

RUSSELL SANDERS

9-27-2021

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

SUKKOT – PART 8

Today is the sixth day of Jews living in their temporary “tabernacle” of branches, the sukkot (succoth, booth, hut) as they commemorate their 40 wilderness years. In that first year at Mount Sinai, their “tabernacle of the congregation” was designed and built in approximately 1485 B.C. (or 1491 by Ussher).

When they entered Canaan about 1445 (or 1451) with the tabernacle they had brief stops in Gilgal and Shechem before coming to rest at Shiloh about 24 miles NNE of Jerusalem. It remained at Shiloh as God’s presence dwelt there until the idolatrous mindset of the people caused it to be captured. It was taken away by the Philistines in approximately 1135 B.C., over 400 years later, causing the Ark of the Covenant to be moved around to various places. There was no longer a permanent place for God’s tabernacle until Solomon built a grand Temple in Jerusalem.

Nevertheless, Shiloh continued to be associated with God’s presence which later was found to dwell at the Jerusalem Temple. Evidence of this is found in Genesis 49:10 when Jacob gave his dying blessing to his son Judah. It was a prophecy of Messiah Jesus. Jacob prophesied, **“The scepter (of a king) shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver (ruler) from between his feet, until Shiloh come, and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.”** Shiloh represented the coming of the Great King, Jesus, who then made His sacrifice in Jerusalem where the Tabernacle had become the Temple.

Due to the death, resurrection, and ascension of Shiloh (The King of Kings), we have the more perfect tabernacle in which God’s spirit can dwell. Our physical human body is His Tabernacle or Temple of dwelling. It is important to understand that everything that the priest of Israel took into the Temple had to be cleansed, purified, and sanctified unto God. No defilement or impurity was allowed. Since our bodies are the physical temple of God’s Spirit, what does that mean for you and me?

I Corinthians 6:19 (KJV) says, **“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost (?) which is in you. Which ye have (from) God, and ye are NOT your own? For (He has bought you) with a price (His blood).”** Therefore, we are not to defile His temple, our bodies. Your body now belongs to God, and you must honor Him by keeping it “clean” unto the glory of God.

This is the opposite of today’s popular culture which says, “My body, my choice.” Such a mindset is rebellion against God. Romans 12:1 says, **“...present your bodies (as) a living sacrifice, holy (and) acceptable unto God...”** We sacrifice the desires and lusts of the flesh to be sanctified (set apart) as a pure and holy vessel of honor to God.

During this Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) we can rejoice that God’s Holy Spirit lives within our physical human temple (tabernacle). His life eternally dwells within you and me as His vessels sanctified unto His purpose.