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude. And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of YHVH unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims: For the cherubims spread forth their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above. And they drew out the staves of the ark, that the ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day. There was nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put therein at Horeb, when YHVH made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt. And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course: Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking YHVH; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised YHVH, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of YHVH; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of YHVH had filled the house of God” (2 Chro. 5)

### **The First Festival Observed by Israel upon returning from the Babilonian Captivity**

“And they found written in the law which YHVH had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month: And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written. So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim. And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness. Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner” (Neh. 8:14-18)

### **The Feast that Messiah Revealed Himself**

*“But the festival of Sukkot in Y’hudah was near; <sup>3</sup> so his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go into Y’hudah, so that your talmidim can see the miracles you do...Not until the festival was half over did Yeshua go up to the Temple courts and begin to teach...Now on the last day of the festival, Hoshana Rabbah, Yeshua stood and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him keep coming to me and drinking! <sup>38</sup> Whoever puts his trust in me, as the Scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from his inmost being!” <sup>39</sup> (Now he said this about the Spirit, whom those who trusted in him were to receive later—the Spirit had not yet been given, because Yeshua had not yet been glorified.) <sup>40</sup> On hearing his words, some people in the crowd said, “Surely this man is ‘the prophet’;” <sup>41</sup> others said, “This is the Messiah.” But others said, “How can the Messiah come from the Galil? <sup>42</sup> Doesn’t the Tanakh say that the Messiah is from the seed of David and comes from Beit-Lechem, the village where David lived?” John 7:2-3; 14-15; 37-42*

### **The Feast that Recalls that Messiah (God’s Tabernacle) is with man**

*“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” John 1:14*

*“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God” Rev 21:3.*

*“And I saw no temple therein: for YHVH God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it” Rev 21:22.*

### **The Feast of the Messiah’s Birth**

*<sup>2</sup>The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. <sup>3</sup>Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil...<sup>6</sup>For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” Isa 9:2-3; 6.*

What a joy it is to commemorate the date when the Word of God began to tabernacle with men during the time of the Festival of *Sukkot*! How much more significant is this historic time of God's calendar than the traditional time of man's calendar! Unto us was born this day a Savior, *Yeshua* the Messiah. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will! Enjoy THE FEAST! *Chag Sameach!*