

**Oct. 1, 2010 Messianic Service
Why We Celebrate Sukkot
Pastor Geoffrey Cohen**

Torah Portion:

³Leviticus 23:33-34

Then the L-RD spoke to Moses, saying,

³⁴ "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the L-RD.

Leviticus 23:39-43

³⁹ 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the L-RD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest.

⁴⁰ And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the L-RD your G-d for seven days.

⁴¹ You shall keep it as a feast to the L-RD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

⁴² You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,

⁴³ that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the L-RD your G-d.'"

Service Portion:

1) Our earthly tabernacles are temporary

Hebrews 11:8-10 (King James Version)

8By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

2) We long for our “permanent tabernacle”

2 Corinthians 5:1-7

¹For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of G-d, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

²For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

³If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

⁴For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

⁵Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is G-d, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

⁶Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the L-rd:

⁷For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:1-7 (The Message)

¹⁻⁵For instance, we know that when these bodies of ours are taken down like tents and folded away, they will be replaced by resurrection bodies in heaven—G-d-made, not handmade—and we'll never have to relocate our

"tents" again. Sometimes we can hardly wait to move—and so we cry out in frustration. Compared to what's coming, living conditions around here seem like a stopover in an unfurnished shack, and we're tired of it! We've been given a glimpse of the real thing, our true home, our resurrection bodies! The Spirit of G-d whets our appetite by giving us a taste of what's ahead. He puts a little of heaven in our hearts so that we'll never settle for less.

⁶⁻⁸That's why we live with such good cheer. You won't see us drooping our heads or dragging our feet! Cramped conditions here don't get us down. They only remind us of the spacious living conditions ahead. It's what we trust in but don't yet see that keeps us going. Do you suppose a few ruts in the road or rocks in the path are going to stop us? When the time comes, we'll be plenty ready to exchange exile for homecoming.

3) All nations will celebrate it in the millennium

Zechariah 14:16-19

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the L-RD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

¹⁷ And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the L-RD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

¹⁸ If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the L-RD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

¹⁹ This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.