

~ Prayer for Israel ~

October 3, 2009

9:30 a.m. ~ 11:30 a.m.

Nebraska House of Prayer

Purpose: To understand the Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith and to value the Jewish people

Succot, the Festival of Booths, Feast of Tabernacles – Sundown Friday, October 2



Smemini Atzeret, Solomn Assembly, October 10
Simchat Torah, Rejoicing of the Torah, October 11

"On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to the Lord... Live in booths for seven days. Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, there will be no rain upon them." Leviticus 23:34 & 42, Zechariah 14:16-17

Study: Lev 23:33-44; John 1:14; Isaiah 12:3; John 7:37-39; John 7:40-41; Rev 21:1-3; Zechariah 14:16-17

Personal Reflections from Duane and Kathie Pieper:

"When we lived in Jerusalem, every feast and festival mentioned in the Bible came alive for us. We were able to see the living God at work among His ancient people through the sights, sounds, symbols, and commands in Scriptures. Because the feasts center around the agricultural seasons and teach rich spiritual lessons about the Messiah, Succot is particularly meaningful for us. We love that God communicated with His people, set up His tabernacle, and revealed Himself to us: (Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle, Exodus 40:34; Then to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name Deuteronomy 12:11; Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Psalm 90:1; My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Ezekiel 37:27; The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. John 1:14).

We constructed a sukkah when we lived and worked in the Old City of Jerusalem, and we provided meals in it for others. Some of the Jewish people sleep in the sukkah, remembering and celebrating for 8 days the providence and provision of God. It is a time of great rejoicing and giving thanks for the bounty God provides for us every day. There are sukkah's all over Jerusalem, temporary structures usually with four walls and covered with a roof of tree branches so that you can look up and see the stars. The sukkah reminds us of the portability of the huts in the desert as the Israelites wandered from place to place totally dependent on God alone for 40 years. It is a powerful reminder to take time to live simply and depend on God not our homes, jobs, gadgets, modern conveniences, or things, and see Him at work in nature, in the movement of the stars, the simplicity of the day, the still small voice of silence, learning to wait on Him and in the food He provides.

One year, while still living in Papillion, NE before moving to Israel, Duane was building a small hut to house our garden supplies. He purposely left off the roof after the walls were constructed, and covered the top with tree branches. It was at the time of Succot. We ate our meals in this structure, read the Scriptures, (Deuteronomy 8) and imagined what life was like for the Israelites to be totally dependent on the Lord for 40 years. When we years later had the opportunity to live in Jerusalem and experience Succot, the festival of Booths/the Feast of Tabernacles, took on a deeper meaning for us. If you pass by a synagogue, look for the sukkah." (Hillel at UNL will host an open house at their Sukkah located at 14th and 'S' street, Oct 7, 4-7 p.m.) Review the 2009 Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem at the International Christian Embassy: <http://www.icej.org/>

Teaching: Passover speaks of redemption, Shavout speaks of revival, Sukkot speaks of indwelling.

Sukkot – One of three major holidays that occur in the first nineteen days of the Biblical month of Tishri and four days after Yom Kippur. Succot is related to the fall harvest and bringing in the latter harvest, the Jewish Thanksgiving! Dwelling in booth's as a memorial of the 40 years in the desert. God provides, God built His habitation with us, in us! It is a very joyful holiday/festival lasting for 8 days. Construction of the temporary hut or sukkah, includes artwork, strings of dried fruits, etc. Lulav (palm branch), etrog (citron), hadas (myrtle), and arava(willow) = four species used for the wave offering, waving in every direction symbolizing the harvest and God's omnipresence over His world chanting Psalm 118. God was thanked for the produce of the year and

prayers were chanted to pray for the needed upcoming winter rains to replenish the land. The birkot cohanim (priestly blessing Numbers 6:24-26) where thousands gather at the Western Wall, and hundreds of Jews trace their ancestry directly back to Aaron the High Priest, Moses' brother, and bless the assembled congregation. When the apostle John describes the birth of the Messiah, he describes it in terms of Tabernacles (John 1:14) To Messianic Christians, Succot celebrates the visible manifestation God, the incarnation and birth of the Messiah, God dwelling in the midst of His people through the presence of the promised Messiah. The water pouring ceremony on the altar in the Temple (John 7:37-41) Jesus is the living water, no one who comes to Him will ever be thirsty. The 'sukkah' is the shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ (Colossians 2:17). The new heaven and the new earth, the New Jerusalem, and He will live with them (Rev. 21:1-3).

Smemini Atzeret – It marks the conclusion of Succot and literally means the eighth day (Leviticus 23:36) a holy assembly, no work. Jewish people begin to ask God for rain and a brief mention of rain continues to be inserted in the Amidah until Passover. If Yeshua's birth took place on the first day of Succot, His circumcision took place on the eighth day (Luke 2:21).

Simcha Torah – the ninth day, rejoicing in the law! It is a day of great joy with rituals in the synagogue revolving around the completion and beginning again of the cycle of Torah readings. Two scrolls are opened, one to the last chapter of Deuteronomy, the other to the first chapter of Genesis. The scrolls are taken from the Ark and the whole congregation walks around the synagogue with them seven times accompanied by dancing and singing. (In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. John 1: 1-18.)

PRAISE, WORSHIP, and THANKSGIVING TO GOD:

For the Jewish People - the human testimony and proof of the Living God
For the Prophets, the Scriptures, Feasts, Festivals, God's way to Worship
For the seasons, crops, provision, water, rain, life
For God's plan of Salvation, the nation of Israel, the Messiah, Immanuel, and Atonement of Sin
For Jerusalem, historical and visible reminder, the city of Truth

PRAYER POINTS:

Heavenly Father, Protector and Redeemer of Israel, we invoke Thy blessing upon the State of Israel which by Thy providence has been reborn in the land of our fathers. Shield her with Thy mercy and spread over her Thy protecting peace. Bestow the light of Thy truth upon her leaders and direct them by Thy good counsel. Sustain the hands of those who build and defend the Holy Land. Grant peace within her borders and security to all her inhabitants. O L-RD, remember our brethren of the whole house of Israel. Unite our hearts to love and revere Thee and to keep all the precepts of Thy Torah, that we may be a blessing to all mankind. Fulfill unto us the vision of Thy prophet: Out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the Word of the L-RD from Jerusalem. Amen. – (Taken from The Prayer Book: Weekday, Sabbath and Festival, by Ben Zion Bokser)

1. For **God's protection** on His people and the tiny nation of modern Israel. **Jeremiah 31:8-10 ; Psalm 1:6; Psalm 33:14; ; Psalm 78:54-55; Psalm 121:3-5; Psalm 127:1; Psalm 146:9; Lam 2:18-20**
2. For Christians and **Messianic believers** throughout the world to pray for the eyes of the Jewish people to be opened to their Messiah in the context of their own faith, destiny, and scriptures. **John 17:20-26; Psalm 42; Psalm 32:5-7; Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 40:31; Matthew 6:9-13**
3. For rabbis, cantors, teachers of the Hebrew Scriptures, and all Jewish people to remember and rely on the provision of **God who tabernacles among us. 1 Kings 8:46-51; Zechariah 12:10; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23**
4. For **revival** in the church, repentance of arrogance and replacement theology. **Ruth 1:16; Romans 9-11**
5. For Christians to be a **comfort** to the Jewish people in this day of anti-Semitism and hatred for Israel. **Isaiah 40:1-3**
6. Favor and **blessings** for the Christians from around the world who will be attending the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem October 2-8, Jerusalem March October 6th <http://www.icej.org/> **Genesis 12:2-3; Rom. 15:27**
7. For churches/individuals participating in the **Prayer for Jerusalem, Sunday, October 4**, <http://www.daytopray.org/>
8. That God would **thwart the plans** of the enemies of Israel, that the Lord would continue to expose and bring to light those hidden weapons of mass destruction in Iran and throughout the Middle East. **Psalm 108:11-13; Psalm 18**
9. That God would strengthen **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** and raise up leaders in Israel and around the world who will stand with Israel and not "divide the land". **Genesis 15:17; Psalm 2:10,11; Proverbs 20:28; Proverbs 29:4; Proverbs 29:14** (Listen to his address to the UN http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44HkjBDQz_k)
10. For **President Obama** and all people in the USA to stand with Israel, the Jewish people, and to embrace the truth of Scripture, and the Judeo/Christian roots of our heritage. **II Chronicles 14:11; Matthew 12:29-31; I Kings 18:21**
11. For Christians and Messianic Jewish believers working with Arab people and living in Arab nations that God would give them favor in sharing the Gospel. **Psalm 27:1; Psalm 61:1-4; Ezekiel 18:5; Jeremiah 50:4-5; Psalm 20:7-9**
12. Pray for **all exiled Jews** everywhere to support Israel and if the Lord wills, to make Aliyah back to the land of their fathers. **Jeremiah 31:7-11; Amos 9:14-15; Ezekiel 37:21-22; Psalm 105:7-11**
13. For the **restoration of the economy** in this global recession, i.e., the poor, jobless, homeless. **Psalm 23:1;132:15**
14. For sufficient **early rains** to soften and nourish the soil. **Leviticus 26:4; Deut 11:14; 28:12; Isaiah 30:23; Joel 2:23**
15. **The Israel Tour and Prayer Journey:** That we may continue to pray, study, and understand what the Bible has to say about God's plan for Israel & the Jewish people. When we visit Hebron – the burial place of Abraham, his wife Sarah and their family - the starting point of the 4,000-year history of the Jews, we can ask: where are all the people who once held this place? Where are the Canaanites? The Edomites? The ancient Hellenes, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Franks, the Mamluks, the Ottomans, the British? They have vanished forever into the mists of time. The Jewish people are still in Hebron. **Psalm 122; Psalm 84; Isaiah 62:1, 6-7; Jeremiah 33:3; Psalm 99:9;128:5**