

#### JEWISH VOICE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL presents

## + DAILY SUKKOT + REMEMBRANCES

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# Daily Sukkot Remembrances

Rabbis teach that, at Sukkot, we recount four things: that God is a God of remembrance, deliverance, holiness and provision. There are three more that, as Messianic Jewish Believers, we find appropriate to celebrate during the Feast of Sukkot: God's protection, His presence, and our relationship with Him. Join us each day of Sukkot for another devotion focusing on one of these remembrances.

### Sukkot Day 1: Our God of Remembrance

God knows how forgetful we are. So, He established festivals as remembrances to ensure we would not forget what He has brought us out of and what He has done for us. Sukkot is one of those commemorations.

Sukkot is a time to remember with joy; God actually commands it (Deuteronomy 16:14). This joy springs from the intentional act of remembering. The Psalmists often practiced this spiritual discipline, recounting Israel's history and the many ways God intervened on their behalf. In revisiting past examples of God's power and faithfulness, these writers found comfort and peace in the circumstances they faced. And they passed on the encouragement to generations after them.

#### "I will remember the works of the Lord; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your deeds." —Psalm 77:11–12 NKJV

The practice of remembrance imparts strength and inspires us to share about our great God. What are some of the God-stories in your life? Thank Him for them, and consider sharing His wonders with others so they will be uplifted by God's goodness.

> He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion. —Psalm 111:4 NKVJ

### **Sukkot Day 2:** *Remembering God's Deliverance*

The Feast of Sukkot invites us to remember the Israelites' journey in the wilderness. Leading up to their release from captivity is a trail lined with miracles of deliverance. For instance, the plagues that God brought upon Egypt affected the whole nation except in the area of Goshen, where the Jewish people lived. The final plague – the angel of death – visited all of Egypt but passed over every Jewish home with doorframes covered by the blood of the Passover lamb. After the Israelites left Egypt, they found themselves against the Red Sea with Pharaoh's armies closing in. All seemed hopeless, with no escape, but God intervened by parting the sea. The Israelites walked safely through a corridor of walled-up water with dry ground underfoot.

#### Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death. —Psalm 68:20 NIV

God also granted us spiritual deliverance made possible through Yeshua (Jesus), who died to save us from the "second death" (Revelation 2:11), eternal separation from Him. From this dark nightmare, God has delivered everyone who places their faith in Jesus the Messiah (Romans 10:9, Colossians 1:13).

Today, take some time to remember back to instances when God delivered you from physical harm or even death. Rejoice in His goodness. Thank Him for these gifts, and tuck them away to be remembered another day when you need uplifting.

From the Lord comes deliverance. May Your blessing be on Your people. —Psalm 3:8 NIV

### Sukkot Day 3: *Remembering God's Provision*

God instructs us at Sukkot to remember that He made the Israelites live in tents in the wilderness in a barren desert with no food or water. They could not have survived it without God's supernatural provision.

He supplied food out of nowhere with a fresh crop of manna each morning, giving the Children of Israel one day's nourishment at a time. He provided water from dry rocks to quench their thirst and sustain their lives. He even prevented their clothing and shoes from wearing out despite decades of use. God met their essential needs for 40 years. In remembering this during Sukkot, we celebrate God's provision for the Israelites of ancient days as well as the ways He takes care of us today.

#### His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. -2 Peter 1:3 NIV

Many graces of provision go nearly unnoticed in our lives because they are so consistently delivered. We consider many guaranteed givens – food, water and clothing among them. The temporary structures of Sukkot remind us what a gift these are. To stop and number the blessings of God's provision beyond these quickly becomes a list so long we can't keep track.

As you enjoy this Feast of Sukkot, take time to sit quietly before the Lord. Recount some of the essential gifts He has provided for you. Then, ponder other blessings from His hand. And give Him your thanks.

Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song. —Psalm 95:2 NIV

### Sukkot Day 4: *Remembering God's Holiness*

In thinking back to the Israelites in the wilderness, we remember that the first generation's disobedience cost them the Promised Land. Because of their rebellion and sin, none from the generation that left Egypt was permitted to enter the Land God said He would give to His people, except Joshua and Caleb. Only their children after them entered.

God is merciful and kind, but He is also holy. Moses was only permitted to see God's back as His glory passed by – otherwise, he would die. A High Priest improperly prepared to enter the Lord's presence in the Holy of Holies would die. The man Uzzah died when he touched the Ark of the Covenant, even though he was merely reaching out to steady it on its journey back to Jerusalem. Yes, God is holy.

The more we recognize God's holiness, the more accurately we see the marvel of His grace epitomized in Yeshua. We are humbled in awe and so very grateful – all keenly appropriate responses.

#### To whom will you compare Me? Or who is My equal?" says the Holy One. —Isaiah 40:25 NIV

Today, take some time to meditate on God's holiness. Reflect on His utter purity and goodness. Think about what your life would be like without Him. Then, praise Him for the enormity of His love that would move Him to bridge the gap between His holiness and our sin so that we could walk in relationship with Him.

Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise His holy name. —Psalm 97:12 NIV

### Sukkot Day 5: *Remembering God's Protection*

The booths we build today for Sukkot represent the tents God had the Israelites live in during their 40-year sojourn in the wilderness. Their tents protected them from the elements and serve as reminders of God's divine protection of us today.

In the Scriptures, God is shown to be our protector. He has supernaturally preserved the Nation of His people against all earthly odds. He said that Israel would always be, and He is true to His Word.

This is what the Lord says, He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roarthe Lord Almighty is His name: "Only if these decrees vanish from My sight," declares the Lord, "will Israel ever cease being a nation before Me." —Jeremiah 31:35–36 NIV

This same God is protecting us today. The Psalms are filled with descriptive words revealing God's protection. He is called a shield, fortress, stronghold, strong tower and more. (See Psalms 3:3, 62:2, 27:1, and 61:3.) The psalmists ran to Him for protection and comfort, and in remembering Him, they found strength. No matter how severe a storm we go through, we can trust that God loves us and is ready to receive us into the shelter of His care.

How do God's faithfulness and comfort strengthen you when you face life's challenges? Do you find Him to be your "strong tower"? If not, ask Him to help you know the "hiding place" of His love and protection.

You are my hiding place; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. -Psalm 32:7 NIV

### Sukkot Day 6: *Remembering God's Presence*

As the Israelites roamed the desert, they did so with the guidance of God's presence, which was represented in a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. After the tabernacle – a tent – was built, God's glory resided in the innermost room called the Holy of Holies. The word sukkot means "booths" or "tents," and the temporary structures we build to observe the Feast of Sukkot depict God's desire to live in fellowship with His people.

Today, His presence lives within those who have placed their faith in Messiah Yeshua. (See John 16:5–15.)

Now it is God who establishes us with you in Messiah. He anointed us, set His seal on us, and gave us the Ruach [Spirit] in our hearts as a pledge. -2 Corinthians 1:21–22 TLV

It's awe-inspiring to ponder the fact that the holy God of the universe loves us so much that He would want to dwell within us. He is as close as our silent prayers and is always with us. All that He is and gives is available to us in His presence. By His presence, He comforts and strengthens us. He calms our fears and lifts our spirits. He provides us with a peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:6–7).

Look back and remember a time when you particularly felt God's presence and how it helped you. Thank Him for the gift of His never-failing presence.

> Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence. **—Psalm 42:5 NASB1995**

### Sukkot Day 7: *Remembering Our Eternal Relationship with Him*

Tents are temporary, and so are our earthly lives. The booths of Sukkot offer us symbols of the transient nature of this life.

Though we accept that we'll someday leave it, life in the moment on planet Earth can feel rather sure. But it isn't. Our lives could end at any given minute. Besides this, this world won't last. God is preparing to reveal the New Heaven and New Earth, and this creation will be forgotten (Isaiah 65:17).

Our relationship with God, however, is eternal. Life on Earth is just the beginning of what God has in store for His people. The tents of Sukkot remind us that we shouldn't get too attached to this world, its pleasures and the appearance of security – because only spiritual things last.

#### For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. -2 Corinthians 5:1 NIV

This life is preparing us for eternity. Scripture tells us to invest in the eternal over this Earth. This includes investing in our relationships with God by feasting on His Word and basking in His presence through prayer and worship. It means sowing into other people's lives with His love and wisdom through acts of kindness, caring and ministry. It means using your gifts to help others and so much more. These treasures can't be taken away from us.

What really matters in this life? What kind of heavenly treasures might God be calling you to pursue? Determine today to heed His call for an eternal mindset.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." —Matthew 6:19–20 NIV