

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE FALL BIBLICAL FEASTS PART 16

THE FEAST OF BOOTHS – SUKKOT

After leaving Egypt, Israel roamed the wilderness areas for forty years as nomads. Yesterday we spoke of the tabernacle where they could offer their sacrifices. God's presence resided in the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle. They would erect the tabernacle where God led them, then reside in that area for a while. They would then take down the tabernacle and move on to another location.

This meant that each family also had an abode which could be easily be taken down and put up again each time they moved. This type of portable dwelling was called a Sukkah or Sukkot. (various spellings include Sukkoth, Succoth.) It was a hut or a booth.

The Feast of Tabernacles starts on Tishri 15 and runs for eight days. The first day was the High Holy day where they performed their sacrifices. Then for seven days they lived in their booths. It is called the Feast of Booths as a reminder of how they lived during their forty years of wandering in booths.

This year the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) starts tomorrow on October 2 at sundown. The practice of erecting a booth and living in it for seven days is mandated for the Jews by scripture and is still practiced today in many areas. The booths(huts) were made of natural materials found around the terrain, such as branches of trees. Nehemiah 8:15 says to construct them of the branches of olive trees, pine, myrtle, palms, and other thick branches. Their sukkot (hut) served as their personal "tabernacle" in which they dwelled during their wilderness years. They "tabernacled" in their sukkot (hut) while God "tabernacled" in the "Holy of Holies" in the "Tabernacle of the Congregation."

Keep that in mind as we study deeper into the Feast of Tabernacles (booths or sukkot). We will later be discussing about God "tabernacling" with us, His faith followers of Jesus.