

“The Feast of Tabernacles”

By James Moriello, Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket RI, 2024

“The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD” (Leviticus 23:34, NKJV)

The Feast of Tabernacles is the seventh of the major feasts of Israel prescribed in Leviticus 23:33-43. Here are nine basic fast facts concerning this great feast.

1. It is also called “Succoth” (Booths) and “The Feast of Ingathering” (of the harvest).
2. The timing is for seven days each year, from 15 Tishri through 21 Tishri (October 16th through 22nd in 2024).
3. The offerings celebrate God’s past, present, and future provisions.
4. It is the third of the three required pilgrim feasts under the Old Testament Law (Exodus 23:14-17).
5. In Jesus’ day, there was a symbolic water offering in anticipation of God’s coming provision of rain. Here, many see an indication of both Christ the Water of Life and of God the Holy Spirit.
6. There would be a waving of palm branches (Leviticus 23:40; Psalm 118:25) in anticipation of the coming of the Messianic King. In this, the coming of the Passover (Palm Sunday) concerned the First Advent, while the Feast of Tabernacles portends the Second Advent.
7. The Feast of Tabernacles, God “tabernacling” among men, is fulfilled in John 1:14, concerning the Messiah’s First Advent.
8. The Temple Light Ceremony of this feast forms the backdrop of Jesus’ words in John 8:12 (Cf. John 7:2).
9. The “Feast of Ingathering”, the alternate name for this feast, finds its fulfillment concerning the ingathering of souls (Matthew 25:31-34). This fulfillment is in relation to the Second Advent, Messianic Kingdom, and Eternal Order.