

## **THE FEAST OF SUKKOT**

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*Date in Hebrew Calendar: 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> of Tishrei (September-October)*  
*Scriptural references: Leviticus 23:33-44; Deut 16:13-15; Zech 14:16-19;*  
*John 7:2-52.*

The feast of Tabernacles was the last of the seven Biblically mandated celebrations. It was also the happiest; in fact it was the only one in which the Israelites were commanded by God to rejoice (Deut 16:14)! It celebrated the final harvest of the year, and God's great provision for His people.

During this feast, the Israelites were required to leave the comfort of their homes and live in tabernacles or booths-three-sided temporary structures with leafy roofs through which the stars could be seen. In this way they would remember how their ancestors had lived in booths or tents when they came out of slavery in Egypt.

In New Testament times Succot was a major celebration, often referred to simply as "The Feast." It incorporated great ceremonies using water and light. When Yeshua (Jesus) made His proclamation in the temple during Succot: *"In the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, 'If any man thirst let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water,'" (John 7:37-38),* He was challenging the system in a very relevant and pointed way.

In modern Israel, many families start building and decorating their "succah" right after Yom Kippur, in their yards or on their balconies. They spend as much time there as possible, almost always taking the evening meal together under the stars.

Zechariah says that, in the Millennium, all nations will come up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, or incur God's wrath (Zech 14:16-19).

The ultimate fulfillment of this feast will come after the return of the Lord, when God will once again dwell, or "Tabernacle", with His people.