

Deuteronomy 16:13-15 – Feast of the Ingathering

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Geneva, Gill, JFB, Poole, Trapp, Delitzsch, Barnes, Calvin, Henry, Eclectic, Schultz, Edersheim, Bonar, Poythress, Handfuls Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **The Jews had to participate in 3 major feasts: The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover) which pictured the work of God the Son – saving from death, the Feast of Firstfruits, which pictured the work of God the Holy Spirit – giving new life, and the Feast of Ingathering, which pictured the work of God the Father -bringing in the elect.**

The Jews could not participate by proxy, giving someone permission to participate for them. They had to personally be involved in each of these feasts. Their personal involvement guaranteed the message would pass on to their children so they would celebrate these feasts.

You will hear about the 3rd feast today, the Feast of Ingathering, or Feast of Booths or Feast of Tabernacles

Our headings are:

When was the Feast Celebrated?

How and Why was the Feast Celebrated

Our goals are: That you will be thankful for God’s earthly provisions, that you will then work for the ingathering of the saints into the kingdom, and that you will look forward to that final ingathering in the presence of the Lord Jesus in heaven.

When was the Feast Celebrated

13 "You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress.

1. God commanded the Jews to gather and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles on the 15th day of 7th month, Tisri.

Leviticus 23:34 "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 LORD.

Tisri (or Tishri) corresponds to our September/October time roughly.

Observe doesn’t mean “to watch.” Observe here means “to do.”

2. This was at the end of the harvest

The crops were now in their barns, and their grains were being milled to make flour for food.

The wines were made and maturing and waiting to be enjoyed over time.

The olives were pressed into oil or preserved.

The dried figs were going to be stored away...along with the dates...and other fruits.

Joy was in the air!

It is not surprising, therefore, that this feast was called the Feast of Ingatherings, as the harvesting was done and it was **time to celebrate.**

3. Lessons:

a. Learn to wait for the appropriate time to celebrate – religious or otherwise. Work first then celebrate. Don't spend what you do not have. Don't sleep or you will have nothing to celebrate. This is an important lesson, especially for children. Clean up your room first before you play.

b. You too have to be bringing in the crops in the Lord's harvest. There are many crops ready and too few harvesters. The Father has his desires that all his crops will come in. **Continue the harvest. The world is "white unto harvest."**

Matthew 9:37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

c. There will be a time when all of God's crops are harvested, and all of God's people will be gathered together, not in booths, but in heaven. This is the ultimate harvest.

How and Why was the Feast Celebrated

14 "And **you shall rejoice** in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates. 15 **"Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast** to the LORD your God in the **place which the LORD chooses**, because the LORD your **God will bless you in all your produce** and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.

1. God required all Jews to remove all leaven from all their homes.

As in the Passover, leaven was a picture of uncleanness and God wanted all of it to be removed. God required action.

The Jews had to look in their houses, from top to bottom, to remove all hints of leaven.

This was a celebration but work was a part of it.

2. God required all Jews to make booths outside and live in them for 7 days.

Living in tents **reminded the Jews of the time they lived in temporary homes as they traveled from Egypt to Canaan.**

This was a celebration but reflection on God's goodness was required.

Deuteronomy 16:16 "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

3. God required all people to bring gifts to the feast and share with the priest and the poor.

So all had to come and personally bring their gifts gifts. There was no delegation of duty.

This was a celebration but God required charity as part of it.

4. God required that all his people rejoice when they celebrated the 3 feasts, including this one.

God was angry if they did not celebrate.

Look at what some did later and caused God's anger to come on Judah. **They did not rejoice!**

Malachi 2:13 And this is the second thing you do: **You cover the altar of the LORD with tears**, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands.

God had warned them of the consequences if they did not rejoice – rejoice in his goodness to them!!!

Deuteronomy 28:47 "Because **you did not serve the LORD your God with joy** and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, 48 "therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

5. God required they stop from doing regular work and treat the Feast of Ingathering like 7 Sabbath days.

Numbers 29:12 'On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work, and you shall **keep a feast to the LORD seven days.**

According to Jewish history, the Jews **did not allow even marriages** to take place at this time so the Jews could focus on rejoicing in the Lord, instead of rejoicing in their wives.

6. God required the Jews sacrifice 70 bulls, starting with 13 the 1st day, and then a declining number the rest of the days.

In addition, each day they had to sacrifice 14 lambs and 2 rams. This was celebration...but it was also quite bloody.

This was a grand celebration, but God wanted the Jews to think of their sins and their consequences.

7. God required the Jews acknowledge all the favors God showed them as they celebrated the Feast of Ingatherings.

Instead of going to their comfortable homes, God required the Jews to be together, in their basic tents to **acknowledge the role of God in their lives.**

8. God required that every 7th year of the Feast of Tabernacles, the Jews hear a full reading of the law.

Do you realize how long it would have taken for them to read the whole law? Surely you see how important it was that God would require that even children be there for the reading of the law!

9. God required the Jews reflect on his promise to continue to provide for them.

The Jews remembered God's provisions, through the desert and in their new home, and **would know that God would provide for their needs.** The Jews remembered they were strangers in Egypt and the Lord brought them out from there. God gave them tents to live in the desert, but now they had big homes to live in...houses they did not build.

10. Lessons:

a. It is important to take inventory of your life from time to time and see if there are sins that creep in and corrupt you. Is there a sin of lust, laziness, timidity, greed, presumptuousness, or impatience? If you find one of those sins, ask God for help root it out – root out all blight from your life, just as yeast was removed from the Jewish homes.

b. When you root out sin and you reflect on your redemption, joy will overflow. This is your sanctification process. Others will see and ask questions! You will be able to tell them of Jesus.

c. Go back a little farther. Reflect on your gracious salvation in Jesus! What a wonderful redemption it is! And think about it, if **those who were under the law had to rejoice** before God, mustn't you who are under grace rejoice all the more? So reflect on your initial cleansing – your salvation!

d. The more God's people get together, the greater the joy, and more you can challenge each other.

e. Reflect on the presence of Jesus among his people for their salvation and sanctification,.

John 1:14 And the Word became 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.

He lived as an example. He taught them everything they needed to know. He died to clean them up.

I am convinced by history and passages like these that Jesus was born around October. He was the tabernacle among us!

f. The Lord will take care of you. He always has and will always do so. Trust him. Don't worry about provisions.

Conclusion:

After **providing bountifully for his people** – grains, fruits, and wine, the Lord called them to take 7 days to celebrate his provision and remember his promise to provide for them. And as a further reminder how God provided for them, he told them to make temporary booths to live in so they could **remember** how he brought them out from Egypt and **how they had to live in tents**.

Also, they had to **remove all leaven** from their homes as leaven was **a symbol of uncleanness**. God **ultimate purpose of the Feast of Ingathering** was for the Jews to **think of the time when God would gather all his people from all the different fields of the world and take them to be with him in heaven**.

In short, the Jews had to **remember God's physical and spiritual provisions**.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Remember God's provisions for you, your family, your church, and your nation. Take time to remember!

2. Remember those secret sins in your life. Search for them and clean them out. Maybe there is a little bitterness. Maybe there is a little unforgiveness. Maybe there is a little jealousy. Get rid of them.

3. For these two provisions, rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.

4. Bring in the harvest. Learn skill to **plant the seed**. Learn to **water and care for the plant** that is growing. Learn to **bring home the harvest**. Yes, **share the Gospel** of Jesus so men, women, boys, girls, rich, and poor, from every walk of life can be saved. **Don't spend time with those who wouldn't listen.** **Search out the ones that do.** The elect are everywhere!

Finally: If you are weed and not wheat, the Lord said in the end he will sort you out and throw you in the fire.

Matthew 13:30 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."' 38 "The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 40 "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age." But Jesus can change your very nature if you call out to him to take away your sins and renew you from the inside. He will bring you into his barns – a place of eternal safety and joy!