

Q4 Consecration – Day 1

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

One question that I'm sure is on a lot of people's mind today is, "Why is this consecration so long?" As you know, we have set the duration of this final consecration to SEVEN days, really EIGHT when you consider that it officially ends Sunday after morning worship! But, why is the consecration so long?

HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT SEVEN DAYS?

This consecration is set to last seven days in honor of the FEAST OF TABERNACLES.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a Jewish holiday or festival. Now, I'm not someone who's particularly 'big' on religious festivals or celebrations. In fact, the Bible places us under no obligation to observe any Old Testament law or festival.

[Colossians 2:16](#)

According to Hebrews, the Old Covenant (along with all of its laws and customs) are vanishing away. [Hebrews 8:13](#)

Having said that, the Old Covenant still has value. The value of the Old Testament is not as a covenant, but as a *pattern* or an example. [Hebrews 8:5](#)

Notice that the 'things' contained in the Old Testament was made to be a pattern or shadow of *spiritual* (or heavenly) things. Therefore, everything in the Old Testament is patterned after something in the New Testament (and vice versa). There is no doctrine, no divine truth, that does not in some way find its match in the Old Testament. Thus, the Old Testament provides us with a visible picture or example of New Testament principles. [1Corinthians 10:1-3, 11](#)

Again, the seven days of this consecration are inspired from the FEAST OF TABERNACLES.

God commanded Israel to keep regular 'feasts' or festivals in commemoration of one of His divine acts or saving works. (We should note that everyone of these 'feasts' or festivals were in some way connected to the number SEVEN. In other words, there was a feast that took place every SEVENTH DAY, and every SEVENTH MONTH, on every SEVENTH YEAR and even after every SEVEN times SEVEN YEARS.)

The Feast of Tabernacles was the one feast that extended over SEVEN DAYS and ended with a celebration (a holy convocation) on the EIGHTH DAY!
[Leviticus 23:33-36](#)

The phrase ‘holy convocation’ represents a time when all the people would gather (assemble) together to worship the Lord.

[Leviticus 23:36](#) GNB

³⁶ Each day for seven days you shall present a food offering. On the eighth day come together again for worship and present a food offering. It is a day for worship, and you shall do no work.

Moreover, there was a ‘holy convocation’ at the beginning on the FIRST DAY, and again on the EIGHTH DAY! (This is similar to the Olympics, which begins and ends with everyone coming together in one location for a ceremony or celebration.) Similarly, we began this consecration yesterday with a public assembly (worship), and we will end it eight days later on December 3rd with another celebration (closing ceremony)!

WHY MODEL THE FAST AFTER THIS FEAST?

There were many feasts in Israel’s history, why model THIS consecration after the Feast of Tabernacles?

First of all, the Feast of Tabernacles was the final holiday (festival) of the Jewish calendar. Thus, I thought it was befitting to pattern our ‘end of the year’ consecration after this Jewish feast!

Second, the Feast of Tabernacles is also a perfect picture of the *end times* harvest. [Deuteronomy 16:13](#)

Notice how the Feast of Tabernacles is connected with the harvest. This tells us that there must be connection between this event and end time harvest (i.e. the time when the Lord shall ‘gather’ His people from the earth). [Matthew 24:29-31](#)

Notice when the *harvest* or ‘gathering’ of the saints will take place—after the Tribulation. Since we know that the Tribulation lasts for 7 years, then the harvest or gathering of the saints will take place on the EIGHTH DAY of the Lord’s end time calendar. Again, the Feast of Tabernacles is a perfect picture of this event.

To better understand this, it helps if we know how this feast was to be observed. Israel observed the Feast of Tabernacles by leaving their houses to dwell in ‘booths’ or temporary shelters for seven days.

[Leviticus 23:42](#)

Dwelling in ‘booths’ for seven days is a picture of the time of the Tribulation where the people of God will be forced to dwell in their physical bodies (tabernacles) throughout the seven YEARS of the Tribulation. After this, we will leave (or ‘put off’) our temporary bodies (dwellings) and go to our permanent homes (i.e. put on a new body)! **[2Corinthians 5:1](#)**

So, the Feast of Tabernacles is one big REHEARSAL of the last days! In fact, everything Israel was commanded to do during the seven days of this feast is a picture of what we’ll be expected to do during our last days on earth.

[Nehemiah 8:13-18](#)

Notice what the people in Nehemiah’s day spent their time doing when they celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles—“read the word of God from the first day until the last.” In other words, the Feast of Tabernacles was a time learning for the people of God. What were they learning? **[Deuteronomy 31:10-13](#)**

Notice why the people were commanded to spend their time reading from the law during important feasts, like the Feast of Tabernacles—that they might learn to FEAR THE LORD.

These are times God has set aside so that His people might LEARN to fear the Lord. The fear of the Lord is not something that comes naturally to us. We must learn it. (In fact, the Bible says that the “Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”) **[Deuteronomy 4:9, 10](#)**

Notice, learning to fear the comes by hearing the words of God. This tells us that God’s word is specifically designed to instill fear and reverence.

But, the fear of the Lord doesn’t end with hearing the word. You don’t really fear/reverence the Lord until you learn to obey His voice.

[Deuteronomy 28:58](#)

Those who do not obey the voice of God, do not truly fear/reverence the Lord. Others do not obey because they FORGET the word of the Lord! **[Deuteronomy 8:11](#)** When we forget to obey, then we lose God’s favor and fall back under the curse. **[Deuteronomy 8:19, 20](#)**