



OCTOBER 2017

ROOD REVIEW



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LETTER FROM **MICHAEL**

Chag Sameach!

Sukkot – the weeklong feast that falls in the midst of the 7th month of the year – is upon us.

Sukkot, or the Feast of Tabernacles, is a reminder to us of the Israelites encamped in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. They tabernacled in tents, living off of the Almighty's promise. Having been slaves in Egypt for generations, they had to depend on a promise from heaven given to them through Moses. That promise was of new life, belonging, and a future. While there in the wilderness, YeHoVaH taught the people how to be his people. It was not easy to live in the desert, but the Israelites finally had deliverance from man's oppression – freedom after years of tyranny.

Sukkot is not just a reminder, though. Prophecy is fulfilled by and through the Feasts of the LORD. The feasts are not just simple celebrations and observances, they are the representation by which we understand the Almighty's plan – past, present, and future. Each feast and holy day gives us insight into how we are connected to the Father and how history is connected to what is to come. The Feasts are a promise from our Creator that he has provided for us, that he has laid out a path to redemption and eternity for us.

That promise is embodied in the Messiah, who gave his life for ours. During Sukkot in 3 B.C.E., the Word was made flesh and tabernacled among us when Yeshua was born in a sukkah much like the ones the Israelites inhabited in the wilderness. He is the fulfillment of God's promise to his people to save them, not just from slavery, but from the wages of sin and from death. While on earth, Yeshua taught the people how to be YeHoVaH's people again and bridged the gap between us and the Creator.

Every single year since the Israelites left Egypt, on the 15th day of the 7th month, this feast has held the place for prophecy fulfilled. This feast has held the hope and expectation of our gathering to begin a new life of promise. It came with Yeshua's birth and will come again.

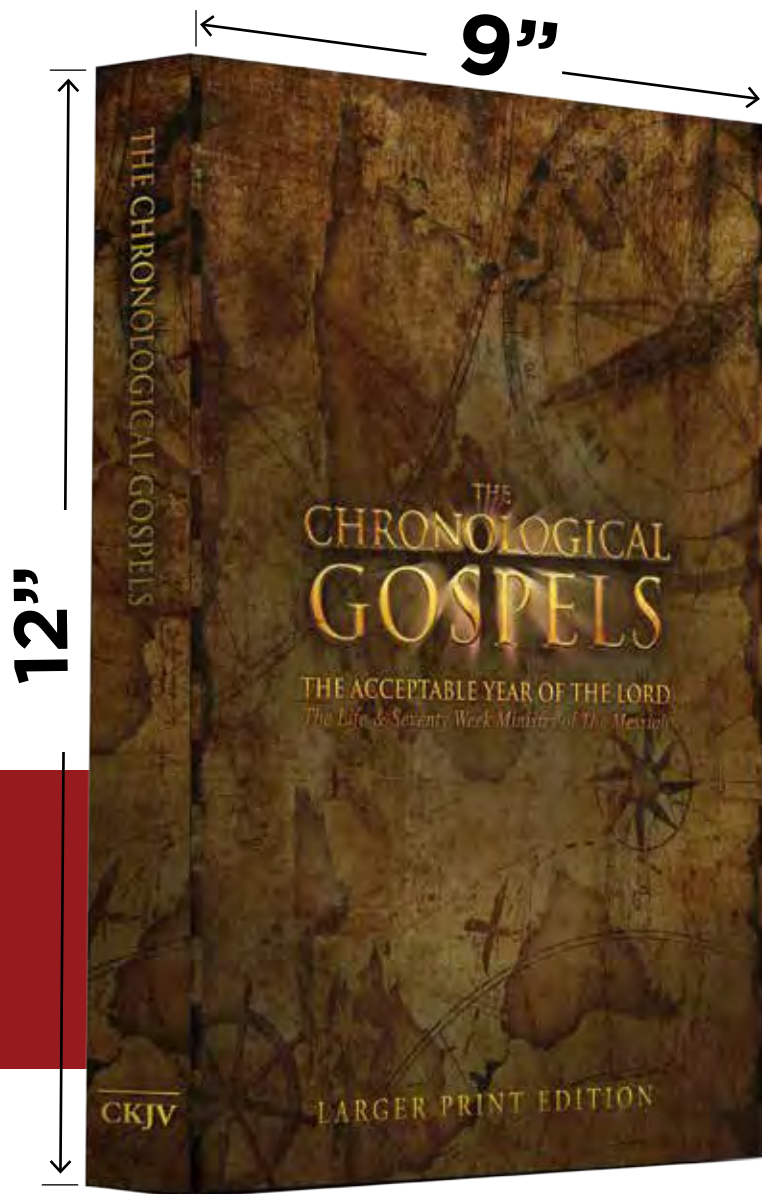
Sukkot still holds promise for us. In its final fulfillment, Sukkot brings us the promise of being with our Messiah once again at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. It is the sweetness promised after pain and hardship.

This Sukkot, take a moment to recognize your place in history. Remember that during this feast, for so many years, YeHoVaH's people have stood in anticipation of a fulfilled promise. Know that in 3 B.C.E., that promise was fulfilled during this very feast, and that in the not too distant future it will be fulfilled to completeness. You are linked, through this feast, to the Israelites, to the Messiah, to the Father, and to eternity.

Chag Sameach!

Michael Rood

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SUKKOT

What is Sukkot?

Sukkot is a weeklong festival also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, Feast of the Ingathering, or Feast of Booths.

Sukkot or The Feast of Tabernacles is observed in the fall from the 15th to the 22nd of Tishri (the 7th Hebrew month) each year. This year, Sukkot's Hebrew date coincides with our modern Gregorian calendar from sundown October 5 through October 12 (If the new moon is not seen on September 21, all subsequent Feasts dates will be delayed by one day).

Historically, Sukkot was to be kept in remembrance of the dwelling in tents in the wilderness for the forty-year period during which the children of Israel were wandering in the desert. It is written in Leviticus 23:43: "That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

Why should believers keep Sukkot?

Leviticus 23:33-43 clearly states the following: "You shall keep it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month."

The word "forever" in this verse is the same word used as "everlasting" in John 3:16 that says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

If we are to say that whoever believes in Yeshua (Jesus) will receive everlasting life, then why should we challenge that Sukkot should be a statute that we are to keep forever?

Did Yeshua (Jesus) keep Sukkot?

Luke 9:51 says, "When the time came for Him to go up to the Feast of Sukkot, he steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem."

How do we keep the Feast of Sukkot?

There is only one Holy High Sabbath in the Feast of Sukkot, the first day of Sukkot. The day after the 7th day of Sukkot is often mistaken as part of the Sukkot festival but is technically the day after Sukkot ends. This "eighth day" is called Hoshana Rabba, which is a Holy High Sabbath.

High Sabbaths are holy days on which, like the weekly Sabbath, no work is to be done. High Sabbaths are to be kept holy. People celebrate in a variety of different ways, but the only thing commanded of us scripturally is that we do no work and keep the day holy.

If Feasts are prophetic pictures of things to come, what does Tabernacles represent?

The first day of the Feast of Tabernacles was the day that Yeshua was born. This is when the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Yeshua came to dwell (sukkah or tabernacle) with us (John 1:14) to take the sins of the world and redeem us.

Yeshua's birth on the first day of Sukkot served as an intermediate fulfillment of the Feast. The final fulfillment will occur at the future ingathering of the harvest when Yeshua returns to reign on Earth. All nations that survive the Great Tribulation will come together to worship Him in Jerusalem during the Feast of Sukkot (Zech 14:16-17).



TORAH SCROLL CRAFT

Sukkot is Yeshua's birthday! This Torah scroll is a great craft for the day because He is the Word made flesh!

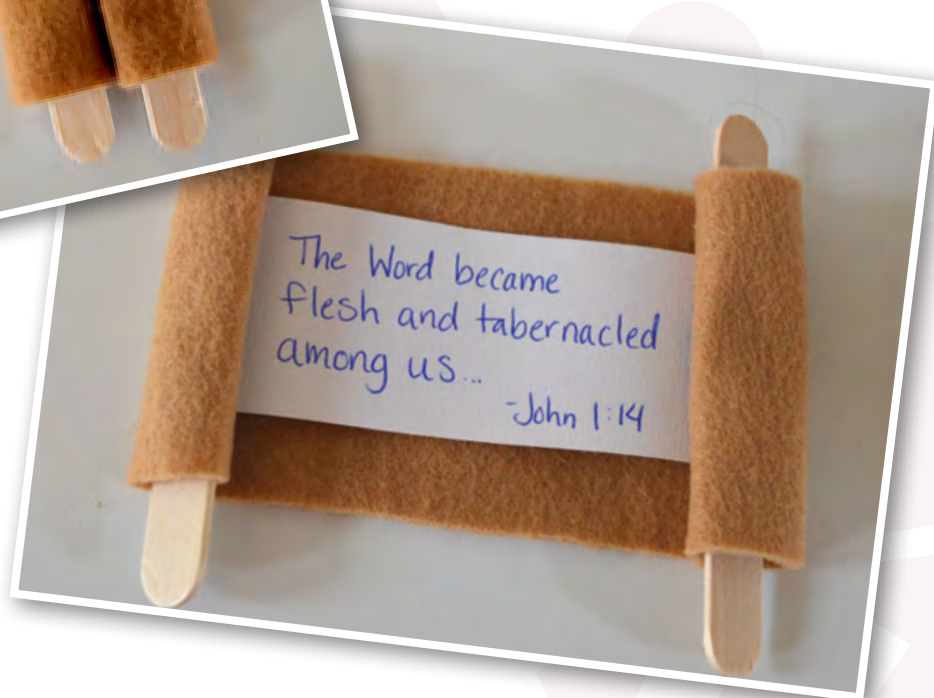
Materials:

- Brown felt
- Scissors
- 2 popsicle sticks
- Glue (hot glue may work best)
- Paper and pen

Instructions:

1. Cut the felt to your desired size (an inch or so shorter than the popsicle sticks and about 8 inches in length is a good size).
2. Glue one popsicle stick to each short end of the felt.
3. Cut a small piece of paper and write your favorite Bible verse on it.
4. Glue the paper to the middle of your felt.
5. Roll up the scroll from the popsicle stick ends to meet in the middle.

**Please ensure an adult is present when using a hot glue gun.*



STEP 6

HOW TO START A FELLOWSHIP

STEP 6: FALL FEASTS VS. CHRISTMAS

BY MATTHEW HALL

Our culture is entrenched in pagan traditions such as Halloween and Christmas; these pagan holidays come to the forefront of everyone's mind as a result of the traditions and commercialism that come along with them. As such, one of the biggest challenges you will find within your fellowship is trying to create excitement — especially for the kids — around the Fall Feasts of YeHoVaH.

Giving Up Old Tradition!

Many of your existing members (especially members who are new to the Hebrew Roots of the faith) are going to need a lot of support and encouragement during this time. Their family members are going to start sending out Christmas cards; Grandparents are going to want to buy their Hebrew Roots/Torah observant grandchildren Christmas presents; kids are going to want to dress up and go trick-or-treating because the neighbor kids are going; and the list goes on and on. Giving up these generational family traditions can be very difficult because of all the memories, sounds, songs, smells, tasty foods, and presents that go along with them.

Creating New Traditions!

As Torah observant followers of Yeshua, we have something even BETTER to be excited about: The Fall Feasts of YeHoVaH! This includes Feasts like Yom Teruah, Yom Kippur, and The Feast of Tabernacles. YeHoVaH has literally commanded us to have more fun during this time than any other time of the year — that's something to celebrate! Here's why:

- In its translation, Yom Teruah provides a clue as to its purpose. Teruah literally means “to make a loud noise”. This word can describe the noise made by a trumpet but it also describes the noise made by a large gathering of people shouting in unison (Numbers 10:5–6, Joshua 6:5). This is when we anticipate the return of the King of Kings!
- During The Feast of Tabernacles, we have the opportunity to break from our routines to live in temporary dwellings (typically camping) with family and friends for eight glorious days specifically set aside to spend with our Creator YeHoVaH and His son Yeshua who “tabernacled” among us. We eat good food, share stories around the campfire, and train our children in the way they should go according to the written Torah and the living Torah, Yeshua.

As a fellowship leader, it is important that you create excitement and anticipation around the Fall Feasts in order to help people replace the feelings of loss and emptiness that come with giving up all the memories that were attached to the pagan traditions they once observed. It's a new day! It's a new chapter! And we have something to be excited about! Chag Sameach (Joyous Festival in Hebrew),

Matthew Hall
Director of Aviv Fellowships

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