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## Lesson 12, February 22, 2026, The Feast of Booths, Leviticus 23:33–43

**BIBLE TRUTH:** The Festival of Booths reminded the Israelites in renewing their commitment for God’s guidance and protection.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *<sup>42</sup>Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: <sup>43</sup>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. (Leviticus 23:42-43)*

### Lesson Aim- Key Takeaways

1. We will understand the purpose of the Feast of Tabernacles,
2. Why God commanded Israel to live in booths
3. How this feast points to God’s presence, provision, and future promise through Christ.

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### Background & Context

Exodus and Leviticus outlines Israel’s sacred festivals.

1. The Feast of the Lord (Exodus 23:14-19)
2. The Passover Feast (Exodus 12:1-28)
3. The Feast of First fruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)
4. The Feast of Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-22)
5. The Feast of Weeks or (Trumpets (Leviticus 23:15-22)
6. The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:11-19)

Sukkot was one of the three pilgrimage festivals, meaning every Israelite male was commanded to go up to the place God chose — which became Jerusalem, once the Temple was built.

People traveled from all over Israel to worship, offer sacrifices, and celebrate at the Temple in Jerusalem.

## The Lesson Leviticus 23:33-43

<sup>33</sup>And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

<sup>34</sup>Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the feast of tabernacles *for* seven days unto the LORD.

<sup>35</sup>On the first day *shall be* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

<sup>36</sup>Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: *it is* a solemn assembly; *and* ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

<sup>37</sup>These *are* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day

<sup>38</sup>Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD.

<sup>39</sup>Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day *shall be* a sabbath, and on the eighth day *shall be* a sabbath.

<sup>40</sup>And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

<sup>41</sup>And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. *It shall be* a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

<sup>42</sup>Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

<sup>43</sup>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.

## What is Happening Here?

**What is the Feast of Tabernacles (also known as Sukkot or the Feast of Booths)? What was its Old Testament meaning? What does it symbolize in the New Testament and what prophetic events does it foretell?**

Sukkot is derived from the Hebrew word *sukkah* (Strong's #H5521) which means a temporary dwelling such as a booth or tabernacle. It is a shortened reference to the Biblical fall festival period commonly called, the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:34, Deuteronomy 16:13, 16,). It is also referenced as the Feast of Ingathering, Harvest or Booths (Exodus 23:16, 34:22, Leviticus 23:42).

The Feast of Tabernacles (Booths), the sixth of God's seven annual festival periods, is celebrated for seven days in the fall (Tishri 15 to 21 which occurs during September - October).

### **Old Testament purpose**

God commanded ancient Israel to celebrate the Feast of Booths by constructing and living in temporary housing built out of tree branches, boughs and other naturally occurring materials (Leviticus 23:39 - 40, 42).

The Feast of Tabernacles was a harvest time festival of thanksgiving to rejoice over God's abundant blessings. It also served to remind the Israelites that God lovingly took care of them when they sojourned the wilderness after leaving Egyptian bondage (Leviticus 23:43).

Special Psalms were often sung during this time, especially by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem. These included Psalms 113 to 118, known as the Hallel (Praise God) Psalms, and 120 to 134, which are labeled the songs of ascent.

## New Covenant symbolism

This festival, in ancient Israel, was considered the greatest of them all. It was a time of great joy and thanksgiving before the Lord for his abundance blessings. A good time was virtually guaranteed since each person was to save a tithe of their increase to spend solely on keeping the Feast of Tabernacles (Deuteronomy 14:22 - 27)!

The Feast of Booths is symbolic of the upcoming millennial reign of Jesus on the earth. He and all the resurrected Christians (Revelation 20:4 -6) will insure, from their headquarters in Jerusalem, that peace and prosperity come to all (see Isaiah 2, 11, Micah 4). God will also set his hand to teaching the entire world His ways. The fruit of His efforts will be a 1,000-year long great "harvest" of people who will receive salvation and enter into eternal life.

The Apostle Paul wrote that those who receive the Holy Spirit become a temple or tabernacle for God to dwell in (1Corinthians 3:16 - 17, 2Corinthians 6:16). Our flesh, however, was not meant to last a long time.

### What took place on the seven days of The Feast of Booths:

#### The Seven Days of Sukkot (Festival of Booths)

**Leviticus 23, Numbers 29, Deuteronomy 16, and later Jewish practice** give us a full picture of what happened each day.

Below is a day-by-day breakdown including:

- **Daily sacrifices**
- **The water-drawing ceremony (Simchat Beit HaShoevah)**
- **The role of the booths**
- **The joy and symbolism woven into each day**

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#### DAILY OVERVIEW

##### Day 1 — Opening Day (Tishrei 15)

##### What happened

- **A holy assembly** — no regular work.

- Israel brought **13 bulls**, 2 rams, 14 lambs – **daily burnt offering (Numbers 29)**
- People began living in **booths (sukkot)** to remember God’s protection in the wilderness.
- Priests began the daily **water-drawing ritual preparations**.

### Theme

#### **God shelters His people.**

The first day set the tone: joy, remembrance, and gratitude.

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### Day 2 — The Joy Begins to Build

#### What happened

- Sacrifices: **12 bulls**, 2 rams, 14 lambs.
- Pilgrims filled Jerusalem, singing Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 120–134).
- The **water-drawing ceremony** (Simchat Beit HaShoevah) began in full celebration.

### Theme

#### **Living water and God’s provision.**

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### Day 3 — Increasing Celebration

#### What happened

- Sacrifices: **11 bulls**, 2 rams, 14 lambs.
- Priests drew water from the **Pool of Siloam** and poured it out at the altar.
- Music, dancing, and torchlight processions filled the night.

### Theme

#### **Joy as worship.**

The Mishnah says: *“Whoever has not seen the rejoicing at the water-drawing has never seen joy in his life.”*

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## Day 4 — Mid-Festival Praise

### What happened

- Sacrifices: **10 bulls**, 2 rams, 14 lambs.
- The water-drawing continued.
- People waved **lulav and etrog** (palm, willow, myrtle, and citron) as commanded in Leviticus 23:40.

### Theme

#### **Rejoicing before the Lord.**

This was the heart of Sukkot — visible, embodied joy.

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## Day 5 — The Joy Peaks

### What happened

- Sacrifices: **9 bulls**, 2 rams, 14 lambs.
- More processions, singing, and dancing.
- The booths became places of storytelling, teaching, and remembering God's faithfulness.

### Theme

#### **God's presence in everyday life.**

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## Day 6 — Nearing the Climax

### What happened

- Sacrifices: **8 bulls**, 2 rams, 14 lambs.
- The water-drawing ceremony continued.
- Crowds grew larger as pilgrims prepared for the final day.

### Theme

#### **Anticipation of God's rain, blessing, and renewal.**

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## Day 7 — Hoshana Rabbah (“The Great Salvation”)

### What happened

- Sacrifices: **7 bulls**, 2 rams, 14 lambs.
- Priests circled the altar **seven times** (instead of once).
- Final and most intense water-pouring celebration.
- Prayers for **rain, blessing, and salvation**.

### Theme

#### **Crying out for deliverance and abundance.**

This is the day Jesus referenced in John 7:37–38:

*“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.”*

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### **The Water-Drawing Ceremony (Simchat Beit HaShoevah)**

This was not commanded in Torah but became a deeply meaningful tradition.

#### **What it symbolized:**

- **Rain** for the coming year
- **The Holy Spirit** (Isaiah 12:3)
- **God’s provision in the wilderness**
- **Messianic hope**

#### **What happened**

- Priests drew water from the **Pool of Siloam**.
- They carried it to the Temple with singing and dancing.
- Water was poured on the altar along with wine.
- The people rejoiced with instruments, torches, and psalms.

It was a **night-long celebration** — a festival within the festival.

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## Why the Booths?

People lived in temporary shelters to remember:

- God's protection in the wilderness
- Their dependence on Him
- The humility of their origins
- The joy of being brought into the Promised Land
- **Palm branches** — victory, joy, celebration
- **Thick trees / leafy branches** — God's abundant provision
- **Willows of the brook** — God's sustaining presence even in dry places

The booth was a **visual sermon**:

**“God is our shelter.”**

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## The 8th Day — Shemini Atzeret (Separate Festival)

Though connected to Sukkot, it is **its own feast**.

### What happened

- A solemn assembly
- One bull (instead of the decreasing pattern)
- Prayers for rain
- A closing moment of intimacy with God

### Theme

God saying, **“Stay with Me a little longer.”**

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### **The Purpose: To Teach Every Generation**

“That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths...”

The booths were a teaching tool so that:

- Children would ask questions
- Parents would tell the story
- Israel would never forget who rescued them
- Every generation would know that God was their shelter

And God ends with His covenant signature:

**“I am the LORD your God.”**

- This is His way of saying:  
*Remember who I am. Remember what I’ve done. Remember who you belong to.*
- This feast is about **joyful remembrance, humble dependence, and generational faithfulness.**

### **How This Feast Points to Jesus**

#### **A. Jesus “Tabernacled” Among Us**

- John 1:14 says Jesus “dwelt” among us—literally “tabernacled.”
- He is God’s presence in human form.

#### **B. Jesus Provides Living Water**

- During this feast, water was poured out as a symbol of God’s provision. Jesus stood and cried, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me.”
- He is the true source of spiritual life.

#### **C. Jesus Is Our Shelter**

- Just as the booths sheltered Israel, Jesus covers, protects, and keeps us.

#### **D. Jesus Will Dwell With Us Forever**

- Revelation describes God dwelling with His people eternally—echoing the Feast of Tabernacles.

### **Life Application**

#### **A. Remember God’s Faithfulness**

- We all need reminders of how God has carried us.

**B. Celebrate God's Goodness**

- Joy is part of worship. Gratitude is spiritual maturity.

**C. Teach the Next Generation**

- Share your testimony. Tell your story. Pass down your faith.

**D. Live as Pilgrims**

- The booths remind us that this world is not our permanent home.

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**Discussion Questions**

1. Why do you think God wanted Israel to live in temporary shelters?
2. What does this feast teach us about remembering God's faithfulness?
3. How does Jesus fulfill the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles?
4. What are some ways we can "rejoice before the Lord" today?