

The Feast of *Sukkot*

Personal Reflections

- A. *Sukkot* is a time to be **Joyful**. During the week of *Sukkot* we are **commanded** to be **joyful**, and to **celebrate**. Being **joyful** is a **priority** during this **feast**, as well as being a continual exhortation in **scripture** to **God's people**:

You will make known to me the **path of life**;
In **Your presence** is **fullness of joy**;
In **Your right hand** there are **pleasures forever**. (Psalm 16:11)

Then **he (Nehemiah)** said to them (the **people**),
"Go, **eat** of the **fat**, **drink** of the **sweet**,
and **send portions** to him who has nothing prepared;
or this day is **holy to our Lord**. Do **not** be **grieved**,
for the **joy** of the **LORD** is your **strength**." (Nehemiah 8:10)

A **joyful heart** is **good medicine**,
But a **broken spirit** *dries up* the **bones**. (Proverbs 17:22)

Rejoice always; **pray** without ceasing; in everything **give thanks**;
for this is **God's will** for you in **Messiah Jesus**. (I Thessalonians. (5:16-18)

Now may the **God of hope** fill you with **all joy** and **peace** in **believing**,
so that you will **abound in hope** by the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**. (Romans 15:13)

- B. *Sukkot* is a time to be **Thankful**. Throughout **each day** of this feast the sons of **Israel** presented **offerings** by **fire** to **the Lord**. As per **God's command**, They built "**sukkahs**" and **dwelled** in them as a **reminder** of **God's faithful presence** and **provision** when they **came out** of the land of Egypt (Lev. 23:39-44)

In **Israel**, *Sukkot* was **celebrated** after they had **gathered** in the **final crops** of the **fall season**. It was a time to **give thanks** for **God's bountiful blessings**, and **faithful provision** for them.

It is **good** to **give thanks** to the **LORD**
And to **sing praises** to **Your name, O Most High**;

To declare **Your lovingkindness** in the morning and **Your faithfulness** by night,..

For You, O LORD, have made me **glad** by what You have done,
I will **sing for joy** at the **works of Your hands**. (Psalm 92:1-4)

For us at Adat, **Sukkot** is a refreshing **reminder** of **God's faithful provision** for us. **God** has continued to **provide** for us both **personally**, and as a **congregation** year after year. And just as **Israel** offered **sacrifices** on **Sukkot**, let us also offer *spiritual* **sacrifices** of **praise** and **thanks** to our **faithful God and Savior**. In **Hebrews** we read:

Through **Him (Jesus)** then, let us continually *offer up* a **sacrifice of praise** to **God**, that is, the **fruit of lips** that **give thanks** to **His name**. (Hebrews 13:15)

C. **Sukkot** is a time to be **Hopeful**. As we just read, the Feast of **Sukkot** was **preceded** by the *final ingathering* of **crops** during **Israel's harvest season**. Because the **feast days** have historically pointed to events on **God's "prophetic" calendar**, we believe that **Sukkot** **points** to the **future "spiritual" harvest** of **Israel's remnant** that will be **"gathered"** in the **land**, and **saved** when the **Lord returns** at **end of the age**. This will culminate with a **marvelous Sukkot** celebrated by **all nations**, as **God** establishes the *kingdom* **promised** to **Israel** (Zechariah 13 &14).

We believe that **Israel's re-establishment** as a **nation** in **1948** is a **sign** that we are in the **end times**, and that the **hope** of **Israel's physical** and *spiritual* **revival**, as well as her **salvation**, are at hand.

Also, regarding **hope**, the **celebration** of **Feast of Sukkot** gives us a **little "taste"** of what it will be like in the **kingdom of God**. For in the **kingdom Israel**, and the people of **all the nations**, will bask in the **light** and **glory** of **God's goodness** and **gracious presence**. This will be a time characterized by **righteousness**, **peace** and **joy** in the **Spirit**.

...for the **kingdom of God** is **not eating** and **drinking**,
but **righteousness** and **peace** and **joy** in the **Holy Spirit**. (Romans 14:17)

So as we **gather** in the **presence of God**,
as we gather for **worship**, and the **celebration** of the **Feast of Sukkot**,
as we **gather** and **fellowship** as a **sanctified, unified, loving body of believers**,
as we **serve** one another, **encourage** one another, **pray** for one another,
and as we **rejoice**, offer *spiritual* **sacrifices** of **thankfulness**,
and **sing praise** to our **great God and Savior** under the **Sukkah**,
are we not *experiencing* a little **foretaste** of the **kingdom to come**?