

Tabernacles 2026 - 1st Holy Day - Get Ready to Learn!



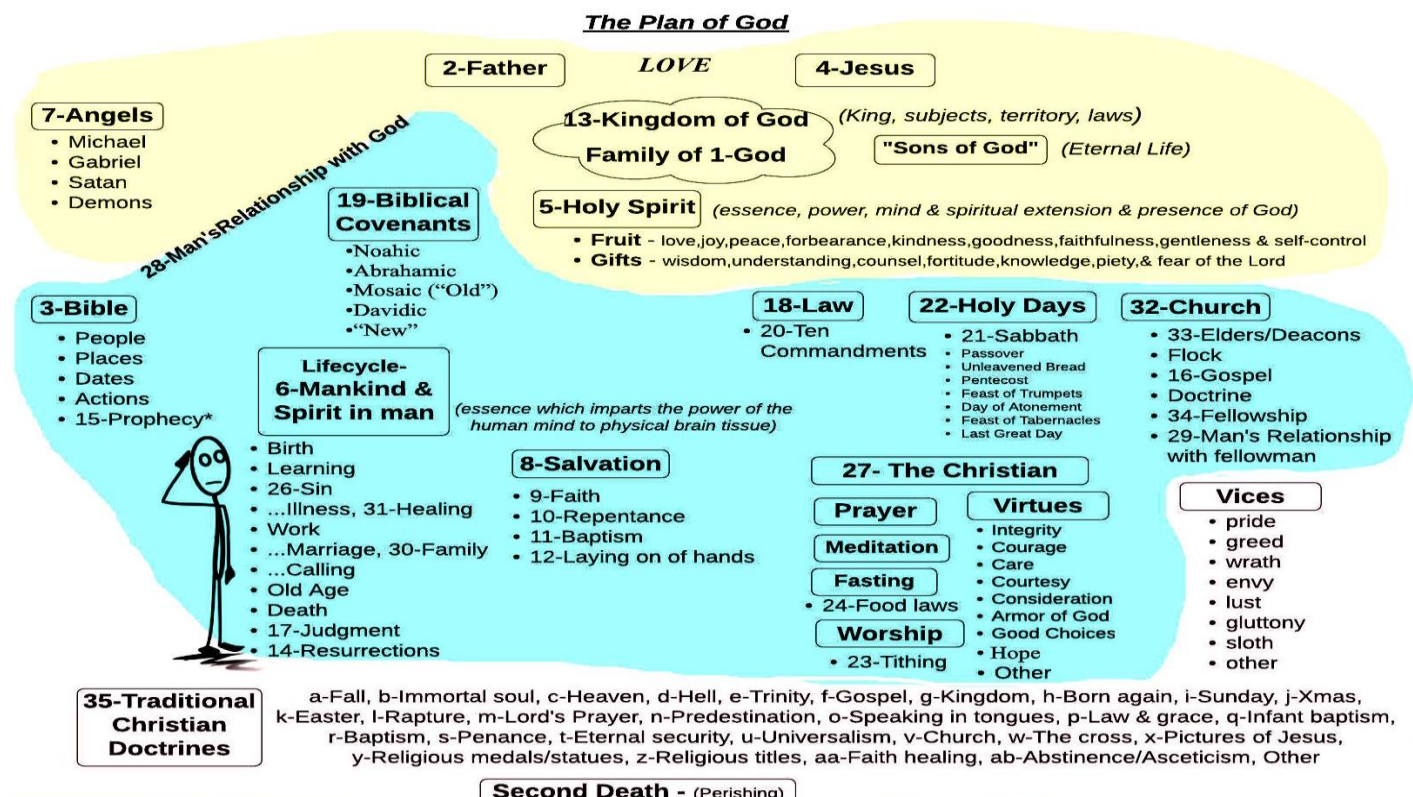
Many believe the “modern era” of the Church of God began about 100 years ago ... around the Fall of 1926 ...when **Loma Armstrong** & her *reluctant* husband **Herbert** learned about:

- God’s ability to heal &
- the Bible Truth about the Sabbath day

Beginning with their first Passover in 1927, Herbert & Loma **committed** to observing all seven annual festival periods—including the Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day. Even the Sabbatarian groups they associated with, like the Church of God (Seventh Day), strictly **rejected** the annual Holy Days, believing they were “nailed to the cross.”

For seven consecutive years, Herbert & Loma observed these days completely by themselves, often with only their young children present. They would mark the days in their home, stopping their regular work, reading the scriptures, and praying. In **1934** the Radio Church of God was started, but, it wasn't until **1945** that HWA came to the realization that the Feast of Tabernacles was meant to picture the future Millennium (the 1,000-year reign of Christ on Earth)!

From their *perseverance & example*, I learned that God’s Holy Days are especially suited to “experiential teaching” ... because God commanded Israel not simply to hear about certain Truths, but to live them, see them, eat & drink, rejoice, assemble, travel, dwell temporarily, to learn & remember. This week we share in a multi-sensory biblical teaching experience.



Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present - (World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)



The Church of God International

HOME BIBLE Study Course

#14 - Understanding the Feast of Tabernacles

Doctrinal Statement:

This festival portrays the **Millennium**—the thousand years of **Christ's reign on earth**. The true **harvest of mankind** can now take place. **Without** the influence of **Satan**—the source of evil—all nations can be brought to God. For **1000 years**, a “golden age” shall reign: **happiness & peace** shall be reality & worldwide **salvation** shall be possible. This harvest of persons is far larger than the first one, just as the fall harvest is much larger than the spring harvest in the agricultural cycle. The Millennium shall be the time when **God sets His hand to save the world**. It shall be a time of **rebuilding**, the forging of a new modern society under **God's laws**.

The Feast of Booths

Lev 23:33-43 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 23:34 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The **fifteenth day** of this seventh month shall be the **Feast of Tabernacles** for seven days to the LORD.

Lev 23:35 On the **first day** there shall be a **holy convocation**. You shall do **no customary work** on it.

Lev 23:36 For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it.

Lev 23:37 'These are the **feasts of the LORD** which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to **offer an offering** made by fire to the LORD, a **burnt offering** and a **grain offering**, a **sacrifice** and **drink offerings**, everything on its day—

Lev 23:38 besides the **Sabbaths** of the LORD, besides your **gifts**, besides all your **vows**, and besides all your **freewill offerings** which you give to the LORD.

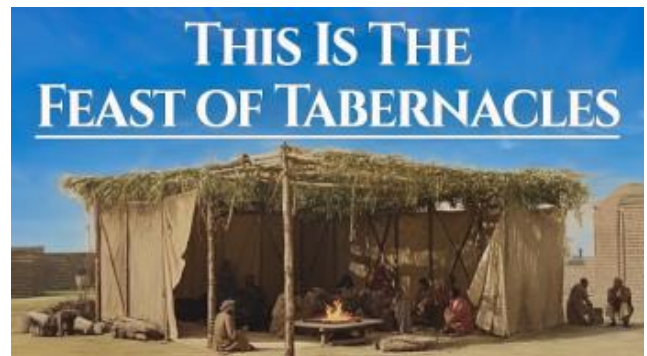
Lev 23:39 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, **when you have gathered in the fruit of the land**, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest.

Lev 23:40 And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, **branches of palm trees**, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall **rejoice** before the LORD your God for seven days.

Lev 23:41 You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a **statute forever** in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

Lev 23:42 You shall **dwell in booths** for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,

Lev 23:43 that your generations may know that **I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt**: I am the LORD your God.' "



Before we further explore the Feast ... A little bit about ...

...the **factors & methods & elements which enable human learning**

Human learning is not produced by one factor alone. It occurs through the interaction of **attention, perception, memory, experience, thinking, emotion, practice, feedback, social interaction, motivation, and application.**



Learning through the senses - Human beings obtain information through:

1. **Sight** — seeing
2. **Hearing** — listening
3. **Touch**
4. **Smell**
5. **Taste**
6. **Movement**— sensing the position & movement of the body
7. **Balance/orientation**

This makes **concrete experience** particularly powerful for learning...*at the Feast!*

Fundamental Factors that Enable Learning

Factor	What it does
Attention	Directs mental resources toward what is being learned
Perception	Allows the learner to receive and interpret information
Curiosity	Creates a desire to discover or understand
Motivation	Provides a reason to learn
Prior knowledge	Gives new information something to connect to
Experience	Provides real encounters from which lessons can be extracted
Memory	Stores and retrieves learned information
Understanding	Connects facts into meaningful relationships
Reasoning	Allows conclusions to be drawn from information
Emotion	Can strengthen or interfere with attention and memory
Interest	Sustains engagement with a subject
Relevance	Helps the learner see why something matters
Practice	Strengthens knowledge and skills through repetition
Feedback	Reveals what is correct, incorrect, or incomplete
Reflection	Converts experience into insight
Application	Turns knowledge into demonstrated ability
Social interaction	Allows learning through other people
Language	Provides a means to represent and communicate ideas
Environment	Can either facilitate or hinder learning
Time	Allows information and skills to consolidate and develop

So the fullest form of “**Feast Learning**” is not merely: “**I know it.**” It is:

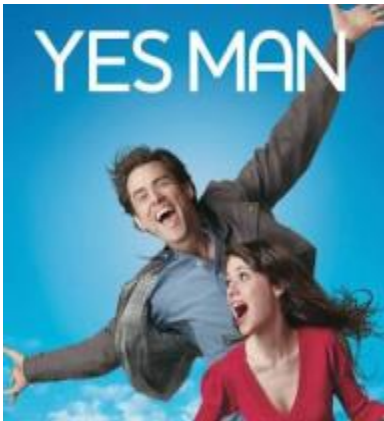
I have encountered it → understood it → remembered it → tested it → practiced it → applied it → reflected on it → and incorporated it into how I think & live.

That framework also provides a useful foundation for examining **how the Bible itself teaches people to move from "words on a page" to understanding, wisdom, faith, discernment, & transformed conduct.**

Examples of “Feast of Tabernacles Learning”

<u>Human dimension</u>	<u>What is experienced</u>	<u>What it teaches</u>
☐ Sight	Temporary dwellings, greenery, crowds, worship	God's provision and the temporary nature of this age
☐ Hearing	Teaching, singing, Scripture, commands	God's truth and Kingdom instruction
☐ Taste	Food and drink	God's generosity & abundance
☐ Smell	Food, produce, natural surroundings	Abundance & celebration
☐ Touch	Building/dwelling in temporary structures	Experiencing impermanence
☐ Movement	Traveling to the Feast and assembling	Pilgrimage & seeking God
☐ Environment	Living temporarily	Life is temporary
☐ Emotion	Rejoicing	Gratitude & hope
☐ Memory	Remembering Israel's wilderness experience	God's faithfulness
☐ Community	Gathering together	God's people as a covenant community
☐ Worship	Appearing before God	God-centered celebration
☐ Imagination	Looking toward Jesus' return & the future Kingdom of God	Prophetic hope

Are you a Feast of Tabernacles “Yes! Man”?



The main message of the movie Yes Man is that...

... **stepping out of your comfort zone & being open to new experiences can completely transform your life**

... (though *true balance requires mindful choice rather than blindly saying yes to everything!*)

Abraham - Gen 12:1 Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

Heb 11:8 He went out, not knowing where he was going."

Gen 24:58 they called Rebekah & said to her, Will you go with this man? & she said, **I will go**

Ruth 1:16 - Wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.

Est 4:13-14 & Mordecai told them to answer Esther: Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief & deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you & your father's house will perish. Yet **who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**

Mat 14:29 So He (*Jesus*) said, "**Come.**" & when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

Act 9:6 So he (*Paul*) , trembling & astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise & go into the city, & you will be told what you must do."

The Bible does **not** teach: "*Always seek something new*"... It teaches something more balanced:

Be faithful to what is true while remaining willing to learn, grow, change, serve, & obey when God opens a new path.

Paul illustrates this beautifully:

Philippians 3:13–14 **Forgetting** those things which are behind & **reaching forward** to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal...

So ... what are some **Feast Lessons & Experiences** we might be on-the- lookout for ??

A. God Provides What We Need

Deu 8:18 & you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers...

Principle: *Receive God's blessings gratefully without forgetting the One who provides them.*

B. Rejoice! God commands rejoicing

Deu 16:14-15 & you shall **rejoice** in your feast, you & your son & your daughter, your male servant & your female servant & the Levite, the stranger & the fatherless & the widow, who are within your gates. Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce & in all the work of your hands, so that you surely **rejoice**

Lesson: The Kingdom isn't merely about surviving judgment; it's about entering into **God's joy**

Applications

- Christianity should contain genuine joy
- Worship should not be exclusively solemn
- Families should celebrate God's goodness
- Congregations should create opportunities for fellowship
- Joy should be shared with those with less



C. Remember That We Are Pilgrims - The name "Tabernacles" points toward temporary dwelling

The temporary dwelling reminded Israel: "**This world is not our permanent home.**"

- **Hebrews 11:13–16** — God's people confessed that they were "strangers & pilgrims."
- **1 Peter 2:11** — Christians are "sojourners & pilgrims."
- **2 Corinthians 5:1** — our earthly body is described as an "earthly house" that will ultimately be replaced.

Lesson: Don't become so attached to temporary circumstances that you lose sight of God's eternal purposes • earthly life is temporary • material security is temporary

You don't simply "think" ... I should seek God -- You physically go

D. God Dwells With His People - This is one of the deepest themes of the Feast.

The Hebrew concept behind "tabernacle" involves **dwelling**.

Israel's wilderness tabernacle represented God's presence among them.

Exodus 25:8 "And let them make Me a sanctuary, **that I may dwell among them.**"

The theme develops throughout Scripture.

Christ - John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and **dwelt among us...**"

Church - Ephesians 2:22 - "in whom you also are being built together for a **dwelling place of God** in the Spirit."

Final Kingdom - Rev 21:3 "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, & He will **dwell with them...**"

Lesson: The ultimate blessing is not merely **what God gives us ...**
but **God Himself dwelling with us.**

E. The Feast teaches through nature - The worshipper encounters:

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| • leaves | • fields | • food |
| • branches | • harvest | • temporary shelters |
| • fruit | • changing seasons | |

This ties spiritual understanding to the created world.

F. The Feast teaches through taste - Unlike many theological concepts, the Feast is literally **eaten**.

Deu 14:26 connects **pilgrimage worship** with eating & drinking:

"you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice"

The Feast therefore communicates: **God is not merely the God of sacrifice & solemnity.**

He is also the God of: **abundance, celebration, provision and joy.**

Eating teaches gratitude!

G. The Feast teaches through music & sound

Although Leviticus 23 does not describe all the musical practices later associated with biblical festivals, Scripture repeatedly associates Israel's festival worship with:

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| • singing | • trumpets |
| • praise | • instruments |
| • shouting | |

Psalms 81:1-4 "Sing aloud to God our strength"

Psalms 98:4-6 "Shout joyfully to the LORD"

The soundscape of worship reinforces the emotional message:

God has done great things → therefore praise Him



H. The Feast teaches remembrance

Lev 23:43 gives the explicit historical purpose:

"that your **generations** may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths"

The Feast is therefore an "**intergenerational memory system**".

Parents don't **merely tell** children: "Our ancestors wandered in the wilderness."

We create a **recurring experience** that makes the story tangible.

Pattern: Remember → reenact → explain → teach → transmit

I. The Feast teaches harvest - The Feast occurs at the completion of the agricultural cycle.

It therefore naturally evokes: **seed** → **growth** → **harvest** → **celebration**

Harvest becomes a biblical **metaphor** for:

- God's blessings
- divine provision
- resurrection
- human labor
- judgment
- the Kingdom

The harvest provides a bridge between physical agriculture and spiritual harvest.

Jesus repeatedly uses harvest imagery to explain God's work:

Matt 13:39 (Parable of the Weeds) "... the harvest is the end of the age"

J. The Feast teaches that physical blessings should *point beyond themselves*

- Food is good.
- Beautiful surroundings
- Friendship is good.
- Drink is good.
- are good.
- Celebration is good.

But the biblical lesson is not: "Physical pleasure is the ultimate goal."

Rather: **physical blessing** → **gratitude** → **recognition of God** → **spiritual hope**.

This guards against turning the Feast into merely a vacation.

K. The Feast's major emotional experiences - The Feast can deliberately produce:

1. **Joy** — **Deu 16:14–15** ... so that you **surely** rejoice ...
2. **Gratitude** — **Deu 16:15** ... God will bless you in all ...
3. **Wonder** — **Psa 98:1–9** Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD
4. **Security in God** — **Psa 91** ... *He* is my refuge & my fortress ...
5. **Humility** - **Heb 11:13** ... & confessed they were strangers & pilgrims on the earth
6. **Belonging** — **Deu 16:14** ... son, daughter, servants, Levite, fatherless, widow
7. **Generosity** — **Deu 16:17** Every man shall **give** as he is able...
8. **Hope** — **Heb 11:13–16** ... not having received the promises, but having **seen** them afar off were **assured** of them, **embraced** them
9. **Anticipation** — **Rev 21–22** Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God
10. **Peace** — **Isa 2:2–4** They shall beat their swords into plowshares, & their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore
11. **Celebration** — **Psa 100** Come before His presence with singing.
12. **Love for others** - **Rom 12:10–13** Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love

L. The Feast teaches service - A successful community Feast **requires** people to serve:

- organize
- teach
- encourage
- care for others
- clean
- help
- transport
- prepare
- welcome
- provide food

That gives an opportunity to experience Jesus' principle:

Mark 10:43–45 "whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant."

The Feast can therefore turn **service** into **lived discipleship**



M. The great Biblical progression of the Feast (*past-present-future structure*)

EGYPT



EXODUS



WILDERNESS



TEMPORARY DWELLING



PROMISED LAND



HARVEST



REJOICING



KINGDOM



NATIONS



GOD DWELLING WITH HUMANITY

N. A concise "Feast of Tabernacles experience model"

We can see the *Feast itself* is a “teaching framework”:

SEE → God's creation, provision and Kingdom

HEAR → God's Word & truth & Hymns of praise

TASTE → God's abundance

DRINK → Christ's living water

TOUCH → Temporary dwelling

TRAVEL → In Pilgrimage toward God

DWELL → Remembering life's temporary nature

REMEMBER → God's faithfulness

REJOICE → Celebrating God's blessings

SERVE → To Bless others

SHARE → To Practice generosity

HOPE → Looking toward the Kingdom

ANTICIPATE → the King of Kings & His (Christ's) rule

WITNESS → Evangelise God's Kingdom to the nations

LOOK FORWARD → Revelation 21:3 — **God dwelling with humanity**

In that sense, the Feast of Tabernacles can be understood as a **God-designed experiential curriculum**: it uses **place, food, water, shelter, nature, movement, community, celebration, memory & prophecy** to teach humans what it means to:

- live **temporarily** in the present ... while ...
- looking forward to the **permanent** Kingdom of God.

