

Light and Water - Portrait of Yeshua

We have discussed the Feast of Sukkoth, which is one of the most celebrated events of all the Feasts. It was during the time of this Feast that Yeshua was born. It is also the Feast where two parts of the celebration emphasized the character of Yeshua.

One was the Light Ceremony which has been described historically: The light emanating from the four candelabra was so bright that the Mishnah says, "***There was no courtyard in Jerusalem that was not lit up in the Temple with the light at the libation water-well ceremony***" (Succah 5:3)

King Solomon chose the Feast of Tabernacles as the time to dedicate the first Temple. As the people celebrated, God's Shekinah glory filled the Temple. God showed his goodness and mercy by coming once again to dwell in the midst of his people, just as he had in the wilderness.

During this ceremony the people the Children of Israel were reminded of the Descent of the "***SHEKINAH***" Glory in Solomon's day. It also looked forward to the return of the "***SHEKINAH***" in the days of the Messiah [***Ezekiel 43:1-6***]

When Yeshua declared Himself as the Light to the World, He referred to the Salvation and Forgiveness of Sins that He offered to all who put their trust in Him. [***ISAIAH 49:6***] "***I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My Salvation to the ends of the earth***" [KJ]

This verse is Important because it was said by Simeon when he blessed Yeshua 40 days after Yeshua was born. ***John 8:12*** reads, "***He who follows Me shall not walk in Darkness, but have the Light of Life***" [KJ]

The other ceremony was the Water Pouring Ceremony. It was an extravaganza. The Celebration of the Water Pouring was observed during the seven evenings of the Feast. It was known as "***The Rejoicing of the House of Water Drawing***" - An impressive Light and Water Ceremony in the Temple

Ancient Jewish writings connects the Water Drawing with the Ruach Hakodesh: "***Why is the name of it called 'the Drawing out of water'? Because of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, according to what is said: 'With joy shall ye draw out of the wells of salvation'***" (***Isaiah 12:3***)

The symbolism for us today in this time of celebration is incredible: Consider deeply the following points:

The ancient rabbis believed that the Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit) came upon them and manifested Himself through great Joy

POINT: The Outpouring of God's Spirit is in relation to Salvation [*Isaiah 32:15; 59:21; Ezekiel 11:19; 36:27; 37:14; 39:29; Joel 2:28-29*]

Isaiah 44:3 reads, "***For I will pour water on Him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour MY Spirit on your Descendants***"

The priests (We are, as believers, God's priest in a Kingdom of Priests) performed various actions that pointed to the Messiah. Today these actions reminds us about our Revealed and Living Messiah.

The High Priest poured out the water before the Lord, in a Silver Basin, a drink offering of wine was also poured into the other Basin. Immediately the priests started the Music [The "***Hallel***" – **the Praise Psalms, 113-118**].

When the priests reached ***Psalms 118:25***, the Congregation waved their Palm Branches and joined in the singing. At the same time, the Priests, with Palm Branches in hand, marches once around the Altar.

Psalms 118 is a Messianic Psalm – What does this mean?

This gives the Feast a Messianic Emphasis It explains why Yeshua was greeted by the crowds shouting "Hosanna" – Hebrew FOR "Save Now"

[***Psalms 118:25-26***] "***Please LORD, deliver us! Please LORD, hurry and bring success***

now! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Let us bless you from the LORD's house.

They waved Palm Branches on His entry into Jerusalem [*Matthew 21:8-9; Luke 19:38; John 12:13*]

They viewed Yeshua as the Messiah King, come to deliver {“*Save Now*”} Israel in fulfillment of Psalm 118

This same imagery is seen in Revelation where the Redeemed saints worship, w/Palm Branches, around the Throne and the Lamb. [*Revelation 7:9-10*]

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

When Yeshua was crucified on the tree (a type of altar), His side was pierced and out of His heart poured water and blood (*John 19:34*).

Yeshua said that He was the living water being poured out during this ceremony (*John 7:2, 37-38*).

It was in this context, on this 7th day, the last and greatest day of the feast (possibly just as the water was being poured out) that Yeshua spoke to the crowded worshippers in the Temple and declared this scripture:

“Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Yeshua stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, from within him shall flow rivers of living water.

But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believed on him were to receive: for the Spirit was not yet given; because Yeshua was not yet glorified.” [*John 7:37-39*]

Can you imagine the uproar his statement must have caused!

The priest had just poured out the water libation as an appeal to the Creator God to provide water for the people, and Yeshua, as if to answer the prayer, tells the people to come to him for water.

That was a radical statement and shocker to the crowd.

He was saying: *“I am the answer to your prayers. I am the Messiah. I can save you now so that you will never thirst for salvation again.”*

Yeshua was claiming to be none other than the Creator himself!

Visualize yourself orchestrating a seven day reunion for good old times and you nearly invite everyone. But now comes one more day where you have your own special guests from the group that has been there for seven days.

Shalom