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Peace Must Begin in Each Human Heart

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Will Messiah come to rule and reign bringing peace on earth in some future day? If you pose this question to Christians and Jews alike, some will say “yes” and some “no.”



Laying aside the politically correct answers, let us examine some biblical answers.

In this column we are concluding with this seventh Festival or Feast in our series.

The Jewish Festival of “Sukkot” or Tabernacles is the seventh and final one God gave to Moses and ultimately to us all.

“Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, the fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord. 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 the Lord your God” (Leviticus 23:34,43 KJV).

It seems that God (Yahweh) wanted to celebrate that He provided the Tabernacle in the Wilderness for the Jews.

Even today devout Jews build small shelters outside their homes to worship in them part of the time each day for seven days. Another name for this occasion is “Festival of Booths.” In Jerusalem near Jaffa Gate, there is a municipal shelter built for this yearly festival observance.

Today Christians and Jews both may celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles for seven days in Jerusalem. I’ve celebrated the Festival of Pentecost and the Festival of Trumpets in Jerusalem, but have not yet celebrated the Festival of Tabernacles there. I’ve heard it is a wonderful celebration.

Zechariah prophesies the future Kingdom, “And it shall come to pass that every one that is left of all the nations which come against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles” (Zech. 14:16-19).

Ezekiel says prophetically, “The Lord will establish His Tabernacle in Jerusalem” (Ezekiel 37:26-27).

Though “Tabernacles” is not officially one of the Judeo-Christian celebrations today, a main purpose of this Festival is to celebrate Messiah’s rule on the earth during the Sabbath Millennium. Christians in the historic churches repeat these words in the “Nicene Creed” each week:

- “For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
- “He suffered death and was buried.
- “On the third day He rose again
- “In accordance with the Scriptures;
- “He ascended into Heaven
- “And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
- “He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
- “And His Kingdom will have no end.” (Book of Common Prayer, 1979).

Christians also each Sunday repeat The Lord’s Prayer which says in part, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in Heaven.”

Yes, His Kingdom came when we individually accepted Jesus Christ (Messiah Gr.). But we are still praying for His Kingdom to bring total peace to the earth “as it is in Heaven.”

Jesus, the Christ, annually celebrated this seventh feast of Tabernacles which is commemorated by His words spoken in the Gospel of John, chapter seven.

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. On the last day, that great day of the Feast [of Tabernacles], Jesus stood and cried out saying, ‘He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” (John 7:37, 38; see Isaiah chapter 12).

“They have seduced My people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace” (Ezekiel 13:10). Though the world cannot bring lasting peace, it is vitally important to work and pray for peace.

Yet peace must first begin in each human heart. Ask the Prince of Peace to indwell, to “tabernacle” with you in your heart today.

Take a breath of sweet, everlasting peace. Sit quietly and let peace fill your soul...

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