

בשורה *Besorah!*

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? (Psalm 2:1)

October 7th, 2023 marked – and ushered in – a sea change in global politics and social sentiment when it comes to Israel. With true tsunami behaviour, the world's initial attitude towards Israel was briefly favourable but quickly turned to a tide of scorn, if not outright hatred. As we have witnessed over the past year, this has been expressed almost universally, within all institutions and ages of society.

But WHY does the whole world care so much about the tiny nation of Israel – and in SUCH A NEGATIVE WAY???!!!!!!

In Exodus 1:5, we read: 'And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were **seventy souls**: for Joseph was in Egypt already', and in Deut 32:8, we find: 'When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people **according to the number of the children of Israel**'.

In these two passages, we learn that there is an indissoluble link between Israel and the nations! This is the Lord's doing. The nations don't like it, but there is nothing they can do about it!

In Numbers 29:12-38, we find the Lord's instructions regarding the celebration of the Festival of Tabernacles (Lit. 'Booths'–

Hebrew: Sukkot), also named 'Ingathering'. Tabernacles is one of the 3 'solemn' Feasts of the Lord which the people of Israel were commanded to celebrate each year (i.e., Unleavened Bread, Weeks and Tabernacles - 2 Chron 8:13). Tabernacles lasts for 7 Days and its observation includes a peculiar system of sacrifices to be brought each day. Reading the description in Numbers 29, we find that 13 bullocks were to be sacrificed on the first day, but that number decreased by one on each of the seven days, ending up with 7 on the last day. The total number of bullocks to be sacrificed over the seven days was 70.

The Feast of Tabernacles coincides with the *final* agricultural ingathering, at the end of the year, and follows closely after the Day of Atonement (day of national repentance). The harvest of grains (wheat, barley) had already begun just after Passover and continued into Shavuot (Weeks, Pentecost). Tabernacles marks the full ingathering of the 'labours of the field', as well as the vineyard and orchard (lit. 'fruit' of the land: Lev. 23:39).

The spiritual significance of these things has long been understood to mean that after all Israel's sin is atoned for they take up their priestly and prophetic role, offering intercession for the gentile world ('70 nations' represented by the 70 bullocks).



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It may have escaped the notice of the Church, but not only did October 7th, 2023 fall on the Feast of Tabernacles, it fell on the last great day of the feast!

Hamas specifically targeted a music festival called Nova, that very morning, and here are some excerpts from Nova's publicity:

'Yes, just as it sounds, the most powerful and meaningful psy trance music festival in one of the most recognized and active psy trance nations, is already making its way here. This time, *during the upcoming Sukkot holiday* (emph. mine), one of the biggest, most influential, and revered festivals in the world, is coming to Israel. This is a special collaboration with a festival that represents the heart and soul of the Brazilian trance music community, considered to be one of the largest and most respected international electronic-alternative festivals throughout Latin America.

'[T]he central driving force behind it is a set of fundamental and important human values: Free love and spirit, environmental preservation, appreciation of rare natural values that the festival embodies. Every two years, it spreads the love for exquisite electronic music in all its variations, establishes an authentic connection to the social-artistic ideology, and *channels all these elements for empowerment and the dissemination of the trance culture, which emerges as a universal cosmic light from the wild jungle and spreads throughout the world.*' (Emph. Mine)

Wikipedia defines Psychedelic Trance thus: 'Psychedelic trance has a distinctive, energetic sound that tends to be faster than other forms of trance or techno music with tempos generally ranging from 135 to

150 BPM but some psytrance songs can also reach 190BPM, 200bpm, 210bpm and even 300bpm. It uses a very distinctive bass beat that pounds constantly throughout the song and overlays the bass with varying rhythms drawn from funk, techno, dance, acid house, eurodance and trance using drums and other instruments. The different leads, rhythms and beats generally change every eight bars. Layering is used to create effect in psychedelic trance, with new musical ideas being added at regular intervals, often every four to eight bars. New layers will continue to be added until a climax is reached, and then the song will break down and start a new rhythmic pattern over the constant bass line. Psychedelic trance tracks tend to be six to ten minutes long.'

Add to these factors mind-altering substances (drugs, alcohol), pagan activities and demonic images (one clip of the festival showed an enormous statue of Buddha) and we have a spiritual event that is so toxic that it potentially exceeds the Israelites' worship of the golden calf, because of which they were made 'naked' before their enemies (Ex. 32 and see v. 25).

Another distinguishing feature of the Feast of Tabernacles was that the eighth day – the great day of the Feast – was to be a 'solemn assembly'. In the Hebrew, this was literally called a 'day of restraint'. Tragically, October 7th fell on the last, great day of the feast but was anything but a day of restraint, either by Israel in its revelling or by Hamas in its violence.

The whole history of the world can be prophetically understood in the Feasts of the Lord, through the lens of Israel. Zech 2:8 states, 'For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto

the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye (Lit. 'pupil' of His eye).' Zechariah ch. 12-14 speaks of the latter days and seems to relate directly to the autumnal feasts. It is no accident, therefore, that this present global expression of anti-Semitism was triggered on the Feast of Tabernacles – a feast at which the nations are Divinely linked to the Jewish people!

The Scriptures are clear that a time is coming – known as 'Jacob's Trouble' - when the Lord will deal severely with His People but which will result in the salvation Israel as a nation (Jer 30:7). However, while God deals with Israel, Jerusalem will also become a 'cup of reeling' in the hand of the Lord – a litmus, if you will - for all the nations of the world (Zech 12: 1-3)! Based on international attitudes and actions toward Israel, during God's dealings with His people, God will judge the nations resulting in severe consequences *for the nations*! But, 'it shall come to pass that every one that is left of all the nations that come up against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles' (Zech 14:16),

emphasising again the direct connection of the nations to Israel and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Regarding the salvation of the Jewish people, Paul wrote to the church, 'For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again'. (Rom 11:21 – 23)

Clearly, God did not spare on October 7th, as we would have hoped. We look on with horror and anguish at what has happened! But God's ways are not our ways. Our responsibility is to take heed, fear God, intercede and comfort His people with the Good News 'that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins' (Is 40:2), by the finished work of Yeshua.

Shalom in Jesus, Chrissy