

TABERNACLES

Day 4 - The Ingathering

Introduction (to be read aloud by the patriarch)

The Feast of Tabernacles was also called *the Feast of Ingathering*. It came at the end of the agricultural year, when Israel gathered in the fruit of their labor from the threshing floor and the winepress. But this feast was more than a harvest festival. It pointed beyond the crops of the field to the greater harvest God is preparing, the ingathering of nations into His kingdom.

Israel's fields testified of God's provision, but they also preached a future hope. Just as barns were filled with wheat and vats overflowed with wine, so one day the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. Tabernacles reminds us that our God is a God of abundance. He not only provides daily bread, He gathers people from every tribe and tongue into His eternal household.

As we sit in booths today, we remember that our lives are not about survival only. They are about fruitfulness and mission. The harvest we celebrate is not just grain and grapes but souls. Jesus told His disciples to look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest. Tabernacles points us forward to the final ingathering when God will dwell with His people forever, and His household will be full.

Scripture Reading (KJV)

Exodus 23:16

16. And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

Exodus 34:22

22. And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end.

Leviticus 23:39

39. Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath.

Deuteronomy 16:13

13. Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine.

Psalms 65:9–13

9. Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

10. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof.

11. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.

12. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.

13. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

Psalms 67:5–7

5. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

6. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

7. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Isaiah 27:12–13

12. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel.

13. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Joel 3:13–14

13. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

14. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

Matthew 9:37–38

37. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

38. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

John 4:35–38

35. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

36. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

37. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

38. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

Revelation 14:14–16

14. And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

15. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest

of the earth is ripe.

16. *And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*

Reflection

Tabernacles is the Feast of Ingathering. The harvest teaches us that God provides, but it also preaches that He is gathering His people. Israel's barns and baskets were signs pointing to a greater reality: the Lord of the harvest is filling His eternal household.

Every stalk of wheat, every cluster of grapes, every overflowing vat declared that God is faithful to supply and faithful to save. As we rejoice in the fruit of the earth, we also rejoice in the fruit of redemption. The final harvest will be the gathering of nations into Christ's kingdom. This feast prepares us to look beyond barns and fields and to long for the day when the whole earth is reaped for the glory of God.

Family Application / Activities

- Share food from the sukkah with someone outside your household as a sign of God's abundant provision.
 - Pray together for missionaries and laborers in the harvest field today.
 - Discuss how your family can take part in the "ingathering" by showing Christ to others.
 - Memorize John 4:35 together.
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Discussion / Family Questions

For Young Children (Ages 5–8):

1. What kind of feast was Tabernacles also called?
2. Who gives us food and fruit from the earth?
3. How do we know God gives more than just food for our bodies?

For Older Children / Teens (Ages 9–15):

1. Why did God tell Israel to celebrate after gathering crops?
2. How does the harvest of food point to the harvest of people?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says the fields are “white already to harvest”?

For Adults:

1. How does the agricultural ingathering prepare us to understand God’s mission to the nations?
 2. What does it mean to be a “labourer in the harvest”?
 3. How does Revelation’s vision of the final harvest shape the way we live during this feast?
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 **Hymn: Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war**

Author: S. Baring-Gould (1865)

1

Onward, Christian soldiers,
marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
going on before!
Christ, the royal Master,
leads against the foe;
Forward into battle,
see his banner go!

Refrain:

Onward, Christian soldiers,
marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
going on before!

2 At the sign of triumph

Satan's host doth flee;
On, then, Christian soldiers,
on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver
at the shout of praise;
Brothers, lift your voices,
loud your anthems raise!

[Refrain]

3

Like a mighty army
moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading
where the saints have trod;
We are not divided;
all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine,
one in charity.

[Refrain]

4

Onward, then, ye people,
join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
in the triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honor,
unto Christ the King;
This thro' countless ages
men and angels sing.

[Refrain]

 **Closing Prayer**

Lord of the Harvest,
We thank You for filling the earth with fruit and for filling Your kingdom with people. Teach us to rejoice in Your provision and to long for the greater harvest You are bringing. Make our family ready to labor faithfully in Your fields, and help us to share Your abundance with others. May this

Feast remind us that the barns of earth are temporary, but the household of God endures forever. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Lord of the harvest. Amen.