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THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES PART 4

SUKKOT PART 4

THE FOUR SPICES

Yesterday we learned that during The Feast of Tabernacles that today observant Jews construct their sukkots (booths) with the branches of four particular trees. These tree branches come from the citron, palm, myrtle, and willow and are called the “four spices.” A special prayer of blessing is spoken over each branch.

The citron (not like the citron melon) is called the “Etrog.” Its fruit has a very sweet taste and a delightful aroma. The sweetness represents the knowledge of the Word of God within us written upon our hearts. The delightful aroma represents the good deeds and good works which are the fruits produced from our outworking faith upon the Word of God. It is the mark of the mature believer.

The palm branch is called the “Lulav” and is from the date palm. Dates have a sweet taste but have no aroma or fragrance. The taste represents those who have a knowledge of God’s Word, but the lack of fragrance means they lack the good works that come from true faith upon the Word of God. James 2:20 reflects this as it says, **“Faith without works is dead.”** Dead faith is not faith at all, so this date palm branch represents those who have a head knowledge of God (mental assent) but lack the heart knowledge of true faith. They deceive themselves by thinking they belong to God (Christ) but Hebrews 11:6 says, **“without faith it is impossible to please (God).”** They are lost.

The myrtle is called the “Hadas.” It is the exact opposite of the lulav (date palm). It has fragrance but it has no taste. The fragrance means they have good works, but lack of taste means they have little or no knowledge of God or of His Word. They “look good and smell good” on the outside, but they lack the Word of God on the inside. In the church they are what we call “hypocrites.”

The fourth spice branch is called the “Arava” which is the youngest (newest) of the willow branches before it fully opens. It has neither taste nor fragrance. This represents the unbeliever who has neither the Word of God in him nor the faith in God that produces good works. It represents the unrepentant sinner.

During the Feast of Tabernacles prayers are said over all four branches. This shows that we should pray over all four categories of people that they represent. Our prayers for people in any station of life are heard and received in heaven. God honors our prayers, howbeit in His own time.

Pray for all souls, both those you like and those you dislike.