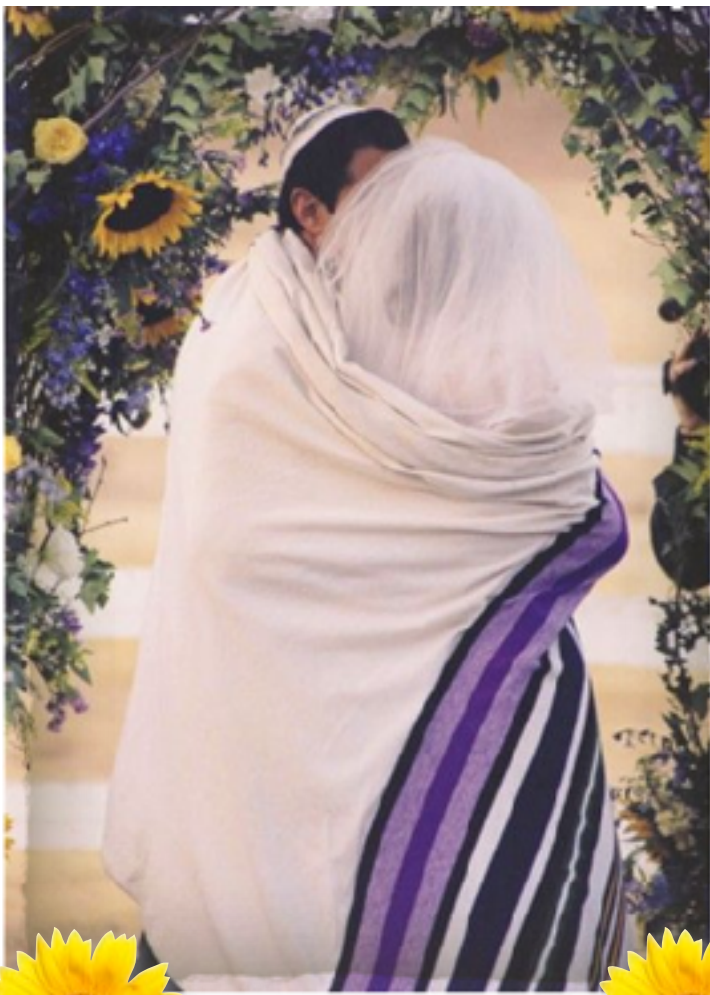




THE BRIDE'S
ROBE MADE
WITH
INTEGRITY,
COMPASSION
AND MERCY

SUKKOT 2016

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

This is a product of *Kanaan Ministries*, a non-profit ministry under the covering of:

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It's time for one of the annual cycle of Feasts.

God destines that man will, in his *worship*, revolve around the Tabernacle during the course of the year being constantly reminded of the basic building blocks of our relationship with Him.

The Pesach/Passover allows us to think about our *deliverance* and to annually make sure that we are living as truly "free men".

The Shavout / Pentecost allows us to consider whether our diligence to study His Word and listen to the Holy Spirit are still at that level when we can safely say that we hear the Small Still Voice of God

This final set of Feasts, Sukkot / Tabernacles reminds us that we are the *Bride*. It is now time to consider whether our wedding robe is pure / unwrinkled and shining. The Feast of Trumpets heralds in this time of INTIMACY.

The trumpet is made of pure silver: *is your life reflecting the purity of an expectant Bride?*



COMPASSION
AND MERCY:
THE
FOUNDATION
FOR JOY

COMPASSION AND MERCY: THE FOUNDATION FOR JOY

We are commanded to celebrate Sukkot with great *joy*.

- 🍷 What is joy?
- 🍷 How do we become joyful / happy?
- 🍷 How do we maintain this attribute for seven days?
- 🍷 MORE importantly, are we going to *continue living* in this attribute of JOY for the New Year that lies ahead?



We are going to consider the events related to Y'shua / Jesus that surround the Sukkot Feast (Feast of Tabernacles) where He reveals the prophetic purpose of His ministry.

TWO CRITICAL WORDS!!

There are two words that flow through these events constantly. And therefore, it seems important to analyze them in some depth. What we would like to do is establish how these two words are connected, and what happens when we respond to them. No word is lightly given—each has meaning and a prophetic destiny.

1. The first word to consider is: **WATER**.

As humans we are made up largely of water; we seek and need water regularly – it is such a basic life giving need, something that every one **must** have. The Bible will teach us that God's WORD is like water to us, and the Holy Spirit's WIND is like water to our spirit.

John 4:13-14 *Yeshua answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I will give him will never be thirsty again! On the contrary, the water I give him will become a spring of water inside him, welling up into eternal life!"*

Y'shua / Jesus tells us that if we drink this water we will not be thirsty again.

Surely there's a critical lesson for us. Our spirit-man needs the water of the WORD / HOLY SPIRIT in exactly the same way, and in the same proportion, that your physical body needs water (H₂O).

****NUGGET!** QUESTION: When last did you drink here at the Wells of Spiritual Truth, where the WORD is rooted in the foundation of the Covenant? Are you drinking spiritual principles that have stood the test of time? Can you discern the words of a wolf in sheep's clothes? When last did you check the contamination levels of the water that you are drinking?**

We will study both the Hebrew as well as the Greek meanings... after all, the examples that *we are following, come from the Gospels*.

Hebrew Strong's 4325:

Abundance

- 🕯 "Danger / violence/ transitory things"—as in the case of rough seas such as was the case with Jonah.

Greek Strong's 5204:

Rivers / waves

- 🕯 Waves of the sea
- 🕯 Waters of the deluge
- 🕯 A multitude of peoples

Clearly John had more of the Hebrew language in mind when he used this word in his Gospel. In every circumstance we will find that the use of the word "**water**" **conveys the meaning: "more than enough"**.

Y'shua / Jesus said—"***I am that Water!***" Have you had "***more than enough***"?

2. The **second word** to consider is: **LIGHT**.

Interestingly, mankind only sees value in light when there is darkness. The onset of darkness brings fear of the unknown, but also of the unseen.

Somehow, if we can see, we tend to believe that we can overcome. Yet, it does not take long for mankind to realize that once we move into the world of emotions / feelings / occult and so on, that we are equally blind to these things during the brightest daylight.

We cannot **see the intention of the heart**. Therefore, we have no idea as to exactly what the words / rituals or actions really mean. **That is, unless we have revelation knowledge!**

John 8:12 Yeshua spoke to them again: ***“I am the Light of the world; whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the Light which gives Life.”***

Hebrew word for “light” - Strong’s 215: “**ore**”

-  To become light
-  To cause to shine
-  To be illuminated
-  To make your face shine

The Greek word for “light” - Strong’s 5457: “**phos**”

-  Truth and knowledge
-  To expose things transparently
-  Reasoning, in moral and spiritual thought
-  A delicate / subtle / pure / brilliant quality

In this case we note that both languages give us a definite understanding that we are **dealing with spiritual relevance / revelation**.

WE ASCEND UP TO JERUSALEM

We are going to study some events that surround the last Sukkot festival that Y’shua / Jesus attended, and then make a **note of the steps that** we climb in **our pursuit of intimacy with God**.

A. Initial step: The Samaritan woman at the well

This story has traditionally been interpreted as the life of a **less than virtuous** woman. This interpretation arises as a result of the conclusion that is drawn from the revelation that she has had five husbands and is living with the sixth man.

Could this theory be correct? To test this theory we should ask some leading questions. Why would the “righteous” people of the town react positively to the words of an immoral woman?



Some other noteworthy items to consider:

1. We are told that Y'shua / Jesus “had to go to Samaria” - **an imperative!!!**
2. We are reminded that this was the place where the plot for Joseph was purchased and where Jacob's well was to be found - **a story that reminds us that someone sometimes suffers much at the hands of others.**
3. We are told that the woman came to the well at midday - and the story teller makes it as if this was abnormal - while women like Rebecca are found at the well that same time!!

However, it is at 3 pm that it will be the hottest.

Some history

The ten Tribes had settled in this area. Due to disobedience / rebellion to God's Word, they had been sent into exile. However, NOT all of the people that make up these ten Tribes were taken away. A large number of foreigners were also imported to live here.

So what we have here is a mixed community. However, keep in mind, Y'shua / Jesus has come to restore BOTH the House of Israel and the House of Judah.

Judah is in Jerusalem, but where are the others?

Some of the House of Israel had remained behind, but due to the split in kingship into two kingdoms, the leaders **had changed their place of worship back to the "first" Temple site**—Shiloh where the ARK had rested for 400 years.



They do not recognize the religious system in Jerusalem. Y'shua / Jesus touches on this when He answers:

John 4:21-24 Yeshua said, "Lady, believe Me, the time is coming when you will **worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Yerushalayim**. You people don't know what you are worshipping; we worship what we do know, because salvation comes from the Jews. But the time is coming — indeed, it's here now — when the true worshippers will worship the Father spiritually and truly, for these are the kind of people the Father wants worshipping Him. God is Spirit; and worshippers must worship Him spiritually and truly."



The story

No woman divorces in this culture. If she had had five husbands and was alone, then they had **either died or had divorced her**. With that background, we can quickly realize that she was most probably well known (not necessarily as a prostitute) but as a woman with a *great deal of emotional baggage, and deep hurts*.

She is offered “**Living Water**” (*remember the definition - the more than enough, the huge capacity of a raging sea- enough*) ... Can you now imagine what happened?

The old wineskin, the old man — was replaced with a new wineskin, and then it was filled to the brim. Something in this encounter is a reflection of the ONE NEW MAN, a healing of the wounds, a restoration of purpose and the lifting of the head so that she had a **new vision**. (People will only follow those who have vision.)

John 4:14 “...but whoever drinks the water I will give him will never be thirsty again! On the contrary, the water I give him will become a spring of water inside him, welling up into eternal life!”

This woman at the well receives “**revelation light**” (remember the definition - spiritual revelation, the more-than-enough kind!). I wonder what this revelation entailed? Whatever it was - it moved her from **hopelessness** to a **daughter of Abraham**.

John 4:25 The woman replied, “I know that Mashiach is coming” (that is, “the One who has been anointed”). “**When He comes, He will tell us everything.**” Yeshua said to her, “I, the person speaking to you, am He.”

The townsfolk listened and accept her testimony **because** she had been healed from all emotional wounds. One of the words used to define who can enter into the Tabernacle is “clean” and the other is “Holy”.

Clean would refer to the process of dealing with sin, and so on. However, the word “**holy**” really means living in “wholeness / completeness”. Being restored to wholeness is what happens when we have dealt with the wounds of the past, can focus only on what God wants, and can enter into the Tabernacle with the goal of worshipping God alone - no self, no ego.

Holy = Kadosh	Common = Chol
We are to be a set-apart people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.	Any thing that is man-made, self-effort, and pleasing to the flesh.
Clean = T'hor	Unclean = Tamei
Definition: “Having our fragmented soul made whole — unity and completeness”.	Definition: “Fragmented, incomplete, incapable of perfection or completion”.

HOLY	UNHOLY
Serving God as He desires	Man in Right standing BUT Serving God with man's agenda
CLEAN	UNCLEAN
Made whole / in right standing Reconciled	Walking in disunity with the body wounded / hurt

B. Second step: Healing of the man at the Pool of Bethesda - Deliverance

For many years people have believed that this healing took place at or near the main Temple and that this healing was therefore associated with a gift of **mercy** associated only with the Glory of God. But could it be that event occurred at some other pool?

The pool is clearly described **as having five porches**.

John 5:2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades.



Archeologists today have shown that this pool was some distance from the Temple, but at the same time history has revealed that this pool was under Roman governance, associated with the healing center dedicated to the 'god of well' namely, Asclepius – this was a **pagan healing center**!

This healing is **not** a spontaneous gift from God but **the outworking of spiritual warfare between the KINGDOM OF GOD and satan. This victory always leads to a healing.**

The people here were NOT waiting for God to heal but had set their hopes on other gods. (Note, after Y'shua / Jesus heals the man, **He does not say**—wash in this pool!!)

The Pharisees will argue about this healing on the Shabbat, due to their traditions, but did not see that someone had been “**delivered**” from the kingdom of darkness (without putting his foot into **this contaminated water**) and translated into the Kingdom of **Light**.



C. Third step: Keep the Feast of Passover

When we have been delivered from our “Egypt / idols” and we have been set free from our “limitations / emotional wounding” to enable us to live to our full potential, then you and I can truly “remember” where we have come from. It is in this state of freedom that we can eat the Manna of the Bread of multiplication, where we can see the exponential possibilities that we have before our very eyes.

Passover has meaning when we deal with the flesh:

1 Corinthians 5:6 *Your boasting is not good. Don't you know the saying, "It takes only a little hametz to leaven a whole batch of dough?" Get rid of the old hametz, so that you can be a new batch of dough, because in reality you are unleavened. For our Pesach lamb, the Messiah, has been sacrificed. So let us celebrate the Seder not with leftover hametz, the hametz of wickedness and evil, but with the matzah of purity and truth.*

And then begin to eat the **Manna of fresh revelation that God gives us daily**. Some may think that it is only to be found in the:

1. Study of the WORD,

Some may think it is only to be experienced in the:

2. Act of WORSHIP

But these stories tell us that if only we will look at nature:

AT THE FAST FLOWING RIVERS
AT THE MORNING SUNRISE OR
THE EVENING SUNSET

Then we will see the reflection of God in the Heavens, - we have to transform into the Heavenly man. **The meaning of Passover - is transition** to change! Let's go back to that very first Passover as we enter the Land.

As they describe this Passover (**Joshua 5:11-12**) we note that two concepts are intertwined together.

1. They “**crossed over**” – the Hebrew word “**avar**”.
2. They ate of the “**produce**” of the land – Hebrew word “**avoor**” (which both come from the same root word.)

God does not want more of the same worship next year - He wants you to move to new levels of loving your neighbour and worshipping Him, so that greater LIGHT will be revealed.

Question: How different are you this year? Are you renewed in your thinking and your service to Him?

You see, all the way through the wilderness we had the ARK hidden away, but as we cross over, the ARK is revealed, going ahead of us. When we walk exactly as God requires, we reveal the ARK daily.

Our walk requires a commitment... The Priests had to carry the ARK on their shoulders. We should have a burden for the community and the Body of Messiah. Passover therefore teaches us to be willing to be the first to serve, and to be willing to serve the best.



D. Forth step: Keep the Feast of Sukkot

There are some critical lessons for us to identify here.

1. Y'shua / Jesus makes it clear that He does not accept man-made ruler-ship / authority which is not in line with the Father. He also makes it quite clear that God will never submit to man-made rules / traditions.

So the goal should be to take every single teaching that we ever hear, and test this against the principles and patterns that are laid out in His WORD.

John 7:16-18 So Yeshua gave them an answer: “My teaching is not My Own, it comes from the One who sent Me. If anyone wants to do His Will, he will know whether My teaching is from God or I speak on My Own. A person who speaks on his own is trying to win praise for himself; but a person who tries to win praise for the One who sent Him is honest, there is nothing false about Him.”

John 8:14-19 Yeshua answered them, “Even if I do testify on My Own behalf, My testimony is indeed valid; because I know where I came from and where I’m going; but you do not know where I came from or where I’m going. You judge by merely human standards. As for Me, I pass judgment on no one; but if I were indeed to pass judgment, My judgment would be valid; because it is not I alone who judge, but I and the One Who sent Me. And even in your Torah it is written that the testimony of two people is valid. I myself testify on My Own behalf, and so does the Father who sent Me.” **19** They said to Him, “Where is this ‘father’ of yours?” Yeshua answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father too.”

2. Y’shua / Jesus attends the Feast and watches the intricate water ceremony that is performed by the priests.

Careful note: this is not a God-ordained ceremony, so whilst it may have some prophetic significance, it definitely is not a Biblical imperative.

Y’shua / Jesus’ Words speak to the **Water of revelation**, of abundance, of a renewal through the Holy Spirit. Can you imagine what it is like to have this water wash over your mind / your eyes / your ears?

John 7:37-39 Now on the last day of the festival, Hoshana Rabbah, Yeshua stood and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him keep coming to Me and drinking! Whoever puts his trust in Me, as the Scripture says, rivers of Living Water will flow from his inmost being!” (Now He said this about the Spirit, whom those who trusted in Him were to receive later — the Spirit had not yet been given, because Yeshua had not yet been glorified.)

Without doubt, Y’shua / Jesus is making a **direct reference to two powerful prophecies of the Tanach (the Old Testament)**. We continually look at these prophecies in the physical sense; we expect this as an end-time move. Yet Y’shua / Jesus tells us to do whatever He does. Moreover, He calls us priests and kings. If we were walking in the Truth of Sukkot, **we would be Living Streams.**



IS THERE A DEAD SEA NEAR YOU?

Why is the Water of the WORD not flowing forth into that Sea in order to change the water content? Why are you not bringing life?

Ezekiel 47:1-12 Then he brought me back to the entrance of the house, and I saw water flowing eastward from under the threshold of the house, for the house faced east. The water flowed down from under the right side of the house, south of the altar. Next he led me out through the north gate and took me around outside to the outer gate, by way of the east gate, where I saw water trickling from the south side.

*With a line in his hand the man went out toward the east and measured a thousand cubits [one-third of a mile] and had me wade across the stream; the water came up to my ankles. He measured another thousand and had me wade through the water, which reached my knees. He measured another thousand and had me wade through water up to my waist. Finally he measured a thousand, and it was a river I couldn't cross on foot, because the water was so deep one would have to swim across; it was a river that could not be waded through. He asked me, "Human being, have you seen this?" Then, guiding me, he got me back to the riverbank. After being returned, I saw on the bank of the river a great number of trees on the one side and on the other. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and continues down to the 'Aravah." When it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant water, [the Dead Sea,] its water will become fresh. When this happens, swarms of all kinds of living creatures will be able to live in it wherever the streams flow; so that there will be a vast number of fish; for this water is flowing there, so that, **wherever the river goes, everything will be restored and able to live.** Then fishermen will stand on its shores spreading their nets all the way from 'Ein-Gedi to 'Ein-Eglayim. There will be as many kinds of fish there as in the Great Sea, [the Mediterranean,] a great variety. However, its mud flats and marshes will not become fresh but will remain salty. On both riverbanks will grow all kinds of trees for food; their leaves will not dry up, nor will their fruit fail. **There will be a different kind of fruit each month, because the water flows from the sanctuary, so that this fruit will be edible, and the leaves will have healing properties.**"*

Zechariah 14:14 *Y'hudah too will fight against Yerushalayim; and the wealth of all the nations will be assembled — gold, silver and clothing in great abundance. A plague like this plague will also affect the horses, mules, camels, donkeys and all the other animals in those camps.*

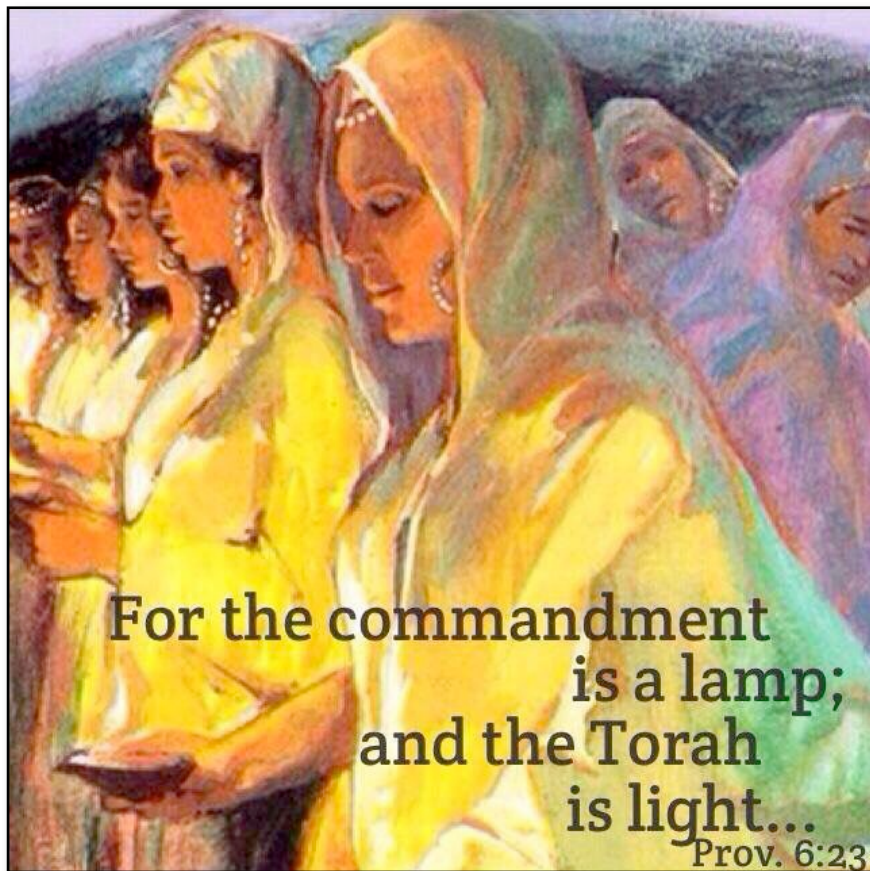
Zechariah 14:16 *Finally, everyone remaining from all the nations that came to attack Yerushalayim will go up every year to worship the King, ADONAI-Tzva'ot, and to keep the festival of Sukkot. If any of the families of the earth does not go up to Yerushalayim to worship the King, ADONAI-Tzva'ot, no rain will fall on them. If the family of Egypt doesn't go up, if they refuse to come, they will have no [annual] overflow [from the Nile]; moreover, there will be the plague with which ADONAI will strike the nations that don't go up to keep the festival of Sukkot.*

One of the prophetic manifestations is the use of **four huge Calabria candles** that **light up** the entire Old City. The Bible goes on to say, that early the next morning Y'shua / Jesus is once again in the Temple when a woman caught in adultery is brought before Him. You will recall the story. They want Him to find her guilty and throw the first stone.

Yet He stands on the fundamental principles of JUSTICE - and they all turn away knowing their own hearts:

-  He reveals the fundamental principles of COMPASSION / MERCY - and He turns to the woman with love.
-  He reveals the fundamental principles of HUMILITY - and He chooses to give her Godly direction.

As soon as the accusers have left, Y'shua / Jesus turns to her and says, **I am the LIGHT:**



John 8:11-12 She said, "No one, Sir." Yeshua said, "Neither do I condemn you. Now go, and don't sin any more." **12** "Yeshua spoke to them again: **"I am the Light of the world; whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the Light which gives life."**

E. Fifth step: Approach the Holy of Holies

You and I meet with God in an exciting way. We start off on a journey that will take us out of Egypt (deliverance) and on to Mount Sinai (freedom to live to our potential), and then on through the wilderness where we optimize our skills to enter and take the Land.

But it seems that one step in this process is uniquely left in the Hand of God. This one act of grace, of empowerment, is described for us in the story where **a man born blind since birth is given sight.**



Let us relive this story. The Feast is over. The great big candles that gave light for days are extinguished. The blind man sits in the gates begging.

John 9:1-4 As Yeshua passed along, He **saw a man blind from birth**. His talmidim asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned — this man or his parents — to cause him to be born blind?” Yeshua answered, “His blindness is due neither to his sin nor to that of his parents; it happened so that God’s power might be seen at work in him. As long as it is day, (i.e. **LIGHT**) we must keep doing the work of the One who sent me; the night is coming, when no one can work.”

But the Messiah will **only** do whatever the FATHER asks of Him. And it is here that we find out that GOD always wants to make a positive difference in mankind’s life.

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of ADONAI is upon Me; therefore He has anointed Me to announce Good News to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the imprisoned and renewed sight for the blind, to release those who have been crushed, to proclaim a year of the favor of ADONAI.

He hears the disciples say: is this blindness due to his own sin or the sin of his parents? Did the man understand whom it was that stood before him? Had he heard all the stories of the miracles that had taken place? Did he want to cry out from the bottom of his heart, or did he just wait with the same expectation that the disciples would have to exercise when they waited to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

Does it matter? Man wants to have a cause and effect reason for everything. We like to be able to explain why something either did, or did not happen - which is also why the disciples wanted a reason.

God says: OUR MANDATE IS TO BE LIGHT while we have the chance. Light and water are the symbols of GOD'S Glory in action. As we saw initially, both of these should be in abundance / violent, making a huge impact.

Y'shua / Jesus answers for all of the generations that will come, to hear.

John 9:5 *While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.*

And even more importantly, He responds to fulfill the prophecy from:

Isaiah 9:1-3 *But there will be no more gloom for those who are now in anguish. In the past the land of Z'vulun and the land of Naftali were regarded lightly; but in the future He will honor the way to the lake, beyond the Yarden, Galil-of-the-Goyim. The people living in darkness have seen a great light; upon those living in the land that lies in the shadow of death, light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice in Your Presence as if rejoicing at harvest time, the way men rejoice when dividing up the spoil.*

MERCY AND COMPASSION AT SUKKOT = REVELATION SIGHT

A few verses, painstakingly set out in detail by John, will define the reason why we can experience JOY during this Feast.

Let us note the sequence:

1. Application of (spirit) **water** to the "earth-ground" - that of which man is made of.

PLUS

2. The **word of creative force** by God, the word "said".

John 9:6-7 *Having said this, he **spit** on the **ground**, made some mud with the saliva, put the mud on the man's eyes, **and said** to him, "Go, wash off in the Pool of Shiloach!" (The name means "sent.") So he went and washed and came away seeing.*

PLUS

3. The **obedience of man to do whatever GOD commands of him** (go and wash in the pool of Siloam... Can you imagine the challenge of a blind man, who must make his way from the Temple, all of the way down the hill to the very bottom where this pool is to be found?)

= (EQUALS) =

4. Revelation sight / Light.

John 9:11 He answered, “The man called Yeshua made mud, put it on my eyes, and told me, ‘Go to Shiloach and wash!’ So I went; and as **soon as I had washed, I could see.**” They said to him, “Where is he?” and he replied, “I don’t know.”

We have to stop and imagine what it was like in the Garden of Eden, that time when man was able to see with spiritual eyes, when the physicality of the world was hidden from them.

When Y’shua / Jesus stops to help the blind man— he was someone who could not see in the physical domain!! When he had washed his eyes he could see!! You and I need to search for that same gift of eyesight, only this time we should have the desire to “see” in the spiritual realm. If physical sight brings this level of joy - how much joy do you think it would bring you to “know” God?

“...and as soon as I had washed, I could see.”

And this brings us to:

A THIRD CRITICAL WORD - JOY!

As we have moved along the time-line of Y’shua / Jesus’ last few months of ministry, we have seen the repeated themes of WATER and LIGHT coming through in each of the events described.

What did I leave out in each one of the stories?

The absolute **JOY** as people are impacted and changed forever. In most stories we read of the opposition to the miracle from the Jewish leadership of the day.

And it will also be true today. Church leadership has the tendency to demand that only the closed group of selected leaders are allowed to determine truth, to determine who is accepted or rejected, or to determine which “brand” of thinking will be allowed or not.

Such leadership is not the servant / shepherd sort - but that seldom is of any concern for the leaders. Positional power, possibly money, and recognition by peers, is more than likely much more important than the lives of the sheep.

Amazingly as you consider these stories, you will note that almost nowhere is there joy / happiness for the individual that has been transformed, and in some **instances their miracle is greeted with anger / rejection.**



John 9:24-33 So a second time they called the man who had been blind; and they said to him, "Swear to God that you will tell the truth! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he's a sinner or not I don't know. One thing I do know: I was blind, now I see." So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" "I already told you," he answered, "and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Maybe you too want to become His talmidim?" Then they railed at him. "You may be his talmid," they said, "but we are talmidim of Moshe! We know that God has spoken to Moshe, but as for this fellow — we don't know where He's from!" "What a strange thing," the man answered, "that you don't know where He's from — considering that He opened my eyes! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners; but if anyone fears God and does His Will, God does listen to Him. In all history no one has ever heard of someone's opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this Man were not from God, He couldn't do a thing!"

This Feast demands that we are joyful - and it is where I started the conversation.

Leviticus 23:34 Tell the people of Isra'el, "On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the feast of Sukkot for seven days to ADONAI."

This Feast is not **only about the past**. It is also a prophecy **about the future**.

We live with the expectation that there will come a day when all nations will ascend to worship the King of Kings in Jerusalem:

Zechariah 14:16 Finally, everyone remaining from all the nations that came to attack Yerushalayim will go up every year to worship the King, ADONAI-Tzva'ot, and to keep the festival of Sukkot. If any of the families of the earth does not go up to Yerushalayim to worship the King, ADONAI-Tzva'ot, no rain will fall on them. If the family of Egypt doesn't go up, if they refuse to come, they will have no [annual] overflow [from the Nile]; moreover, there will be the plague with which ADONAI will strike the nations that don't go up to keep the festival of Sukkot. This will be Egypt's punishment and the punishment of all the nations that don't go up to keep the festival of Sukkot.



A FINAL THOUGHT



Two kinds of blindness!!!

There are those who ***can “see” but do not comprehend*** (they have spiritual blindness but often have no idea of what they are missing).

There are those ***who are blind and yet will respond with expectation*** (they have physical blindness but long to see the Light of this world).

Sukkot is about **being satisfied** with what you have:

- Of understanding that **difficult times do not diminish your value.**
- Of knowing that you **will always have something to give** to others less fortunate.

Such a man is RICH... Such a man will always be JOYFUL.

Sukkot says ***leave the physical worldly things behind*** and reach out for the spiritual JOY that can be your portion when you **wallow in the waters of TORAH abundance and revel in the Light of the Revelation that you are a Son / Daughter of Abraham and are exceedingly blessed.**

SHALOM.

The Priestly Blessing ...

Numbers 6:24-26

“²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

The Priestly Blessing ...

Hebraic Translation¹

"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and
He will guard you with a hedge of protection,
YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being
toward you, bringing order, and He will provide
you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH
will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look
upon you, and He will set in place all you need to
be whole and complete."

¹ Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html

The Priestly Blessing¹

יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:

and may he guard you the LORD may he bless you

May the LORD² bless you³ and keep you⁴

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶנְךָ:

and show you favor on you his face the LORD May he shine

May the LORD make His face⁵ shine⁶ upon you and be gracious⁷ to you

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

peace for you and establish on you his face the LORD may he lift up

May the LORD lift up⁸ his face to you and give you peace⁹

¹ This blessing is (ritually) recited (by the kohanim) during synagogue services during *Nesiat Kapayim* ("the Raising of the Hands"), though it is also recited over children on Friday night before the start of the Shabbat meal or as a bedtime blessing.

² The name *YHWH* (יהוה) represents God's attributes of love and mercy (מִדַּת הַרַחֲמִים), in contradistinction to the name *Elohim* (אֱלֹהִים), which represents God's attribute of justice and power as our Creator.

³ בָּרַכָּה (*b'rachah*). Jewish tradition considers this both material and spiritual prosperity. Pirkei Avot 3:15 says, "If there is no flour, there is no Torah," by which is meant that material benefits are intended to help you pursue study of Torah. The first occurrence of the word "blessing" in the Scriptures pertains to *pru urvu* (פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ), "be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:22).

⁴ שָׁמַר (*shamar*): To guard, protect, heed, as in the exercise of diligent care. Only God has the power to secure the conferred blessing and keep it from turning sour or from fading away.

⁵ The word for "face" (פָּנִים) is plural with the 3rd person singular ending. It is considered metaphorical since God is incorporeal. The plural form is thought by some to indicate God's revealed and hidden attributes in creation.

⁶ The hiphil verb (יָאֵר) comes from the word "light" (אֹר), and is thought to refer to God's wisdom. "May God enlighten you" with His wisdom, i.e., the Divine Light that preceded the work of creation (Gen. 1:3).

⁷ May God grant you grace or favor (חֵן), i.e., to understand the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love (Eph. 3:18). Grace refers to the bestowal of an undeserved gift. The blessing is bestowed even though unearned or unmerited.

⁸ Since one's face is an indication of the heart's attitude, Rashi says that this means God will suppress His anger by "looking at you" (if God is angry at you, He "turns His face away" and refuses to admit your presence). The "lifting of face" also pictures God lifting you up as a father might lift up his child in joy. The "showing of face" indicates spiritual intimacy.

⁹ All of the other blessings are useless without the establishment of inner peace, and therefore it is the seal of the blessing. Shalom (שְׁלוֹם) is not simply the absence of strife, but a balance and harmony between the finite and infinite, the temporal and the eternal, the material and the spiritual realms. Shalom is a gift from Sar Shalom (שַׂר שְׁלוֹם), the Prince of Peace.