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The Last Great Day / Eighth Day

Doctrinal Statement

Approved by the Council of Elders
August 13, 2015

All scriptures are quoted from *The Holy Bible, New King James Version* (© 1988 Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee) unless otherwise noted.

THE LAST GREAT DAY / EIGHTH DAY

Doctrinal Statement

The Church believes and teaches that we should observe the annual festivals with their meanings as commanded by God in the Bible and as explained in our literature.

The sequence of the annual festivals concludes with a sacred assembly that occurs “on the eighth day” following the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:36, 39). This festival, unlike the other festivals, is given no formal name in Scripture, such as the Feast of Unleavened Bread or Feast of Trumpets. Therefore we have referred to it as the Eighth Day.

John 7:37 records an event happening “on the last day, that great *day* of the Feast,” in which Jesus Christ beckons those who hear Him, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” Historically during the 20th century the Church called this festival “The Last Great Day” due to a belief that Jesus spoke these words on the day after the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles—on this last and separate festival that Scripture places “on the eighth day.” But some believe that the events and words of John 7:37 occurred on the final or seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles. Ambiguities in John 7:37 have been disputed throughout Christian history.

After substantial review of Scripture and available historical evidence by the Doctrine Committee and the Council of Elders, it has been determined that at this time we do not have conclusive evidence as to the timing of these events.

Consequently, it has been and will continue to be our practice to refer to the concluding annual festival either as the “Eighth Day” or “Last Great Day.”

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