WHAT IS SH'MINI ATZERET

AND

SIMCHAT TORAH?

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Sh'mini Atzeret is the feast celebrated on the 8th day, counting from the beginning of Sukkot or Tabernacles. It is a separate feast from Tabernacles however, and is its own meeting, its own convocation.

Leviticus 23:36

36 'For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it.

There will be some of God's people that will not experience Sh'mini Atzeret as they have no real hunger for Truth nor do they like change. They will remain children of the 7th day.

Sh'mini means 8th. The number eight is symbolic of new beginnings, a new cycle, a new era. For instance, the covenant of circumcision was performed on the 8th day as a sign that God's people were in covenant with Him and that

they believed the promises made to Abraham concerning the future of his descendants.

Atzeret means: "to hold back" or "that which is held back" for the purpose of bringing something to a state of perfection. A sign of God's covenant people today is circumcision of the heart and mind from the world and its systems, a separating of the world's knowledge to the mind of Christ, a laying down of their works to do His. God being a spirit sees the heart and mind of man and only the circumcised really enter into covenant with Him.

The harvest began at Rosh Hashanah.

Revelation 14:14-16

14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and <u>in His hand a sharp sickle</u>.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

16 So <u>He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth</u>, and <u>the earth</u> was <u>reaped</u>.

This latter crop will be judged, marked and part of it set aside at Rosh Hashanah to be put in the Lord's house for His use, as they have been selected and prepared as His Body. These are ones that God has poured truth on and that have accepted the word or revelation released for this end time. They are ushered into the 8th day. This truth is called "the latter rain". It has been released to nourish and bring life to the 7th day last planting that matured in the 8th day as the Lord's special crop. A symbolic picture was portrayed by old Israel during celebration of Tabernacles foretelling this event. Seventy bulls were sacrificed to God representing the seventy different nations of mankind: but during Sh'mini Atzeret, only one bull was sacrificed, representing the one nation, the special crop, the new Israel. This is the true seed of Abraham that celebrate this 8th day feast. Children of the 8th day are a new and different kind of seed. The generation created for the 8th day is different than the 7th day creature. They will not be born of Adam, but born through God Himself!

1 Peter 1:3-5

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has **begotten us again** to a <u>living hope through</u> the <u>resurrection of Jesus</u> Christ from the dead,
- 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
- 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be

revealed in the last time.

I John 5:18

18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

David prophesied of the emergence of this generation of people in **Psalm** 102:18.

18 This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.

God promised Abraham one level higher, a level "closer to God", a special people, a special nation, as well as a special priesthood. These are ones that keep themselves clean and make their robes white. Again, this was a covenant entered into by circumcision on the 8th day, first in the natural, and now in the supernatural through circumcision of the heart and mind. These people are the fulfilling of the covenant promises made to Abraham. They are a set aside, sanctified people that are in no way Adam. They are their own nation of people, separate and yet open to all people that will endure circumcision from all that is of this world, because they have an intimate relationship with Him, love God, and want to be a part of His Kingdom.

The 8th day people or those who experience Sh'mini Atzeret will manifest God's victory over the enemy and through them as their society grows, the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of our God. This carnal realm will slowly fade from sight. Malachi says it this way:

Malachi 4:1-3

- 1 "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch. (All that has been performed outside God's original plan for humanity will be destroyed.)
- 2 But to <u>you</u> who <u>fear My name</u> the <u>Sun of Righteousness shall arise</u> with <u>healing in His wings</u> (restoration and renewal); and <u>you shall go out and grow</u> <u>fat like stall-fed calves</u>.
- 3 You shall <u>trample the wicked</u>, for <u>they shall be ashes under the soles of</u> <u>your feet</u> on the <u>day</u> that <u>I do this</u>," says the <u>LORD of hosts</u>.

His will is much more important to an 8th day child than their own, so their works are really His. Their agenda actually becomes His. Therefore, personal disappointment is <u>accepted</u> as part of God's plan to restore them and just not understood as yet. Seeming failures are but instruments to shape and mold them into His image and show them direction. A closed door of opportunity

simply means they are on the wrong path. They appreciate the Lord for closing the door and intervening on their behalf as well as for the sake of the Kingdom.

Revelation 3:7-8

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

8 "I know your works. See, <u>I have set before you an open door</u>, and <u>no one</u> <u>can shut it</u>; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

The 8th day people are the church glorious, the triumphant church. Nothing really can overcome them because their Father has all in control and is tucking them safely back in His plan, into His own rest. Their names are etched on His hand, they were predestined for this time, a different generation, a different race of people who were born in the restored, spiritual city of Sion.

The 8th day children are not afraid to be different either, because the Bible speaks of <u>an age to come</u> and they realize they must be different to enter that age. No other generation has entered. Does the Bible actually speak about the

age to come? Here are just a few examples.

Matthew 12:32

32 "Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either <u>in this age</u> or <u>in the age to come</u>.

Mark 10:30

30 "who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time-- houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions-- and **in the age to come**, eternal life (eternal life is in the age to come).

Ephesians 1:21

21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not <u>only</u> in <u>this age</u> but also <u>in that which is to come</u>.

As we can see from scripture, the age to come is very real and as we also saw from scripture, those that enter into this age will be made eternal. First Corinthians 15:51 will be fulfilled in them. They will not only be willing to walk in God's plans, but will obediently obey the laws He wrote on their minds and hearts until they actually become the law over sin and evil.

Hebrews 8:10

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

In fact, as they enter God's rest, restoring them to the perfect plan for mankind, they will not even look for or at the wrong thing, but will see only good. Unlike Adam and Eve, they will eat only of the tree of Life, and will not desire the taste of the world's fruit or to seek the knowledge from the Tree of Good and Evil. They have personally experienced the failure there. They will look only to the Kingdom of God. This realm, this world that has evolved through the direction of the adversary, will dissolve or disappear from their eyes, and they will have no remembrance of it. All is good in God's world: no sickness, no pain, no defeat - only good and life eternal. What a beautiful promise for the children of the 8th day!

These eternal ones will rule with God a thousand years, which to God is but one day, to train the nations. They are living stones that make up God's house, living stones with the law written on the fleshly tablets of their hearts. They will be the living law to the nations. They are the full stature of the body of Christ. Jesus is the law, the Torah and His Spirit dwells and manifests through

the 8th day children to train the world. Those that choose to follow at the end of the thousand years will step into the 9th day, <u>rejoicing in the Torah</u> and will also celebrate the last and final feast: Simchat Torah.

What does the number 9 stand for? The gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the 9th day the final battle will have been fought. Satan, who has been locked up for the thousand years will be released to test those trained during the thousand years, and at last the greatest gift the Holy Spirit has ever given man will be released for all mankind that have become the Torah: the gift of eternal life and dominion once more over this planet. Satan's rule will finally be destroyed, along with his world and its society, its culture and pleasure, in fact its whole existence. Christ's body, along with the nations that love Him, will experience the victory and rejoice in His law! Let us close with Daniel's vision of this final victory.

Daniel 7:26-27

26 'But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever (we are speaking here of Antichrist - the body of Satan).

27 Then the <u>kingdom and dominion</u>, and the <u>greatness of the kingdoms</u> under the whole heaven, <u>shall be given to the people</u>, the <u>saints of the Most</u>

<u>High</u>. <u>His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom</u>, and <u>all dominions</u> shall

serve and obey Him.'

For further information on the 8th day, we invite you to read A Look at the Kingdom of God.

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