

We Are Commanded to Rejoice in Sukkot

¹The people walking in darkness will see a great light. Upon those dwelling in the land of the shadow of death, light will shine.²You will multiply the nation. You will increase the joy. They will rejoice before You like the joy in the harvest, as they revel when they divide spoil³For You will break the burdensome yoke and the rod on his shoulder—the war-club of his oppressor—as in the day of Midian. ⁴For every stomping boot quaking and cloak rolled in blood will be for burning—fuel for the fire. ⁵For to us a child is born, a son will be given to us, and the government will be upon His shoulder. His Name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, My Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace”. ⁶Of the increase of His government and shalom there will be no end—on the throne of David and over His kingdom—to establish it and uphold it through justice and righteousness from now until forevermore. The zeal of Adonai-Tzva’ot will accomplish this.(Isa. 9:1-5) “Therefore, the Holy One being born will be called Ben-Elohim...A Savior is born to you today in the city of David, who is Messiah the Lord” (Luke 1:35b, 2:11)... ¹³“You are to keep the Feast of Sukkot for seven days, after gathering in the produce from your threshing floor and winepress.” ¹⁴So you will rejoice in your feast—you, your son and daughter, slave and maid, Levite and outsider, orphan and widow within your gates. ¹⁵Seven days you will feast to Adonai your God in the place He chooses, because Adonai your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hand, and you will be completely filled with joy. ¹⁶Three times a year all your males are to appear before Adonai your God in the place He chooses—at the Feast of Matzot, the Feast of Shavuot, and the Feast of Sukkot. No one should appear before Adonai empty-handed—¹⁷the gift of each man’s hand according to the blessing Adonai your God has given you (Deuteronomy 16:13-17).

These Scriptures make something perfectly clear, *we are commanded to have joy (rejoice)*. What? Why would we need a commandment to rejoice? Having fun (rejoicing) should be easy for us. Perhaps because times and circumstances make it difficult to do so. This is the state of affairs in our country—lack of joy and the overabundance of bad news. We live in demanding times. But, *♪ Here we are, by your strength we stand, mighty king we’ve come to sing ♪ (King of All Glory, NewLife Worship) ... ♪ The people who walked in darkness, Have seen a great light, They who dwelt in the shadow of death, to them has that light shined. Arise and shine, for your light has come. Arise and shine, the glory of the Lord, has risen upon you (Kol Simcha, 1992) ♪* These two songs have been sung in the last month in our services. Do you suppose the *Ruach Elohim* is up to something? You see the *Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)* is the season of our joy (in Hebrew, *z’man simchateinu*) and is referred to Scripturally as *The Feast*. In *Lev. 23:34* *Yah Adonai* commanded Moses to observe *Sukkot* (the *Feast of Harvest/Ingathering*), starting on the 15th day of the seventh month (*Tishri*) in the Hebrew Holy Year *forever*. This feast is also known as the *Feast of Joy* (in Hebrew, *simcha*). This day begins an eight-day period from the 15th to the 22nd of *Tishrei*, followed by a day of rejoicing in the *Torah (Simchat Torah)*. These eight days are known collectively as *the days of our rejoicing* or *the days of gladness (z’man simchateinu)*. The birth of *Yah’s* greatest man and man's greatest God (*Elohim in Hebrew*), *Yeshua the Messiah* is **the pivotal event in all of human history**. His birth story is loaded with expressions of joy, but angelic beings and humans alike. Scripture hints that *Yeshua* was actually born during the time of *Sukkot*, in the fall of the year when the *Word of God* 'tabernacled among us' (“*¹⁴And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us”, John 1:14*) – when *Elohim* became man (October 3, 2020, message *The Joy in the Harvest*). Indeed this event is joy, even *unspeakable joy!*

Sukkot in Scripture was: (1) *The Feast that Messiah Revealed Himself (John 7)*, (2) *When “...the dwelling (sukkah) of God is among men, and He shall tabernacle among them (Rev. 21)*, (3) *The Feast of Dedication of the First Temple & the Shekinah (2 Chronicles 5)*, (4) *The First Festival Observed by Israel upon returning from the Babylonian Captivity (Nehemiah 8:14)*, (5) *The Time of the Restoration of the Second Temple (See Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai and Zechariah)* and (6) *Since Yeshua died in Passover and it is well-understood that He was about thirty-three and a half years old, that would place His birth at Sukkot. At the transfiguration Peter wanted to build Sukkot for Moses, Elijah and Yeshua (coincidence?) Unto us is born this day a Savior, Yeshua the Messiah. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to men! Chag HaSukkot Sameach v’zman simchateinu!*