

Tonight at sundown the seven day festival of Sukkot begins!



Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the Lord your God in the place which YHWH chooses, because YHWH your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice. Deuteronomy 16:15

Sukkot - Commanded to Rejoice

After focusing on Yeshua as the soon-coming King returning to the earth to rule from Jerusalem at Yom Teruah; and then Yeshua as the judge that all humanity will appear before to give an account at Yom Kippur, we move to a different emphasis. The final aspect of Yeshua related to the fall festivals is the culmination of why He is returning – namely that He as the Bridegroom is coming to be with us as His bride. There is nothing more joyful than a wedding done right. Yah knows this and that's why He uses the wedding metaphor to describe His relationship with His covenant people.

In part because of this wedding theme, Sukkot is the one festival where the people of God are biblically commanded to rejoice. When I first discovered this years ago, this actually troubled me. I noticed that difficult things didn't necessarily stop happening during Sukkot. In fact, I know in some instances of

some really tragic events that occurred during this timeframe.

The conclusion that I eventually came to was that we are commanded to rejoice not because of our present difficulties, but in the spiritual realities that this festival represents. Focusing on the reality of Yeshua Himself wanting to be with us is something that can bring us joy whether we're on the spiritual heights or being tortured in a prison cell because of our faith....or any other scenario in between.

The truths of this festival that we can focus on is that the God of the universe wants to be with us. For our ancestors, He was right with them with His tent among theirs on their 40 year camping trip. He also presently "sukkahs" with us by the Holy Spirit indwelling us Believers. He's right here with us in anything that we are going through. And, Yeshua promises that He will come again to gather us to Himself and that we will be forever with Him. Just like the children of Israel in the wilderness living in their sukkahs, so too we are only pilgrims on this journey, and we won't really be home until we're with Him.

There are many other holy tributaries that we can think of related to the themes of this upcoming festival, but these are the kernel thoughts that I have been thinking about during this time over the last few years. So, if in a deep valley dear saint, Sukkot represents good news: this world is not yet our home; Yeshua has come to sacrifice Himself on our behalf; the Holy Spirit lives within us, communing with us and empowering us for assignments while on this pilgrimage; and our glorious Yeshua is returning to be with us forever. This is wonderful news! In fact, thinking on this theme all throughout the year enables us to obey Paul's command to us to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil 4:4)!

Dear saints, this is the best news and the most extraordinary story in the universe. As we meditate on this reality, this will always bring us joy. We are of supreme value to Him, and He is coming again and there will be no more injustice or suffering or pain. All that we will ever go through with Him for love's sake will be worth it then. He will be the culmination of our greatest joy and the

fulfillment of our greatest longings. I am growing in my aching for this coming day. What about you?