

I. FEAST OF TABERNACLES

A. Dwell in Tents

1. Also known as the Feast of Booths or Sukkot
 - a. One of the three “pilgrim” feasts requiring all native born males
 - b. Exodus 23:16 – “And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. (17) Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.”
 - c. The time where all would bring their tithes and offerings
 - d. Deuteronomy 16:16 – “Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty: (17) Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.”

2. Three Feasts

- a. Passover – when we celebrate Resurrection Sunday
 - i. Symbolic of Christ’s atoning sacrifice on the Cross
 - ii. It speaks of Blood and Body
 - iii. The Bread of Life and the fruit of the vine
- b. Pentacost – at the time of Christ’s bodily ascension into Heaven
 - i. It was expedient that He went away
 - ii. For He sent us the Comforter! The Holy Spirit of God
 - iii. Indwelling every believer
- c. Tabernacles – dwelling with us in a temporary booth
 - i. Speaks of His second coming
 - ii. When He sets up His Kingdom on Earth for a Millenia
 - iii. Why temporary? Because it’s not that New Jerusalem
 - iv. That FINAL temple on a new Earth in a new Heaven!

3. All Jewish Males

- a. But one would not be in attendance – one would absent Himself
- b. Jesus stayed OUT of Judea since the Jews sought His life (vs. 1)
 - i. Not that He had to – NO ONE could force Him
 - ii. He had the power to go ANYWHERE He wanted!
 - iii. But as one preacher put it, God is Honorable
 - iv. He will force Himself on no one!

B. The Creator God

1. Left Outside of Religion

- a. This was the Jews – the religious folk that wanted Him dead!
- b. Can you imagine!
 - i. John 1:14 – “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”
 - ii. Isaiah 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”
- 2. What is a tabernacle but a place to dwell?
- 3. God wanted to dwell with His chosen people, but they sought to kill Him
- 4. Albania – “Stepped on the head of God and put the Bible in a museum”
- 5. How different is America today?
- C. He Testified of the Father
 - 1. And their reaction to the Truth was murderous rage
 - 2. Boy! Don’t we see that on the news today?
 - 3. Unreasoning, unrighteous, unmitigated RAGE
- D. So, we see three things in this passage after the Feast of the Tabernacles:
 - 1. The Family Testimony
 - 2. The Fatal Testimony
 - 3. The Final Testimony
 - 4. The Future Temple

II. THE FAMILY TESTIMONY

- A. It was time to travel up to the feast and the Jews of Galilee would go
 - 1. His brethren all went (vs. 10)
 - a. You see that He went up also in secret (since that was the LAW)
 - b. And Jesus would NEVER break God’s Law
 - 2. Brought about the occasion for them to try to tell Him what to do (vs. 3)
 - a. We try to tell God where to go and what to do, don’t we?
 - b. Sometimes we figure God’s busy. He might not have noticed.
 - c. Just needs a few pointers, right?
 - 3. The job is well in hand
 - a. Job 34:21 – “For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings.”
 - b. Proverbs 5:21 – “For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.”
- B. They had bad motives
 - 1. They wanted to hitch their wagons to His star. They wanted fame (vs. 3)
 - a. What if He really could do all those things
 - b. Of course, THEY didn’t believe, but maybe others would (vs. 5)

2. Go up – let all those “disciples” see you
 - a. They were denying that they could ever be His disciples
 - b. Look at 6:42 – they WOULD not hear Him
 - c. (Sam Davison preached this same passage at the preacher’s conf.)
3. See their desire for Him to be the “big man” (vs. 4)
 - a. But they made a mistake, didn’t they? A misapprehension
 - b. He wasn’t here to make a name for Himself
 - c. The Father sent Him, the only begotten of the Father
 - d. John 5:43 – “I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.”
- C. They did not believe
 1. It was not that they didn’t believe the miracles
 - a. They may have... the talked about them easily enough in vs. 3
 - b. They may even have thought He was “special”
 2. But they didn’t believe that He was God
 3. They did not believe IN Him
 - a. I can believe that airplanes can fly
 - b. But I’m not believing IN an airplane until I’m taxiing for takeoff
- D. So much for the Family Testimony

III. THE FATAL TESTIMONY

- A. His Time (vs. 6)
 1. He first speaks of His our in John 2:4
 2. John 2:4 – “Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.”
 3. John 7:30 – and maybe a dozen times more all pointing to John 17:1
 4. John 17:1 – “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:”
 5. Obviously - this time refers to the time of His death
 6. He knew when it would happen. He had come to earth for this purpose!
- B. Not so, us!
 1. Our time is ALWAYS ready (vs. 6)
 2. Hebrews 9:27 – “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
 3. Proverbs 27:1 – “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”
 4. Luke 12:20 – “But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?”
- C. No time to lose!
 1. Why do we preach and plead and compel?

2. 2 Corinthians 6:2 – “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”
 3. We have no promise of tomorrow
 4. Today is the only day we have! Now is the only time we are given!
- D. That is the Fatal Testimony

IV. THE FINAL TESTIMONY

- A. The world does not hate its own (vs. 7)
 1. The gates of Hell do not defend against its own citizens
 2. What do Gates do? They certainly don't attack
 3. Jesus said that the Gates of Hell shall not prevail
 - a. That means us! Naples Baptist Temple
 - b. But that doesn't mean it will be easy
 - c. God didn't call us to sit. He called us to serve!
 - d. It's a battle ground not a romper room!
 - e. 2 Timothy 2:3 – “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”
- B. The world HATES Jesus Christ
 1. You see that all around us
 2. Watch lily-livered politicians pray sometime
 3. They won't pray “in Jesus' name”! They're too scared!
- C. He testifies that the works of the world are evil
 1. How? Because He is the Word of God in flesh
 2. John 16:8 – “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (9) Of sin, because they believe not on me; (10) Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; (11) Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”

V. THE FUTURE TEMPLE

- A. The New Temple
- B. Revelation 21:22 - And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. (23) And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. (24) And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. (25) And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.”
- C. Be Saved Today!
 1. We will begin signing a song of invitation in just a moment
 2. That will be your opportunity to come and see from the Bible how you can be Saved

D. These altars will be open for you to do business with the Lord God or to join the church in any way that we receive new members.