

# Feast of Tabernacles

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# Sukkot

**All Sing:**        **As the Deer** by Martin Nystrom

**Verse 1** As the deer panteth for the water,  
So my soul longeth after Thee!  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship Thee!  
You alone are my Strength, my Shield.  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship Thee!

**Verse 2** I want You more than gold or silver.  
Only You can satisfy!  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
And the apple of my eye!  
You alone are my Strength, my Shield.  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship Thee!

**All Sing:**        **Hosanna in the Highest** by Carl Tuttle

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!  
Yah, we lift up your name  
With hearts full of praise!  
Be exalted, O Yah my God!  
Hosanna in the highest!

Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!  
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!  
Yah, we lift up your name  
With hearts full of praise!  
Be exalted, O Yah my God!  
Glory to the King of kings!



# Feast of Tabernacles

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**Host:** We have arrived at the final Appointed Time of the year on Yah's calendar, the Feast of Sukkot or Feast of Tabernacles! This time is often called The Season of our Joy, as it is a time to gather and celebrate all of Yah's goodness and faithfulness to us in the past, present, and future!

**Hostess:** The seven Biblical Appointed Times or feasts work together; they are like a seven-act play, so to speak, and Sukkot is the Grand Finale of the Biblical year!

**Reader 1:** The Biblical year begins in the spring. A few days after it began, we celebrated the Passover, remembering how YHWH freed the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt and celebrating how YHWH freed us from our slavery to sin through the sacrifice of our Messiah Yeshua.

**Reader 2:** Immediately after Passover, we celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread, remembering how the Israelites ate unleavened bread in their haste to leave Egypt and how Messiah Yeshua took all our sin, symbolized by leaven or yeast, into His own body and put it to death.

**Reader 3:** During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we also celebrated the Feast of Firstfruits, remembering how the Israelites brought the firstfruits of their barley harvest and presented it as an offering to YHWH, both thanking Him for His provision and expressing trust that He would provide the rest of the harvest.

**Reader 4:** We believe that Messiah Yeshua was raised from the dead and presented Himself to His Father YHWH on that feast day as the Firstfruits of a great harvest of all of us who belong to Him and will be resurrected.

**Reader 5:** The spring feasts are tightly compacted and intertwine with each other, followed by a period of fifty days before the one solitary summer feast of Shavuot, which is also called the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Pentecost. Shavuot is a second feast of firstfruits during which an offering of the firstfruits of the Israelites' wheat harvest was offered to YHWH.

**Reader 6:** Because tradition states that it took the Israelites fifty days after the first Passover to reach Mt. Sinai where YHWH gave the Torah, Yah's people have traditionally remembered and celebrated the giving of the Torah to Moses on tablets of stone on the Feast of Shavuot.

**Reader 7:** It was on the Feast of Shavuot after Yeshua's death, resurrection, and ascension that YHWH brought this feast to its fulfillment with the outpouring of His Holy Spirit, and it continues to be fulfilled in us as He writes His Torah on each of our hearts by filling us with His Holy Spirit!

**Reader 8:** While the spring and summer feasts have a triumphant and joyful tone to them as they recall Yah's astounding acts of redemption, the first two fall feasts are much more subdued, full of religious rituals that demonstrate Yah's holiness and justice.

**Reader 9:** Yom Teruah, which we celebrated two weeks ago, was a time of sounding the alarm for Yah's people to wake up, turn back to Him, and follow His instructions in light of the imminent return of Messiah. Yom Teruah begins the ten-day count to Yom Kippur.

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**Reader 15:** "On this side of the river and on that was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruits, yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

**Reader 16:** "There will be no curse any more. The throne of YHWH and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will serve Him. They will see His face, and His Name will be on their foreheads.

**Reader 1:** "There will be no night, and they will need no lamplight or sunlight; for YHWH God will illuminate them. They will reign forever and ever...

**Reader 2:** "The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" He who hears, let him say, "Come!" He who is thirsty, let him come. He who desires, let him take of the water of life freely and without price!"

**Hostess:** Now is the day of salvation! Now is the day of Yeshua! Our Messiah and our Salvation, Yeshua, is coming back soon, so let's call as many as we can to come and enjoy the water of life. Yeshua has paid for our salvation from sin and death, so that we can enjoy abundant life with Him forever, and He is offering it free to all who will come to Him today.

**Host:** Abba YHWH, we thank You so much for sharing Your heart with us in Your Word, through Your Appointed Times, and specifically this week through this Feast of Sukkot. We pray for people everywhere to hear of Your offer of salvation through Yeshua and to come and drink of the Living Water that only He can give. Thank You for drawing us to Yourself and for inviting us to join You for this Appointed Time of Sukkot. We do not take for granted Your invitation to us to come and dwell in this special way with You for a while, and we long for the day You return to dwell with us forever! As we wait for that day, please fill us continually with Your Holy Spirit, and help us to walk in Your ways with joy and to share the good news about You with everyone we meet! In the Name of Yeshua Your Son, our Messiah and our Salvation, we pray, Amen.

\*\*\*\*\*end here if you do not want to sing\*\*\*\*\*

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**Reader 2:** The High Priest then solemnly proceeded up the several steps to the altar and waited until the crowd quieted and gave him all their attention. Then, with great drama, he lifted the golden vessel and poured out its contents for the last time...not to be done again until next year.

**Reader 3:** And one final time for the year, he would cry out those words from Isaiah 12:3, “Therefore with joy, you will draw water out of the wells of salvation.”

**Reader 4:** The Hebrew word for “salvation” is *yeshua*, which is also, of course, the name of our Messiah.

**Reader 5:** John chapter 7 tells us that it was during this moment of the final day’s water-pouring ceremony, when the crowds were standing riveted by the dramatic finale and having just heard the High Priest shout, “Therefore with joy, you will draw water out of the wells of *yeshua*,” that Yeshua Himself called out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to ME and drink!”

**Reader 6:** It’s no wonder sparks began to fly that day along with heated discussions about whether or not He was actually the Messiah!

**Reader 7:** Yeshua was also referencing Isaiah 55, a chapter calling all peoples to return to YHWH for salvation.

**Reader 8:** Isaiah 55 says, “Come, everyone who thirsts, to the waters! Come, he who has no money, buy, and eat! Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

**Reader 9:** “Why do you spend money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which doesn’t satisfy? Listen diligently to Me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in richness.

**Reader 10:** “Turn your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul will live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

**Reader 11:** “Behold, I have given him for a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander to the peoples.

**Reader 12:** “Behold, you shall call a nation that you don’t know; and a nation that didn’t know you shall run to you, because of YHWH your God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you.”

**Reader 13:** “Seek YHWH while He may be found. Call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to YHWH, and He will have mercy on him, to our God, for He will freely pardon.”

**Reader 14:** These same themes appear again in Revelation 22, when John tells us he saw “a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of YHWH and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street.

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**Reader 10:** Yom Kippur celebrates Yah’s presence among His people while highlighting the vast gulf between His holiness and the sinfulness of His people and teaching us that there is nothing we can bring or do to atone for our own sin. We are completely dependent on a High Priest to make atonement for us in a manner that YHWH will accept.

**Reader 11:** And now, just four days after Yom Kippur, we find ourselves at the final feast of the year, the Feast of Sukkot, a day of both remembrance and agricultural significance.

**Reader 12:** During Sukkot, we remember how YHWH dwelt with Israel through their forty years of living in temporary shelters and wandering in the wilderness. The word *sukkot* is the plural Hebrew word for temporary shelters like tents or hastily constructed wooden huts, with the singular form being *sukkah*.

**Reader 13:** Agriculturally, Sukkot was to celebrate the last of that year’s harvests and to rejoice in Yah’s provision. It took place in the fall, so as winter approached, the last bits of all the various grain and grape harvests were taken in before the growing season came to a close. Sukkot marked the end of the agricultural year.

**Reader 14:** After Sukkot would come an extended time when there would be neither planting nor harvesting. Plants would decay back into the soil, the ground would rest, and then, hopefully, the early rains would come, and the cycle of planting and harvesting would start all over again in the spring at the start of the next new year.

**Reader 15:** We find instructions for how to keep the feast of Sukkot at the end of Leviticus 23. “On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the Feast of Sukkot for seven days to YHWH. On the first day shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no regular work.

**Reader 16:** “Seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to YHWH. On the eighth day shall be a holy convocation to you. You shall offer an offering made by fire to YHWH. It is a solemn assembly; you shall do no regular work..

**Reader 1:** “On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruits of the land, you shall keep the feast of YHWH seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest.

**Reader 2:** “You shall take on the first day the fruit of majestic trees, branches of palm trees, and boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before YHWH your God seven days...

**Reader 3:** “You shall dwell in temporary shelters for seven days...that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in temporary shelters when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am YHWH your God.”

**Host:** We can see from this passage that there are four main components of Sukkot: sacrificial offerings to YHWH, dwelling in temporary shelters, days of rest with holy gatherings on the first and last days, and gathering fruit and branches to include in the joyful celebration.

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**Hostess:** Because there is no Temple at this time, we cannot offer any of the prescribed sacrifices without being disobedient, but it is interesting to note that the sacrifices themselves were quite prophetic.

**Reader 4:** The amount and kind of sacrifices required for Sukkot in Numbers 29 tell us just how important this feast is: five times as many bulls and two times as many lambs and rams were offered for sacrifice during Sukkot than in the days of the other week-long feast, The Feast of Unleavened Bread!

**Reader 5:** The schedule of sacrifices for Sukkot was very interesting: it began on the first day by offering thirteen bulls, the most expensive of all the animals, and then over the period of the seven day feast, the sacrifice was reduced by one bull each day.

**Reader 6:** So on the first day of Sukkot, thirteen bulls were sacrificed, on the second day, twelve bulls were sacrificed, and by the seventh day of Sukkot, only seven bulls were sacrificed.

**Reader 7:** All the quantities of other sacrificial animals, grains, and wine remained the same throughout the seven days.

**Reader 8:** The sacrifice of thirteen bulls on the first day correlates to the beginning of Yah's covenant family — the twelve tribes of Israel plus the priestly tribe of Levi.

**Reader 9:** The tribe of Levi was separated away from Israel by YHWH for special service to Him and was not to be counted among the tribes of Israel. The thirteen bulls symbolize a reuniting of Levi with Israel, something that will occur in Yeshua's Millennial Kingdom.

**Reader 10:** When you add up the number of bulls sacrificed over the entire seven day period, it comes to 70. It is fascinating that Jewish rabbis have long taught that the number 70 represents all the nations of the world, demonstrating that the greatest of all the feasts, the grand finale of Yah's redemptive plan told in seven acts, included a sacrifice for every nation!

**Reader 11:** On the surface, Sukkot is about giving thanks to YHWH for sustaining His people through the previous year. As we spend the week of Sukkot living in a sukkah, a temporary shelter without all the comforts of our permanent dwellings, we are reminded that our security, our prosperity, and our very lives are completely dependent on the grace of YHWH.

**Reader 12:** On a deeper, prophetic level, Sukkot is about the final ingathering — not of fruit and grain — but of all of us who have obeyed YHWH by putting our trust in Yeshua, His promised Messiah.

**Reader 13:** Sukkot will be fulfilled with the final ingathering of believers from every tribe, tongue, and nation at the end of days, when Messiah brings the full harvest of believers before His Father. We will enter into the joyful thousand-year reign of Messiah where He will once again dwell among us, this time as our ruling King.

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\*\*\*\*\*begin here on the final day of Sukkot\*\*\*\*\*

**Hostess:** There is another traditional practice of Sukkot that Yeshua made use of in the book of John to announce Himself as the one sent from YHWH. Over the years of celebrating this harvest feast, the Jews had added an interesting element that was well-established by the time of Yeshua.

**Reader 7:** Because Sukkot marked the end of the harvest and the beginning of Israel's rainy season, on which the next harvest was dependent, Sukkot became a time of asking YHWH for rain.

**Reader 8:** This connection between Sukkot and rain can be seen in Zechariah 14, in his prophecy about the end of days.

**Reader 9:** Zechariah wrote, "It will happen that everyone who is left of all the nations that came against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, YHWH of Armies, and to keep the feast of Sukkot. It will be, that whoever of all the families of the earth doesn't go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, YHWH of Armies, on them there will be no rain."

**Reader 10:** By the time of Yeshua, a water-drawing festival had become part of each day from the second to the seventh day of Sukkot.

**Reader 11:** The High Priest would go down to the pool of Siloam in the City of David each day and fill a golden vessel with water. He would then go up to the temple, through the Water Gate, accompanied by three blasts of the shofar.

**Reader 12:** Once there, he would pour the water so that it flowed over the altar as another priest poured the commanded wine offering from another bowl at the same time. Crowds gathered for this ceremony each day, and there was much rejoicing.

**Reader 13:** As he poured out the water, the High Priest would quote Isaiah 12:3 in a loud voice, "Therefore with joy, you will draw water out of the wells of salvation."

**Reader 14:** When that was done, music was played by the Levites, and then the crowd would respond by singing Psalm 118:25, which we read earlier, "Hosanna! Save us now, we beg you, YHWH! YHWH, we beg you, send prosperity now."

**Reader 15:** This song was called the Hosanna, or *Hoshanah* in Hebrew, which means, "Save us now!" During this song, priests would wave palm branches as they marched around the altar, once each day and then seven times on the seventh day.

**Reader 16:** The seventh day of Sukkot was the grand finale. On that last day, all the rituals were even grander as evidenced by the seven times marching around the altar, and the people even more expectant.

**Reader 1:** On that day, instead of three blasts of the shofar, the priests blew three sets of seven blasts as the High Priest passed through the Water Gate. The crowds waited in great anticipation of this moment in which the feast would be drawn to a close.

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**All Sing:** Forever by Chris Tomlin

**Verse 1** Give thanks to Yah, our God and King!  
His love endures forever!  
For He is good, He is above all things!  
His love endures forever!  
Sing praise, sing praise!

**Verse 2** With a mighty hand and outstretched arm,  
His love endures forever!  
For the life that's been reborn,  
His love endures forever!  
Sing praise, sing praise!  
Sing praise, sing praise!

**Chorus** Forever Yah is faithful!  
Forever Yah is strong!  
Forever Yah is with us!  
Forever! Forever! (Forever!)

**Verse 3** From the rising to the setting sun,  
His love endures forever!  
By the grace of Yah, we will carry on.  
His love endures forever!  
Sing praise, sing praise!  
Sing praise, sing praise!

\*\*\*\*\*resume here if you skip the song\*\*\*\*\*

**Host:** As we read from that last Psalm, you may have noticed some things you are familiar with from the days leading up to Yeshua's death at Passover, when the people picked up palm branches and waved them while crying out some of these very verses. It is quite likely that they saw in Yeshua the loving kindness of YHWH and the embodiment of His salvation that they cried out for every year during Sukkot! He is, in fact, the goal or the end that each and every one of YHWH's seven Appointed Times points to!

\*\*\*\*\*end here if you want to finish the script on the final day of Sukkot\*\*\*\*\*

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**Reader 14:** The addition of the eighth day at the end of Sukkot, which has been described as a day to tarry and spend an additional day with YHWH at the end of Sukkot, symbolizes that Yeshua's reign will go on into eternity.

**Reader 15:** The days of rest on the first and eighth days of Sukkot are not actually called "Sabbaths" in the Torah and are not days of full ceasing from all labor like the seventh day Sabbath each week and like Yom Kippur.

**Reader 16:** Rather, they are days in which regular work is set aside in order to prepare for the rest of the feast on the first day and to thank Yah for the festival, to rest, and to do whatever one must do to transition back to normal life on the last day.

**Reader 1:** In the verses in Leviticus, we are actually commanded to gather the fruit and branches for rejoicing throughout the feast on the first day.

**Reader 2:** YHWH doesn't tell us how to use the fruit and branches or how to rejoice before Him when we gather to worship during this feast, which shows us that He enjoys creative and cultural expressions of worship and celebration from His children.

**Reader 3:** Jews traditionally shake or wave them while reciting or singing prayers from Psalms 113-118 and facing east, south, west, and then north to announce and acknowledge Yah's sovereignty over the whole earth.

**Host:** This may be a little out of our comfort zones, but let's all grab some fruit or branches and wave or shake them as we read some verses from those Psalms. We can start by facing east.

*(Everyone grab some branches and fruit and face east.)*

**Hostess:** Psalm 113 "Praise Yah! Praise, you servants of YHWH, praise YHWH's name. Blessed be YHWH's name, from this time forward and forever more.

**Reader 4:** "From the rising of the sun to its going down, YHWH's name is to be praised. YHWH is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens.

**Reader 5:** "Who is like YHWH, our God, who has His seat on high, who stoops down to see in heaven and in the earth?"

**Reader 6:** "He raises up the poor out of the dust, lifts up the needy from the ash heap, that He may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people.

**Reader 7:** "He settles the barren woman in her home as a joyful mother of children.

**All:** "Praise Yah!"

**Host:** Now, let's turn toward the south and read some verses from Psalm 115.

**Reader 8:** "Not to us, YHWH, not to us, but to Your Name give glory, for Your loving kindness, and for Your truth's sake.

**Reader 9:** "Israel, trust in YHWH!"

**All:** "He is their help and their shield.

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**Reader 10:** “House of Aaron, trust in YHWH!

**All:** “He is their help and their shield.

**Reader 11:** “You who fear YHWH, trust in YHWH!

**All:** “He is their help and their shield.

**Reader 12:** “YHWH remembers us. He will bless us. He will bless the house of Israel. He will bless the house of Aaron.

**Reader 13:** “He will bless those who fear YHWH, both small and great. May YHWH increase you more and more, you and your children.

**All:** “Blessed are you by YHWH, who made heaven and earth.

**Reader 14:** “The heavens are YHWH’s heavens, but He has given the earth to the children of men.

**Reader 15:** “The dead don’t praise Yah, neither any who go down into silence;

**All:** “but we will bless Yah, from this time forward and forever more. Praise Yah!”

**Host:** Now, let’s turn toward the west and read some verses from Psalms 116 and 117.

**Reader 16:** “I love YHWH, because He listens to my voice, and my cries for mercy. Because He has turned his ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

**Reader 1:** “YHWH is gracious and righteous. Yes, our God is merciful. YHWH preserves the simple. I was brought low, and He saved me.

**Reader 2:** “Return to your rest, my soul, for YHWH has dealt bountifully with you.

**Reader 3:** “What will I give to YHWH for all His benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call on YHWH’s name.

**Reader 4:** “YHWH, truly I am Your servant. You have freed me from my chains.

**Reader 5:** “I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on YHWH’s name.

**All:** “Praise Yah!”

**Reader 6:** “Praise YHWH, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! For His loving kindness is great toward us. YHWH’s faithfulness endures forever.

**All:** “Praise Yah!”

**Host:** And finally, let’s turn toward the north and read some verses from Psalm 118.

**Reader 7:** “Give thanks to YHWH, for He is good,

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**All:** “His loving kindness endures forever.

**Reader 8:** “Let Israel now say,

**All:** “His loving kindness endures forever.

**Reader 9:** “Let the house of Aaron now say,

**All:** “His loving kindness endures forever.

**Reader 10:** “Now let those who fear YHWH say,

**All:** “His loving kindness endures forever.

**Reader 11:** “Out of my distress, I called on Yah. Yah answered me with freedom.

**Reader 12:** “YHWH is on my side. I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

**Reader 13:** “It is better to take refuge in YHWH, than to put confidence in man. It is better to take refuge in YHWH, than to put confidence in princes.

**Reader 14:** “Yah is my strength and song. He has become my salvation. The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous.

**Reader 15:** “I will give thanks to You, for You have answered me and have become my salvation.

**Reader 16:** “The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is YHWH’s doing. It is marvelous in our eyes.

**Reader 1:** “This is the day that YHWH has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!

**Reader 2:** “Hosanna! Save us now, we beg You, YHWH! YHWH, we beg You, send prosperity now.

**Reader 3:** “Blessed is he who comes in YHWH’s Name! We have blessed you out of YHWH’s house.

**Reader 4:** “YHWH is God, and He has given us light.

**Reader 5:** “You are my God, and I will give thanks to You. You are my God. I will exalt You.

**Reader 6:** “Oh give thanks to YHWH, for He is good,

**All:** “His loving kindness endures forever.”

\*\*\*\*\*skip to bottom of page 7 if you want to skip the song\*\*\*\*\*

**Hostess:** Let’s continue waving our fruit and branches while we sing a song about Yah’s loving kindness.