

LIVING A SHELTER LIFE

Think about what is like to be in steady rain. Even a tree (and especially a rain coat) can make the rain bearable - and help keep you dry. Now consider the different aspects of being outside in a hard storm. No matter how much outdoor shelter you can find, it is still miserable. God says He is our shelter in the storms of life and into the life to come.

The word shelter means a **shaded canopy** - from the hot sun or from the storm. One of the major yearly feasts of the Jews was “booths” where the people celebrated by living in “booths” or hand-made shelters. It commemorated how God delivered and “sheltered” the Jews out of the land of Egypt and into the promised land. The word “succoth” means shelter - so - Succoth or the feast of booths. It was also the first day of Pentecost, 50 days after the feast of Passover - when Jesus died. Get the connection?

Check it out...

Genesis 33.17 Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built for himself a house and made booths for his livestock; therefore the place is named Succoth.”

Leviticus 23.34 “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to the LORD.’ Leviticus 23.42 ‘You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths.’”

Deuteronomy 16.16 “Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.”

When Jesus died those who believe in Him entered into a state of forever shelter.

Hebrews 6:18

“God can’t break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. We who have run for our very lives (taken refuge) to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go.”

The Psalms are filled with mentions of God being our refuge. And this is cool as well: *“May the LORD reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge.” - Ruth 2.12*