

Shemini Atzeret (Eighth Day Assembly)

Leviticus 23:36 and 39 establish that after the seven days of Sukkot, there is a separate eighth day that is a solemn assembly and a day of rest. Numbers 29:35 confirms this command. Shemini Atzeret is therefore a distinct closing convocation, not merely an extension of Sukkot. Shemini Atzeret means:

“Eighth Day Assembly”

It comes immediately after the seven days of Sukkot.

When It Happens

- After the 7th day of Sukkot
- On the 8th day
- It is a separate set-apart day

Even though it follows Sukkot, it is distinct from it.

What the Torah Commands

Leviticus 23:36:

- A holy convocation
- An offering by fire
- No ordinary work

Numbers 29:35 calls it:

“A solemn assembly.”

It is a Shabbaton a day of rest.

What “Atzeret” Means

In Hebrew:

Atzeret (עֲצֵרֶת) means:

- Assembly
- Solemn gathering
- Holding back
- Closing gathering

It implies:

A pause.

A final gathering.

A conclusion.

How It Relates to Sukkot

Sukkot lasts seven days and is joyful.

Shemini Atzeret is:

- The closing day
- More solemn
- More intimate
- Less focused on dwelling in booths

It is not commanded to dwell in the sukkah on the eighth day.

Spiritual Meaning

Shemini Atzeret represents:

- Completion
- Staying with YAHUAH
- Final gathering
- Covenant closeness

After seven days of rejoicing, the eighth day feels like:

“Remain with Me one more day.”

It is a sacred pause before returning to ordinary life.

Shemini Atzeret is the separate, set-apart eighth day following Sukkot a solemn assembly and final gathering before YAHUAH, marking completion and intimate covenant closeness.