

# Harvest Feasting

Israel's Thanksgiving Festival

Lev 23:34-44

# Intro:

- Many cultures celebrate at this time of year
- Harvest of crops can create great celebration
- But, what are we celebrating?
  - Is it just a time for over-eating?
  - Parades? Football? Floats? Recipes?
- God gave a festival to His people
  - “Feast of Tabernacles”
  - It was a reminder of their “journey”
  - It was a reminder of their deliverance
  - It was a reminder of His Provision

# I. Remember the Sabbath; 35-38

- We call them “holidays”
  - No school, no mail, no services, no work?
  - The most important thing was REST.
  - This went back to God’s resting in creation
  - Jesus spent time away from the crowds
- Holy “gathering” – convocation
  - This included all the Religious days...
  - Focus is on being with God’s people
  - It has to be more than Sunday “nods” ...
  - Included sacrifices, offerings, gifts

## II. Rejoice before the Lord; 40

- This is something lost in our worship...
  - We see guys do it at sport events
  - And ladies when they are “cheer – leaders”
  - But what about our time before God?
- If your whole yearly salary – 1 month?
  - You would have a lot to get excited about!
  - Palms, foliage, boughs, willows...
  - Note: rejoice before the Lord, not people!
  - Remember Noah? Sign of life...
  - The Lord YOUR God...

### III. Reemphasize God; 41-43

- Perpetual statute, never ending...
  - This was written while they in the desert!
  - Why would you want to remember?
  - So other generations will KNOW!
  - Emphasis is on what God has done in YOU!
  - It reminds us that we are still “wandering” ...
  - Strangers, aliens, pilgrims (1Pt 2:11)
  - “I AM the LORD your GOD”
  - The focus was on what He is to us
  - When we make it about us...

# Action Points:

- What has the Lord done IN you?
  - Gatherings with family/friends time to tell
  - Building memories - children/grandchildren
  - Do they know what God has done?
- Plan your time with the Lord too...
  - What are you “waving” these days?
  - The focus was to be joy before the Lord!
  - Sacrifice of praise... (He 13:15)
  - Lets show His love, work, provision to all!