



In the past, a long distance relationship was held together by pages of paper. Now text messages and routine calls, keep our loved ones voice fresh in our mind and heart. But strangely enough, when the distance is closed and we no longer need pages of paper, text messages or scheduled telephone conversation, we take them for granted and no longer find joy, satisfaction and happiness in their voice.

When the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, they had to live in tents or tabernacles. They were a long distance from the promise land. Even the Lord himself commanded the people to make a temporary tent (tabernacle) as a place for him to be worshipped and to visibly be present with his people. During those tent days in the wilderness, the Lord led his people by a pillar of cloud and fire, rained down bread from heaven and broke open rocks to bring forth water for his people. When the Israelites entered the Promised Land and had permanent houses and a permanent place to worship the Lord, God still commanded them to celebrate the time of tents – The Feast of Tabernacles.

God ordered the Israelites to live in makeshift structures for the week and eat the food of a camp out in the wilderness. God structured the feast so that the people would remember the great care the Lord gave them and to be thankful. God also wanted his people to remember that even in this great land of Israel – it was only temporary and God's dwelling with men was not in a completed state. This feast of tabernacles pointed to a time when the dwelling of God would be with men in perfection forever. But for that to happen, the Israelites with all sinners would need a savior from sin – the Messiah. The Feast of Tabernacles was a reminder of time when the Savior would come and make the dwelling of God with man permanent.

During the final year of Jesus life in September of 32AD, Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. Each day of the feast was a water drawing ceremony. At daybreak, priests went from the temple to the pool of Siloam. There they filled a golden pitcher with water and carried it back to the temple. If you have ever camped out, you know the work needed every day for drinking water. The priests carrying the pitcher then proceeded around the altar while the temple choir sang the Hallel (Psalm 113-118). When the choir reached the opening words of Psalm 118, every male shouted three times, "Give thanks to the Lord. As the priests poured out the water from the pitchers, the choir sang Psalm 118:22 The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

On this particular feast of Tabernacles in September of 32 AD, we are told by John – 37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles. Jesus Christ is the living Word of God in the flesh. His presence among his people then and now brings life and salvation. No more work is needed to find life giving water for our souls. By his work, his obedient life and his innocent death for us, we have a permanent dwelling with God with running water of life! Many of the Jews rejected Jesus as the chief cornerstone of salvation and the living water for eternal life with the Lord. Today we honor him and give him thanks as our Messiah, because we now have a permanent house in God's country with running eternal water to satisfy our spiritual needs. Honor the Living Water by hearing the Living Word.