

RUSSELL SANDERS

10-3-2020

THE BIBLICAL FALL FEASTS – PART 18

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES – SUKKOT (part 4)

Today is the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot, Booths, Rejoicing) which is an eight-day event. This first day is a high holy sabbath day which ends at sundown today. The following seven days are spent living in booths, feasting, and celebrating. The Feast of Tabernacles speaks two things to the Jews. First, it celebrates how God's presence dwelled with them in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle of the Congregation, then in the Temple. Second, it looks forward to the time when Messiah will come to rule the earth in Jerusalem with a rebuilt Temple. He will again "tabernacle" with His chosen covenant people on Mount Zion (Jerusalem) to rule and reign. This prophetic "hope" of Messiah is one reason this eight-day celebration is sometimes seen as a "Feast of Rejoicing."

Christians and Messianic Jews can rejoice because Messiah (Jesus Christ) has already "tabernacled" within us as believers. I Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) says, "Do you not know that you are the temple (tabernacle) of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" It is by the Holy Spirit sent by Jesus from the Father that Messiah, Jesus dwells within you. You have Christ "tabernacled" in your being.

Yet, there is still the prophetic future when Messiah will return to earth to rule and reign for a thousand years. He will "tabernacle" on earth during the "Millennial Reign." There is also a prophetic fulfillment that I believe happened historically over 2,000 years ago. That is likely when Messiah "tabernacled" with us on earth in a manger in Bethlehem. This probably occurred during the period of the Feast of Tabernacles as a prophetic fulfillment as God brought Messiah to dwell among us physically in human form. When the child grew to be a man, he preached the kingdom of heaven and backed it up with thousands of miracles, signs, and wonders. His sacrificial death (shed blood) and resurrection to life provide the way for his life (spirit) to "tabernacle" within us.

This would account for his 3-1/2 years of active ministry on earth. He was likely born on the Feast of Tabernacles and died (his sacrificial redeeming blood) on Passover.

Unfortunately, most Christians think he was born on December 25. That is impossible. That falsehood was perpetrated at the Nicene council in 325 A.D. for reasons that had nothing to do with the Bible, choosing instead to align a "birth holiday" with pagan holidays.

We rejoice that He "tabernacled" among us two millennia ago. We rejoice even more that He "tabernacles" with us today. We rejoice for the future time when He will once again "tabernacle among us" in the Millennial Reign and then again in the New Jerusalem.