Sukkot Discussion

Prep for a conversation segment on OKM Live, 10/08/23.

From Chabad.org, a guide to the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles. https://www.chabad.org/library/article\_cdo/aid/4784/jewish/What-Is-Sukkot.htm

* A weeklong holiday
  + Comes 5 days after Yom Kippur
  + September 29 to October 6, 2023.
* Celebrates the gathering of the harvest.
* Commemorates the miraculous protection of God for the Israelites leaving Egypt.
* Celebrated with traditions:
  + Constructing a sukkah, a temporary shelter.
    - Eating meals in the sukkah.
    - Some may sleep in the sukkah.
* Then from Sundown on the 6th to nightfall on the 8th is a celebration of the Torah. (a separate holiday)
* There are 2 names, or significances, for Sukkot.
  + The Festival of Ingathering, or Harvest Festival
  + The Festival of Booths
* The sukkah commemorates the temporary shelters made for the Israelites when leaving Egypt.

The Feast of Tabernacles – for the Christian.

John 1:14 states that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

The word “dwelt” can be said to be “tabernacled.”

Using the Bible Hub Interlinear Bible, “dwelt” is Strongs number 4637, skénoó, (skay-no'-o). The definition is: “to have one’s tent, dwell.” The usage is: “I dwell as in a tent, encamp, have my tabernacle.” God wants to be our tentmate, so to speak.

The thought here is to occupy, reside, or dwell, as God did in the tent, or tabernacle, as the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. This was a symbol of communion and protection.

The Word, became flesh, Jesus of Nazareth, and tabernacled with us.

**John 1:1-2, 14 ESV**

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.**

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

And now as believers, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

**1 Corinthians 6:19**

**Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,**

Jesus also promised to never leave us nor forsake us. So God wanted to, and wants to, tabernacle with His children.

From a lesson taught by Dr. Robert Heidler; Experiencing the Biblical Feasts.

A portion of the overview:

The Feast of Tabernacles, also known as Sukkot, is a celebration of God’s glory. One week a year, God asked His people to leave behind their normal activities and tabernacle with Him. They were to make temporary shelters, called sukkahs, to remind them how God’s Presence tabernacled with them in the wilderness. Held at the start of each Hebrew year on the 1st of the month of Tishrei, all the celebrations and feasts culminate in the Feast of Tabernacles. Jesus celebrated this feast, and even gave an important message on the last day of this festival.

Dr. Heidler doesn’t want us to simply gain information or knowledge about the feasts, rather, he would have us learn how to experience the feasts.

**He states:**

**What is a tabernacle?** A tabernacle is a place where God’s glory dwells in the midst of His people, releasing a continual flow of His blessings.

**He states:**

**The Feast of Tabernacles is a joyful, week-long celebration. The primary instruction God gave for this feast is to rejoice. During this week, God wants us to experience the overflowing joy of being in His Presence.**

**He states:**

**A tabernacle is an expression of God’s love and His desire to fellowship with His people.**

**Five Tabernacles:**

1. **The tent by Moses in the wilderness – Exodus 25:8**
2. **The tent by David in Jerusalem -**
3. **Christ Jesus among the people – John 1:14**
4. **The Ekklesia among the people – 1 Corinthians 6:19, Amos 9:11, Acts 15:13-18**
5. **Eternal, heavenly tabernacle of God – Revelation 21:3-4**

**He states:**

**The Feast of Tabernacles is a celebration of God’s glory. One week a year, God asked His people to leave behind their normal activities and tabernacle with Him. They were to make temporary shelters, Sukkahs, to remind them how God’s Presence tabernacled with them in the wilderness. God promises a special blessing for those who do this to meet with Him.**

**He states:**

**More than any other feast, Tabernacles is a feast for Christians!**

**He says there are four points about Tabernacles, as it is a time …**

1. **To Remember**- how God came down and tabernacled with His people, to share testimonies about God’s goodness in your life, to remember how God visited you and you were changed
2. **To Enjoy**- Leviticus 23:40 says it is the time to “*Rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days*.” And Deuteronomy 16: 14-15 says, “*Be joyful at your Feast…for the Lord your God will bless you…and your joy will be complete*.”
3. **To bring an Offering**- It’s also a time to bring an expression of thanks to God. Deuteronomy 16: 16-17 says, *“No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed. Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.”*
4. **To Anticipate-**to call out to God for His glory to come and tabernacle with us again.

**He states:**

**The goal is the meet with God, to experience His Presence in your life. God takes this time very seriously, and He wants His glory to enter your tabernacle and change you forever.**