

Harvest Festivals – September 29th

Is anyone going to a Harvest Festival this year? Today those are often large parties at churches to offset Halloween. Historically, Harvest Festivals have been times when people from all over the world gather at the end of harvest to celebrate the fruits of the harvest. A better way to understand it for Americans is to think State Fair.

Did you know that in the Bible, the Israelites held Harvest Festivals every year? They would come together and give God praise for the harvest. They would put up little tents known as booths to live in. The festival lasted seven days, and still, to this day, many Jews celebrate the festival. Today it is known as Sukkot, after the Hebrew word for booth, sukkah. This year's Sukkot starts at sunset on Wednesday, October 16th and ends at sundown on Wednesday, October 23rd.

They gave an offering at the Festival of Harvest to express thanks to God for His provision. Exodus 23:16 says, "Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field." The idea of firstfruits was that it represented the best. True gratitude always requires our best, not what is leftover.

We might not be the agrarian nation we once were, but we can still give the firstfruits of our labor. Today's offering can be your Festival of Harvest celebration. Because of God's amazing and abundant harvest to us, we offer up to Him our best or firstfruit with this offering.