**Sukkot -- Festival of joy!**

 **The Last Great Day of the Feast**

**John 7:37-39**: “And on the last day, the great day of the festival, Yahushua stood and cried out, saying `If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me, and let him who believes in Me drink. As the Scriptures have said, out of His innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. And this He said concerning the Spirit, which those believing in Him were about to receive, for the Set-Apart Spirit was not yet given because Yahushua was not yet esteemed.”

**Scriptures that accompany this passage** (*from The Scriptures*)

**Yeshayahu/Isaiah 44:3; Yirmiyahu/Jeremiah 2:12, 17:13; Zechariyahu/Zechariah 14:8; Tehellim/Psalm 36:8-9; Mishle/Proverbs 14:27; Yochanan/John 6:63; I Corinthians 10:4; Revelation 7:17, 21:6, 22:1 and 17.**

 **Isaiah 44:3**: “For I will pour water on the thirsty, and floods on the dry ground. I pour My Spirit on your seed, and My blessing on your offspring.”

 **Jeremiah 17:13**: “O Yahuwah, expectation of Israel, all who forsake You are put to shame. Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth because they have forsaken Yahuwah, the foundation of living waters.

 In **John 8:1-11** is the story of the adulterous woman brought to Messiah by the Pharisees to test Him. **John 8:6**: “And this they said, testing Him, so that they might accuse Him. But Yahushua bending down, wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear them.”

 Here He fulfilled **Jeremiah** **17:13!** He perhaps wrote some of their names in the dust, for they disobeyed the Torah in not bringing her lover to be judged with her. Perhaps it was one of them, or another priest they wanted to protect, who was her lover. But, when He addressed the Truth of the Torah to them, they silently backed away.

 **Zechariah** **14:8-9**: “And in that day, it hall be that living waters flow from Yerushalayim/Jerusalem…and Yahuwah shall be King over all the earth…”

 **Psalm 36:7-10**: “How precious is Your kindness O Elohim! And the sons of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They are filled from the fatness of Your house. And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light. Draw out Your kindness to those who know You and Your righteousness to the upright in heart.”

 **Proverbs 14:27**: “The fear of Yahuwah is a fountain of life, to turn away from the snares of death.”

 **John 6:63**: “It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh does not profit at all. The words that I speak to you are Spirit and life.”

 **I Corinthians 10:4**: “…and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed, and the Rock was Messiah.”

 **Revelation 7:17**: “…because the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne shall shepherd them and lead them to fountains of waters of life. And Elohim shall wipe away every tear from their eyes.” This is reminiscent of Psalm **23:2**: “He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters.”

 **Revelation 21:6**: “And He said to me, `It is done! I am the `Alpha’ and the `Tav,’ the beginning and the end. To the one who thirst I shall give of the foundation of the water of life without payment.’ ”

 **Revelation 22:1-2a, and 17**: “And He showed me a river of water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of Elohim and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street on either side of the river was the tree of life…” “And the Spirit and the Bride say `Come!’ And he who hears, let him say `Come!’ And he who thirsts, come! And he who desires it, take the water of life without paying!”

 In **John 7:37-39**, Yahushua interrupted the “Ceremony of the Water Pouring” on the last day, the 8th day, of the Festival of Sukkot. Today is the 8th day of the Festival of Sukkot, the “Great Day of the Feast,” according to the sighting of the new moon from Jerusalem (Mount of Olives) for Tishre 1.

 In the days of the Temple, priests would go to the pool of Siloam and bring large jugs of water up to the Temple Mount to pour out for this ceremony. In Jerusalem today, October 13, 2017, the 21st day of Tishre, it is the 8th great day of Sukkot. On the 8th day, called Simchat Torah, the Jews dance in the streets with the Torah, especially in Jerusalem. It is a great day of joy. Because of rabbinic pre-set dating the 8th day was one-two days ago, but for those who follow the ancient paths, we celebrate it today.

We love the Jewish people! We are family, all of the House of Ya’cob/Jacob. We have Yahuwah’s promise that one day Judah and Ephraim will join together and rejoice together in their Jewish Messiah, finally understanding Yahuwah’s eternal plan of salvation. So, to see them dancing with the Torah is very exciting!

**One Particularly Special Simchat Torah**

 On this 8th day of the Feast in Jerusalem, all over the city Jewish men dance with the Torah, and a throng of people follow. A few years ago at the Wall, dressed like an Orthodox Jewish woman, I followed some Jewish people who were dancing towards a synagogue that was in the Arab Quarter not far from the men’s section of the Western Wall (ha Kotel). We sang and clapped our hands. Two men lifted a young Ethiopian Jewish up onto one man’s shoulders. The Ethiopian man was tightly holding a large Torah scroll. They danced and twirled and sang loudly, as they celebrated in the narrow street. The Ethiopian man was holding on tight and smiling broadly. Above us on all the rooftops and in the alley ways were IDF soldiers with their guns pointed out, ready to fire on any Arab that would cause trouble for the Jews. It was a most fascinating experience. I even ate jelly doughnuts in the synagogue with the Jews.

 Though there is no temple now for the water ceremony, modern-day Jews still celebrate this great 8th day as a special day.

 As believers in Messiah Yahushua, it is a very special day for us.

From online information: “…the Hebrew name **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** meaning `YAHWEH is salvation.’ ” In English this is “Joshua.” (But, remember the “J” is only 500 years old in the English alphabet or in any alphabet.) Reading right to left as Hebrew is read, we read **Yahu**shua, or as the Jews write it in English “Yehoshua.” Note that written Hebrew does not use vowel sounds. Messiah came in His Father’s Name. Therefore, it would rightfully be spelled in English **Yahu** (Yahuwah) **shua** (salvation).

 We read in the Hebrew Scriptures, in **Psalm 68:4**: “Sing to Elohim, sing praises to His Name. Raise up a highway for Him who rides through the deserts by His Name Yah, and exult before Him.”

 **The 8th day, the Great Day of the Feast, i.e. today, will be the day of the wedding Feast of Messiah and His Bride!** Remember in **Matthew 17:1-7** how Kepha/Peter wanted to build succas (booths) for Eliyahu, Moshe, and Yahushua, and he, Yochanan and Ya’cob? It was almost Sukkot, and because of the “ancient Hebrew wedding ceremony,” they knew that Eliyahu/Elijah was the attendant of the Groom. They knew that Moshe/Moses was the attendant of the Bride. Yahushua was the Bridegroom, as Yochanan/John the baptizer said in **John 3**. So, Kepha believed the day of the wedding was close. He just calculated it nearly 2,000 years too soon.

 Messiah and His Bride will take their nuptials/wedding vows on the 1st day of Sukkot, surrounded by attendants and guests. Then they spend seven days of Sukkot in the “chupa.” On the 8th day, they come out to the wedding feast. This is on earth, at the beginning of the Kingdom after His return.

 Hebrew **Matthew 25:1** reads: “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet a bridegroom and a bride.” [Read “The Ancient Hebrew Wedding Ceremony”]

 Here I insert a portion of a good article about the day of the water ceremony, written by an Orthodox Jew.

**The Joyous Water-Drawing Ceremony - Simchat Beit Hashoeivah**

By [Menachem Posner](http://www.chabad.org/search/keyword_cdo/kid/12145/jewish/Posner-Menachem.htm) from www.chabad.org



***He who has not seen the Water-Drawing Celebration has never seen joy in his life (Talmud)***

 Every Jewish festival is celebrated with joy. Often there are additional emotions added to the mix: awe on Rosh Hashanah, regret on Yom Kippur, freedom from oppression on Passover. **But the holiday of Sukkot is pure joy. In our prayers, we call it simply “the season of our rejoicing.”**

**Sukkot in the Holy Temple**

 One of Sukkot’s most joyous observances was known as Simchat Beit Hashoeivah, the Celebration of the Water-Drawing. When the Holy Temple stood, every sacrifice included wine libations poured over the altar. When the Holy Temple stood, every sacrifice included wine libations poured over the altar. On Sukkot, water was also poured over the altar in a special ceremony. This ritual engendered such joy that it was celebrated with music, dancing and singing all night long.

 Every morning of Sukkot at daybreak, a group of Levites and priests went down to the Shiloach stream, which ran south of the Temple Mount, and drew three *log* (a Talmudic liquid measurement) of fresh water to be poured on the altar after the daily morning sacrifice. Their arrival at the Temple with the water was accompanied by trumpet blasts.1 (For Shabbat, the water was collected before the onset of Shabbat and stored in a golden vessel in the Temple.)

 There were two holes in the altar into which liquid was poured. One hole was for the wine that accompanied every sacrifice, and a second, smaller one was reserved for the Sukkot water. The holes were different sizes to allow the wine and water, which have different consistencies, to drain at the same speed.

 The nights of Sukkot were spent celebrating this once-a-year offering. The Talmud describes the celebrations of Simchat Beit Hashoevah in detail: Priests kindled fires on great candelabra, lighting up Jerusalem as if it were the middle of the day.2 Throughout the night pious men danced holding torches, scholars juggled and Levites played music while the lay people watched with excitement. The Temple courtyard was specially furnished to accommodate this event, and a balcony was erected for women so they could observe the revelry.

**Celebrating Today**

 Even today, when we no longer have a Temple, and the water libation ritual is discontinued, many communities still celebrate Simchat Beit Hashoeivah with music and dancing during the nights of Sukkot, in keeping with the Torah’s directive, “You shall rejoice on your holiday.”5

 Why was this event accompanied by such fanfare and celebration? Part of the

answer is that Jews of old were happy to demonstrate their fidelity to tradition,

even those traditions not specified in the Torah. In addition, the water-drawing was said to be accompanied by a great awareness of G‑dliness, to the degree that it is said that, along with water, people would “draw” prophetic revelation.

 The Chassidic masters explain that the water celebration signifies a joy caused by a connection to G‑d so deep and so true that, like water, it has no describable taste. And like water, it sustains all life.

Footnotes

[1.](http://www.chabad.org/holidays/JewishNewYear/template_cdo/aid/1971019/jewish/The-Joyous-Water-Drawing-Ceremony.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnoteRef1a1971019)Mishnah, Sukkah 5:5; [2.](http://www.chabad.org/holidays/JewishNewYear/template_cdo/aid/1971019/jewish/The-Joyous-Water-Drawing-Ceremony.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnoteRef2a1971019) Ibid. 5:2, and Talmud ad loc.; [3.](http://www.chabad.org/holidays/JewishNewYear/template_cdo/aid/1971019/jewish/The-Joyous-Water-Drawing-Ceremony.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnoteRef3a1971019)See Talmud, Taanit 2b and 3a.; [4.](http://www.chabad.org/holidays/JewishNewYear/template_cdo/aid/1971019/jewish/The-Joyous-Water-Drawing-Ceremony.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnoteRef4a1971019)Mishnah, Sukkah 4:4; [5.](http://www.chabad.org/holidays/JewishNewYear/template_cdo/aid/1971019/jewish/The-Joyous-Water-Drawing-Ceremony.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnoteRef5a1971019) [Deuteronomy 16:14](http://www.chabad.org/9980#v14).

 Joy is one of the fruit of the re-born spirit. It is His Presence within us that wells up inside of our spirit to overcome within us all that we must face in this life that causes grief. It is “the power of His might” within us. It is His “anointing oil.”

 **Isaiah 10:27**, speaking to the House of Israel about the burden of Assyrian captivity: “And in that day, it shall be that his burden is removed from your shoulder and his yoke from your neck and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing oil.”

 We stand in the power of His might, which is His joy, against the Devil. If the Devil and his minions can steal your joy, they can plunder your life and destroy you. (**Galatians 5:22-23 and Ephesians 6:10 KJV**) *The Scriptures* translates “power of His might,” as “the mightiness of His strength.”

 Apostle Sha’ul wrote in **Philippians 4:4-7**: “Rejoice in Yahuwah always, again I say rejoice! Do not worry or be anxious at all, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to Elohim. And the peace of Elohim, which passes all understanding, shall guard your hearts and minds through Messiah Yahushua…”

 **TODAY**: Today in Fatima, Portugal, there is a massive celebration at the Cova de Iria, by Roman Catholics. It is the 100th anniversary of the “miracle of the sun” on that day. However, when reports were given by witnesses among the 70,000 people who gathered there on October 13, 1917 to see a miracle performed by the “Virgin Mary,” they reported seeing a silver flying disc coming towards them, flying over them--in other words, a “UFO.”

 Of course, the sun did not plummet to the earth. But, the Jesuits got hold of the story and instructed Lucia, one of the three shepherd children who saw the visions on the 13th of each month since May 1917, write things later, in the 1940s that really didn’t happen. So, on this day, millions of Roman Catholics celebrate a hoax, a made up story that was really demonic activity, and later lies by the Jesuits, to fool the world into believing in a miracle where “fire fell from the sky” as the sun. (Revelation 13:11-14) Was this what we call a “dry run?” Thus, today is a day where Yahuwah’s children rejoice in Him, celebrating the coming Kingdom of Messiah. And a day where millions of deceived people rejoice in a ghostly apparition that the Jesuits later said was “Mary,” and belief in the “miracle of the sun.”

Chag Sameach! Rejoice in the Truth! Your Redemption draws near!

 Blessings to you with joy, peace, and love,

Yedidah

October 13, 2017