

**The Festival of Tabernacles:
Celebrating the Wilderness Wanderings Living in Tents
and Thanking God for the Harvest
Leviticus 23:33–44**

***The Festival of Tabernacles:
To celebrate the wilderness
wanderings (a symbol of
the believer’s march through
this world to heaven)***

- a. The date: 7th month, 15th day
- b. The features:
 - 1) To stop all work on the 1st day for a sacred assembly
 - 2) To approach God for seven days, seeking atonement — through the Burnt Offering
 - 3) To hold another sacred assembly to close the festival: Approach God for atonement
- c. The importance of the Feast of Tabernacles and other feasts
 - 1) Are annual, sacred assemblies for worship
 - 2) Are for the purpose of approaching God for atonement (reconciliation)
 - 3) Are in addition to all other approaches to God, all other offerings and gifts

33 The LORD said to Moses,

34 “Say to the Israelites:
‘On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the LORD’s Festival of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days.

35 The first day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work.

36 For seven days present food offerings to the LORD, and on the eighth day hold a sacred assembly and present a food offering to the LORD. It is the closing special assembly; do no regular work.

37 These are the LORD’s appointed festivals, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies for bringing food offerings to the LORD — the burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings required for each day.

38 These offerings are in addition to those for the LORD’s Sabbaths and in addition to your gifts and whatever you have vowed and all the freewill offerings you give to the LORD.

- d. The importance of the Feast of Tabernacles re-emphasized
- 1) The date: 7th month, 15th day, lasting for seven days after crops are harvested
 - 2) The 1st day is a day of rest and the 8th day is a day of rest
 - 3) To build booths or shelters from tree leaves on the 1st day
 - 4) To make the festival a celebration of great joy and rejoicing before the LORD
- e. The festival is to be a lasting, permanent law
- f. The purpose of the festival:
To live in booths or shelters for seven days —
to teach all descendants that God's people had to live in booths when God delivered them out of Egypt
(a symbol of how temporary this world is)

- 39 So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the LORD for seven days; the first day is a day of Sabbath rest, and the eighth day also is a day of Sabbath rest.
- 40 On the first day you are to take branches from luxuriant trees — from palms, willows and other leafy trees — and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.
- 41 Celebrate this as a festival to the LORD for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month.
- 42 Live in temporary shelters for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in such shelters
- 43 so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.' ”
- 44 So Moses announced to the Israelites the appointed festivals of the LORD.