

ILLUMINATION OF THE TEMPLE CEREMONY



There is one more tradition associated with the Feast of Tabernacles. It is called the “illumination of the Temple Ceremony”. According to ancient Jewish literature there were **four** large menorahs in the Women’s Courtyard of the Temple. Some say there was one huge pole with four lamps on it rather than **four** poles with lamps. Either way they, or it, was about seventy feet tall. In this Women’s court area of the Temple these menorahs were lit every day during the Feast of Tabernacles. The **four** oil pots of the menorahs held about five gallons of olive oil each. Strips of worn out priestly garments were used as wicks, the same strips used as swaddling cloths during Yeshua’s birth. A beautiful thematic connection of the light of the world seen in Yeshua at birth and upon His death. They were so bright that the entire area including Jerusalem, was lit up every night. The men would celebrate with no limitations during this ceremony on the main floor and the women celebrated above them, separate, in the upper area. It was a celebration like no other in Jerusalem.

Prophetic connection

This celebration was so brilliant that the people called it "The Light Of The World". Now let’s look at **John 8:12** *Then Yeshua again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”* When Yeshua made this statement all the people knew exactly what He was referring to. The Temple menorahs were the light of the entire surrounding area. I’m sure, even from childhood, Yeshua could clearly remember the spectacle of the lights of these huge menorahs. Yeshua was the Light of the Temple.

If we look in John 9:1-7 we will see how Yeshua not only talked about being the light of the world, He actually gave the light of the world to a blind man near the Temple gate. **John 9:1-7** *As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” Yeshua answered, “[It was] neither [that] this man sinned, nor his parents; but [it was] so that the works of Yah might be displayed in Him. (4) “We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. “While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came [back] seeing.”* **James 1:17** *Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”* Yeshua was not only the light of the world, but He also gave light to a blind man on the Last Great Day, the 22 nd, as revealed in:

John 9:14 *Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Yeshua made the clay, and opened his eyes.*

Phil. 2:15 *so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of Yah above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,”*

If we consider the idea that one pole with four pots on it was used during this festival, and the High Priests used garments were wicks, we see something prophetic.

John 19:23 *Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Yeshua, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece.”* Yeshua was the High Priest. His pure linen tunic (robe), torn in four pieces, may have been the ultimate wick used to shine His light on all the world. **Yeshua was the light of the World burning from the inside of the Temple to all four corners of the world.** His scattered sheep just need to turn to the east toward the covenant made at Mt. Sinai and the place of the Temple of old, and they will see the light.

The main message of the Feast of Tabernacles is that Yah has a desire for an intimate relationship with His people. Although sin entered the world many years ago, Yah always gave mankind a way to either cover or have sin removed, so that He could be intimate with us. He cannot have anything to do with sin, so He made it possible for us to be set free so that we could have that personal relationship with Him in our very own Temple, the Temple within all His saved children. We know that not only was Yeshua the living Tabernacle, but that He also came to Tabernacle with His people. He came to dwell with man in an intimate way. Through His birth, life, and death, He made it all possible for those who obey His Word. **John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."**

WEDDING FEAST AND MESSIAHS RETURN

We learned that on the Feast of Trumpets our Groom will sound the shofar and His bride will be with Him. After the resurrection we will appear and give an account of ourselves before the judgement seat of Messiah on Yom Kippur. **Rev. 19:9** says, "...Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb!" The wedding Feast that we have been invited to by Messiah will take place during the seven days of Sukkot. Remember that Sukkot is a joyous celebration with eating and drinking. If you have repented and put your complete trust in Messiah's atoning blood sacrifice, then your sins are forgiven and you are personally invited to His wedding banquet. Originally Yah's people agreed to His marriage contract at Mt. Sinai and some day soon He will be back to get His covenant keeping bride. Some believe that after the wedding supper is over the curtains of Yah's grand ballroom will open and we will witness the riders on the white horses and the battle of Armageddon.

I have heard many Believers tell me that they don't want to keep Sukkot or any of the other Feasts. Let us not be like those individuals. In Matt. 22:1-14, we see these type of individuals who were invited to the Kings wedding banquet, but refused to go. You do not have to observe the Feasts, Yah will not force you. YOU GET TO. It is our privilege and honor to observe Yah's Holy Days. Our heart's desire should be that we want to, that is the proper attitude and motive that Yahveh requires. If you don't want to participate in these rehearsals/ Feasts now, maybe you don't want to be a part of them in the future. The Feasts are wedding rehearsals for our wedding supper of the lamb.

Imagine if you were getting married and the bride or groom didn't show up for the wedding rehearsal. If the bride or groom can't even make it to the rehearsal would you trust her or him to come to the wedding? Would you accept it if she or he came to the rehearsal one day early or one day late? I don't think so.

Yah gives us His commandments as a road map so we can show up in time for the wedding and know exactly what to expect from the groom. They are constant reminders of our future wedding, that's why we rehearse them all the time.



If you don't want to participate maybe you should consider asking yourself why, or perhaps even who (what spirit), is keeping you from celebrating your Kings Feasts. Maybe He is not really your King. Whom do you serve is the big question? Zech. 14:16-19 makes it very clear that in the last days all the nations will come to Jerusalem for Sukkot to worship the King. **Zech. 14:16-19** Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, Elohim of hosts, and **to celebrate the Feast of Booths**. And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Elohim of hosts, there will be no rain on them. If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no [rain will fall] on them; it will be the plague with which Elohim smites the nations who do not

go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths [sukkot]. This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths [sukkot]. Yeshua Himself tells us we will celebrate the Feasts in Heaven. **Matt. 26:29** *“But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”* Yeshua spoke these words while celebrating Passover..Last Supper.

The sukkot (tabernacle) is also represented in the wedding huppah. The huppah is a glorified sukkah. When you are under the tabernacle of the living Yah you are under His protection, in covenant with Him. Only His bride can come under His covering and proclaim His name. What all others say or do, supposedly in His name, means nothing, because they are not His bride, He is not their fiancé'.

As we've learned, the Feasts were/are shadows of the past and things to come, seasons (moed/ rehearsals) representing Yah's dealings with His people. Us Gentiles had the honor of being able to be grafted onto the tree of the Jewish people. The feasts symbolize major encounters between Yah and His covenant people. By the long summer months when there were no Feasts, Yah was very graphically showing the Israelites (those overcome by Yah), that there would be a long period of time in the future when He would not make Himself known to them on a national basis. He would still be favoring individual Jews, but His favor and attention would be directed towards the gentiles (Goyim). You see, Yah chose the Jews as the nation of people through which He would work out certain of His divine plans and purposes. Yah would use them as oracles to write down and preserve the scriptures. All His obedient children are to bring the message of the Messiah into the world and proclaim the gospel of good news to all the nations. The Jews fulfilled these first two callings but failed on the last because they rejected Yeshua as their Messiah.

After the Jews rejected Yeshua as their Messiah, El Shaddai directed His attention towards the Gentiles. John said of Yeshua: **John 1:11-12** *He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. **But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of Yahveh, [even] to those who believe in His name,***

For the last 2000 years Yah has given His favour and attention to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, not so much the Jews, have been greatly blessed by Yah. The Gentiles have had the encounters with Yah. The Gentiles have been the ones to spread the gospel of Yeshua. This span of time in history when Yah's attention was/is directed towards the “people of the way” (church), is called the church period. It is the three long summer months when there were no Feasts. That period of time corresponds to the present day church period. That period of time is quickly coming to a close. It began with the Spring Feasts and will continue up to the future prophetic fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

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