

Feb 28, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Outreach: Joyce Kirkland
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
In every desert, God has an oasis of grace

TRUTH OF THE WEEK:
The point of going through a desert, whether literally or figuratively, is to remind us that we are dependent on God to sustain us—a lesson we need to remember even when we're living in a place of plenty.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
And they did not thirst When He led them through the deserts; He caused the waters to flow from the rock for them; He also split the rock, and the waters gushed out.

(Isa 48:21 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", July 11, 2015)

**Series: SACRED GIFTS
AND HOLY GATHERINGS**

UNIT: Holy Days

NEXT WEEK

NEW SERIES:

The Gift of Faith

Powerful Faith

(Mark 9:14-29)

Feast of Booths

Lev 23:33-43

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews the Jewish festival of **The Feast of Booths**. The **study's aim** is to realize that the appointments of the Lord will help us understand our present standing in the Lord. The **study's application** is to make rejoicing in the Lord our constant spiritual habit.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

The Feast of Booths, or Tabernacles, known as Sukkoth on the Jewish calendar, takes place in late autumn. It falls at the end of the general harvest. This puts it at the end of September or beginning of October, during the Jewish month of Tishri. This sacred festival lasts one week of the Hebrew calendar. During this week, Jewish people are commanded to make and live in small huts (Lev. 23:41-43). The huts commonly consist of four poles with walls of cloth and a roof of leaves and branches. During Christ's time on earth, families would flock into Jerusalem and set up their booths in a street or on a house roof. During His time on earth, Christ observed this feast with the Twelve (John 7). The celebration commemorates the period of wilderness wandering in Israel's history. It reminds God's chosen people that they were once tent dwellers, a people without a homeland. God chose to free them from captivity and bless them with their lands because of His covenant with the patriarchs (Deut. 29). The people recall the wanderings and how God sustained them in temporary dwellings. This feast was one of celebration. During the feast, people worshipped God and offered prayers of thanksgiving for His provision. Sacrifices were also made (Deut. 16:16-17). After the seven days of living in their booths, the people gather together for one last day of worship. This eighth day is a solemn day of assembly. No work is permitted, and the people are called upon to spend the day in praise to God (Lev. 23:36). **This festival reminds believers of our transient earthly nature. Though we dwell here on earth, our physical bodies are merely transitory, brief, and fading.** Paul reminded us that there are such things as earthly bodies that perish (1 Cor. 15:35-49). Like the booths, these bodies will fade away. However, we are still called upon to treat them with dignity and respect. Our bodies are God's temple on earth, where His Spirit is lodged (2 Cor. 6:16). It is through us that His work is accomplished for His kingdom (1 Cor. 3:9). To disrespect our physical forms is insulting to God. Like the temporary booths, our bodies decay. There is great news for the believer, though. **One day, we will be free of our corruptible bodies.** On that day when we pass from this earth, we shall receive a body that cannot perish. We will be raised with Him and be as He is (1 Cor. 15:20-23). So, how do you treat your earthly "booth"? Do you respect it as God's earthly temple? Are you careful about how you use it? Is it truly dedicated for His glory? **We should be careful to maintain our bodies, knowing that they are set aside for Christ's work in us.** We need to remember, though, that they are not permanent. Each has been specially designed for His glory. That means we **should rejoice in the booths we have been given and look forward to the ones we will receive.**

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

FEAST ESTABLISHED (LEV 23:33-36)

Setting apart time (33-34)

A time for everything (Eccl 3:1-8)

Time to gain wisdom (Ps 90:12)

Time to be steadfast (Rom 2:7)

Time to be placed in positions to do God's purposes (Est 4:14)

Time to remember the Creator (Eccl 12:1)

Preparation for holiness (35-36)

Preparation for holiness through a new self created by God (Eph 4:21-24)

Preparation for holiness through Jesus' reconciliation (Col 1:21-22)

Preparation for holiness because God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16)

Preparation for holiness to achieve eternal glory (2 Cor 4:17)

FEAST OFFERINGS (LEV 23:37-38)

Offering of Gifts (38)

Gifts to support the common need (Acts 2:44-45)

Gifts to meet other's needs (Acts 4:34-35)

Gifts given without conditions (Luke 6:34-36)

Gifts given as if giving to Jesus (Matt 10:42)

Offering of Vows (38)

Offering of Vows made because of what God has done for us (Josh 24:14-22)

Offering of Vows made that must be kept (Num 30:1-2)

Offering of Vows made which God will demand completion (Deut 23:21-23)

Offering of Vows made that must be fulfilled on time (Eccles 5:4)

Offering of Freewill Offerings (38)

Freewill giving sometimes requires giving all one has (Mark 12:41-44)

Freewill giving that is recognized by God (Mark 14:4-9)

Freewill giving requires giving of oneself first to God (2 Cor 8:1-5)

Freewill giving is the manifestation of a contented spirit (Phil 4:10-14)

FEAST EXPLAINED (LEV 23:39-43)

Rest and Worship (39-41)

A rest that is peaceful and secure (Isa 32:18)

A rest that is a spiritual benefit of hope (Ps 62:5)

A rest given by God (Matt 11:28)

Worship with thanksgiving and music (Ps 95:2)

Worshipping in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24)

Worship through praise (Rev 7:12)

Booth Memorial (42-43)

A memorial that is a reminder of what God has done (Exod 3:15)

A memorial to remember God's guidance (Josh 4:4-7)

A memorial to remember God's rescue (1 Sam 7:10-12)

A memorial to remind us to worship and fellowship (Josh 22:26-28)A