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## News

# CHAG SAMEACH

## 4TH SUCCOTH GATHERING

It is with great joy that the Israel Field of the Seventh-day Adventists organize their Succoth gathering from the 1st tot he 3rd of October. This gathering will be held in the Kibbutz Givat Chaviva, in the North of Israel.

Next week I will give a report of this gathering which will be very interesting with an invitees from the Trans-European Division, Mike Hamilton as the guest speaker. The theme of this gathering will be "Feed my Sheep".

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Chaim VeShalom, the publishing house of the Israel Field continues its work of publication. We have published the second volume of the Serie Patriarchs and Prophets. A volume called "Moshe Rabenu". It is a volume dedicated to the greatest prophet of Israel, Moses.



We plan to publish Patriarchs and Prophets in three volumes

## SPECIAL EDITION SUCCOTH / TABERNACLES FEAST October 3-10, 2009

1. Bereshit
2. Moshe Rabbenu
3. The Judge Period

We have already published "Bereshit" and "Moshe Rabbenu", we hope to publish the third volume in 2010, we need some donations to complete this work. To cost of these books are \$8 for the soft cover and \$10 for the hard cover.

## FIRST AUDIO BOOK IN HEBREW

We have received a very good news this week. Some friends who have created a multimedia center have just published an audio version of the famous book "Step to Christ". After hearing this book, I can tell that it is a very good Hebrew version of this book. In the next week we will check how much the translation is faithful to the original but the reading, the prononciation, all audio features are very good and very impressive.

This audio book is available for free on Internet. Then if you would like to practice you Hebrew pronounciation and your hearing of Hebrew listening to a spiritual book, download it. Its website address is:

<http://www.studio-tree.com/ewheb.html>

## HEBREW SABBATH SCHOOL

We are very proud of our Hebrew Sabbath School. Not only the adult lesson which has been translated and published for the last eight years, but also for our children Sabbath School. We started this year to published the material called "Grace Link Curriculum" Primary lesson. These lessons are for kids from 8 to 12, but in fact there are also very good for adults who would like to learn Hebrew, because the vocabulary is simple and we have included in the text the "niqud" or vowels.

If you want to receive one of these Sabbath School in PDF by email, send me a notice and I will be happy to send it to you.

# OVERVIEW



## SUCCOTH TABERNACLES' FEAST

The festival of Succoth primarily commemorates the preservation of the Hebrews in the Desert of Sinai. G-d helped the Hebrews to survive in the Sinai by preserving them, their clothes, their shoes etc... And even providing their foods, the manna, and water. They built some temporary booths or huts, to shelter themselves.

On Succoth, as on Pesach/Passover and Shavuot/Shavuoth, Jews travelled to the Temple in Jerusalem as pilgrims, hence the name "Pilgrim Festivals" to describe these three religious events.

In the case of Succoth, and during the time of the temples, the Jews came to Jerusalem to offer a portion of the fruits of the land from the autumn harvest to G-d as a thank you offering that the priests in the Temple in Jerusalem accepted. After offering a part of this portion to G-d, the priests took the remaining portion of this offering for themselves. Thus, Succoth was originally an agricultural festival, and was originally known as "The Feast of Ingathering" (of the fruits of the autumn harvest) (Exodus 23:16, Exodus 34:22). Exodus 23:16 also generally states the time of year or season and the occasion for the celebration of Succoth: "At the end of the year when you gather in your labors out of the field...".

So how did Succoth get its name? In Vayikra or Leviticus 23:33-34, it states: "G-d spoke to Moses, telling him to speak to the Israelites, as follows: The 15th of this seventh month shall be the festival of Succoth to G-d, (lasting) seven days". Furthermore, in Vayikra or Leviticus 23:42, it states that G-d said of the Festival of Succoth: "During (these) seven days you must live in thatched huts (or booths; in other words, Succoth). Everyone included in Israel must live in such thatched huts (or booths)". In the next verse, in Vayikra or Leviticus 23:43, G-d states the reason why the Hebrews are to live in Succoth for the seven appointed days

(from Tishri 15 to 21 until the 21st): "This is so that future generations will know that I had the Israelites (Hebrews) live in huts (or booths) when I brought them out of Egypt. I am G-d your L-rd". Thus, the festival of Succoth became a commemoration and reminder of the protection that G-d gave the Hebrews in the Sinai Desert through shelter in the booths or huts (Succoth) and the giving of food ("manna" in Hebrew) and water for sustenance. In fact, the central symbol of Succoth is the Succah ("booth" or "hut", the singular form of Succoth in Hebrew), and, as just mentioned by G-d (through my typing!), one is commanded by G-d to dwell in a Succah for the seven days of the feast.

## G-D'S PROTECTION

How long did G-d protect the Hebrews with food, water, and Succoth (the booths or huts, meaning a temporary dwelling) in the Sinai Desert after the Exodus from Egypt?

According to the Bible and the Jewish tradition:

- 7 days of wandering until the "Yam Suf".
- 42 days of wandering until they reached Sinai
- =====
- 49 days and then
- 120 days at Mount Sinai,
- 40 years of wandering until Canaan
- =====
- 40 Years + 169 days.

## ARE THERE ANY OTHER REASONS FOR CELEBRATING SUCCOTH?

Yes. The beginning of Succoth is also a time of rejoicing after the sealing and ending of the judgment that was rendered by G-d five days earlier on Yom Kippur. However, in Kabbalistic Judaism (Jewish mysticism), the Zohar—a major literary work of Kabbalism—states that rather than Rosh Hashanah being the time when judgment is made by G-d on each human being and Yom Kippur being the day when each of those judgments are sealed in either the Book of Life or Book of Death

and then delivered, Succoth and Hoshanah Rabbah (the day which is 12 days after Yom Kippur and is also the seventh and final day of Succoth). On the next day, known as Shemini Atzeret, each judgment for each human being is delivered.

## MESSIANIC MEANINGS

**W**e can find different messianic meanings to the Tabernacles Feast. The first meaning is linked to the first coming of the Mashiach. The tabernacle or Sanctuary was the place where G-d wanted to dwell among us. **“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.” Ex. 25:8.**

In John 1:14 it is written that the Mashiach (the Word), who was in Heaven before his revelation in this world came to dwell among us. **“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

That means Succoth is the time the Mashiach chose to come to the earth. He was not born in December on what is called “Christmas Day”, but much more likely during Succoth. The feast of Succoth was fulfilled by Yeshua’s coming to earth.

How do we know that?

1. It is not possible that Yeshua was born in December or January because it does not fit the description of the gospel account; during Succoth, the weather is good. The shepherds were in the field and Mary and Joseph were sleeping in a cave, which would not be possible if it had been winter which is very cold in Jerusalem and Bethlehem with snow from time to time.

2. According to the gospel, Yeshua was thirty years old when he was immersed in the water of the Jordan River (Luke 3:23). His ministry lasted three and a half years (We read in the gospel of John that Yeshua participated in four feasts of Passover) and according to the prophecy of the seventy weeks of Daniel 9 he had to be killed in the middle of the last week (three and a half prophetic days means three and a half actual years).

3. That means Yeshua was 33 and a half when he was crucified by the Romans. It was Passover. That means his birthday was six months before, in September-October exactly the time of the fall feasts (Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and Succoth).

The time of the birth of Jesus fits better with Succoth and God’s will to dwell among us.

A second meaning is connected to the joy of being forgiven after the 10 days of Judgment between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

Today Yeshua is in heaven interceding for each one of us. He plays the role of the Cohen Gadol (High Priest) who entered the most holy place in the sanctuary. When his heavenly ministry will be finished he will come on the earth (like the Cohen Gadol) And then we will rejoice together for our definitive forgiveness and salvation, as Jews rejoiced during the feast of Succoth for the forgiveness and Salvation G-d provided on Yom Kippur.

## SUCCOTH READING

### 1st Day (Shabbat October 3)

- Lev. 22:26-23:44;
- Num. 29:12-16;
- Zech. 14:1-21

### 2nd Day (Sunday October 4)

- Lev. 22:26-23:44;
- Num. 29:12-19;
- 1Kings 8:2-21

### 3rd Day (Monday October 5)

- Num. 29:17-22

### 4th Day (Tuesday October 6)

- Num. 29:20-28

### 5th Day (Wednesday October 7)

- Num. 29:23-31

### 6th Day (Thursday October 8)

- Num. 29:26-34

### 7th Day (Friday October 9)

- Num. 29:26-34

### 8th Day Shemini Atzeret (Shabbat October 10)

- Deut. 14:22-16:17;
- Num. 29:35-30:1;
- 1Kings 8:54-9:1

### 9th Day Simhat Torah (Sunday October 11)

- Deut. 33:1-34:12;
- Gen. 1:1-2:3;
- Num. 29:35-30:1
- Josh. 1:1-18