

“Feast of Tabernacles”

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled “Feast of Tabernacles.” Following are some of the ideas and some of the scriptures from that Bible study.

For the purpose of the Bible study, I mentioned four instructions from Leviticus 23.

Offerings at Old Testament Feasts

Have you ever noticed the list of offerings in Leviticus 23:37-38?

- An offering made by fire to the Lord
- A burnt offering
- A grain offering
- A sacrifice
- Drink offerings
- Besides the Sabbaths of the Lord
- Besides your gifts
- Besides all your vows
- Besides all your freewill offerings that you give to the Lord

New Testament believers are certainly not under any obligation to practice the Old Testament sacrifices.

I love it when people in the Old Testament (like Samuel in 1 Samuel 15:22 and David in Psalm 51:16-17) mentioned concepts that became common-place understanding in the New Testament.

Here are three New Testament scriptures that talk about sacrifices.

- 1 Corinthians 5:7—Christ (our Passover) was sacrificed for us.
- Hebrews 9:11-14—Christ came as a High Priest to offer Himself to God.

■ Romans 12:1—New Testament believers seek to present themselves as living sacrifices.

Booths were temporary dwellings

■ Leviticus 23:42-43—The instruction was to dwell in booths for seven days to remember coming out of Egypt.

■ Hebrews 11:13-16—It is important for New Testament believers to remember that they are strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Opportunity to tabernacle with the Lord

■ Leviticus 26:11-12—In the past, the Lord set His physical tabernacle among the people—to fulfill His desire to walk among them.

■ Revelation 21:3-4—In the future, the tabernacle of God will be with people—to continue His desire to dwell with them.

■ John 2:19-21—The Son of God described His body as the temple.

The apostle Paul told disciples several times that they were the temple of God—in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 2 Corinthians 6:16 and Ephesians 2:19-22.

The apostle Peter also told disciples that they were the temple of God—1 Peter 2:4-5.

Seven days or eight days?

When people read Leviticus 23:34-43, they see an apparent contradiction—is the Feast of Tabernacles seven days or eight days?

Those verses say “seven days” at six different times and say the “eighth day” at two different times.

Most of the people in my circle of life believe that the Feast of Tabernacles is technically seven days, and that there is another observance immediately following it.

But the people in my circle of life call the connected observances by two different names.

■ Some people call the connected observance “the Last Great Day”—influenced by the wording in John 7:37-38. (For many years in the past, that is what I previously called it.)

■ Some people call the connected observance “the Eighth Day”—influenced by the actual wording in Leviticus 23. (For many years in recent times, this is what I currently call it.)

It is exciting to give a presentation on the eighth day.

■ The speaker gets to talk about what happens after the Millennium.

■ Come to think of it, the speaker gets to scratch the surface of talking about eternity.