

THE WATER LIBATION CEREMONY

Throughout the seven days of Sukkot a priest carried water in a gold pitcher from the Pool of Siloam, through the Water Gate. It was then poured into a basin at the foot of the altar. It symbolized prayer for early rain, as spoken of in Joel 2:23.

The Sadducees did not get into as much of the traditional celebrations as the Pharisees. They for example, never celebrated the Water Libation Ceremony. The Pharisees took advantage of the disbelief of the Sadducees and made this celebration even more spectacular just to annoy their competition.

Why the pool of Siloam?

The pool of Siloam was the pool everyone had to go through (mikvah) before you climbed the stairs heading up to the Temple. It was required by all who wanted to enter into the Temple at any time. Anyone attempting to get into the presence of the Holy One of Israel was mikvahed and then as they came out of the pool of Siloam, was given a white robe. Then and only then were they permitted to go into the Temple. This is what is referred to as part of the salvation message in the scroll of Mark (Mark 16:16). This cleansing (mikvah) required of all who present themselves before the steps of the Nicanor Gate of the Temple of the King, is connected to the white robe received in Rev. 3:5 after we are cleansed.

Rev. 3:5-6 *'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 6 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

The last sabbath of Hoshana Rabbah was called Sh'mini Atzeret. The last great day, Hoshana Rabbah, the priests marched around the altar seven times carrying willow branches. On the seventh circuit around the altar the priests would beat their willow branches until the leaves fell off. The high priest would pour out the water while some priests blew gold trumpets, while others sang songs. The worshippers would also be chanting the Hallel (Ps. 113-118) and waving their lulavs. The Mishnah said that he who had never seen this ceremony...had never seen true joy (Jewish New Testament Commentary, page 179). It was at the climax of this joyous ceremony that Messiah stood up and cried, **John 7:37-38** *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come unto me and drink. Whoever puts his trust in Me, as scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from his inmost being."* The people were rejoicing and celebrating in the fact that Yah would send the latter rains. Then Messiah stood up and cried, **"if anyone puts their trust in Me, rivers of living water will flow from their innermost being"**. Yeshua spoke these words in red during the ceremony. He was implying that He was the Living Water sent from Yah that they had all been praying for, for centuries.

During the water libation ceremony it was tradition to sing Isaiah 12:1-6. **Isa. 12:2-3** *"Behold, **God is my salvation**, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation."* 3 *Therefore you will joyously draw water From the springs of **salvation**."* The people without even realizing it, were singing about their salvation, Yeshua, in Isa. 12:1-6 as recorded in John 7:37-38, (written in red) while He was in their very midst. Let's look at what they were singing again. **Isa. 12:2-3** *"Behold, Elohim is my **Yeshua**, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my*

strength and song, And He has become my Yeshua." 3 *Therefore you will joyously draw water From the springs of Yeshua.*" Yeshua was right there with them as their key to salvation yet they missed it. In the same way for hundreds of years the so-called christian church has had Yeshua right in front of their eyes, yet they keep worshipping another Messiah.

With this in mind, it gives us a much greater depth and understanding of the text. Messiah's statement echoes an earlier statement He made to the woman at the well (John 4:13-14). John gives the interpretation of Messiah's statement and refers to it as a latter time when the Spirit would be poured out on those who believed (John 7:39). Acts 2:1-4 the Holy Spirit was poured out on believers at Shavuot (Pentecost). Just as the



Israelites (those overcome by Yah), needed the latter rains for the spring harvest, they also needed the early spring rains for the fall harvest. When the Holy Spirit was poured out during Shavuot, it fulfilled the type for the early rains. Now we are looking forward to a time when the Holy Spirit will again be poured out on Believers in a fulfillment of the latter rains. If you think Pentecost was a glorious manifestation of the Holy Spirit, just wait until the latter outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Hoshana Rabbah. **Isa. 12:3** says, *"With joy shall you draw water from the wells of salvation."* The Hebrew word for "salvation" is Yeshua. Those who put their trust in Yeshua the Messiah will draw living water from His well. Yeshua Messiah is our salvation.

Yeshua came as the former rain and will come back as the latter rain. **Hosea 6:3** *"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know Yah His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto*

the earth."

To this day there is a natural spring near the Temple mount in Israel called the Gihon Spring. This natural spring supplies the City of David, the original site of Jerusalem with its water. This spring provided water for the pool of Siloam. The Living Water still pours out from the temple area to this day.

Prophetic connection

Prophetically speaking Hoshana Rabbah is pointing us to the end just before the millennial reign of Messiah. Shemini Atzeret is pointing His bride to the new beginning. It also takes us to Simchat Torah, when the torah parashah's start all over again. The seventh millennium, the thousand year reign of our Messiah is connected to Hoshana Rabbah.

The question we must all ask ourselves is this: "Am I prepared for the wedding supper of the lamb as a bride, or am I going to only be a guest when He returns"? "Have I

rehearsed and prepared myself for this, the greatest wedding feast ever given, or am I going to go along with all the goats stuck in the pagan religion of christianity"?

A wise bride will show up for the rehearsal, she will be totally prepared to meet her groom whenever He presents Himself in front of her. A wise bride will attend rehearsals.

TORAH WATER

The Torah can be compared to (allegorical of) pure spring water. It originated at the top of Mt. Sinai and came down the mountain with Moses. Since then it has picked up all kinds of silt, pollution, debris, etc., and has become diluted to the point that you can not safely drink it as provided.

Those who thirst for pure water must go upstream to the source. The true source is our Hebrew Bible. The waters are diluted and polluted because of the choices we make as individuals.

The Torah is the pure Word or river of life, all pro-claimed christian religions are streams that have become polluted, diluted and full of silt because of man's additions, myths, stories and legends. To get to the truth we must all go to Mt. Sinai where the river begins. The Torah was the pure water poured out upon the people at Mt. Sinai and Yeshua came again as the living Torah poured out to all who thirst for truth. Read Ezek. 47:1-12 and you will see what may be another "type" of the river of life.

It is also interesting to note that it was at this time of year (Last Great Day) when some of the most mysterious verses in scripture took place in the Women's courtyard of the Temple. These verses were in regards to the writing in the sand (John 8:1-8).

(Dec 8/16) Jerry Hennig