



Lesson 15: Tabernacles I

The LORD's Progressive Revelation about His Plan of Redemption.....

NOTES FOR LECTURE 15

Tabernacles I – Karen

Yom Teruah – A shadow that reflects the reality of the rapture

The ten Days of *teshuvah* – Israel's repentance

Yom Kippur – A day of national cleansing

1. The tabernacle: A shadow of the heavenly temple.
 - a. **Exodus 25:8** – build a sanctuary *exactly like the pattern I will show you.*
 - b. **Hebrew 9:23-28** – *...he entered heaven itself; ...he will appear a second time...to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*
 - The Jewish people are still waiting for their Messiah...
 - c. The Ark of the Covenant exists in heaven today; at the end of the tribulation:
 - Messiah returns *with all his holy ones...* - **I Thess. 3:13**
 - Our High Priest makes final atonement (**Kippur**) for the nation of Israel
 - **Revelation 11:15 and 19** – *...temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant.*

2. The Feast of Tabernacles / Booths / **Sukkot**
 - a. Seventh and Final Appointment; fifteenth of the seventh month called **Tishri** (September and October)
 - b. Tabernacles is seven days with an eighth day intentionally added
 - c. The number seven signifies completion or perfection; The number eight signifies new beginnings
 - d. Third and last pilgrimage Appointment – the whole family was required to go
 - e. The most joyful of all Appointments; mentioned the most often in Scripture
 - f. **Booth** is Latin; **Sukkot** is Hebrew = hut, temporary dwelling, tent
 - g. Families live in temporary shelters or booths – move everything needed inside
 - h. The booths would dot the hillsides in and around Jerusalem
 - i. Remember that God dwelt with them, Shekinah Glory, while the Hebrews lived in tents
 - j. Celebrates the final harvest – including wheat, grapes, olives, figs & pomegranates
 - k. Because it was the final harvest, it was also called the Feast of Ingathering

3. Parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:24-30; Explanation of Parable – Matthew 13:36-43
 - a. The field = The world
 - b. Good seed/wheat = sons of the kingdom
 - c. Weeds/Tares = sons of the evil one (those who do not believe in Yeshua)
 - d. Enemy who sows the weeds = the devil
 - e. The reapers/harvesters = the angels

- f. The harvest = the end of the age
 - g. The Feast of Ingathering, is very symbolic of the final gathering of souls
4. Revelation 14:15-18 – The final harvest
 - a. *Take your sickle and reap....the harvest of the earth is ripe*
 - b. In the Apostle John's vision, he saw things that were to come.
 - c. *Another angel came out of the temple in heaven.....another angle from the alter*
 - d. More than one harvest at the time of Tabernacles
 - Parable of Wheat and Tares: One is burned; one is put into the farmers barn
 - Revelation: One is harvested; one is put into the wine press of God's Wrath
 - e. Leviticus 23:39 - Not to celebrate it until the crops were brought in from the land
 - So the Israelites were to be in the "land" given to them by God through Abraham
 - Land is also a "shadow" or picture of Life with the presence of God or eternity
 5. The study of booths, tents or temporary shelters, is multi-faceted
 - a. Our bodies are referred to as temples or tents (I Cor. 6:19; II Cor. 5:1; II Peter 1:13)
 - b. Jesus referred to his body as a "temple" (John 2:19)
 - c. Correlation of temporary shelters and our physical bodies
 - d. A booth, a *sukkah* or in the plural: *sukkot* are built as temporary dwellings
 6. What Tabernacles looked like at the time of Jesus – three groups of priests
 - a. First group of priests handled the sacrifices
 - seventy bulls were sacrificed over the seven days – The number seventy symbolic of the nations
 - b. Second group of priests handled the water celebration
 - c. Third group of priests handled the temple lighting ceremony
 7. Second group of priests in the water celebration (ceremony):
 - a. High expectation at this time of year for the latter rains
 - b. At dawn, the high priest would go to the pool of Siloam and draw out living water
 - c. Bring back water to temple court in a golden pitcher; poured into a silver basin
 - d. At same time, wine was poured out into a silver basin
 - e. Wine and grapes symbolize: life and rejoicing and also wrath
 - f. Water and rain symbolize: word of God (Torah, Jesus the Living Torah) and the Holy Spirit
 - g. Priests singing the Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120-134)
 - h. Priests singing the Hallel: Songs of Praise (Psalms 113-118) – highly Messianic in tone
 - i. Priests quoting **Isaiah 12:2-3** – *...He has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*
 - j. Jesus in Hebrew: *Yehoshua* = *Yehovah* is Salvation; for short: *Yeshua* = Salvation!

- k. The LORD used this illustration regarding Israel's rebellion in Jeremiah 2:13:
- l. *They have forsaken Me, the fountain (spring) of living waters....*
8. **John 7:37-39** – The Feast of Tabernacles just before the Passover when Jesus was crucified
- On the last d of the Feast, Jesus said: *If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.*
 - ...as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.*
 - They knew their Scriptures! They knew that Jesus was saying that He was God!
 - In **Isaiah 44:3** the LORD says: *For I will pour water on him who is thirsty...*
9. Third group of priests in the temple lighting celebration (ceremony)
- Every evening, they would light the four huge menorahs within the temple courts
 - Tents (booths, sukkot) around Jerusalem
 - Reenactment of the **Shekinah** Glory – the presence of God
 - Everyone was waiting for the presence of God (Messiah) to return
 - Shekinah** means to inhabit or to dwell – to Tabernacle with
 - In **John 8:12** Jesus said - *I am the light of the world...*
 - I AM the presence of God, the **Shekinah** Glory...
 - I AM what you are waiting for....
10. **Ecclesiastes 1:9** – *What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.*
- The reality of Tabernacles will be fulfilled when Jesus, our King returns to dwell with us
 - God's plan has always been to dwell with man – all of mankind....
11. **Zechariah 14** – About the fall Appointments. A prophet who says "Return to God"
- 14:4** – *On that day, his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives... – Yom Kippur*
 - 14:6-8** – *...When evening comes, there will be light. On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem... – Tabernacles*
 - 14:16** – *Then the survivors from all the nations...will go up year after year...to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.*
 - Begins the period of time known as "the millennial rule"

Homework after Lecture 15
Prepare for Lecture 16 – Tabernacles II

As you prepare for the last lecture in this study, take some time to reflect on the big picture of what the LORD has been teaching you as you walk the walk of faith that only a Believer can experience. Pay attention to the leading of His Spirit as He asks you to not only apply the truth of His Word to your daily walk with Him but also to the deeper truths that He is unveiling help us better understand the things yet to come.

As you reflect on the big picture, keep in mind that it is the Sabbath rest which Yehovah chose to surround and permeate all of His Appointments with mankind. It is this rest which binds us to Him by faith and teaches us to depend upon Him for all our needs. The command to the Israelites to rest physically on the Sabbath is a reflection of the spiritual reality that we are to depend upon Him and rely on His presence, power, provision, protection, plan, providence and promises (see Notes on Lecture 5 – Sabbath) in every area of our lives – physically, spiritually and emotionally.

He tells us as Spirit-filled Believers the same truth that He told the Israelites in **Exodus 33:14**: *My presence will go with you and I will give you Rest.*

The presence of God had dwelt with the Israelites in the tabernacle during and after the Exodus and His Shekinah Glory entered the temple in Jerusalem when Solomon was king (II Chronicles 7:1-3). However, that Glory left the Temple and was seen doing so by the prophet Ezekiel in a vision which he recorded in Ezekiel 9-10.

Prior to what we call “The First Advent”, the Israelites were looking for the “consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25) or the “return” of the glory of God to the temple through the promised Messiah whom they understood to be Yehovah Himself – Immanuel - which means “God with us” (Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:22-23). The glory of His “return” had been foretold over and over again throughout the whole of the Scriptures.

As we learn more about the Hebrew mind set at the time of Christ and understand that they were looking for the return of the Shekinah Glory which they knew to be the very presence of God in their midst, the Apostle John’s words in **John 1:14** take on a deeper meaning for us:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

As you know, the Appointment of Tabernacles lasts for seven days with an additional eighth day for the closing assembly. This eighth day, which points to New Beginnings, is called *Shemini Atzeret* in

Hebrew, which, translated into English is the “eighth assembly.” This day is a holy day of Sabbath rest, and although it is considered to be connected to the seven days of *Sukkot*, it is also thought of and celebrated as a separate *moed* (Appointment).

Although there is a specific order to the Appointments that the LORD has laid out in Scripture, keep in mind that they are a pattern to be celebrated, and therefore repeated, over and over again without end.

1. Read Leviticus 23:33-39

- How many Sabbaths were they to keep during this Appointment?
- On which day(s) were they to be observed?

2. In Chapter 34 of Exodus we read about the “second” time Moses “came down” from Mount Sinai after he had been the mediator of the conditional covenant which was to cover over (*Kippur*) the sins of the nation of Israel. As you know, we believe that *Yom Kippur* is a shadow of *Yehoshua’s* second advent; so with that in mind, read Exodus 35:1-11 and 20-21.

- What was the first commandment that Moses reminded the people to keep?
- Why do you think that not keeping that commandment was punishable by death? (Think in terms of what the Sabbath rest shadows in the life of the Believer).
- What were they asked to build?
- Who was asked to bring the offerings used for the project (vs. 5 and 20)?
- Where do you think they got those items?

- How can we use the things of the world to build the LORD's kingdom?
3. Read Genesis 17:1-12 and Romans 4:9-11 to see how Scripture uses the number eight to point to new beginnings at the point of faith.
- What did The LORD command Abraham to do on the eighth Day?
 - What did The LORD say it was to be a sign of?
 - In Romans, what did Paul say that this sign was a seal of?
 - How are church-age Believers sealed (see Ephesians 1:13; 4:30)?
4. Read Exodus 25:8-9; Acts 7:44-53 and I Corinthians 3:16-17
- What was the purpose of the Tabernacle?
 - Where do you think Moses went to see the pattern for the tabernacle?
 - Besides heaven, where does God's Spirit specifically dwell today?
 - From what you learned in question 4, do you see the connection that Stephen is making in Acts 7:51?
5. In reference to a partial fulfillment of this Appointment during Jesus' first advent, take a look at your **Map of Israel in New Testament Times, Chart #23** and read Luke 2:1-21:
- Why do you think that there was no room in the Inn? What else could have caused a large amount of people to come to that area?

- How far is Bethlehem from Nazareth?
 - How far is Bethlehem from Jerusalem?
 - If you were Joseph living in Nazareth and had to go, in the near future, to both Bethlehem for the census and Jerusalem for the pilgrimage Appointment of Tabernacles, would you take one or two different trips?
 - If you didn't have to, would you bring your pregnant wife?
6. Malachi was the last prophet to tell Israel what Yehovah required of them. He was sent to the nation 430 years before Yehoshua, their Messiah, was born. Read Malachi 3:1-4:6:
- What does The LORD say the Israelites must do before He returns?
 - What do you think that means? In other words, what does that look like?
 - How was the understanding of "The Return of the LORD" different for the Israelites after Malachi's day than it is for those of us in the Church today?
 - If Jesus said that John the Baptist was "the Elijah who was to come" (Matthew 11:14) before His First Advent, who do you think is the Elijah who will be sent before His Second Advent? For some insight, read II Kings 2:9, Luke 1:13-17, Acts 13:52 & James 5:7-18.
7. Read II Timothy 1:13-14 – Are you beginning to see a "pattern" in the Appointments that can be applied to many aspects of Scripture such as was seen in Lecture 14 and **The LORD's Plan for Redemption, Chart #22**? If so, jot down some of the applications that you have newly discovered in studying these Appointments.

