

FEAST OF BOOTHS 2017

First Day

Also known as the Feast of Tabernacles and Feast of Ingathering, as it is kept at the end of the summer harvests in Israel. It celebrates the gathering of God's people to restore the Earth.

This feast is first given to us in Lev 23:37-44. It is nothing less than a celebration of the coming Thousand year reign of Joshua Messiah.

All of God's People who were either raised from the dead or transformed when Joshua our Messiah returned will rejoice with Joshua:

1Th 4:13 But I want you to know, my brethren, that you should not be sorrowing for those who sleep like the rest of mankind who have no hope.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Joshua died and rose, even so God will bring those who have fallen asleep in Joshua with Him.

1Th 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of our Lord, that we, we who have life which remains until the coming of our Lord will not overtake those who are asleep.

1Th 4:16 For our Lord, He with a command and with the voice of the head angel and with the blast of the trumpet of God, will descend from heaven. And those who died and are in the Messiah will rise first.

1Th 4:17 And then we who remain, we who have life, we will be carried away with them, as one in the clouds, to meet with our Lord in the air. And in this way we will always be with our Lord.

1Th 4:18 Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

At last the earth will be free from Satan's evil influence:

Rev 20:1 And I saw another angel from heaven, who had with him the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 And he seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Rev 20:3 and he cast him into the abyss, and shut and sealed the top of it, that he would not seduce all the nations again. After these years it is allowed to release him for a little time.

The era of incompetent and corrupt human governments will be finished: Psm 2:1-9

Joshua will replace them with His world government:

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded, and there were great voices in heaven that said, "The kingdom of the world has become our God's and His Messiah's, and He shall reign for ages of ages!"

Zech 14:16-19 - Feast to be kept during the Thousand Years Peace (Also mentioned in Ezek 45:18 to 25).

It is also a day on which we are to give an offering to Jehovah (Deu 16:16-17).

Jehovah will give His servants positions in His government (and His church) that reflect the faithfulness and trustworthiness that they displayed in their earthly lives. Joshua alludes to this situation in this parable:

Luk 19:12 Therefore He said: "A certain man, son of a great noble, went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself and to return.

Luk 19:13 “So he called ten of his servants, and he gave ten minas to them, and said to them, ‘Trade until I return.’

Luk 19:14 “But the citizens of his city hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this one to reign over us.’

Luk 19:15 “And when he received the kingdom and returned, he said that they should call these servants to him, to whom he had given the money, that he could know what every last one of them had gained.

Luk 19:16 “And the first came, and said, ‘My Lord, your mina has gained ten minas.’

Luk 19:17 “He said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you have been found faithful with little, you will be given authority over ten talents.’

Luk 19:18 “And the second came, and said, ‘My Lord, your mina has made five minas.’

Luk 19:19 “And he also said to that *one*, ‘You will also be an authority over five talents.’

Luk 19:20 “And another came, and said, ‘My Lord, Behold your mina, which has been with me since I placed it in a purse.

Luk 19:21 ‘For I feared you, as you are a harsh man, collecting what you did not lay down, and reaping what you did not sow.’

Luk 19:22 “He said to him, ‘From your *own* mouth I will judge you, wicked servant! You knew that I was a harsh man, collecting what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow.

Luk 19:23 ‘Why didn’t you give my money to the exchangers, that when I come and demand it, I could collect it with its interest?’

Luk 19:24 “And to those standing before him, he said, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas with him.’

Luk 19:25 They said to him, ‘Our Lord, he has ten minas with him.’

Luk 19:26 He said to them, ‘I say to you, that to everyone who has, it will be given to him; and whoever who does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

Luk 19:27 ‘Now my enemies, those who did not want me to reign over them, bring them and slay them before me.’”

Rev 20:4 And I saw seats, and they sat on them, and judgement was given to them and the souls of those who were cut off¹ for the testimony of Joshua and for the word of God, and because these had not worshipped the beast nor its image, nor received the mark between their eyes or on their hands.² They lived and reigned with Messiah for one thousand years.

Rev 20:5 And this *is* the first resurrection.³

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has his part in the first resurrection, and over them the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Messiah, and they will reign with Him one thousand years.

The Feast is also a celebration of the vast number of people who, faced with unquestionable proof of Messiah's existence and authority when he returns, decide to turn to him. This aspect is brought out by this being a celebration held **after** the Israelites had completed their main

¹ As in the Peshitta, meaning that all who were killed for their faithfulness to God are included. The Greek instead (and incorrectly) has “beheaded”, restricting this group to only one unusual method of death.

² Literally ‘on between their eyes’, suggesting the mark might be visible as well as internal.

³ Many Greek manuscripts begin this verse with “But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.”

summer harvest (Leviticus 23:39).

The name 'booths' also brings out more understanding about the Thousand Years. A booth (also known as a tabernacle) is a temporary dwelling. In Leviticus 23:40 & 44 God says to live in a booth during this feast. It reminds the Jews (and us) of the Exodus, the giving of the Instructions on Mount Sinai and forty years they had to wander in the desert living in booths because of their disobedience towards God. It teaches us that those who were part of the first resurrection at Messiah's return will live with Him in temporary dwellings until the New Jerusalem is brought down after the Thousand Years ends:

Rev 21:7 “And he who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I shall be his God and he will be My son.

Rev 21:8 “But the cowards, and unbelievers, and the evil, and the defiled, and murderers, and sorcerers, and fornicators, and idol worshippers, and all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire burning with brimstone, which is the second death.”

Rev 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven vessels filled with the last seven plagues came and talked with me, saying, “Come, I shall show you the Bride, the Lamb’s wife.”

Rev 21:10 And he carried me in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending from heaven, from the presence of God.

Rev 21:11 And it had the glory of God. And its light was like precious stones, like jasper, as clear as crystal.

Rev 21:12 And it had a great and high wall with twelve gates in it, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of Israel:

Rev 21:13 three gates on the east, and three gates on the north, and three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

Rev 21:14 Now the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the apostles of the Son.

Rev 21:15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city and its wall.

Rev 21:16 And the city is laid out with four sides, and its length is as its width. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand stadios⁴. Its length, width, and height are equal.

Rev 21:17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, which is that of an angel.

Rev 21:18 And the wall was constructed of jasper; and the city was pure gold, in the likeness of pure glass.

Rev 21:19 And the foundations of the wall of the city are adorned with precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

Rev 21:20 the fifth sardonyx and onyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh golden chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

Rev 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: one pearl for each, and every one of the gates was one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like it had glass in it.

Rev 21:22 But I did not see a Booth in it, for Lord Jah, our God, upholds all and He is its Booth⁵.

Rev 21:23 For the Lamb and the city do not need the sun or the moon to illuminate them, for the glory of God illuminates them, and the Lamb is its lamp.

⁴ Over 2100 kilometers. As the city is also 2100 kilometers tall, it is apparent that the new earth will be very different to our current earth, as it is unlikely that such an enormous city could be supported by our present planet and atmosphere.

⁵ As in the Peshitta, also see Eze 37:26-28, Isa 60:5-7

Rev 21:24 And the nations⁶ shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

Rev 21:25 Its gates shall not be shut by day, nor shall there be night.

Rev 21:26 And they shall bring the glory and the honour of the nations into it.

Rev 21:27 And there shall not be anyone that defiles, or creates pollution or lies, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book.

Rev 22:1 And he showed me the river of water of life, as pure and clear as crystal, coming out from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Rev 22:2 In the centre of the street, and on this and that side of the river, were the trees of life, which bear twelve fruits, each giving its fruit every month. And their leaves *are* for the healing of the nations.

Rev 22:3 And there shall not be any curse, and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

Rev 22:4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be between their eyes.

Rev 22:5 And there will be no night there: They will not need lights or lamps or the light of the sun, for Lord Jah, *our* God, gives them light and will be their King forever and ever⁷.

Rev 22:6 Then he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true." And Lord Jah, God of the spirit of the holy prophets⁸, sent His angel to show His servants the things which will happen soon.

Rev 22:7 "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessings to the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Rev 22:8 I am John, who saw and heard these things. And when I saw and I heard, I fell *down* to worship before the feet of the angel who showed these things to me.

Rev 22:9 Then he said to me, "Seer! No! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

Rev 22:10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

Rev 22:11 "He who does evil will do evil again; and he who is foul will be foul again; and the righteous will do righteousness again; and the holy will be sanctified again."

Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, and I shall give to everyone according to his work.

Rev 22:13 "I am the Alap and I am the Tau, the First and the Last, the Origin and the Fulfilment."

Rev 22:14 Blessed are those doing His commandments; they will have access to the trees of life, and they shall enter the city through the gates.

Rev 22:15 *Left* out are fornicators and murderers and idol worshippers and the defiled and sorcerers and all seers⁹ and workers of lies.

Rev 22:16 "I, Joshua, have sent My angel to testify these things among you in the assemblies. I AM! I am the Root and the Offspring of David, his companion and the bright Morning Star."

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come and let him take the water of life freely.

Rev 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: whoever adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

Rev 22:19 and whoever takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the trees of life, and from the holy city, and from the things which are written in

⁶ The Greek adds "the nations of those who are saved"...

⁷ As in the Peshitta, also see Daniel 7:18, Isaiah 60:19, Ezekiel 1:28

⁸ As in the Peshitta, also see 2 Kings 21:10, 2 Chron 24:19, Jeremiah 25:4, Amos 2:11

⁹ This clearly means all 'seers' who do not serve God, as John is addressed as a 'seer' in vs 9 above.

this book.

Rev 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming.” Come quickly, Lord Jah Joshua!¹⁰

Rev 22:21 The grace of our Anointed Lord Joshua be with all of His saints. Amen.

Booths also teaches us that those who turned to Messiah after His return will live in their temporary mortal bodies until the end of the Thousand Years.

The Thousand Years will be a time of joy for all who are blessed with the opportunity to live in it (Jeremiah 31:1-14 and Isaiah 25:1-9). Sickness will be unknown and all children will live to be a hundred years of age. Sadly, a few will reject Joshua and try to walk in unrighteousness (Isaiah 29:17-19, Ezek 38:1 to 39:29). Joshua will lead us in a program of renewal that will see most of the earth turned into a paradise that today only seems to be an unachievable dream (Joel 3:17-21). He promises us that it will be a time when there is plenty for everyone. No longer will we have wars and famines, nor oppression and anger (Isaiah 2:2-5).

God will heal the earth from the ravages brought on it by man’s disobedience and Satan’s deceptions (Ezek 47:1 to 23). The last chapters of Ezekiel describe how God will divide up the land. Everyone will have a part in His plan, and everyone will benefit from their own labour. The country will be full of small, productive farms (Isaiah 65:17-25). The cities will be beautifully designed, clean and welcoming. Education will be valued and all will have access to it. God will ensure that all development will be made to benefit all of His Creation, and we will be trained in all the skills and aspects of knowledge required to implement His plans.

These wonderful events make the Feast of Booths a time of great rejoicing, which is foreshadowed in Matthew 21:

Mat 21:1 Now as He drew near to Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, by the side of the Mount of Olives, Joshua sent two disciples,

Mat 21:2 saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and at once you will find a donkey that is tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me.

Mat 21:3 “And if a man speaks to you, say this to him, ‘They are needed for our Lord,’ and at once he will send them here.”

Mat 21:4 But this happened to fulfill that which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

Mat 21:5 “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and riding on a donkey; upon a colt, the foal of a female donkey.’”¹¹

Mat 21:6 So the disciples went and did just as Joshua had commanded them.

Mat 21:7 They brought the donkey and the colt and they laid their garments on the colt, and Joshua rode on him.

Mat 21:8 And a multitude of crowds spread their clothes on the road; but others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Mat 21:9 Then the multitudes who went before Him and those who followed behind Him cried out,

¹⁰ As in the Peshitta.

¹¹ From Zec 9:9

and they were saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David!¹² ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of Jehovah¹³!’ Hosanna in the highest!”

Mat 21:10 And when He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was troubled, and they were saying, “Who is this?”

Mat 21:11 But the multitudes, they said, “This is Joshua, the prophet who is from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Let us also rejoice that Joshua, God’s Son, came to save us. May the entire Feast of Booths be a celebration looking forward to when He returns and reclaims the whole earth.

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Using the CHCoG translation based on the Aramaic NC.

¹² Hosannah is an Aramaic word meaning ‘Save Now’.

¹³ As in Psa 118:26 and Shem-Tob’s Hebrew Matthew. Lord Jah in the Peshitta.