**Tabernacles (Sukkot)**

* One of the three annual pilgrim festivals, celebrated during the fall.
* Commencing on the 15th day of the seventh month. Tishri.
* Lasts 7 days with an extension of one day called the Eighth Day of Solemn Assembly.
* It has agricultural and Historical Significance.
* The Bible ordains several observances of the festival
  + Command to dwell seven days in flimsy booths (lev 23:42-43)
  + Ordinance relating to four species of plants used as symbols of rejoicing in the harvest. According to Neh. 18 these were used in connection to the booths (Tents)
    - The goodly tree (citrus fruit)
    - The palm branch.
    - Boughs of a thick tree (the myrtle)
    - Willows of the brook (Lev 23:40)
* Reading of the Law during tabernacles every 7th year. Deut. 31:10-11
* It has different names.
  + Festival of Tabernacles – having to do with the wilderness wanderings Lev 23:33-34
  + Festival of Ingathering – the final harvest of the agricultural calendar (Ex 23:16; 34:22; Deut. 16:13)
  + The Feast i.e. the festival par excellence (Lev 23:39-41; Deut. 16:14; 1 Kgs 8:2, 65; 12:32 IICh. 5:3; 7:8; Neh. 8:14; Ezek. 45:25).
* Sacrifices of animals and harvest fruits were offered during tabernacles.
* Numbers 29:12 prescribes as many as 70 bullocks, a symbolic number later associated with the “seventy nations of the world” thereby suggesting that the sacrifices were offered in pious concern for the welfare of all peoples. This universalist theme echoes the prophecy of Zechariah wo predicted that all the nations of the world would join the People of Israel in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles (Zech 14:16)
* The dedication of Solomon’s temple took place during tabernacles.
* Jesus attended the feast secretly after declining to go openly – John 7
  + On the last and greatest day of the festival Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” John 7:37-38