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**Sukkot Service**

**Lev 22:22:26-23:44 / Num 29:12-16 / Zech 14**

**Leviticus 23:33-39** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say, 'On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the feast of booths for seven days to the LORD. On the first day shall be a holy convocation: you shall do no regular work. Seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day shall be a holy convocation to you; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you shall do no regular work. "'These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meal offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, each on its own day; besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, and besides your gifts, and besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD. "'So on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruits of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest.

**Deuteronomy 16:13-15** You shall observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that you have gathered in your corn and your wine: And you shall rejoice in your feast, you, and your son, and your daughter, and your manservant, and your maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within your gates. Seven days shall you keep a solemn feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD shall choose: because the LORD your God shall bless you in all your increase, and in all the works of your hands, therefore you shall surely rejoice.

**Leviticus 23:39,40** Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep a feast to the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. You shall take on the first day the fruit of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

Etrog: held in **left hand** (upside down as it grows / His beauty & Messiah is the branch which bears fruit)

Lulav/Palm branch: held in right hand / His righteousness & power to save (Ps 92:12)

Myrtle: held in right hand / Praise and rejoicing

Willow: held in right hand / Christ's humility - suffering servant

**Lulav shaking**

**Leviticus 23:41-44** You shall keep it a feast to the LORD seven days in the year: it is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall keep it in the seventh month. You shall dwelt in booths seven days. All who are native-born in Israel shall dwelt in booths, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwelt in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God." Moses declared to the children of Israel the appointed feasts of the LORD.

**Zechariah 14:3,4** Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. His feet will stand in that day on the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in two, from east to west, making a very great valley. Half of the mountain will move toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

**Zechariah 14:8,9** It will happen in that day, that living waters will go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the eastern sea, and half of them toward the western sea; in summer and in winter will it be. The LORD will be King over all the earth. In that day the LORD will be one, and his name one.

**Zechariah 14:14-19** And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague. And it shall come to pass, [that] every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, [that] whoso will not come up of [all] the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that [have] no [rain]; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

**Exodus 25:8,9** And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall you make it.

**Revelation 21:1-4** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they

shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Celebrations in the Temple: Over 2 million people were in Jerusalem.

Indeed, the pilgrims who arrived in Jerusalem at the Temple's courtyard came to rejoice. The focus of this rejoicing was the ceremony surrounding the commandment to pour water on the altar - the water libation. The sages of Israel testify to the celebrations of the water libation from the days of the Second Temple, describing the great joy of the ceremony:

"Whoever has not seen the celebration of the water libation has never experienced the feeling of true joy - In the Court of the women were 4 enormous candlesticks with 4 golden bowls at the top of each. They were 75' high! They used worn out priestly garments for wicks that they had cut into strips and would pour in oil from 7gal. buckets. Four young priests-in-training would climb to the top, carrying immense oil jugs with which they would fill the bowls. Once lighted, there was not a courtyard in all of Jerusalem that did not glow with the light that emanated from the celebration in the Temple courtyard.

**John 8:12** Again, therefore, Yeshua spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."

During this event, which mainly took place in the Women's Court, the Levites played on many musical instruments. As the people sang, the men would dance before them while juggling flaming torches. The Levites, standing on the fifteen steps that ascend from the Women's Court, to the Court of Israel played on lyres, harps, trumpets and many other instruments. Two priests who blew silver trumpets stood at the top of the stairs on either side of the entrance to the great gate of the Court. All this was done to honor the commandment of the water libation." (based on Mishna, Tractate Sukkah, Chapter 5)

Men, women and children participated in the immense joy of the water libation some directly, while others stood and watched. Special elevated balconies were constructed to enable the women of Israel to watch the men of the Sanhedrin as they danced.

"Rabbi Yehoshua ben Chanina said: During the days of the water libation ceremony, we barely got to sleep at all. The first hour of the day saw us attending to the daily offering; following this we were engaged in prayer - afterwards, the additional

offering. Then we ate, and it already became time to attend to the afternoon service. And this was followed by the celebration of the festival of the water libation, which lasted the entire night, and we would begin again" (Jerusalem Talmud, Sukkah 5).

The Daily Ceremony: Priests were divided into 3 groups

*First:* Responsible for the slaying of all the sacrifices

*Second:* Headed by the High Priest went out the Water Gate to the pool of Siloam which had "Living Water"! Assistant had a silver pitcher of wine.

At dawn, the assembly proceeded with melody and song to the spring of Siloam, at the foot of the walls of Jerusalem.

There the high priest had a golden vase and drew the water known as the living waters and held it in the vase. His assistant held a silver vase containing wine. The high priest took the special golden decanter and filled it with the living water.

Then the congregation ascended again to the Temple, led by the high priest who bore the golden vessel.

Arriving at the Temple, he brought the decanter up to the altar, and poured the water into the silver cup at its corner. Another priest poured out the wine from the other decanter into the cup at the opposite corner.

*Third:* Would go out Eastern Gate and would go to the Motzah Valley and cut willows 20' in length and then they'd form rows and rows of priests with 20' between them. At a certain signal the priests with the willows would march with precision back to the Temple waving the willows back and forth causing a breeze with a swishing sound in the wind. The road back was lined with thousands of pilgrims on either side.

OT:7307 Spirit

ruwach (roo'-akh); from OT:7306; wind; by resemblance breath,

This was symbolic of the Spirit coming upon Jerusalem. The wind and the water both speak of the Spirit.

Simultaneously the High priest with a golden vase filled with living water from the pool of Siloam, is marching back on the other road lined with pilgrims. The High Priest with the living water was accompanied by his assistant with a silver vase containing wine. As each party reached their gates on return a Shofar was blown followed by a flute player known traditionally as "the pierced one" who would now lead the procession into the temple. Here we have the pierced one blowing the call for the wind and water to enter the Temple.

**John 7:2,14,15** Now the Jewish festival, the Feast of Sukkot, was at hand. But when it was now the midst of the feast, Yeshua went up into the temple and taught. The Judeans therefore marveled, saying, "How does this man know letters, having never been educated?"

**Exodus 15:2** The LORD is my strength and song. He has become my salvation [yeshu`ah]. This is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

**Psalms 118:14** The LORD is my strength and song. He has become my salvation [yeshu`ah].

The people would be singing Isaiah 12:2-6

**Isaiah 12:2-5** Behold, God is my salvation. I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD, the LORD, is my strength and song; and he has become my salvation [yeshu`ah]. Therefore with joy you will draw water out of the wells of salvation [yeshu`ah]. In that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD! Call on his name. Declare his doings among the peoples. **Proclaim that his name is exalted! Sing to the LORD.** for he has done excellent things! Let this be known in all the earth!

**John 7:37,38** Now on the last and greatest day of the feast, Yeshua **stood and cried out,** "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, from within him will flow rivers of living water."

**Isaiah 12:6** Cry aloud and shout, you inhabitant of Zion; for the Holy One of Israel is great in the midst of you!"

**Luke 1:5** There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zechariah, of the priestly division of Abijah. He had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisheva.

**Luke 1:8,9** Now it happened, while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to enter into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

**1Chronicles 24:1,2 19** Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron; Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children: therefore Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest's office.

**1Chronicles 24:10** The seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,

**1Chronicles 24:19** These were the orderings of them in their service to come into the house of the LORD, according to their manner, under Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

**Luke 1:10,11** And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

**Luke 1:23,24** It happened, when the days of his service were fulfilled, he departed to his house. After these days Elisheva, his wife, conceived, and she hid herself five months,

**Luke 1:26** Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth.

**Luke 1:35,36** The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore also the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God. Behold, Elisheva, your relative, also has conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

**Luke 1:56** Miriam stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her house.

**Luke 2:6,7** And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Exodus 15:2** The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

**Psalms 118:14,15a** The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation. The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous:

**Psalms 118:24,25** This is the day which the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I beseech you, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech you, send now prosperity.

**Luke 2:8-11** There were shepherds in the same country staying in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. Behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people. For there is born to you, this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord.

**John 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and tabernacled among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**Luke 2:13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**Luke 2:21** When eight days were fulfilled for the circumcision of the child, his name was called Yeshua, which was given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**Luke 2:22-24** When the days of their purification according to the Torah of Moses were fulfilled, they brought him up to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Torah of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the Torah of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

**Leviticus 12:6,8a** And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter, she shall bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to the priest: And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean.