

Bible History Puzzle 71

There was much work to be done in the land of Canaan, but the Israelites did not always have to work. On the Sabbath day they were allowed to rest and three times a year there was a feast. Then the roads were full of people, who all went to Shiloh, where the tabernacle was.

The first feast was the Passover feast. Then they remembered how the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt. They must never forget that! The feast lasted a whole week. When they came home, the wheat harvest began.

When all the wheat had been harvested they went to Shiloh again. Then they had the Pentecost feast. Then they thought about how the Lord had given His law on Sinai. After the Pentecost feast it was time to pick all the grapes, olives, and almonds. The grapes were brought to the wine presses and were pressed out underfoot to make a delicious wine.

Then came the third feast. First they had the Day of Atonement and after that the Feast of Tabernacles. On the Day of Atonement, a goat was slain. The high priest went with the blood of the goat into the Holy of Holies. He sprinkled the blood on the cover of the ark. That happened once a year. It meant that the Lord saw the blood and He would forgive the sins of the people, not because of the blood of the goat, but because of the blood of Jesus, the Promised Savior, Who would let His blood flow on Golgotha. Sadly, not everybody thought about their sins or prayed for forgiveness. Many of them just enjoyed having a week of feasting.

The Feast of Tabernacles lasted eight days. Branches were taken off the trees to make huts. And so the Israelites remembered when they lived in the wilderness in huts, and they praised the Lord for His care when He had brought them into this land of rest. Only those who had a new heart really thought about God's wonders. Only those who really loved the Lord were sorry for their sins and prayed for forgiveness.

So it was that three times a year the people of Israel went to Shiloh where the tabernacle was.

One day, messengers were sent out through all the land for the people to come up to Shechem to Joshua, because he was going to say farewell before he died. This was a difficult journey for many of the Israelites, but they did it for Joshua.

When they had all arrived, Joshua came forward to speak one more time to them in the name of the Lord. "I will not live much longer," he said, "and so I want to say goodbye." He was now 110 years old. Joshua reminded the people about all the wonders that God had done in Egypt and in the wilderness. "And never forget," he said, "that the Lord was the One Who conquered the kings in this land. And it was He Who has helped us as He had promised." Joshua did not want the honor of these battles. "Now you can live in houses and eat the grapes that the Canaanites have planted. And the Lord gave it all to us! Always worship the Lord. Not the Lord and idols too, because that can't be!" Why did he say this? Joshua knew that although they held feasts in Shiloh, there were those who went home and bowed in front of idols. Did they really think that they could deceive the Lord? Wouldn't the Lord punish them? And so Joshua warned the people, "Choose today who you will worship!" For himself, Joshua had already chosen, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," he said.

Then it was quiet. Joshua waited. What would the people answer? They all called out together, "We will also worship the Lord and not the idols." Joshua told them that if they meant it, they needed to get rid of all the idols in their houses, and Israel answered that yes, they meant it!

Joshua made a covenant with the people. The Israelites promised to always worship the Lord and listen to Him. "People, the Lord has heard your promise!" he said seriously.

The Israelites went back to their homes, and not long after, Joshua died. He went to the better Canaan.... to heaven. And there he may rest from all his enemies and his sin.

Choose today Whom You Will Serve



But as for me and My House We Will Serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

1. What were the three feasts that the Israelites went up to Shiloh for every year? _____

2. What special day came before the Feast of Tabernacles?

3. Who did God choose to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land and to conquer the enemies? _____
4. Why was God concerned about Israel if the Canaanites continued to live in the land? _____

5. When Joshua realized he was about to die what did he do?

6. What things did Joshua remind the people about? _____

7. What are some reasons Joshua gave the people for choosing to serve and obey God? _____

8. What challenge or choice did Joshua give the people?

- 9.. Where did Joshua set up the stone of memorial? _____
