

The Bible says that God made a promise to a man called Noah.



**“As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease.”**

Genesis 8: 22

Supermarkets are great but



**Israel is an agricultural community.
It is dependent on sunshine and rain
for crops and animals**



Harvest was a time to remember to bless the poor

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien.

Leviticus 19: 9-10



Harvesting was essential but hard work



The Feast of Tabernacles (Succoth)

The Harvest Festival

The people were called to celebrate God's blessing in the Harvest festival, the Feast of Tabernacles, to give thanks and seek God's favour for year ahead.

They were to :-

- 1. Hold a 7-day celebration – where all are invited to join in.**
- 2. Build booths to remember their deliverance from Egypt.**
- 3. Carry fruit and palms and wave them
to remember God's provision in the desert**
- 4. Carry water each day in golden jar from the pool of
Siloam to the temple altar to be poured out.**

No. 1

The Harvest is in. Everybody Celebrate!

**The LORD said to Moses,
"Say to the Israelites.. ` On the fifteenth day of the
seventh month the LORD`s Feast of Tabernacles begins.
(October 2nd 2020) Leviticus 23: 33**

**Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days
after you have gathered the produce of your threshing
floor and your winepress.**

**Be joyful at your Feast -- you, your sons and
daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and
the Levites, the aliens, the fatherless and the widows
who live in your towns.**

Deuteronomy 16: 13 - 14

Be thankful for God's abundance!



No. 2 Build booths and remember!

"Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make booths"

Nehemiah 8: 15



The weather is better in Israel!



Then they share meals together



And decorate the roof.



A Mobile home!



Live in booths for seven days. All native-born Israelites are to live in booths so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt. Leviticus 23: 42 - 43

No. 3 Carry fruit and palms

On the first day you are to take choice fruit from the trees, and palm fronds, leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.

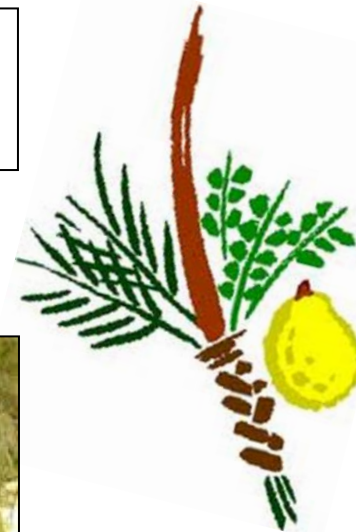


Celebrate this as a festival to the LORD for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month.

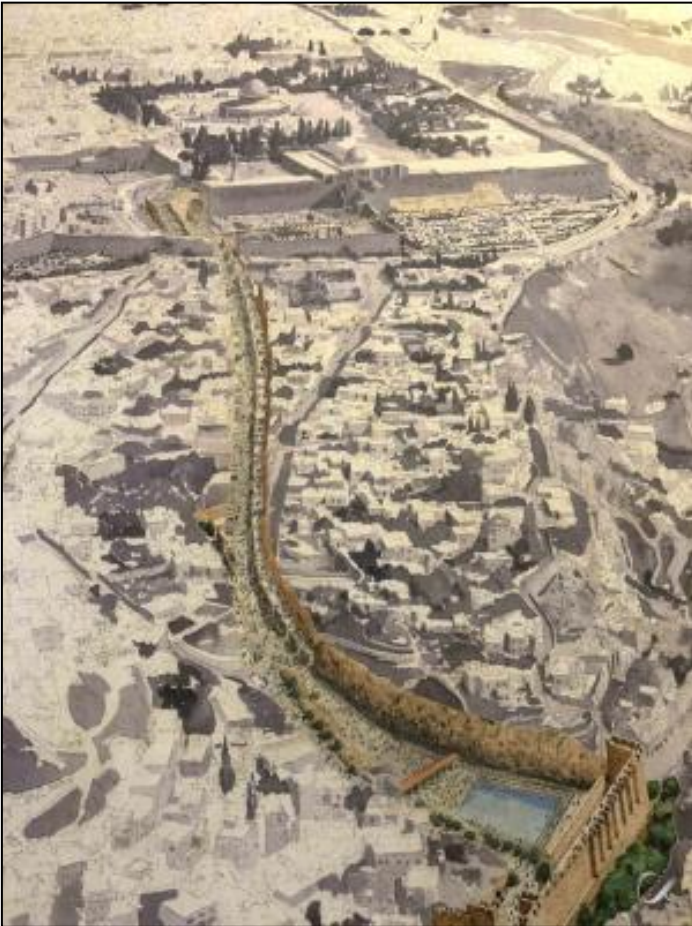
Leviticus 23: 40 - 41

No. 3 Carry fruit and palms

Wave them each day of the feast
(as on another occasion)



No. 4 Each day carry water in a golden jar from the pool of Siloam to the temple to be poured out at the altar.



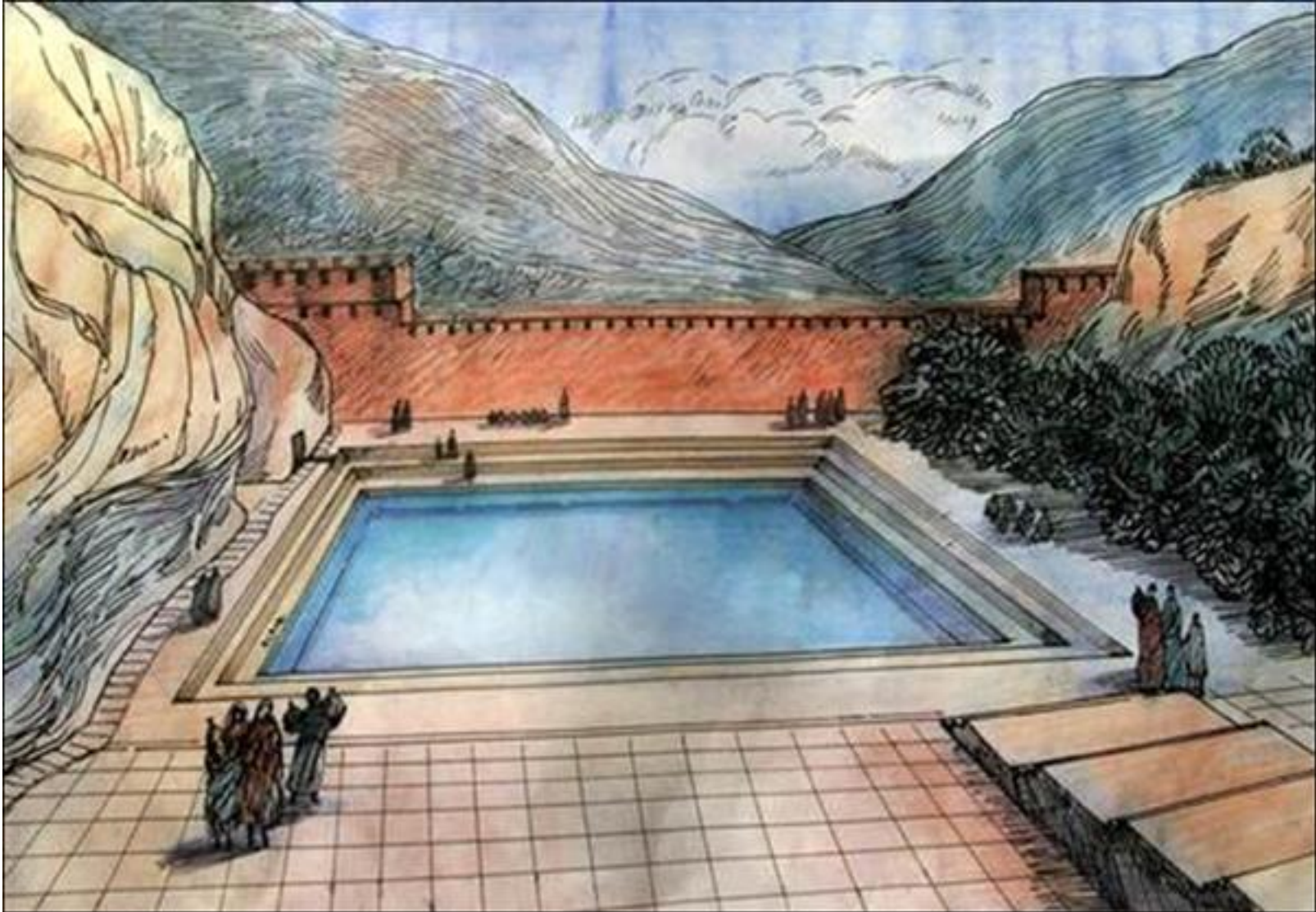
The Pilgrim Road
excavated in 2013 and
opened to the public in 2019



The Pool of Siloam as it is today



The Pool of Siloam as it used to be in Jesus' time.



But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near,

....



..... Not until halfway through the Feast did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach.

John 7: 14

Jesus' tremendous claim !

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, **"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."** By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

John 7:37-39



**We are called to celebrate with Jesus,
the Word made flesh.**

He supplies all our needs.



**Jesus invites us to “drink” the water
he gives.**

He is the source of life.



Jesus' harvest gifts were costly for him.



*Up to that time the Spirit had not been given,
since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

(Note that Jesus' ministry is closely connected with
the feasts of Israel)

A quick look back (with a few 'ifs')

John the Baptist's father
was a priest called Zechariah



In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the **priestly division of Abijah**; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Luke 1:5

Abijah's division was appointed 2 set times in the year to serve at the temple. These times fell in autumn and spring.



If Zachariah was chosen to serve in the autumn and Elizabeth conceived John soon after then she would have given birth in the spring. (So **if** John began his ministry on his thirtieth birthday then he would have been baptizing people during the warm summer months.)

Mary was told she would conceive Jesus when Elizabeth was 6 months pregnant (Luke 1:36)

–in winter

So Jesus would have been born in the autumn, while it was possible for the shepherds to be out-of-doors, and possibly during the feast of Tabernacles (the feast of great rejoicing)

John 1:14 says that Jesus “tabernacled” among us. And he was born in a ‘booth’.



Haggai 2:18 says 'From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when **the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid**. Give careful thought:

This would have coincided with the time Mary received the news that she would have the Messiah.

This time of year is associated with the Jewish feast of Hannukah – ‘the feast of lights’ remembering how God miraculously provided oil for the lights in the temple.



And so December would be the time to celebrate
the good news given to Mary and Joseph

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary;
you have found favour with God. You will conceive
and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called the Son of the
Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of
his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's
descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:30-33



If that timing is correct
it is **Christmas time now!**



The Future

On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter. The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.



Then the survivors from all the nations will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:8-9, Zechariah 14:16

The Future



After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice.. "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." **Revelation 7: 9 - 10**