A photograph of a sunset over a field of tall grass. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is filled with wispy clouds, and a large, dark tree is visible in the background. The text "Sukkot" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Sukkot

— THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES —

The Feasts of יהוה

- The Feasts of יהוה, part of the law of the Torah and followed by the tribes of Israel over a period of ~1440 years (BC), were placed on the calendar to pre-designate memorials and celebrations to certain days and events when יהוה would incrementally implement His plan to redeem man from death.
 - ...**a feast**, or of the **new month**, or of the **Sabbath**: Which **are a shadow of things to come** and body of Messiah (Colossians 2:16-17)
 - For **the law having a shadow of good things to come**, and **not the very image of the things**... (Hebrews 10:1)
- The Spring Feasts contained the shadow of the events to be performed by Messiah during His First Coming, on the very day of the feast associated with that event.
- The Fall Feasts contain the shadow of the events that Messiah will soon complete upon His Second Coming, on the very same day of the feast!

Fall Feasts Overview

- Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) (in the 7th month)
 - Yom Teruah (Day of Trumpets) (1st – High Sabbath)
 - Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) (10th – High Sabbath from 9th even)
 - Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) (7 days, 15th – 21st, with a High Sabbath on the first day)
 - Shemini Atzeret (Eighth Assembly) (22nd – High Sabbath)



THE FALL
FEAST DAYS

The Fall Feasts

(Generic Seventh Month)

				1 Day of Trumpets (High Shabbat)	2	3 - Shabbat
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Shabbat Day of Atonement (High Shabbat)
11	12	13	14	15 Sukkot (Day 1: High Shabbat)	16 Sukkot (Day 2)	17 - Shabbat Sukkot (Day 3)
18 Sukkot (Day 4)	19 Sukkot (Day 5)	20 Sukkot (Day 6)	21 Sukkot (Day 7)	22 Eighth Assembly (High Sabbath)	23	24 - Shabbat
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sukkot

- Sukkot is also known as:
 - The Feast of Tabernacles
 - The Feast of Booths
 - The Feast of Ingathering



- ...the Feast of Tabernacles (חג הסוכות)... (Leviticus 23:34)
 - “Feast” - khag, (H2282, חג), defined as festival or feast; root word is kha-gag' (H2287, גגח), defined to observe a festival, celebrate, dance
 - “Tabernacles” - sukâ, (H5521, סכה), defined as booth (a temporary shelter); plural form: sukôt (סכות); definitive article form: ha-sukôt (הסכות)
- ...the Feast of Ingathering (חג האסוף)... (Exodus 23:16)
 - “Ingathering” - a-seef' (H614, פסא), defined as a gathering in of crops (harvest)

Feast of Tabernacles

- Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days unto יהוה. On the first day shall be a set apart convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. (Leviticus 23:34-35)
- ...in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto יהוה seven days: on the first day shall be a Sabbath... And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before יהוה your Elohiym seven days. (Leviticus 23:39-40)
- ...it shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate (H2287) it in the seventh month. (Leviticus 23:41)





- Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am יהוה your Elohiym. (Leviticus 23:42-43)

Sukkot

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES



Sukkot



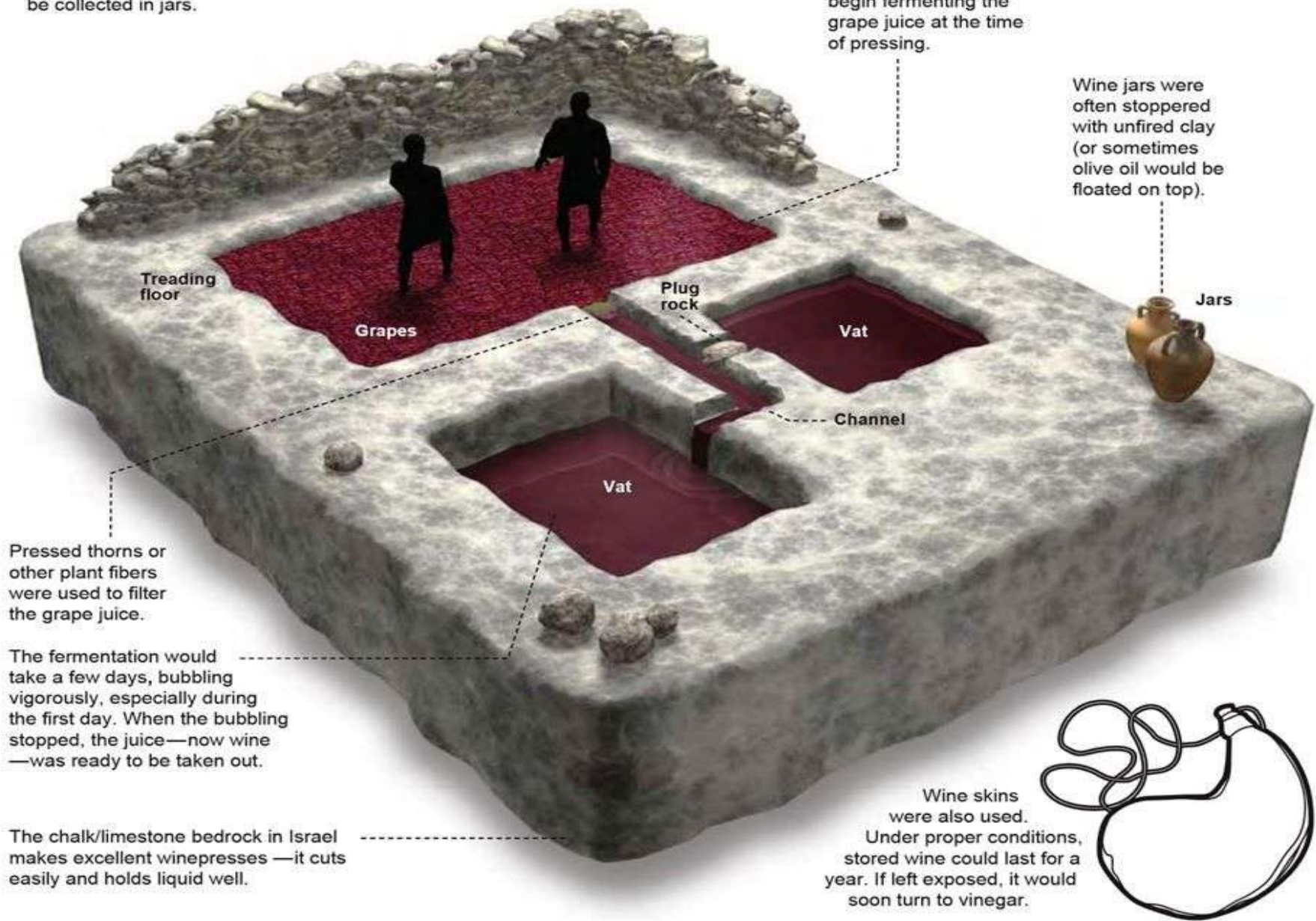
The Feast of Ingathering

- Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto Me in the year... and the Feast of Ingathering (תִּשְׁבֹּעַ), which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. (Exodus 23:14/16)
- Thou shalt keep for thyself the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when thou hast gathered in **from thy corn floor and thy wine press** (Deuteronomy 16:13 - Septuagint)



A Winepress in Ancient Israel

An ancient winepress was a rock-hewn open-air system. Grapes were pressed by being trodden underfoot in a treading floor. The juice would pour through a channel into a vat, where it would ferment. It would then be collected in jars.



The yeast from the skin of the grapes would begin fermenting the grape juice at the time of pressing.

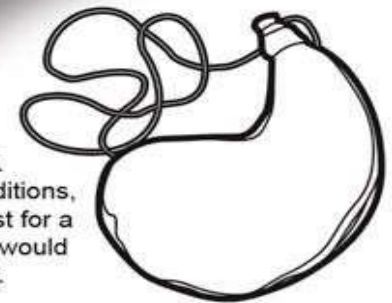
Wine jars were often stoppered with unfired clay (or sometimes olive oil would be floated on top).

Pressed thorns or other plant fibers were used to filter the grape juice.

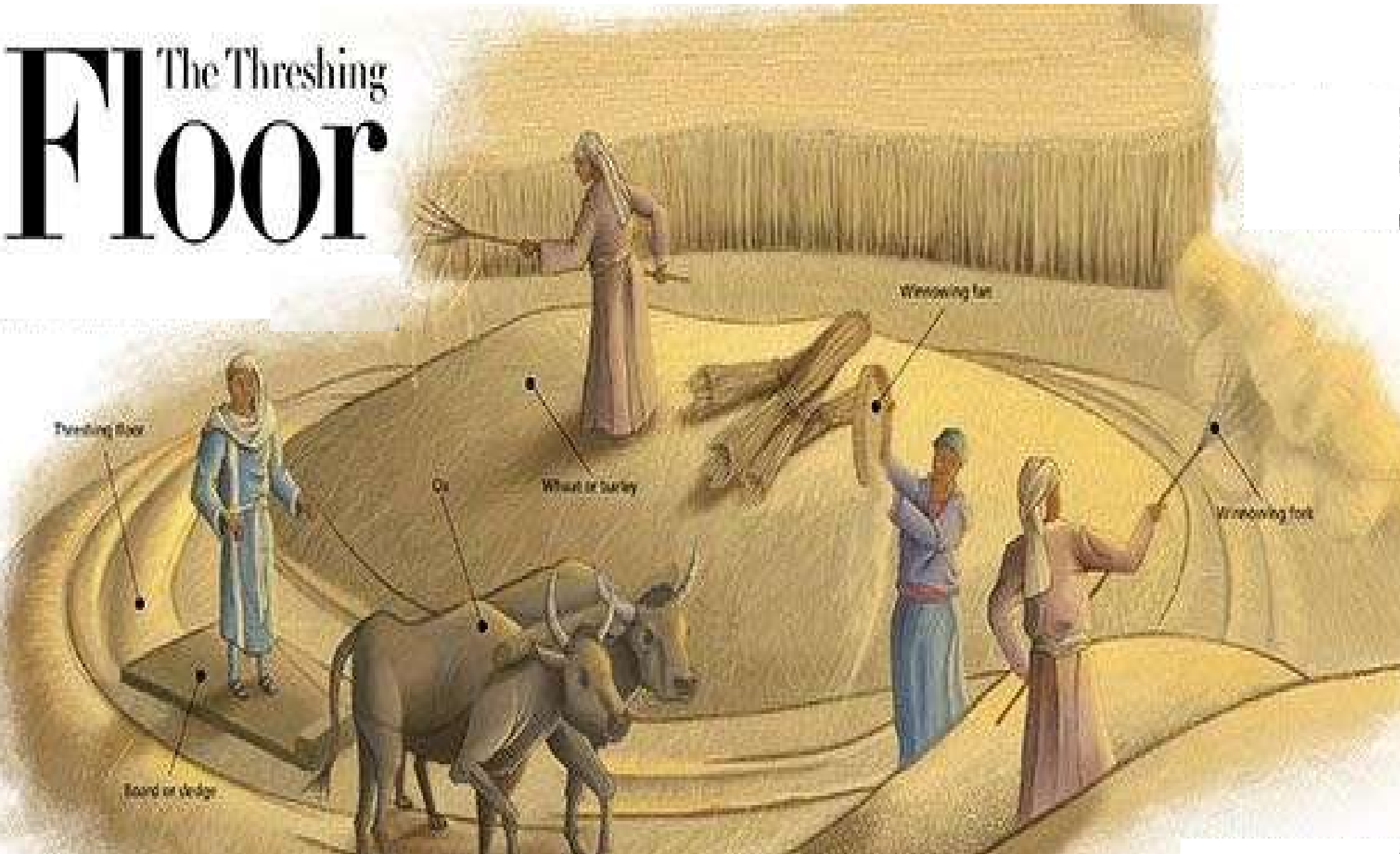
The fermentation would take a few days, bubbling vigorously, especially during the first day. When the bubbling stopped, the juice—now wine—was ready to be taken out.

The chalk/limestone bedrock in Israel makes excellent winepresses—it cuts easily and holds liquid well.

Wine skins were also used. Under proper conditions, stored wine could last for a year. If left exposed, it would soon turn to vinegar.



The Threshing Floor



The Feast of Ingathering

- The work was done, the harvest was over, the crops were in the storehouses, the celebration begins!
- “Feast” root word (H2287 Khag) meaning “to celebrate, dance, or to be joyous”
 - They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. (Psalm 107:27)
 - “reel to and fro” (H2287, λλn - celebrate)



Booths are for Flocks, the Ark, and the Remnant

- And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made **booths** (*sukkot* – H5521) **for his cattle**: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth. (Genesis 33:17)
 - “cattle” - (H4735), defined as property, but only live stock (cattle, **flock**, herd)
- And Uriah said unto David, **The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents** (*sukkot* - H5521); and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields... (2 Samuel 11:11)
- And **the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage** (*sukah* – H5521) **in a vineyard**, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. Except **יהוה** of hosts had left unto us a very **small remnant**... (Isaiah 1:8)

The Ark Brought into The Temple (First Day of Sukkot)

- Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of יהוה was finished: and Solomon brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of Elohiym. Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of יהוה out of the city of David, which is Zion. Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which was in the seventh month. And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark. And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of יהוה unto His place, to the oracle of the house, into the most set apart place... (2 Chronicles 5:1-4/7)

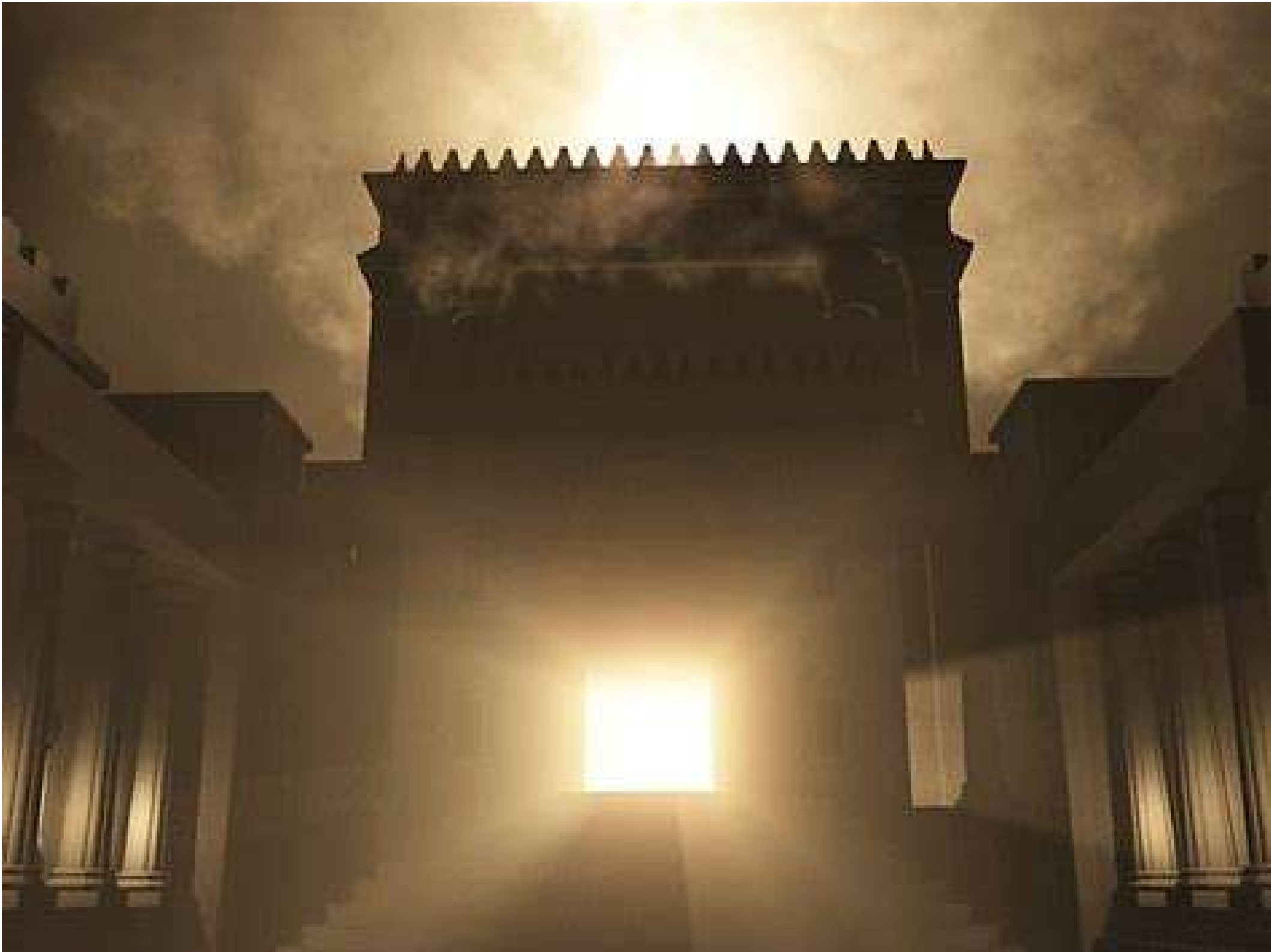
Sukkot Celebration

- Also the Levites which were the singers...being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps... and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets: It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking יהוה; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised יהוה, saying, For He is good; for His mercy endures for ever... (2 Chronicles 5:12-13)



The Temple Filled With Glory on Sukkot

- ...that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of יהוה; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of יהוה had filled the house of Elohiym. (2 Chronicles 5:13-14)
- Our Father responded to the praising, singing, and thanksgiving from the white clad Levites by filling His House with His Glory!
 - This is our example!
 - Where is His House Now!

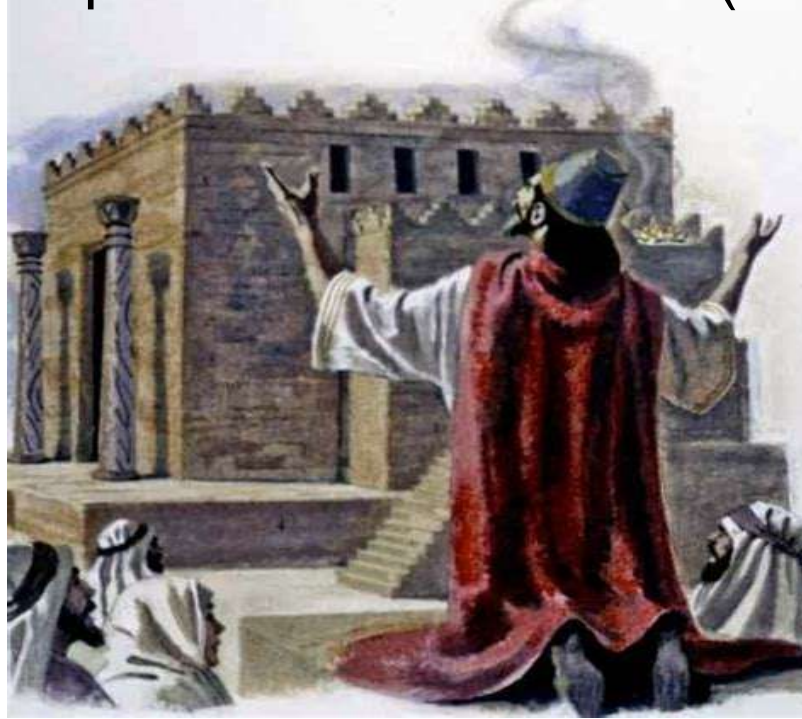


The Sukkot Prayer of Solomon

- Then said Solomon, יהוה hath said that He would dwell in the thick darkness...And he stood before the altar of יהוה in the presence of all the congregation of Israel...and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven, And said, **O יהוה Elohiym of Israel, there is no Elohiym like Thee** in the heaven, nor in the earth; which **keeps covenant**, and **shows mercy unto Thy servants, that walk before Thee with all their hearts:** (2 Chronicles 6:1/12-14)
- But **will Elohiym in very deed dwell with men on the earth?** behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house which I have built! (2 Chronicles 6:18)

The Sukkot Prayer of Soloman

- ...And **if** Thy people Israel be put to the worse before the enemy, because they have sinned against Thee...**if** they pray toward this place, and confess Thy name, and turn from their sin, when Thou dost afflict them; **Then** hear Thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy servants, and of Thy people Israel, when Thou hast taught them the **good way, wherein they should walk**; and **send rain upon Thy land**, which Thou hast given unto Thy people for an inheritance. (2 Chronicles 6:24/26-27)



Fire From Heaven on Sukkot

- Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the **fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of יהוה filled the house.** And the priests could not enter into the house of יהוה, because **the glory of יהוה had filled יהוה's house.** And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of יהוה upon the house, they **bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised יהוה, saying, For **He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever.**** (2 Chronicles 7:1-3)

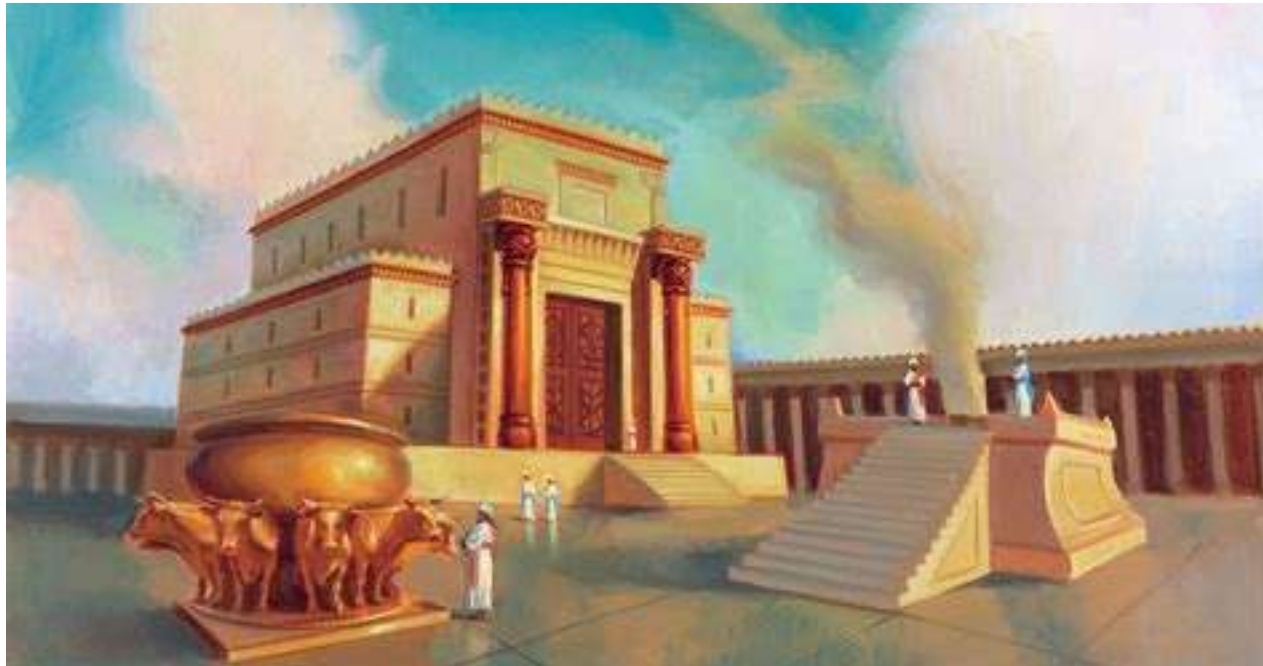




The Seven Days of Sukkot

Dedication of The First Temple Altar

- And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for **they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.** And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that יהוה had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people. (2 Chronicles 7:9-10)



- And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem... They kept also the Feast of Tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required (Ezra 3:1/4)

SUKKOT

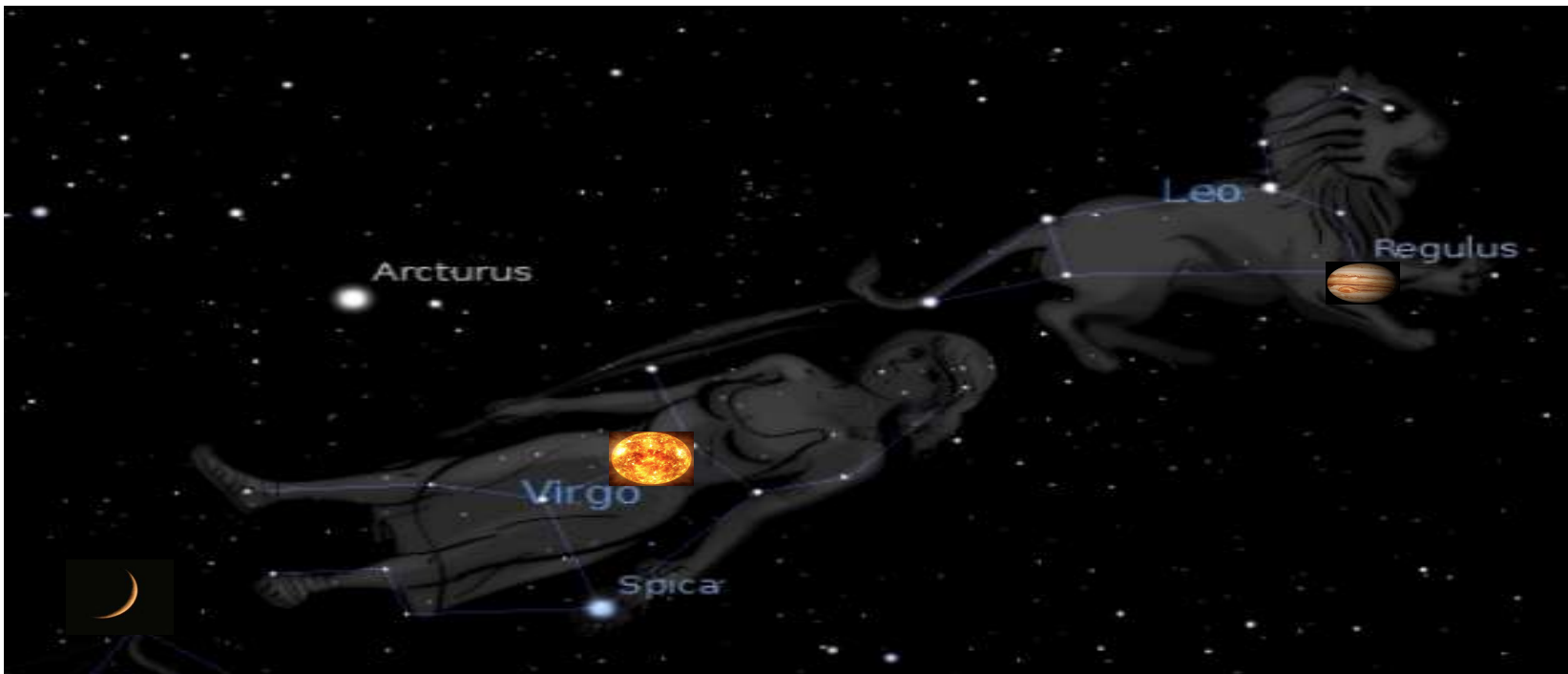
The Feast of Tabernacles

Sukkot Celebrated After Leaving Babylon

- And they found written in the law which יהוה had commanded by Moses, that **the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month**: And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and **fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written**. So the people went forth, and brought them, and **made themselves booths**, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of Elohiym, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim. And **all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths**: for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And **there was very great gladness**. Also day by day, **from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of Elohiym**. And **they kept the feast seven days**... (Nehemiah 8:14-18)

A Great Wonder in Heaven (Day of Trumpets)

- And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. (Revelation 12:1-2)



Possible alignment of the constellations, sun, moon, and Tzedek

John Tells Us Messiah's Birthday

- But will Elohiym in very deed dwell with men on the earth?...
(2 Chronicles 6:18 – Soloman's prayer on the first day of Sukkot)
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohiym, and the Word was Elohiym... All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1/3)
- And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us... (John 1:14)
 - “dwelt”, skay-no'-o (G4637, ἐσκήνωσεν - 3rd person singular of σκηνόω), defined as to tent or encamp, to reside (as Elohiym did in the Tabernacle of old, a symbol of protection and communion)
– usage: dwelt/ tabernacled
 - Root word: skay'-nos, (G4636, σκῆνος), defined as a hut or temporary residence, (figuratively) the human body (as the abode of the spirit) – tabernacle

Messiah's Birthday

The First Day of the Feast of Tabernacles

The Fifteenth Day of the Seventh Month

- But will Elohiym in very deed dwell with men on the earth?... (2 Chronicles 6:18 – Soloman's prayer on the first day of Sukkot)
- And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt (tabernacled) among us... (John 1:14)
- Messiah was born and began to tabernacle amongst us... on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles (the High Sabbath)!!

Messiah's Birthday

- And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (Luke 2:7-8)
 - Jerusalem/ Bethlehem avg low in Sept/Oct: 57-61 degrees
 - Jerusalem/ Bethlehem avg low in Dec/Jan: 39-43 degrees
 - December/January is also in the rainy season



Quick Shoutout to Mary

- And Joseph also went... out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto... Bethlehem... To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. (Luke 2:4-5)
 - Nazareth is about 65 miles north (straight line) of Bethlehem
 - The journey, including some mountainous areas, took 4-6 days
 - Mary travelled while being about 9 months pregnant!



Sukkot

- And this shall be the sign unto you: Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.
(Luke 2:12)



Sidenote: Shepherds Not Qualified

- Shepherds were not considered to be trustworthy as witnesses in front of the Sanhedrin... a very handy disqualification if any shepherd happened to come forth as a witness to angels announcing and then verifying Messiah's birth
 - Shepherds are disqualified only in Palestine, but elsewhere they are eligible... A herdsman in general is ineligible*
 - a shepherd in general is incompetent.**



* Sanhedrin 25b

** Sanhedrin 26b

Bethlehem Ephratah and the Tower of the Flock

- But thou, **Bethlehem Ephratah**, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (Micah 5:2)
 - “Bethlehem” - bêṭ leḥem (H1035, בית-לחם), House of Bread
 - “Ephratah” - ef-ra-tah (H672, אפרתה), Place of Fruitfulness
- And you, O **tower of the flock**, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, even **the first dominion shall come**, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem. (Micah 4:8)
 - “tower of the flock” – miḡdal-‘ēḏer (H4029, from H4026-H5739, מגדל-עדר) is “tower flock” or Migdal Edar

Rachel's Travail

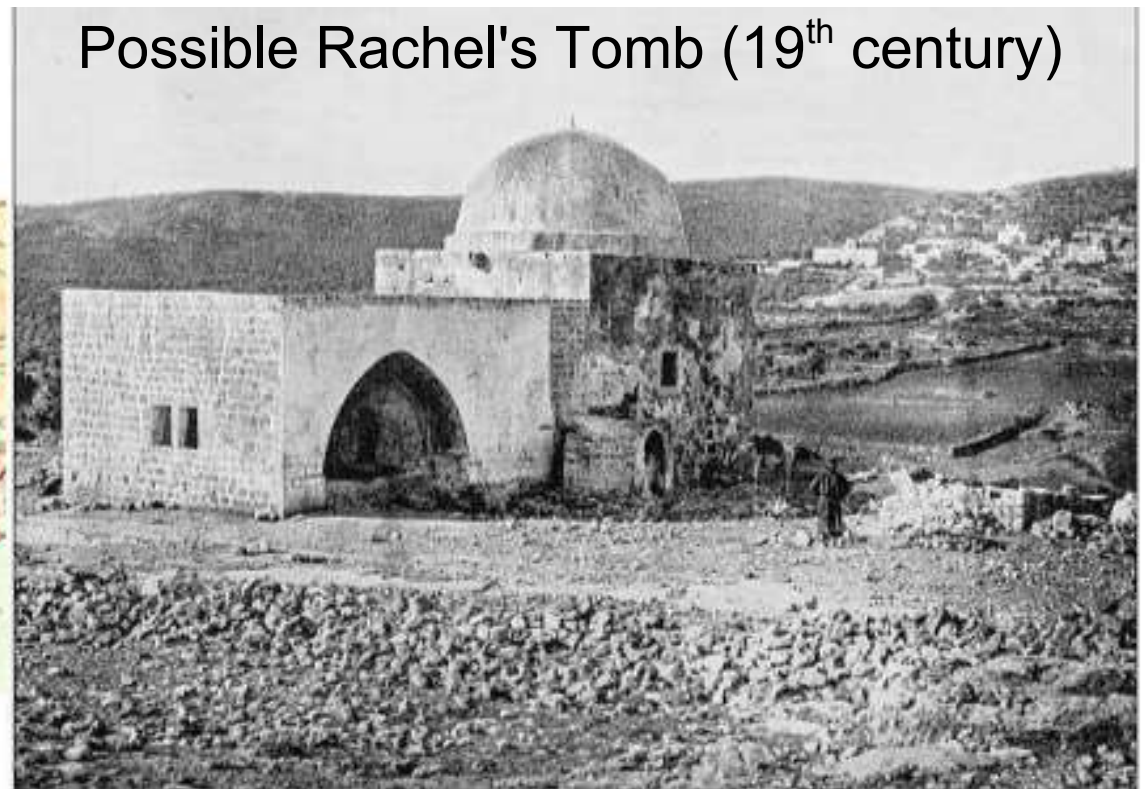
- And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. (Genesis 35:16)
 - “Rachel” - rāḥēl (H7354, רחל), defined as “ewe”, wife of Jacob
 - Ewe – a female sheep, especially a mature one
- And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin. (Genesis 35:18)
 - “Benoni” - ben-'ônî (H1126, בן־אוני), defined as "son of my sorrow"
 - “Benjamin” - benyāmîn (H1144, בנימין), defined as "son of the right hand"

The Birth of the Son of Israel

- A baby male lamb was born. His mother called him "Son of my sorrow" and His Father called Him "Son of the right hand".
 - He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. (Isaiah 53:3)
 - יהוה said unto Adonai, Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. (Psalm 110:1)
 - This יהושע hath Elohiym raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of Elohiym exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Set Apart Spirit, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. (Acts 2:32-33)

Rachel's Tomb

- And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to **Ephrath, which is Bethlehem**. And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day. And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the **tower of Edar**. (Genesis 35:19-21)
 - “tower of Edar” (H4029, מגדל-עדֶר), from H4026 and H5739, defined as tower of the flock (Migdal Edar)



Migdal Edar* (Bethlehem, early 20th century)



*possible original Migdal Edar site



possible original Migdal Eder site

Migdal Edar (Bethlehem)



possible original Migdal Edar site

The Tower of the Flock

Micah 4:8; Luke 2:8-20

CECIL, 7.7.6.7.7.6.6.
Alice Nevin (1837-1925)

J.L.S.

1. De - clared the Pro - phet Mi - cah, There stood near Beth - le - hem town, The
2. Thus it was when Christ was born, The an - gel came to this Tower, To
3. Those hap - py shep - herds trav - eled To see that birth so bles - sed; They

1. Tow - er of the Flock --- From where, to ho - ly Zi - on Came, the lambs for sac -
2. tell the shep - herds there, That had been born a Sa - vior, And Christ the Lord, that
3. found the Ho - ly Babe With Ma - ry and her hus - band With - in the sta - ble

1. ri - fice With - in the Tem - ple court --- Here would God's king - dom come.
2. Sa - vior, In Beth - le - hem was found, And in a man - ger lay.
3. low - ly. And there they all kneeled down To re - ver - ence the Child.

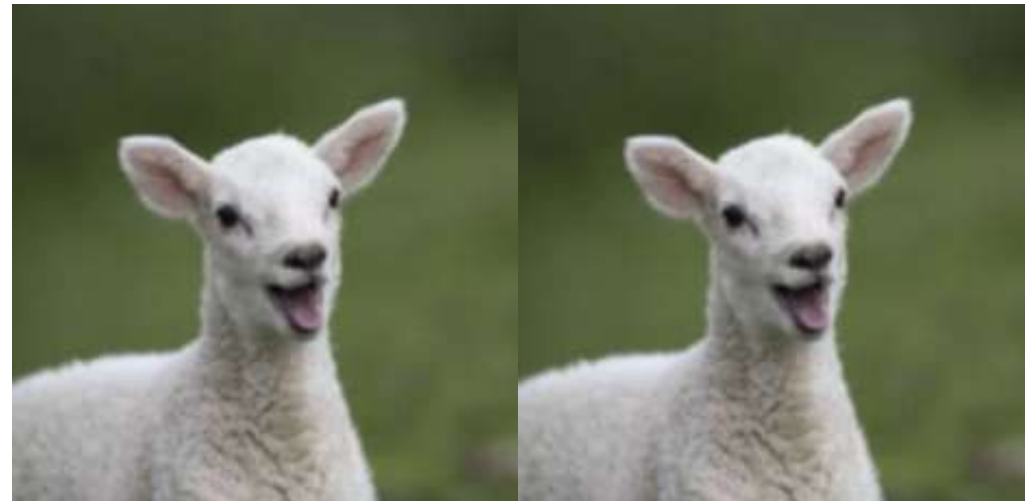
Migdal Edar

- Migdal Edar in Bethlehem Ephratah, the Tower of the Flock was the structure used to breed and maintain the flock of lambs destined to be sacrificed at the Temple for the feasts and other appointed times.
 - The upper level(s) was used by the shepherds to watch the flock in the fields and living arrangements
 - The ground level floor was where the lambs were kept for shelter, feeding, and birthings as needed

Jerusalem Talmud Shekalim 7:3

Halakha 3 · MISHNA If an animal that is fit for the altar was found straying, from Jerusalem and as far as Migdal Eder, and similarly if it was found within that distance from Jerusalem in any other direction, it is presumed that the animal came from Jerusalem. Most of the animals in Jerusalem were designated for offerings, and presumably this one was as well. Males are presumed to be burnt-offerings, as only males are brought as burnt-offerings. Females are presumed to be peace-offerings, as it is permitted to bring a female peace-offering. **Rabbi Yehuda says:** An animal that is fit for the Paschal offering, i.e., a one-year-old male lamb or kid, is presumed to be a Paschal offering, provided that it was found within thirty days before the Festival of Passover.

https://www.sefaria.org/Jerusalem_Talmud_Shekalim.7.3.1?lang=bi



Some Shepherds Were Priests

- Your lamb shall be without blemish... (Exodus 12:5)
 - The shepherds that tended the sacrificial flock around Migdal Edar would have been specially trained to ensure that lambs remained unblemished from birth to delivery to the Temple.
 - The time just after birth was a high risk time a new born Migdal Edar lamb to become blemished/scarred by kicking its legs in a first effort to stand up or subsequent falls. The shepherds were able to ensure this did not happen by using...

Thereupon R.SIMEON SAYS: HE IS TRUSTWORTHY AS REGARDS SOMEBODY ELSE'S FIRSTLING (In the case of a priestly shepherd with a master who is also a priest, the shepherd's testimony is believed.) - Bechoroth 35b

<https://www.halakhah.com/pdf/kodoshim/Bechoroth.pdf>

Swaddling Clothes and Mangers

- Wrapping the lamb in cloth strips would keep the lamb immobile with straightened legs.
- The swaddled lambs would be laid in a clean manger for safety and a thorough inspection until they were strong enough to join their mother



The Lamb of Elohiym

- From the angel's instructions, the shepherds knew exactly where to find the newborn Messiah because it only described one place... and they were the ones that wrapped all of the new-born Temple sacrificial lambs in swaddling clothes and laid them in the mangers in Migdal Edar (the Tower of the Flock), just outside Bethlehem.
- So was the Lamb of Elohiym which takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), the sacrifice for the world's iniquities, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger in Migdal Edar.

We honor Messiah's birth by celebrating!!

Sukkot

— THE FEEST OF TABERNACLES —

