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THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

THE SUKKOT – PART 3

After leaving Egypt, Israel roamed the wilderness areas for forty years as nomads. Just as Moses built a portable tabernacle, so each family also needed a portable dwelling place which they could take down when it was time to move, then erect it in the new location. Such movements were frequent.

Their dwelling was made of natural materials gathered from the surrounding environment much the way our “brush arbors” of the past century were done. The dwelling was called a “sukkot” meaning a “hut” or “booth.” Variant spellings include sukkah, sukkoth, and succoth, all meaning “booth” or “hut.” For that reason, the “Feast of Tabernacles” is also called “the Feast of Booths” or the “Feast of Sukkot.”

The 15th of Tishri is the principal day in which the shofar is blown to gather the people for a holy convocation. The seven following days take on a totally different look as written in Leviticus 23:39-43.

Following the sabbath of Tishri 15, the next seven days they shall construct a specifically designed hut (sukkot) in which to live seven days. The last of the seven days shall be another sabbath. This was to be done throughout all their generations forever. The purpose was to remind every successive generation of how God brought them out of bondage and “sheltered” them in booths (sukkots) through forty years in the wilderness.

To build this annual commemorative sukkot, they were to gather branches of good trees (Lev. 23:40), palm branches, boughs of thick trees, and willow branches. The sukkot would be constructed with these. They were to feast heartily everyday with merriment and rejoicing. It was a time of celebration. The sukkot (booth) was somewhat like their personal “little tabernacle” where they could dwell knowing that God was taking care of them.

We do not need a temporal tabernacle or temple today. Through Jesus Christ the indwelling Spirit of God dwells within every believer. We are his tabernacle (or permanent sukkot) of His holy presence.

Hmmm.... think about that. If you are tempted to do anything, ponder on that thought. Would it grieve the Holy Spirit within you? Think again.