

# **PERTH BIBLE CLASS**

**OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2003**

## **STUDIES IN THE FEASTS OF JEHOVAH**

### **NO 7 THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES**

**READING** : LEV 23 V 33 - 44

**TIMING** : v 34. The 15th day of 7th month. Linked closely in time with the Blowing of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement. All take place in the 7th month. The first four feasts are celebrated in the spring time and these last three in the autumn. As we have observed feasts 5 and 6 are looking forward to the time of the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ and this takes place after the rapture. The feast pictures a time when Israel are re-gathered into their land (Blowing of Trumpets) there has been that day of mourning (Day of Atonement) and now they acknowledge Christ as King and the period of the Millennial Reign takes place.

This feast was celebrated for 7 days. Only one other feast was for a period of time the Feast of Unleavened Bread. These both point to periods of time as opposed to a single event e.g. the Passover was a clear picture of the death of Christ. It was celebrated at the end of the harvest period. v 39 "when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land". See also Deut. 16 v 13 "after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine". The wine indicates that the grapes had been crushed and is seen in Isa 63 v 1 - 3 "I have trodden the winepress alone". Clear evidence of this being celebrated during the millennium is in Zech 14 v 16 - 21.

Scripture does also speak about the 8th day v 36. If the seven actual days of the feast picture the millennial reign then the 8th day, described as a Sabbath (day of rest) takes us into that eternal period of rest.

**TITLE** - Feast of Tabernacles - Lev 23 v 34  
Feast of Ingathering - Exo. 23 v16

**COMPULSORY** - This was one of three feasts that were compulsory for the nation see Exodus 23 v 14 - 16.

**SACRIFICES** - Numbers 29 v 12 - 40 list the offerings associated with this final feast period. No other feast has so many sacrifices. This section shows that each day as the feast progressed the number of bullocks being sacrificed reduced by one each day. The reduction may indicate that despite the conditions that will prevail in the millennium period the appreciation of God's people even in that day will diminish. It is clear from Rev 20 when Satan is released at the end of the 1000 years he is able quickly to find those willing to follow him.

**PERIOD MISSED** - Nehemiah 8 v 17 records for us a period in Israel's history when they did not celebrate this feast "since the days of Joshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so". This was a period of some 800 years. As the feast was not celebrated until they entered the land it appears that only in the time of Joshua did they celebrate this feast right up to the time of Nehemiah. This means that it was not celebrated during the times of the Judges or the Kings of Israel.

**DWELLING IN BOOTHS** - Another unique feature was that during the period the feast was being celebrated all had to move out of their homes and live in booths v 40 - 44. There was no exceptions to this and even those living in Jerusalem built booths "upon the roof of his house" Neh 8 v 16. This was a reminder of the days in the wilderness "when I brought them out of the land of Egypt" v 43. The booths were to be built with "palm trees" and "willows of the brook" v 40. Undoubtedly the palm would speak of times when things were favourable e.g. Exo 15 v 27 "Elim where were twelve wells of water and threescore and ten palm trees". The willow of difficult experiences e.g. Psa 137 v 1 and 2 "we wept ... we hanged our harps upon the willows". The building and dwelling in booths is very much in mind when we read of the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus on the mount - see Matt 17 v 1 - 13. Note the presence of Moses (a picture of saints who have died) and Elijah (a picture of saints caught up at the rapture who do not die) with the disciples (a picture of Israel but now restored to relationship with God). At the time of the millennial reign of Christ Israel will again be the people of God on earth but the raised and raptured believers of this day of grace will "be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" Rev 20 v 6.