

RUSSELL SANDERS

9-25-2021

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

SUKKOT – PART 6

THE WATER OF CLEANSING

We spoke how in the Days of Awe (between Rosh Ha Shanah and Atonement) that two rituals were sometimes practiced demonstrating the relationship between water and the cleansing from sin.

One was where they would cast stones into a body of water. Each stone represented casting a sin into the depths of the sea never to be remembered again by God.

The other was the baptism by immersion into a body (or pool) of water as symbol of burying their sins and “resurrecting” clean of sin.

Sukkot also had its special ritual relating to the sin cleansing symbolism of water. It featured the pool of Siloam, a reservoir fed by the spring of Gihon from “the City of David,” Bethlehem.

The High Priest would carry an empty water pitcher from the Temple in Jerusalem to the town of Bethlehem, Yeshua’s birthplace, where Jesus had “tabernacled” among us in human flesh (incarnated). The priest would fill the pitcher with water from the Pool of Siloam. The people would follow him to Bethlehem rejoicing all along the way. The priest would then carry the pitcher of water back to the Temple in Jerusalem as the people continued to follow him rejoicing and praising God. Upon arrival at the Temple, the priest would pour out the water at the altar. This foreshadowed Jesus, the “living water” (John 4:10) being poured out at the altar of heaven via his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

The Jews probably did not understand the prophetic implications of their ritual, but it is one more Old Testament prophecy that was fulfilled in the work of Messiah from His birth in Bethlehem where His life did “spring” from, to His “pouring out” at Jerusalem. Jesus is Himself the High Priest and this symbolized His journey and His mission on earth. He, “the Living Water,” cleansed our sin.

We as Christians can understand and appreciate this Sukkot ritual in remembrance of what Christ did for us.