

John 7.2

The Feast of Tabernacles

Jesus is in Jerusalem celebrating a Jewish feast. The Feast of Tabernacles
We need to understand the Feast of Tabernacles and everything they did to understand the powerful statement made by Jesus

We'll look at the feast and some of the "rituals" they did and see just how powerful the statement Jesus made was

John 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- 3 feasts were pilgrimage feasts
 - Passover, pentecost, and the feast of Tabernacles
 - Jewish people would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate these 3 feasts
- The Feast of Tabernacles (SUKKOT) was to commemorate the 40 years of the Israelites wandering in the desert after leaving Egypt
- God asked them to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, **Leviticus 23:33-44**
- A week of celebration from sabbath to sabbath started on the 15th of the Hebrew calendar month of Tishri
- For one whole week, make a tent and camp in it, with branches for the roof, to be able to see the stars
- This would have been fun, (Josephus said it was the most Joyful of all the feasts), the kids would have thought so, camping for a whole week
- But they would gaze at the same stars that Israel gazed at in the wilderness while God took care of them
- This was an 8-day celebration they would camp out in Jerusalem
- This was the purpose of the celebration: to remember that they were pilgrims in the desert, and God provided for them
 - The Feast of Tabernacles looks into the past, the wilderness, and looks into the future. An important feast established by God to remember the wilderness
 - A feast to look into the future. All nations will journey to Jerusalem in the millennial reign and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles **Zechariah 14:16**
- The priest performed sacrifices and activities every day of the feast
 - One of the temple courts (women) was illuminated
 - 4 posts with 40-gallon pots of oil on top lit up the court of the temple
 - It is said that every courtyard in Jerusalem was illuminated by the posts
 - This was to commemorate the pillar of fire in the wilderness that gave the people of Israel light, warmth, and protection.
- Every day during the feast, a priest would walk down with a golden pitcher and take water from the pool of Siloam.
 - Siloam was a freshwater pool fed by natural springs, so it was considered living water

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- They would walk back up to the temple and pour the water on the rocks of the altar. Then they would sound a trumpet (shofar) 3 times, and the priest would recite **Psalms 118:25** *Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*
- The people would cry out with a loud voice, **Isaiah 12:3** *Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation.*
- The water on the rocks of the altar represented the water from the rock in the wilderness, and **1 Corinthians 10:4** says that the rock gave them water, followed them, and it was Jesus
- On the last day of the feast, the great day of the feast, the priest would walk around the altar of sacrifice 7 times, and would recite Psalms 118
- The people watched in silence, waiting to shout, *"With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation."*
- This was the great finale to shout out loud and conclude the feast. This was called "the great day of the feast."

Jesus interrupts the great day," the finale of this wonderful, joyous celebration that everyone is waiting for, to shout (like New Year's Eve at midnight)

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Jesus says this publicly
I am the well of Salvation
I am the living water
I am the Rock

All of the feasts, passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles — all of what happens in the temple, all of what the prophets have said — were being fulfilled right there

That's what happens when we come to Jesus

We are saved, our sins are forgiven, restoration, regeneration, name written in the book of life, eternal life, reconciled to God, peace with God, adopted into the family of God,

Wait, there is more

Rivers of Living Water

From within

Speaking of the Holy Spirit

40 Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "This is the Christ."

- This was the same statement. This was the promised messiah
- Many believed

But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David

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was?" 43 So there was a division among the people because of Him. 44 Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

- Who is He?
- The prophet like unto Moses
- The Christ, the messiah, the anointed one
- Who is He to us
- Jesus the Lord.....

Rejected by the Authorities

45 Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?"

46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

47 Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? 48 Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? 49 But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

50 Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them,

51 "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"

52 They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." 53 And everyone went to his *own* house.

Rejected by His own

Let's open our hearts to Jesus and receive Jesus

Receive all the promises of God

The Holy Spirit that will be in us is a River of Living Water