

Trials and Troubles Are Temporary

International Bible Lesson

Leviticus 23:33-43

Sunday, February 28, 2016

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“Live in temporary shelters for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in such shelters so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 23:42-43).

Some of the feasts of the Israelites helped them and their descendants remember and thank God for His saving acts in their history. The Passover celebration helped them remember how God freed them from slavery in Egypt with a mighty hand. The Feast of Booths, when they lived in temporary shelters for seven days, helped them remember and thank God for giving them food and shelter on their way to the Promised Land. Though their bondage in Egypt lasted 400 years, it was only temporary. Though their wilderness wandering lasted 40 years, it was only temporary. For more than 3000 years, the Jews have celebrated these feasts and have maintained their identity as people of God. They have reminded themselves that their hardships and trials are only temporary and their future rests in the power of God's mighty hand. In a similar way, Christians remind themselves that Jesus' time in bodily form on earth was temporary. His time in the tomb was short and temporary before He rose from the dead. Christians celebrate Easter and Pentecost, and they give thanks for God's saving acts in history that saved them from their sins and gave them the Holy Spirit to indwell them. No matter how difficult our lives on earth, the Scriptures reveal that times of trial and hardship are only temporary and we can assuredly entrust our lives to the Lord of history, the Lord of heaven and earth, who declares: “I am the LORD your God.”

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Thinking Further

1. Why should believers study the Old Testament?
2. What are some of the most important feasts according to the Law of Moses?
3. Why did Jesus go to the Feast of Booths?
4. What did the Feast of Booths commemorate?
5. Today, how might believers think of the scheduled feasts that God commanded?