

## Sukkot Simchat Torah- The Joy of the Torah

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**Simchat Torah**

**The Joy of the  
Torah**

Torah reading- **Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:9-13**

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**Devarim [Deuteronomy] 31:9-13** And Mosheh wrote this Torah and gave it to the priests, the sons of Lëvi, who bore the ark of the covenant of יהוה and to all the elders of Yisra'ël. **10** And Mosheh commanded them, saying, "At the end of seven years, at the appointed time, the year of release, at the Festival of Booths [Sukkot], **11** when all Yisra'ël comes to appear before יהוה your Elohim in the place which He chooses, read this Torah before all Yisra'ël in their hearing. **12** "Assemble the people, the men and the women and the little ones and your sojourner who is within your gates, so that they hear and so that they learn to fear יהוה your Elohim and guard to do all the Words of this Torah. **13** "And their children, who have not known it, should hear and learn to fear יהוה your Elohim as long as you live in the land you are passing over the Yardën [Jordan] to possess."

Haftarah- **Yeshayahu [Isaiah] 65:17-25, 2 Dibre ha Yamim [2 Chronicles 7:1-11]**



## Mosheh Writes the Torah

**Introduction:** In our Torah portion we find Mosheh placing in the hands of the Priests the Torah [Law] to be its custodians & protectors to be read in the hearing of Yisrael during **Sukkot** [the Feast of Tabernacles] each 7<sup>th</sup> year being the **Sabbatical year**.



## The Reading of the Torah on Sukkot

This was to inspire Yisrael to live in submission to their all loving & great Elohim & we saw how it impacted the returned Yisraelites in the days of **Nechemyah** [Nehemiah] when **Ezra** the Priest read it in their hearing. They were extremely sorrowful for their failings but were encouraged by the Priests to **rejoice & celebrate** the great truth they had received. This then is the theme of the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Sukkot. It is about **rejoicing** in the Torah.

## The Glorious Renewal:

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## The Glorious New Creation

**Yeshayahu [Isaiah] 65:17-25** "For look, I am creating new heavens and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered, nor come to heart. **18** "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for look, I create Yerushalayim a rejoicing and her people a joy. **19** "And I shall rejoice in Yerushalayim and shall joy in My people and let the voice of weeping no more be heard in her, nor the voice of crying. **20** "No more is an infant from there going to live but a few days, nor an old man who does not complete his days, for the youth dies one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be lightly esteemed. **21** "And they shall build houses and inhabit them and plant vineyards and eat their fruit. **22** "They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat. For the days of My people are going to be as the days of a tree and My chosen ones outlive the work of their hands.

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## The Glorious New Creation

**23** "They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble. For they are the seed of the blessed of יהוה and their offspring with them. **24** "And it shall be that before they call, I answer. And while they are still speaking, I hear. **25** "Wolf and lamb feed together, a lion eats straw as an ox and dust is the snake's food. They shall do no evil, nor destroy in all My set-apart mountain," said יהוה.

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## Shelomo [Solomon] Dedicates the Temple

**2 Dibre ha Yamim [2 Chronicles] 7:1** And when Shelomoh had ended praying, fire came down from the heavens and consumed the burnt offering and the slaughterings and the esteem of יהוה filled the House. **2** And the priests were unable to enter the House of HWHY, because the esteem of יהוה had filled the House of יהוה. **3** And all the children of Yisra'el saw how the fire came down and the esteem of יהוה on the House and they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement and did obeisance and gave thanks to יהוה, saying, "For He is good, for His kindness is everlasting." **4** And the sovereign and all the people were making offerings before יהוה. **5** And Sovereign Shelomoh made an offering of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. Thus the sovereign and all the people dedicated the House of Elohim. **6** And the priests were standing over their duties and the Levites with instruments of the song to יהוה, which Sovereign David had made to give thanks to יהוה, saying, "For His kindness is everlasting," whenever Dawid praised by their hand. And the priests were blowing trumpets before them and all Yisra'el were standing.

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**7** And Shelomoh set-apart the middle of the courtyard that was in front of the House of יהוה, for there he made burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar which Shelomoh had made was not able to contain the burnt offerings and the grain offerings and the fat. **8** And Shelomoh at that time observed the Festival seven days and all Yisra'el with him, a very great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the wadi of Mitsrayim. **9** And on the eighth day they held an assembly, for they performed the dedication of the altar seven days and the festival seven days. **10** And on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their tents, rejoicing and glad of heart for the goodness that יהוה had done for David and for Shelomoh and for His people Yisra'el. **11** Thus Shelomoh finished the House of יהוה and the sovereign's house. And all that came into the heart of Shelomoh to do in the House of יהוה and in his own house, he prosperously executed.

To further enhances the concept of this 8<sup>th</sup> day we need to see it as it is seen in biblical numerology. The Number 8 in the Bible represents a new beginning, it is a number of hope, new horizons and a bright future. It is connected with Yeshua and his resurrection, since through his resurrection a new beginning was established for all mankind.

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**Haftarah- Yeshayahu 65:17-25, 2 Dibre ha Yamim**



**Tested by the Sadducees, Herodians & Pharisees**

Yeshua was selected as the Lamb to take away man's sins on the Hebrew day of **Aviv** [Nisan] **10** And was tested by the Sadducees, the Herodians & the Pharisees. He was crucified on **Nisan 14** a Wednesday. His resurrection occurred, exactly as he stated, three days and three nights after he was buried, which was at the end of the weekly **Shabbat** that fell on **Nisan 17** where seventeen symbolizes victory.

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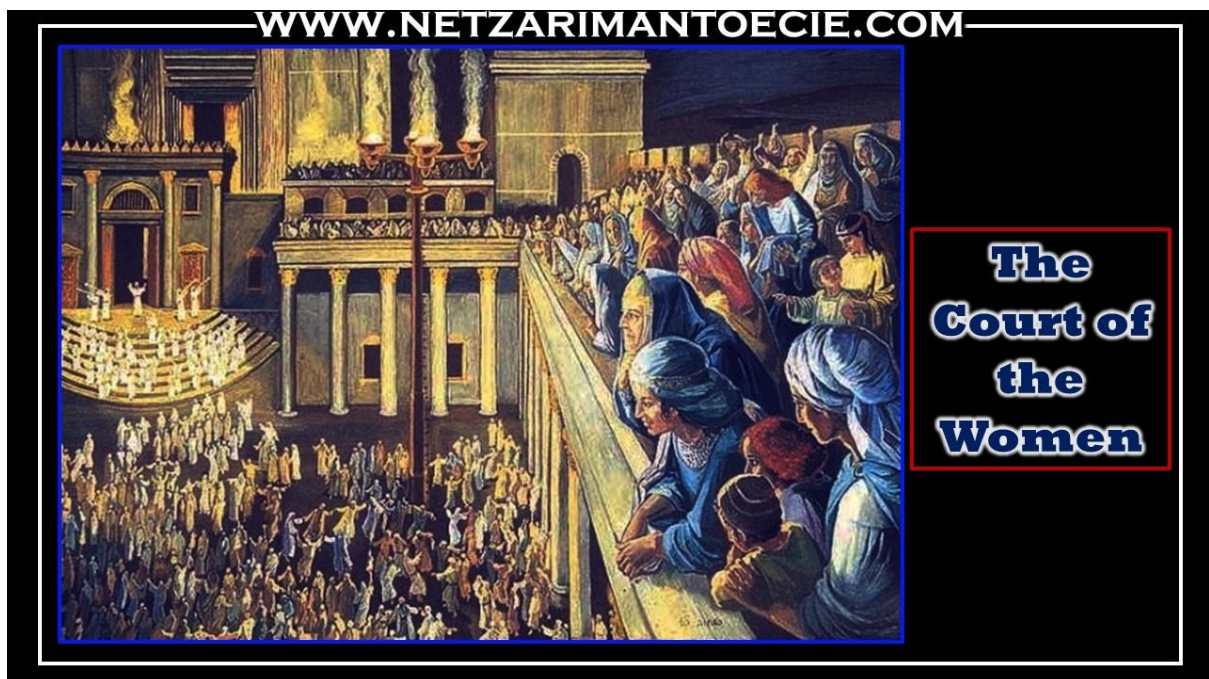
**Mankinds  
New  
Beginning**

We also find that 8 people were saved in the **ark of Noah** to continue the human race, leading to a new beginning. After the resurrection, Yeshua showed himself to other believers, his disciples and Miriyam from Magdala 8 times before ascending. From this understanding we come to see the great promise we read in **Yeshayahu** [Isaiah] & last Shabbat in **Hitgaluth** [Revelation] **21** of a New Heaven & a New Earth therefore a new beginning.

## The Dedication of the Temple of Shelomoh:

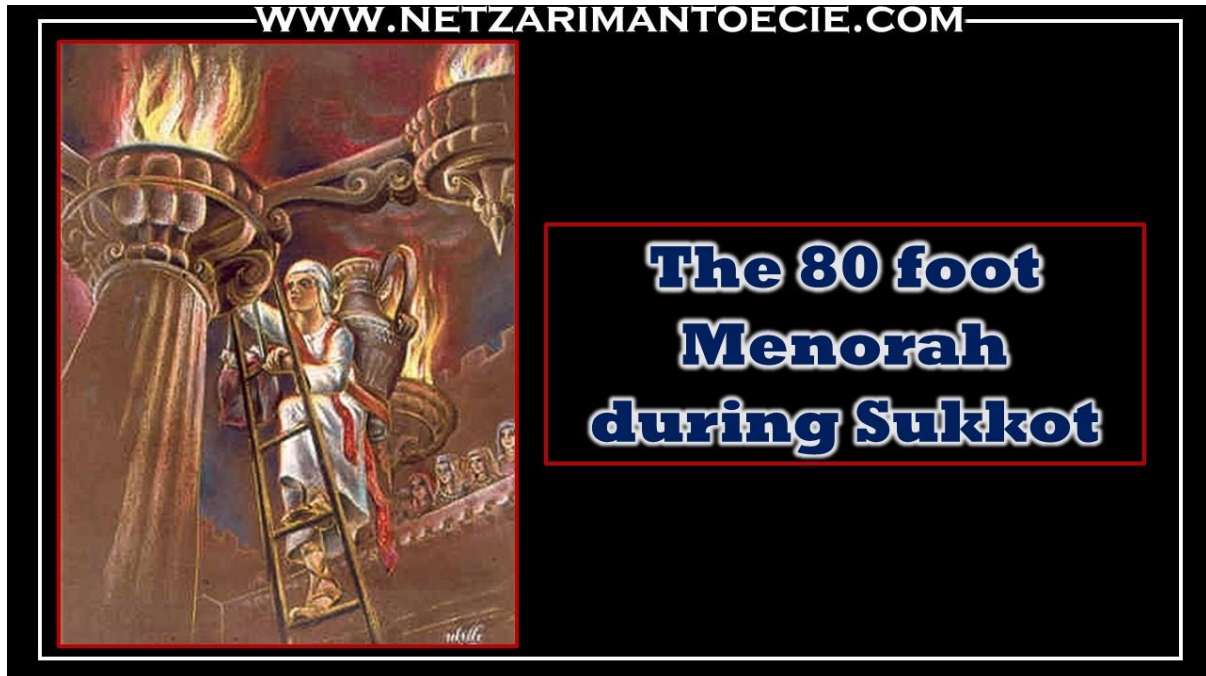


The great celebration that we read about when **Shelomoh [Solomon]** dedicated the glorious Temple included the dedication of the **Altar**, the Day of Atonement [**Yom Kippur**], the Feast of Tabernacles [**Sukkot**] and a special Assembly on the **8<sup>th</sup> day** of Sukkot therefore the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of the Seventh Month and so great was this celebration that fire descended from the Heavens just as it had when the **Mishkan** [the Tabernacle] was dedicated in **Vayiqra [Lev] 9:23-24**. So great was the **glory** of Yahweh that filled the Temple so the Priests could not enter.



The celebration of the 8<sup>th</sup> day was an awesome site. On this eighth and final Day there was a gathering of all the women of Yisrael in the Court of the Women. They sang songs of

rejoicing and praise, they danced before Yahweh waving banners and flags and torches. Then, they proceeded from the **Temple Mount** into the streets of **Yerushalayim**. As they danced through the streets, the city came alive with rejoicing and with the light of the flames as the procession passed by.



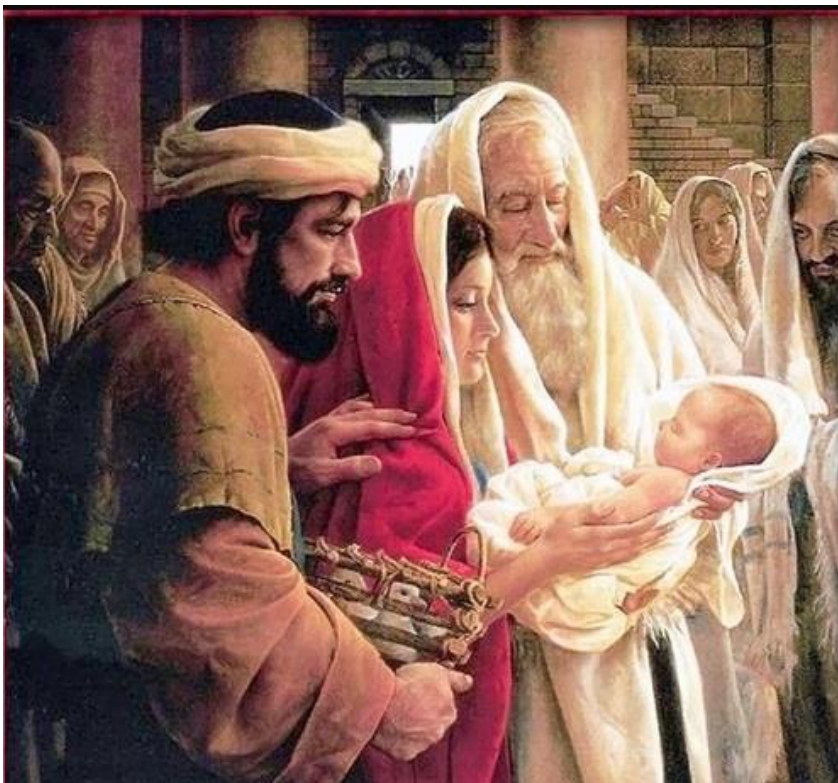
When they returned to the Temple Mount, in the Court of the Women, a **Menorah** was erected there. This menorah was 80 feet tall and had at each of the seven branches, a bath of 30 gallons of fine oil. The torches were given to the husbands of the dancers to light the Menorah. When the Menorah was lit, the entire city of Yerushalayim was awash in its glow. Because the city sits within the bowl of the hills which surround it, and because this Menorah was so high and so bright, every corner of every home in the city was alight with its radiance. The rabbis say that to see Yerushalayim in those days was to experience the **Radiant Glory of Elohim** that had been lost since the Shekinah (the Presence) left the first Temple. They called this the **"Light of the World."** So it was in this glorious setting that Yeshua proclaimed Himself as **"the Light of the World"** during Chanukkah (**Yahuchanan [John] 8:12**).

What is striking is that used **Priestly garments** were recycled for the wicks in the Temple Menorah and for swaddling the sons of Kings. There is therefore little doubt that **Elisheva** (Elizabeth) the wife of the Kohen (the Priest) ZecharYah would have coveted the opportunity to provide the swaddling cloths for Yeshua's momentous birth who is the King.



It is a common sight in Yisrael today to see people dancing and rejoicing in commemorating the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai so how much more should we not celebrate Yeshua who is the true Torah & Temple of Yahweh.

### **The Dedication of Messiah the True Temple:**



As we remember from our Sukkot service, Yeshua was born on the first day of Sukkot therefore the 8<sup>th</sup> day being “**rejoicing in the Torah**” is so amazing, for we know the **Brit Milah** (circumcision) of Yeshua was done on the High Sabbath on the Last Great Day of Sukkot as we read in:

**Luke 2:21** And when eight days were completed for Him to be circumcised, His Name was called Yeshua [Yahusha], the Name given by the messenger before He was conceived in the womb.



Based on our understanding then, the true rejoicing in the Torah is rejoicing in the Word made flesh being Yeshua and so after Miriyam's purification they brought Yeshua before Yahweh for dedication & we see a wonderful revelation occurring in:



**Luke 2:27- 31** And Shimon [Simeon] came in the Spirit into the set-apart Place. And as the parents brought in the Child Yeshua, to do for Him according to the usual practice of the Torah, **28** he took Him up in his arms and blessed Elohim and said, **29** “Now let Your servant go in peace, O Master, according to Your word, **30** for my eyes have seen Your salvation, **31** which You have prepared before the face of all the peoples, **32** a light to bring revelation to the gentiles and the esteem of Your people Yisra’ël.”

Surely the truth of Simchat Torah the **joy of the Torah** can truly only be seen as the truth that **Shimon** longed for all his days and had finally seen. May this thought fill us all with that joy because our spiritual eyes have seen his salvation.

**Netzarim Ketuvim: Yahuchanan [John] 7:37-52**

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## The Living Water Promise

**Yahuchanan [John] 7:37-52** And on the last day, the great day of the festival [Sukkot], Yeshua [Yahusha] stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me, and let him who believes in Me drink. **38** "As the Scripture said, out of His innermost being shall flow rivers of living water." **39** And this He said concerning the Spirit, which those believing in Him were about to receive, for the Set-apart Spirit [Ruach ha Kodesh] was not yet given, because Yeshua was not yet esteemed. **40** Many from the crowd, when they heard the word, then said, "This truly is the Prophet." **41** Others said, "This is the Messiah," but others said, "Does the Messiah then come out of Galil? **42** "Did not the Scripture say that the Messiah comes from the seed of David and from the village of Bëyth Lechem [Bethlehem], where David was?" **43** So a division came about among the people because of Him. **44** And some of them wished to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. **45** The officers therefore came to the chief priests and Pharisees. And they said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?"

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## Messiah Reveals the Living Water at Sukkot

**Yahuchanan [John] 7: 46** The officers answered, "Never has any man spoken like this Man!" **47** The Pharisees, therefore, answered them, "Have you also been led astray? **48** "Has anyone of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in Him? **49** "But this crowd that does not know the Torah is accursed." **50** Naqdimon [Nicodemus] - he who came to Yeshua [Yahusha] by night, being one of them - said to them, **51** "Does our Torah judge the man unless it hears first from him and knows what he is doing?" **52** They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galil? Search and see that no prophet has arisen out of Galil."

Our reading sees Yeshua coming to the Temple on the last great day of the Feast and highlights one ceremony of interest. This was performed each day of the Feast and was the **Water Libation Ceremony**.

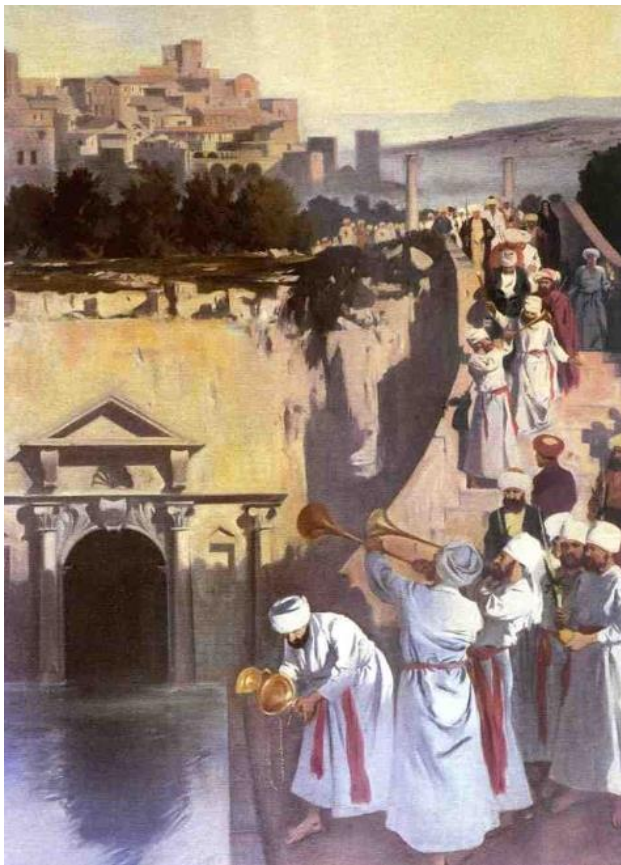
All the priests would be divided into three groups & we read that David divided the Priesthood into 24 divisions. Therefore, they were divided into three groups of eight Divisions with all the Priests of Yisrael participating.

## 1. The Sacrifices:



One group was responsible for **“the sacrifices”**: the 70 Bulls that were slaughtered over the seven-day period were for the sins of all the Nations plus there were other offerings of thanksgiving & peace. There would in fact be thousands of Priests there to help during the Feast.

## 2. The Water Libation Ceremony:



The 2nd Group of Priests would go out of the water gate to the **“pool of Siloam”** because it was known to have living water. Through this gate a flask of water was brought back into the Temple to be used to pour on the **Altar** & used during the **“Sukkot”** Feast. This was quite a distance right down the hill remembering that Jerusalem was filled with millions of people watching this parade of Priests going to the pool of Siloam & returning to the Temple.

We know Yeshua came to the **Festival of Booths [Sukkot]** when this Water Libation Ceremony was performed as we read in:

**Yahuchanan (John) 7:37** In the last day that great day of the Feast Yahshua stood and cried, saying “if any man thirst let him come to Me and Drink. **38** He that believes in Me as the Scrolls of YHWH have said out of his belly will flow rivers of living water:

What is of interest is that the Priests would pour wine which represented the blood of redemption and water which we know from Yeshua represented the Spirit over the Altar. We then begin to see this significance when we think of Yeshua that when he was offered up and said, “**it is finished**” was pierced in his side and both blood and water came out speaking of this ceremony.

### **3. Willow Waving:**

The 3rd group went out the eastern gate also known as the “**gate beautiful**” & they cut willow branches that were **25-30 feet** in length. like a parade they would wave them all in unison. Can you imagine thousands of willow branches waving in the wind in total harmony?

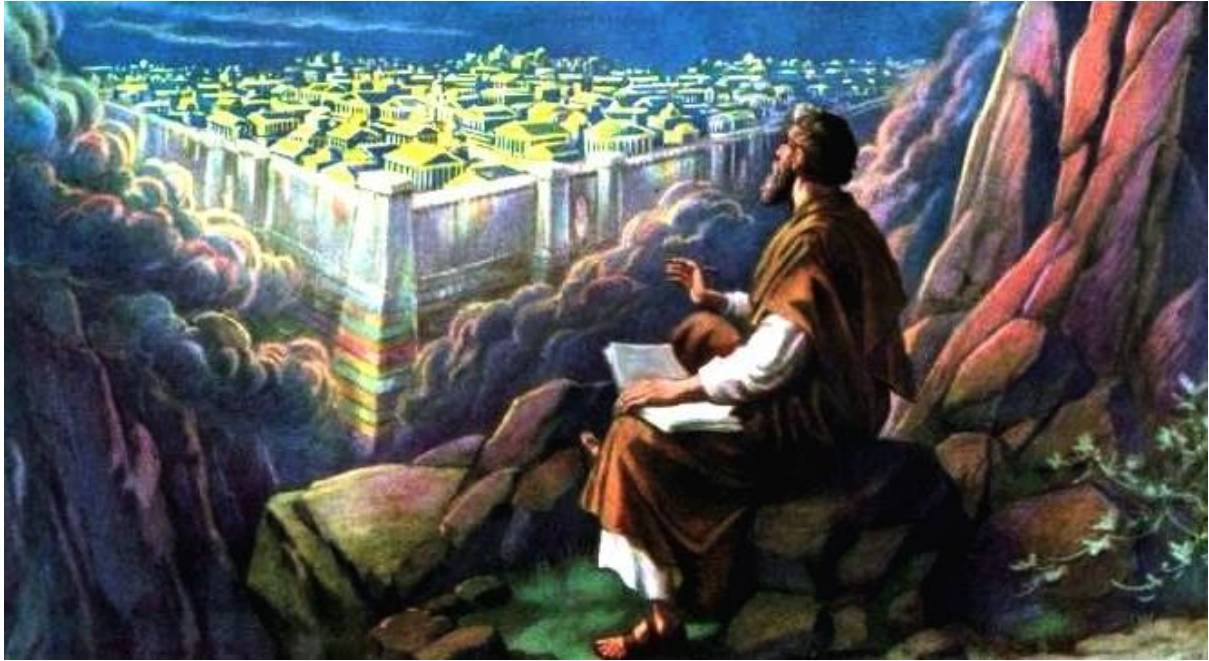
### **The Great Challenge:**



Too many believers today see the whole purpose of Scripture as receiving **Salvation**, but surely the hope of Yeshua is about creating a people who live righteous before Yahweh the only Elohim. Yeshua therefore did not come to wipe away the requirements of Elohim but rather to **atone** for our sin and to empower us with His Spirit that we could live Righteous lives. When we begin to see, that it is not all about getting to Heaven but rather about Yahweh dwelling with his people on Earth in Righteousness then we will realize that it is time for us to prepare ourselves as the **Bride** since scripture says this:

**Ephesians 5:27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious Assembly (**Bride**), not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be set-apart and without blemish.

The final remark I would like to ask, is why when Yeshua returns to rule the Earth in Righteousness, is the Feast of Tabernacles practiced for the 1000 years of his reign if it is not to prepare and teach the World concerning Righteousness, that Yahweh the only Elohim can finally dwell with his people in love and Righteousness at the end of Days as we read in:



Hitgaluth [Revelation] 21:22 22And I saw no Temple [Heykal] in it, for YHWH Ėl Shaddai and the Lamb are its Temple.

**Shavua Tov Aleychem – A Good Week Unto You**