

## Survivor Man

I love Survivor Man. Any of those shows where they are dropped off somewhere and have to survive. Their skills are amazing. I love that moment when they realize the helicopter is leaving and they are truly alone. In a hostile place where their very lives depend upon water, shelter and light.

Whether they are in deserts, jungles, mountains, rivers, oceans, deserted islands.....the whole place seems to be against them. Storms pound them, sometimes blizzards, sometimes incredible heat...it is as if the world has turned against them and they need to figure out how to survive.

They have to establish water.....some form of light or heat...and a shelter.

Every show is the same...Water, Light and Shelter. Without those three things they will likely not survive.

I think these shows capture my attention because they remind me of our walk with Christ. We have been dropped off, well reborn, into a very hostile world. Spiritual storms, blizzards and droughts test our foundation. The entire world is always against us. Empowered only with the Holy Spirit we must find our way. We must know where to find spiritual light in the world's darkness, we must find rivers of living water welling up inside of us to quench our spiritual thirst, and be sheltered in the spiritual protection of Christ.

That is why Jesus came. He knew we would not survive without Him. He came to make sure that we knew where to find spiritual water, light and shelter. We would depend completely on His provisions for us until as promised He returns to truly save us. On that day, we would not only survive but thrive. We would never have to search for water, light or shelter again.

We are in the Book of John. Jesus is turning His focus to the Cross. He is going to begin to humiliate the religious leaders. He is going to do whatever it takes to get to the cross. He is going to give up His life for us. It is not taken from Him but rather given for us.

Jesus is headed to Jerusalem for the final feast of the year. The Feast of Tabernacles or Booths. It is the greatest celebration and foreshadows the day that the Messiah, Jesus, returns for us.

The Feast of Booths or Tabernacles. Also called Sukkot (Su-KAAA) This feast is a party...a major blowout party with Jesus It is contrasted to the Day of Atonement... A serious solemn day of surrendering to God Confessing your sins... This is a week long celebration...That God has forgiven your sins Your name is in the book of Life

By the time this feast arrives... The Harvest is done....the Work is completed It is time to rest and celebrate.. It is also called the Feast of the Ingathering For it is observed after all crops have been harvested and gathered.

Sukkot (SU-KAAA) falls on the 15th Day of the 7th Month Like the Feast of Unleavened Bread... This Feast lasts for 7 days The First and 8th day are considered Sabbaths... High

Holy Days This is the 3rd and Final Pilgrimage Feast of the Year All Jewish men were to present themselves to the Temple Unleavened Bread, Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Theme of this feast is Joy... And celebration of being in the presence of God. Joy that God provided for their ancestors in the Wilderness Joy that God once again provided the harvest It was during this feast that Solomon dedicated the temple. and in the ancient celebration it was during this feast that the Shekinah Glory of God fell on the temple and His presence filled the Holy of Holies.

#### Feast of Tabernacles

Leviticus 23 Leviticus 23:33–43 (ESV) The Feast of Booths 33 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 34 "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the LORD. 35 On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. 36 For seven days you shall present food offerings to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work.

39 "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest. 40 And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days

41 You shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. 42 You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 43 that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

Booth or Tabernacle. The word meaning hut Booth PHOTO 1 It was to be an annual reminder of the time... When for 40 years the Israelites Lived in similar structures while wandering in the wilderness

There are 3 observances to follow.. 1. Live in Booths 2. Rejoice before the Lord with Branches 3. Daily sacrifices and offerings

This feast is associated with Rain It marks the beginning of the rainy season. Jerusalem receives as much rain as London...they just get it all in 4 months. These rains are necessary for planting the next crop. This feast has always been associated with prayers for rain And God's provision of water

Think of this feast as a huge camp out Thousands of huts...all within a Sabbath's walk to the temple Thousands of campfires...a lot like a tail gait party outside the Temple It was a joyous week...with laughter..singing..and dancing.

The Feast of Tabernacles... Was all about water....and light The anticipation of water and God's provision became key components of the temple celebration Water always

symbolized to the Jews..The Holy Spirit of God The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in relation to salvation is a key theme throughout the prophets

Isaiah 44:3 (ESV) 3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

Zechariah 12:10 (ESV) 10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. 3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

## Water

PHOTO Each day of the Feast... The sacrificial pouring out of water... Was offered to the Lord as a visual prayer for rain and for Salvation from the Messiah The High Priest led a procession of dancers, musicians, and worshipers Down to the Pool of Siloam PHOTO

The High Priest carried a golden picture that held about a quart of water He collected water from the Pool of Siloam and brought it back to the temple mount At the same time another procession headed south They collected willows of the brook that grew in great abundance They brought the willows to the temple and placed them on the side of the altar Creating a canopy of drooping branches over the altar.

The High Priest...lifts his hand holding the Golden Picture of water As he pours out the water on the willow covered stone altar The People wave their palm branches toward the altar and begin singing and crying out...

Psalms 118:25 (ESV) 25 Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

This is a messianic psalm...Save us...Hosannah Deliver us now With Palm leaves they shouted this as Jesus entered on Palm Sunday As Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem... The crowds viewed Him as Messiah. He had come to save them now... They used the imagery of the Feast of Tabernacles.... Waving palm branches and shouting Psalm 118:25

Psalms 118:25 Hosannah...Save us... Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

This temple pouring ceremony Likely dates back to the time of Isaiah But was clearly customary for at least 100 years before Jesus' time It came from the oral tradition of the Pharisees The Saducees...didn't follow that tradition So they did not like the pouring of water ceremony They missed all the fun...they are Sad you see

It was really understood to be something much deeper than just rain for the harvest. The pouring of water had been foretold by the prophets

Ezekiel 39:29 (ESV) 29 And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD."

The Jews knew that when Messiah came... God poured out his Spirit on His People The water pouring ceremony symbolized the Messiah to come There will be a day in the future...when this is literally fulfilled...

Revelation 7:9–10 (ESV) 9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

In addition to water... This Feast is also about Light. Specifically candle lights

In the outer court of the Temple Known as the court of women The very court where the widow gave all that she had Photo Court of Women The court of women was a place where everyone could come and bring their gifts

On the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles... 4 Towering Menorah's were erected in this court Court of Women Photo 2

Each with 4 branches of oil lamps These were gigantic golden candlesticks Their wicks were made of worn out garments of the priests These huge lamps were more like streetlights Towering 75 Feet up into the air Young priest carried large pictures of olive oil up ladders To keep the lamps lit

This feast occurred in the middle of the month The moon gave some light to the events... All night long, elders performed impressive torch dances Don't expect that at Remnant These dances occurred every night and became a prelude to the water ceremonies each morning.

Light was a reminder of God's revelation and guidance

Psalm 18:28 (ESV) 28 For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness.

Psalm 27:1 (ESV) 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Micah 7:8 (ESV) 8 when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me.

Isaiah 2:5 (ESV) 5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Isaiah 60:1 (ESV) 60 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

The Light was felt to represent the Shekinah Glory of God It was a reminder that one day the Messiah would come And restore that glory to the temple and the Jewish people

Revelation 21:22–23 (ESV) 22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

This feast was the backdrop for some key moments in Jesus' life

John 7:1–9 (ESV) Jesus at the Feast of Booths 7 After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. 3 So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. 4 For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." 5 For not even his brothers believed in him. 6 Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. 8 You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come." 9 After saying this, he remained in Galilee.

This is huge...Remember the Feast of Booths...is a pilgrimage feast Every Jewish man is commanded to present Himself during this feast to God At the Temple.. They must make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem It was commanded by God. So this is not Jesus saying... I am going to skip this party It is Jesus essentially saying...I am about to sin

John 7:10–13 (ESV) 10 But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private. 11 The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?" 12 And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, he is leading the people astray." 13 Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

John 7:14 (ESV) 14 About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching.

Now Jesus is the Master of everything and that includes using everyday moments and events to teach incredible spiritual principles. Jesus uses the moments and laboratory of life to drive home His truths. He doesn't just teach...He teaches at the perfect moment to highlight his revelations.

But then it happens... John tells us....

John 7:37 (ESV) 37 On the last day of the feast, the great day,

The 7th Day...The Great Day... The last day of the Feast The day before the Final Sabbath... This last day was the most important day of the Feast... On this day...The Water would be poured out for the last time... In the evening, the huge candlesticks would be extinguished... Bringing darkness over the courts... It was on this day...that Jesus began to teach them and us... What this feast is all about.

The moment...on the 7th day When the people were shouting Hosannah Save us..PEOPLE PHOTO And the High priest began pouring out water from the Pool of Siloam

Onto the altar...was the most sacred moment of the Feast.. Everyone watched the High Priest...pour out water...symbolizing the Spirit of God.The High Priest is at the center of everything. Hoping that one day...Messiah would fulfill this Appointed Time. And save them...by pouring out His Spirit upon them. This was the most joyous moment on the most joyous day of the feast

It was in that moment...that sacred holy moment...on the 7th day of the Feast That people were crying out to God for the water... To sustain life...to provide for the harvest... People around the altar waving palm branches... Shouting and singing....Hosannah...Save us...Save us Now.. In that moment...Jesus interrupted them...and in a loud voice...

John 7:37–38 (ESV) 37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' "

Jesus stole the thunder of the High Priest and now all eyes are upon Him. He had just interrupted the most sacred moment of the last feast. He turned the High Priest from joyous to envy and rage in one sentence. Jesus is telling them...you can be saved...RIGHT NOW I will give you the living waters of the Holy Spirit Jesus had told the Samaritan Woman at the Well

John 4:10–14 (ESV) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

In other words...Jesus was saying.. I am the answer to your prayers. I am the Messiah. I can save you now... So you will never thirst for salvation again. The High Priest was furious...indignant...threatened.. No one interrupts this sacred temple ceremony Who gave Him the authority to declare Himself as Messiah?

Then John's understatement... John 7:43 (ESV) 43 So there was a division among the people over him.

But Jesus wasn't done there...soon they would all return to the Temple...to the ceremony of the lights. Tens of thousands of pilgrims had flooded the outer courts Many carried lighted torches to light up their way at night In the courtyard of women...The 75 Foot Lights were shining brightly

They had burned continuously at night for 7 nights. The Priests spoke of the Messiah to come....who would bring spiritual light to the darkness But then...to close the ceremonies...to end the party...and prepare for the Sabbath.. The light of these huge

candles were extinguished.... And there was a moment...when everyone realized The Messiah was not here yet...the light representing His glory has gone away. They were in darkness until the arrival of the Messiah.

In that moment....Jesus once again...Pierces the darkness with words of truth John is careful to give us the location

John 8:20 (ESV) 20 These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple;

The treasury...the court of Women...the place of lights

John 8:12 (ESV) 12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jesus saying to them... I am the personal light of God I am the perpetual light of God I am the perfect light of God I am the pure light of God. I am the powerful light of God I am...The light of the World....I am.... Messiah.

On this feast years ago the Shekinah Glory fell on the Holy Of Holies in this temple...and today...I am that Glory.

Jesus used this powerful moment... During the Feast of Tabernacles To offer Himself as living water and the light of their salvation He clearly claimed to be the Messiah...the fulfillment of the dreams of prophets

## Tabernacles

But Jesus also uses the Booth itself..the tent..to teach us as well.

The booth is a temporary dwelling place... The Jews were instructed to leave their homes and live in them for 7 days It was to remind them that everything they have is temporary too

The Booth reminded them at us... That we are to make temporary dwelling places in the wilderness The booth remind us of God's protection and covering Most of all it reminds us of a future day..

Isaiah 4:2–6 (ESV) The Branch of the LORD Glorified 2 In that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. 3 And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, ....

5 Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. 6 There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

In that Day...The Day when Jesus reigns... He will be a booth for shade and a refuge from the storm Isaiah is telling us about the Millennial Kingdom

This last Feast... Foreshadows a time in the future called the Millennial Kingdom Millennial Chart A time following the return of the Jewish Nation to Jesus A time of ingathering...bringing together all who have trusted in Jesus A time when the Harvest is over and the celebration and rest have begun

The Feast of Tabernacles...is Party time.... Prince had a famous song...but He missed the point I was dreamin' when I wrote this Forgive me if it goes astray But when I woke up this mornin' Coulda sworn it was judgment day The sky was all purple, There were people runnin' everywhere Tryin' 2 run from the destruction, U know I didn't even care 'Cuz they say two thousand zero zero party over, Oops out of time So tonight I'm gonna party like it's 1999 Prince didn't realize that the end of time....Is when the party begins

The Millennial Kingdom...a 1000 year Party The 1000 year reign of Jesus on earth A time of great joy The curse of sin will be almost completely lifted Satan will be bound The earth and all its inhabitants will enjoy the rest of God

Revelation 20:1–3 (ESV) 20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

The Prophet Zechariah... Said that we would continue to celebrate this last feast During the Millennium

Zechariah 14:16 (ESV) 16 Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.

God meant it when He said these Feast would be for all times and all generations

Peter

Peter...my favorite disciple I know I bust on him alot...impulsive...speaking before he thinks through it Sometimes fills silence with stupidity....wack a mole

But there is a situation recorded in Scripture.... Where Peter totally understands the situation He answers without even being asked... But He is still wrong..

One thing Peter knew for sure.... Was what the Feast of Booths promised in the future That one day..the Messiah's Kingdom would come... Jesus would reign on earth...and when that Kingdom came They would finally celebrate the real Feast of Booths Matthew records this amazing moment

Matthew 16:24–28 (ESV) Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ....28 Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Jesus says..some standing here will see the Son of Man in His kingdom Peter heard that...Peter understood....The coming Kingdom Means Atonement is over...the Feast of Booths has arrived Look at the very next verse

Matthew 17:1–3 (ESV) The Transfiguration 17 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. 3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

Think about what Peter sees... Jesus is literally lit up....His face as bright as the sun.... His clothes white as light Imagine that moment...Jesus radiant as bright as the sun.

Many have misinterpreted this verse To imply that Jesus had to return during the life of the Disciples But they don't understand the significance of Peter's response...

Matthew 17:3–4 (ESV) 4 And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."

Jesus said some of His disciples would see Him coming into His Kingdom Some were Peter, James and John Jesus reveals His kingdom to them and reveals His glory AND Moses and Elijah show up!

Peter knew one thing for certain.... In that Kingdom...He would be celebrating the Feast of Booths So He wants to show Jesus that he understands what is happening... He offers to build booths for Jesus, Moses and Elijah

Peter was right on the money....almost What he did not know...was that he was getting a glimpse of what the Kingdom would be like... Not the arrival of the kingdom itself Since Zechariah had told them that in the Kingdom They would be celebrating the Feast of Booths... Peter was ready for it... To the first century Jewish worshiper...and in the temple ceremonies Sukkot (SU-KAAA)...became a symbol with the King reigning in His Kingdom

So Peter...referencing this Feast... The Feast that they all longed for... Offered to build booths...tabernacles...for everyone.. Right idea..not yet time..

#### The Feast of Booths....

Jesus taught us that in order to survive Spiritually until His return, we would need to make sure that He was firmly established as the light of our souls in the darkness of our sins.....We had to make sure that we had within us the living water of the Holy Spirit. And we had to know that we are sheltered with Him and under His wings. Those three things firmly established in our spirits and we can survive anything.

This last feast points to a future day...

Revelation 21:1–6 (ESV) The New Heaven and the New Earth 21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

On that day..I guarantee you.... We will all be dancing... We will not be able to contain our joy.... We will Experience His love fully... No more tears..no death...no mourning...no dying..no pain Just pure unfiltered love and joy The Feast of Tabernacles is a foreshadowing of that day when we are basked in His Light, thirst quenched in His Spirit...and with Him and each other together forever.

We are living in a dark, dry, hostile world that stands against every thing Jesus stood for. The moment we give our lives to Christ...we realize that the helicopter has left and we are on a mission to survive spiritually.

PHOTO We trust the Holy Spirit to lead us to still waters, spiritual wells, and nourishment for our souls.

We trust Hiim to light our way in the darkness...and we must trust Him to be our shelter in storms and the rock of our foundation.

Like survivor man we long for the return of Christ one day to take us home. We long for that day like survivor man longs for the sound of the returning helicopter that takes them home.

We have been left in a spiritual dark and desolate world to show others how to not just survive, but to thrive in Him. If anyone thirsts they can have living water...right now.

Don't try to survive without Him...Lets pray