

Exegetical Notes, Deuteronomy 16:13-17

“Tabernacles”

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Deuteronomy 16:13-17 (see notes of Leviticus 23:33-43 & Numbers 29:12-39)

Verses 13-15

Celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress. ¹⁴ Be joyful at your festival—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns.

¹⁵ For seven days celebrate the festival to the LORD your God at the place the LORD will choose. For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.

- The third of Israel’s great festivals is called The Feast of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles (booths). It was to be celebrated after the harvest had been collected at the tabernacle or the temple. It was to be a time of rejoicing for Israel and all those who lived among them.

Verses 16-17

¹⁶ Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the LORD empty-handed: ¹⁷ Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.

- Three times each year all male Israelites were summoned to the tabernacle or the temple: Passover, Weeks, and Tabernacles.
- Each time they came, the Israelites were to bring a gift to God, beyond their tithe, that showed their thankfulness to him for his blessing to them.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Tabernacles*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)