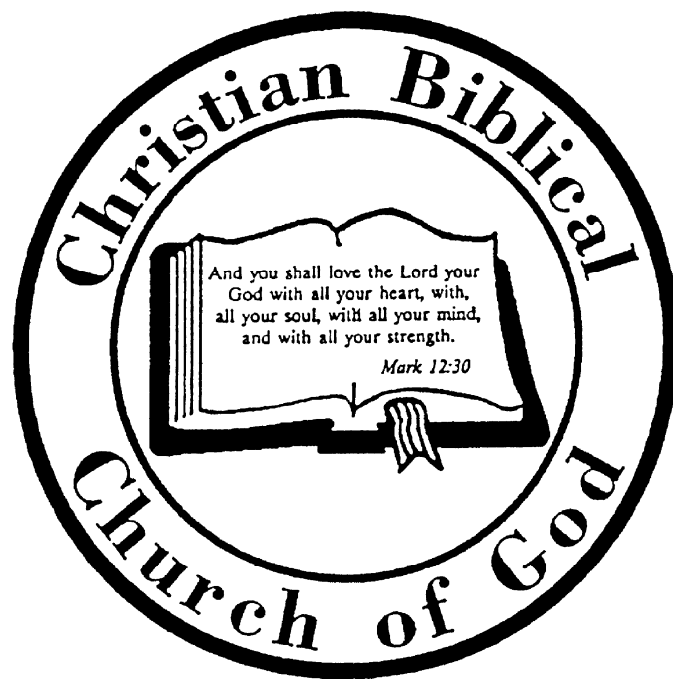


Fall Feasts 2017



Transcript Book

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Feast of Trumpets Events of the Day of the Lord

Battle of Armageddon: war, death, destruction

Fred R. Coulter—September 21, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Feast of Trumpets! Time, as we say every year, marches on! We're getting closer and closer to the return of Christ every year, but how far that is away from what we are doing now, and what is going to happen, we don't know.

God knows! But we do understand the Scriptures concerning the Holy Days and the meaning of them.

Let's read the command concerning the Feast of Trumpets. As you read all of Lev. 23, the Feast of Trumpets is the least defined in this chapter.

Leviticus 23:23: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel saying, "In the seventh month, in the first *day* of the month, you shall have a **Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of ram's horns, a Holy convocation**. You shall do no servile work *therein* but **you shall offer an offering** made by fire to the LORD'" (vs 23-25).

One short verse and two medium length verses, and yet, this is one of the greatest and most profound days in its fulfillment for the whole world.

Sidebar—another principle: The least shall be the greatest!

We are told to take up an offering on the Holy Days, so we will take up an offering. Always remember that God expects from the Church of the Firstborn, those of us who are the firstfruits, the first of everything:

- our allegiance
- our love
- everything that we have
- everything that we own
- everything that God gives us

That belongs to Him! Keep that in mind with the taking up of this offering, and also remember that God is able to provide all our needs:

- through the grace
- through the blessing
- through the righteousness of God

(pause for the offering)

Let's see something important that God always does. ***He always gives a warning and offers***

repentance! Rev. 14 probably starts right at the beginning of the Tribulation.

Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel flying in *the* midst of heaven, having *the* everlasting Gospel to proclaim *to* those who dwell on the earth, and *to* every nation and tribe and language and people."

When does this take place? *Right at the beginning of the Tribulation!* A warning! Remember, the Feast of Trumpets is the "blowing of ram's horns." The ram's horn is the horn that is blown for *war!* The silver trumpets at the temple will blow, as well. But the trumpets are blown all day long to signal the ferocity of what's going to take place.

Let's see that God does offer repentance, even in the most troubling and terrible times that there are. Let's see what God says concerning what we are to do, what we are to preach, and in this case—Ezek. 33—the preaching is done by the first angel of the three angels. It also probably coincides with the two witnesses coming on the scene who also proclaim repentance.

Let's see the principle that God always works with as we find here. This is interesting because this starts out a series of chapters where there is death, doom, gloom and destruction!

Ezekiel 33:1: "And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them, "**When I bring the sword upon a land...**"' (vs 1-2). God is the One Who does it. We need to understand *God!* God brings it.

God raises up a nation and takes down a nation. Remember when He brought Nebuchadnezzar to take down Jerusalem and Judea, He called him *My servant!* You need to understand that.

Just like it's hard for people to grasp that God said He would ***bring terror on His people for breaking His laws!*** Some people might say that's really bad, why would God do that? If you don't believe it, then think on this:

Would you rather have God strike people down with a bolt of lightning because they sin? ***or*** Would you rather becoming against other human beings, and maybe that will lead you to repentance?

That's why God does it!

“...and the people of the land take a man from among them, and set him for their watchman” (v 2).

Don't anyone get the idea that I'm trying to set myself up as Ezekiel's 'watchman on the wall.' These are the words of God that come down through time to the people and the children of Israel. As a matter of fact, every minister in the Church of God needs to be doing this very thing.

Verse 3: If, when he sees the sword come upon the land, he blows the ram's horn...” That a sign of war. What is the Feast of Trumpets; *it is blowing the ram's horn all day long!*

“...and warns the people, Then whoever hears the sound of the ram's horn and does not take warning, if the sword does come and take him away, his blood shall be on his own head.... [here's the reason]: ...**He heard the sound of the ram's horn and did not take warning...**” (vs 3-5).

How many warnings are going to the people of Israel today? Not only from those who should be doing it, such as every minister who belongs to the Church of God, but also military people, governmental people, others talking about the different weapons what will come along? How many warnings do we need?

Remember, we today are the most vulnerable with an EMP—electronic magnetic pulse—a hydrogen or atomic bomb exploded in an area over the country and all the electricity is fried! When that happens, no one is going to be able to do anything! Millions and millions will die in a very short period of time. But you know what the government says? *We understand that this is a problem, but we don't have any defense for it!* You think on that!

Verse 6: “But if the watchman sees the sword coming, and does not blow the ram's horn and the people are not warned; if the sword comes and takes *any* person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity. But I will require his blood at the watchman's hand. ‘And you, son of man, **I have set you as watchman to the house of Israel...**” (vs 6-7).

Remember that when this was given, they were already in captivity. So, *this is a prophecy at whatever time God comes against His people in correction, especially at the end-time*, and especially when applied to the Feast of Trumpets. Here God offers repentance.

“...**Therefore, you shall hear the Word**

from My mouth, and warn them from Me” (v 7). And the Word of God comes from the mouth of God.

Verse 8: “When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked one, you shall surely die’; if you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked one shall die in his iniquity; but I will require his blood at your hand. But, if you warn the wicked of his way, to turn from it; if he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your soul. And you, son of man, speak to the house of Israel....” (vs 8-10).

Remember, the Jews were in captivity. He was with the Jews. House of Israel, this is an end-time prophecy.

“...Thus *shall* you speak, saying, ‘When our transgressions and our sins *are* on us, and we are wasting away in them, how then shall we live?’” (v 10). Does that not describe what we're experiencing today? In all of the modern descendants of the tribes of Israel?

Verse 11: “Say to them, ‘As I live’... [God is swearing my Himself] ...says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no delight in the death of the wicked, except that the wicked turn from his way, and live. **Turn you, turn you from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?**’”

Then He warns the righteous man, that if the righteous turns to sin and does not repent, all of his righteousness will not be mentioned. Amazing, isn't it? That's how God works; *He offers repentance!*

We're going to see that the book of Joel fits right in with:

- the saving of the 144,000
- the beginning of the Great Tribulation
- the expansion of it when we get to Rev. 8
- how it consumes the whole world.

Joel 2:12: “‘Therefore, even now,’ says the LORD, ‘turn to Me with all your heart’...” This is what God wants from the wicked. This is the message that God wants given to the people before the Tribulation comes in upon them. This is what must be given.

God is gracious, merciful and righteous, and He will offer repentance and spare them as evidence by what we saw in the book of Revelation with the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude.

“...and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning. Yes, **rend your heart** and not your garments...” (vs 12-13). True deep profound *meaningful repentance* from the very depths of your

being.

“...and return to the LORD your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and He repents of the evil” (v 13). God prefers that they turn (Ezek. 33). God has no delight in the death of the wicked. So, this is quite a thing when we understand it.

Let’s see what’s going to happen after the sealing of the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude. That’s all based:

- on mercy
- on forgiveness
- on the Scriptures that we just read

Even in times of trouble and difficulty, God shows that He is merciful. The 144,000; very interesting when that takes place. That’s right after the heavens being ‘rolled back as a scroll.’ That’s going to cause many, many people to repent.

Remember how, from the book of Hosea, that the Tribulation against Israel lasts for two years, and then there’s a year and a half left for the rest of the world. The time between Pentecost and Trumpets the 144,000 and great innumerable multitude are saved, sealed with the Holy Spirit, and angel is sent to seal them. Keep that in mind, because those in the martyrdom of the 5th seal eliminated all of those who were not in a place of safety. There will be a few in a place of safety. Of course, we have seen that the angels of God are going to carry them there.

All of these ministers who think that they’re going to buy into Petra and set it up and going to be in charge and they’re only going to let certain people in. *Nonsense! God is going to take whom He wants, and put them there!* They will be alive and that’s to fulfill the promise that Jesus made when He first revealed about His Church to His apostles.

That’s when He asked His apostle, ‘Who do you say that I am?’ They said, ‘Some people say Jeremiah, some say one of the Prophets,’ and Peter said, ‘You are the Son of the living God!’ Jesus said, ‘Blessed are you, Simon bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father in heaven! And upon this Rock—Himself—I will **build My Church**, and the gates of hell shall *never prevail against it!*’ That’s why there are those in the place of safety.

With the fifth seal, Rev. 6, all of those who are not in a place of safety are killed and martyred. But Jesus said, ‘The gates of the grave shall never prevail against His Church.’

So, when the heavens are rolled back like a

scroll, there is repentance with the children of Israel, there’s repentance with the great innumerable multitude of every nation, language, and so forth. Isn’t that what it says about the first angel (Rev. 14) preaching the Gospel? *Yes!*

They are sealed, and keep that in mind because this becomes important when we get into Rev. 8, 9, and so forth. That means they have the Holy Spirit of God, and these represent the fulfillment of the parable of the laborers at the eleventh hour. So, they will be saved.

When you read the rest of Rev. 7, it looks like they immediately go before the throne of God. *NO!* That’s a description by one of the ‘elders’ as to who they are. That’s where they will be, but no one is resurrected from the dead until the seventh trump. Those who are alive, which will be the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude, will not precede those who have died, or are asleep in the grave.

So, you have to apply all the Scriptures to properly put it together. Let’s see how this is going to unfold. Also remember that God says that He is going to punish the world. We will see that. Here is a description of the punishment of Babylon the Great. What was the message of the second of the three angels? *Babylon is fallen! Is fallen!*

So, here’s a prophecy of it in Isa. 13. Let’s see how it talks about *the Day of the Lord*. This is the last year of the year and a half [of the Tribulation] that represents *the Day of the Lord*. Remember the time between Pentecost and Trumpets is when the world is out there:

- getting their roads all up
- getting their rails for their trains all up and going
- building more armaments
- getting more people into the armies

They’ll be doing that, preparing to fight Christ! The world is being prepared that the return of Christ represents the alien invasion from outer space, which in a sense is true. The *true* Jesus is an alien to this world.

Isaiah 13:1: “The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw: ‘Lift up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice to them, wave the hand, so that they may go into the gates of the nobles.... [right into Jerusalem] ...I have commanded My Holy ones, I have also called My mighty ones for My anger, *even* those who rejoice in My triumph.’ **The noise of a multitude in the mountains, as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together...**” (vs 1-4).

When we get to Rev. 8 on through to Christ and the Church—all the saints—coming back to the earth, it's going to be the greatest time of the greatest warring and greatest fighting that has ever been in the history of the world. This describes it.

“...the LORD of hosts gathers an army for the battle. They come from a far country... [the way of the kings from the East] ...from the end of heaven, the LORD and the weapons of His indignation, to destroy the whole earth” (vs 4-5).

We can understand that everything on earth is going to be looking like the Middle East in the middle of a war! *Everywhere!*

Verse 6: “Howl! For the Day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore, all hands shall be faint, and every man's heart shall melt; and they shall be afraid. Pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them. They shall be in pain like a woman who travails. They shall be amazed at one another, their faces are *like* blazing fire. Behold, **the Day of the LORD comes**, cruel both *with* wrath and fierce anger to make the earth a desolation; and He shall destroy the sinners out of it, for the stars of the heavens and their constellations shall not give light; the sun shall be darkened in its going forth, and the moon shall not reflect its light. ‘And I will punish the world for *their* evil...’” (vs 6-11).

These are the great battle that are at the end (Rev. 8; 9; 16; 19)—all of it. The greatest destruction of all. Think about what we start out with when we start ruling and reigning with Christ: **a world that is near desolation everywhere!** That's going to be something!

Verse 11: “And I will punish the world for *their* evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease... [the beast and the false prophet] ...and will lay low the haughtiness of the tyrants. I will make man more scarce than gold; even man more than the fine gold of Ophir. Therefore, I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall move out of its place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and **in the day of His fierce anger**” (vs 11-13). That's something! That's how God is going to do it!

Let's see, again, what God says about this very thing and how it's going to take place. This is going to be awesome! This is going to be fierce! Remember that it said *all desolation!* Think of what we're going to have to do. *The first thing is how do we help these people rebuild their lives; those who survive through it!* Our ministry to them is going to be that **God rules in Jerusalem!**

- the wars are over
- the killing has stopped
- the beast and the false prophet have been destroyed in the Lake of Fire; they have been removed
- the whole world is going to be shell-shocked

Think of that!

Isaiah 24:1: “Behold, the LORD makes the earth empty and makes it waste, and turns it upside down...” Isn't that what happens with an earthquake? *Everything upside down!*

“...and scatters its inhabitants. And as *it is* with the people, so it shall be with the priest; as with the slave, so with the master; as with the handmaid, so it is with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the creditor, so with the debtor. **The earth shall be completely laid waste, and utterly stripped; for the LORD has spoken this word**” (vs 1-3).

Remember what we have always learned: **every prophecy of God is going to be fulfilled to the maximum!** Not to the wee itty-bitty, little minimum, **but to the maximum!** You need to keep that in mind when you read these Scriptures when it talks about *all* nations, when it talks about *all* people. We're coming to the worldwide fulfillment of the Word of God and the return of Christ.

Verse 4: “The earth mourns *and* languishes; the world withers *and* languishes; the proud people of the earth wither. And the earth is defiled under its people; **because they have transgressed the Laws...**” (vs 4-5).

Sidebar: What does this tell us? *If there's no Law, there's no sin!* Is God correcting them for their sins, iniquities and evils? The house of Israel and the house of Judah and all the nations of the world? *Yes!* Therefore, God expects every person to keep His Laws in the letter. Conversion is another whole story.

“...changed the ordinance, and have broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, the curse has devoured the earth, and they who dwell in it are desolate; therefore, the people of the earth are burned, and **few men are left**” (vs 5-6).

How many billions are going to die? *It's beyond what we are able to grasp!* But let's understand something else, we will see the finality of these prophecies after we're resurrected and are on the Sea of Glass with Jesus Christ and all the saints.

Jer. 25 is always read on the Feast of Trumpets, because of the meaning and prophetic timing of these events.

There's going to be *no secret rapture*. Jesus is not going to come and just take those who are 'goody-two-shoes' up to heaven with Him. *NO!* this is going to be:

- power
- wrath
- indignation
- war
- catastrophe
- killing
- death

It's going to be something, *because God is never going to be mocked by anyone!*

God told Jeremiah to take this cup and go to every nation on earth, and make them drink! So, he did!

Jeremiah 25:26: "And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and **all the kingdoms of the world...**"

- What does that mean? *That this message that's being preached here will go to all the world!*
- How is that going to be done? *By the two witnesses and the three angels!*

Until that time it's going to be done by the Churches of the people of God. *We need to think beyond just saving our own necks!* We need to understand and realize that God has called us to rule this world, to straighten it out! The only way that it is going to be brought back to God is because **all the evil is going to come to a great climax, and God is going to destroy it!**

"...**all** the kingdoms of the world, which are on the face of the earth..." (v 26). Does that mean just that? *Yes! Every nation!* What does it say of other things? *The isles and the oceans shall move!* There will be no place of safety *outside the few who are in a place of safety*. There will be no escaping what's taking place, *unless you're protected as the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude*. It's coming on *all the world!* That's why God gave this.

"...and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them... [that is the coming beast power] ...'Therefore, you shall say to them, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Drink and be drunk, and vomit, and fall, and rise no more because of the sword which I will send among you. And it shall come to pass if they refuse to take the cup at

your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'You shall certainly drink. For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city, which is called by My name..." (vs 26-29). It's going start right there at Jerusalem. The events in Jerusalem:

- the two witnesses
- the beast going into the temple of God saying that 'he is God'
- the Great Tribulation starting

"...and shall you go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished. For I will call for a sword on **all** the inhabitants of the earth'... [think of what that means] ...says the LORD of hosts. 'And prophesy against them **all** these words, and say to them, "The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter His voice from His Holy habitation. He shall mightily roar over His dwelling place. He shall give a shout, like those who tread out *grapes*, against all the people of the earth'" (vs 29-30). When God says **all** He means *each and every one*.

Verse 31: "A noise shall come to the ends of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead with all flesh. He will give those *who are* wicked to the sword,' says the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be stirred up from the farthest corners of the earth. And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day **from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth**; they shall not be mourned, nor gathered, nor buried. They shall be *as dung on the ground*" (vs 31-33). *Think of the mess that's going to be to clean up!*

Verse 34: "Howl, you shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves in the ashes, you lords of the flock! For the days of your slaughter and of your scatterings are fulfilled; and you shall fall like a choice vessel.'" That's something! Remember, **this is the Day of the Judgment of God!**

Verse 35: "And the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the lords of the flock to escape. A voice of the cry of the shepherds, and a howling of the lords of the flock *shall be heard*; for the LORD has spoiled their pasture. And the peaceful pastures are cut down because of the fierce anger of the LORD. Like the lion, He has left His den; for their land is wasted because of the fierceness of the oppressing sword, and because of His fierce anger" (vs 35-38).

That's something! You need to think about that!

(go to the next track)

Rev. 8 starts on the next to the last

Trumpets, and at the next Trumpets Christ and all the saints will return with Him to the earth. This year may be a leap year, which means there are 13 months, 390 days.

The whole scene changes. Instead of armies of men against armies of men and killing people, now it's the armies of the world against the angels of God and the power of God.

This becomes the greater portion of the Great Tribulation, which is why Jesus said that 'unless He had limited the days there would be no flesh be saved.' Notice how this comes about. And just like everything else, just like the six seals, God opened the six seals in the person of Christ. Then He opens the seventh seal, which begins Rev. 8.

Revelation 8:1: "Now, when He opened the seventh seal, *there* was silence in heaven *for* about a half hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God... [right at the throne of God] ...and seven trumpets were given to them" (vs 1-2).

These trumpets are like the silver trumpets, but also—because this is probably starting on the Day of Trumpets—there will be the ram's horns.

Verse 3: "And another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar; and much incense was given to him, so that he might offer *it* with **the prayers of all the saints** on the golden altar that *was* before the throne."

Who are all the saints? The saints who have died are still in the grave. *The saints here in this case, are the 144,000, the great innumerable multitude and those in a place of safety!* So, they're praying.

Verse 4: "And the smoke of the incense went up before God from *the* hand of the angel, ascending with the prayers of the saints. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire from the altar... [directly from God] ...and cast *it* into the earth; and there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings, and an earthquake" (vs 4-5).

Throughout all of this there are many earthquakes that take place. What happens when there are earthquakes? *Volcanoes!*

Verse 6: "Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound *their* trumpets. And the first angel sounded *his* trumpet; and there was hail and fire mingled with blood, and it was cast upon the earth; and **a third of the trees were burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up**" (vs 6-7). We will see something about this a little later; *a great fire!*

The first four of these trumpet plagues come

very quickly, one after the other.

Verse 8: "Then **the second angel** sounded *his* trumpet; and *there* was cast into the sea as *it were* a great mountain burning with fire, and a third of the sea became blood; and a third of the living creatures that *were* in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. And **the third angel** sounded *his* trumpet; and *there* fell out of heaven a great star, burning like a lamp; and it fell on a third of the rivers, and on the fountains of waters. Now, the name of the star is Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood; and many men died from *drinking* the waters because they were made bitter. Then **the fourth angel** sounded *his* trumpet; and a third of the sun was smitten, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars; so that a third of them were darkened; and a third part of the day did not shine, and likewise *a third part of the night*" (vs 8-12).

Stop right here! This is why no man knows the day or the hour, because time is all discombobulated with:

- the shaking of the earth
- the shaking of the seas
- the shaking of the dry land
- the earthquakes that take place
- the wars that are taking place

And now everything changes! That's why it's in the authority of God the Father, as Jesus said.

Verse 13: "And I looked; and I heard an angel flying in the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice... [another warning]: ... **Woe, woe, woe** to those who are dwelling on the earth, because of the voices of the remaining trumpets of the three angels who *are* about to sound *their* trumpets."

Fantastic and awesome things are going to take place now, such as there was never before.

Revelation 9:1: "And the fifth angel sounded *his* trumpet; and I saw a star... [a fallen angel] ...*that* had fallen from heaven to the earth, and there was given to him the key to the bottomless abyss." That's why it's an angel.

Verse 2: "And he opened the bottomless abyss; and there went up smoke from the pit, like *the* smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the pit. Then locusts came onto the earth from the smoke; and power was given to them, as the scorpions of the earth have power" (vs 2-3)

What happens when you have all the darkness, all the clouds; you're going to have a lot of rain. So, after a third of the trees are burned up, all

the grass is burned up, then there is the rain. What happens to grass when it receives water? *It grows!* The plants have nothing to do with the battles of warring and fighting going on. We're going to see a very unusual statement as we read on.

Verse 4: "And it was said to them that they should not damage the grass of the earth..."—because between the time when it was first burned up and now there is rain and grass grew back up again.

"...or any green thing, or any tree, **but only the men who did not have the seal of God in their foreheads**" (v 4). We've already identified who they are and where they are.

Verse 5: "And it was given to them that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months; and their torment *was* like *the* torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. And in those days men will seek death but will not find it; and they will desire to die, but death will flee from them. And the appearance of the locusts *was* like horses prepared for war..." (vs 5-7).

Here comes the satanic power of the armies. It makes me wonder:

- What are they going to discover with the Hadron Collider?
- What are men going to discover with these things?
- What are they going to do?
- What will the weapons be?
- How powerful will they be?

Verse 7: "And the appearance of the locusts *was* like horses prepared for war; and on their heads *were* crowns like *those* of gold; and their faces *were* like *the* faces of men; and they had hair like women's hair; and their teeth were like *those* of lions. And they had breastplates like iron breastplates; and the sound of their wings *was* like *the* sound of chariots *drawn* by many horses running to war; and they had tails like scorpions, and stingers; and they were *given* power to injure men with their tails *for* five months" (vs 7-10).

This is going to look like this super-secret demonic weapon is going to come, and this is probably the King of the North going after the northern and eastern countries, because Dan. 11 says that 'the King of the North will hear things from the North and the East.' Here's the fulfillment of it.

Verse 11: "And they have over them a king, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew *is* Abaddon, but *the* name he has in Greek *is* Apollyon. **The first woe is past.** Behold, after these things **two**

more woes are still to come" (vs 11-12).

Notice the sixth angel, and this is going to be a powerful thing. Let me just preface this by saying—because this has to do with all the armies, the kings of the East and the North, all coming together and coming to the area of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. These armies are going to be fantastic.

Right now they're actually building roads, rail trains going from eastern China all the way into Europe, all the way into the Middle East and down into Pakistan and India. That's what they are working on now. So, all of these armies will be coming. It's going to be a grouping of armies of 200-million! They can't all be in one place at one time, so they're strung out from the North, from the East and from the Southeast.

Verse 13: "And the sixth angel sounded *his* trumpet; and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar that *is* before God"—directly from God. Remember: none of these things can happen *until God says they will happen!*

Verse 14: "And it said to the sixth angel, who had the trumpet, 'Loose the four angels who are bound in the great River Euphrates.' Then the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year... [these are demons bound in the River Euphrates; still there to this day] ...were loosed, so that they might kill a third of men" (vs 14-15).

A lot of people speculate: Are these robot soldiers? *No! It says they are men!* There may be some robotics involved with modern weaponry, that is true, but you're not going to have a robotic army of 200-million and then have 2-billion people living back in their countries just sitting back and relaxing while the 200-million robots go fight. *No way!*

Verse 16: "And the number of *the* armies of the horsemen *was* two hundred thousand thousand... [200-million] ...and I heard the number of them. And so, I saw the horses in the vision, and those sitting on them, who had fiery breastplates, even like jacinth and brimstone. And the heads of the horses *were* like heads of lions, and fire and smoke and brimstone shoot out of their mouths" (vs 16-17). Modern weaponry! Powerful!

Stop and think: How long is going to take for these armies to be building up? *It's going to take some time!* Yes, the Chinese have a big army, but nothing like here. There are going to be the Chinese, Mongolians, Russians, Indians, Pakistanis, Iranians and Iraqis all involved in this battle.

Verse 18: "By these three a third of men were killed: by the fire and the smoke and the

brimstone that shoot out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouths; for their tails *are* like serpents, *and* have heads, and with them they inflict wounds” (vs 18-19).

Notice this; this becomes very important, and remember where we started.

Verse 20: “But the rest of the men who were not killed by these plagues **still did not repent of the works of their hands...**”

- men: *repentance*
- human beings: *repentance*

Robots cannot repent!

“...that they might not worship demons... [yes, there are demon powers] ...and idols of gold and silver and brass and stone and wood, which do not have the power to see, nor to hear, nor to walk. And **they did not repent** of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornications, nor of their thievery” (vs 20-21). Men in battle!

Rev. 10 is quite an interesting chapter. Of course, John was told not to write it, because it was so terrible the things that are coming from the seven thunders.

Sidebar: If any man tells you what the seven thunders are, *you know he is lying*, because God never said what they were. Unless he is actually one of the two witnesses... They might know, but I even doubt that! *No one knows!*

Revelation 10:7: “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound *the* trumpet, the mystery of God shall also be completed, according to the Gospel *that* He declared to His servants the prophets.”

Then John was instructed to take this book, v 8: “...‘Go, take the little book that is open in the hand of *the* angel who is standing on the sea and on the earth’”—and John ate it.

Verse 9: “...‘and it shall make your belly bitter, but in your mouth it shall be sweet as honey.’”

Verse 11: “And he said to me, ‘You must again **prophesy against many people, and nations, and languages and kings.**’”

Here’s the last warning, the very last warning that God is going to give. All along, in every one of these things, **God has given a space of repentance!** But they wouldn’t repent! They wouldn’t yield to God! They’re driven on by Satan and the demons into a horrendous fight against Jesus Christ and the saints and all that goes with that.

Then we have the two witness; Revelation 11:1: “Then *the* angel gave me a measuring rod like a staff, saying, ‘Arise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it.’” That’s why there has to be a temple in Jerusalem rebuilt. Also, Matt. 24 says that *the abomination of desolation*, as well as Mark 13 and 2-Thess. 2.

Verse 2: “But leave out the court that *is* within the temple *area*, and do not measure it because it has been given *up* to the Gentiles; and they shall trample upon the Holy city *for* forty-two months.: And I will give *power* to My two witnesses...” (vs 2-3)—that God raises up. As we’ve point out before, in Zech. 3 the high priest Joshua, and the governor of Judea pictured by Zerubbabel. These are **God’s** two witnesses. **He** selects them, *no man can select them!*

One arrogant man who is supposed to be a teacher in one of the Churches of God says that he is ‘the apostle for the 21st century’ and that ‘he will be over the two witnesses.’ **He needs to repent!** These are **chosen by God** and not by any man. No an can appoint himself as part of the two witnesses like another man did. He said, ‘I and my wife are the two witnesses.’ He was immediately caught for lying, cheating, stealing and thrown into Federal prison.

Did God answer that arrogance? *Yes, indeed!* Here’s why we know it’s from Zech. 3 & 4

“...and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and *the* two lampstands that stand before the God of the earth” (vs 3-4). The greatest power given to any of the prophets of God.

Verse 5: “And if anyone attempts to harm them, fire will go out of their mouths and devour their enemies. For if anyone attempts to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have authority to shut heaven so that no rain may fall in *the* days of their prophecy; and they have authority over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they will” (vs 5-6)—because God has selected them, and God has given them the power.

As you can see and hear, this is an intense sermon because this is an intense day. **This is the Day of the Lord God Almighty!** And His great armies, great power, and two witnesses.

Verse 7: “And when they have completed their testimony, the beast who ascends out of the abyss will make war against them, and will overcome them, **and will kill them.** And their bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also

our Lord was crucified. Then those of the peoples and tribes and languages and nations shall see their bodies three and a half days, for they will not allow their bodies to be put into tombs. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, and will make merry, and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets had tormented those who dwell on the earth” (vs 7-10). When it looks like everything is defeated and taken care of three and a half days later.

Verse 11: “Then after the three and a half days, *the* spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a great voice from heaven, say, ‘Come up here!’.... [the last two martyrs are the first two resurrected] ...And they ascended into heaven in a cloud; and their enemies saw them *rise*. And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and seven thousand men were killed in the earthquake. And the rest were filled with fear, and gave glory to the God of heaven. **The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming immediately**” (vs 11-14).

Here they’re raised from the dead, and as they’re ascending to meet Christ in the air on the Sea of Glass... As we saw, the second sun is going to come and swoosh down to the earth and then settle in right over the Holy Land for the resurrection. All the saints will be raised and meet Christ in the air, in the clouds on the Sea of Glass and stand before God.

This is when the resurrection begins, v 15: “Then the seventh angel sounded *his* trumpet; and *there* were great voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign into the ages of eternity.’ And the twenty-four elders, who sit before God on their thrones, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, ‘We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come; for You have taken *to Yourself* Your great power, and have reigned. For the nations were angry...’” (vs 15-18).

Of course, when the resurrection takes place—and I believe—the world is going to see the angels carrying those in the resurrection up to the Sea of Glass. The men on the earth—the kings, the captains, the armies, the generals, all the weapons—will all be there, and they will look at this thing and they will say, ‘We’re being invaded! Look at this, they’re all up there; we have got to destroy them.’

They will gather all of their armies to Jerusalem. There will still be a lot of them strung out going clear to the Far East, but there is going to be this great battle that’s going to take place right there.

Then what happens? Revelation 15:1: “Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and awesome: **seven angels having the seven last plagues...**” Then it talks about the saints standing on the Sea of Glass.

How many Scriptures does it take to make it true? *One!* We saw the Sea of Glass (Rev. 4 & 5). We saw the Sea of Glass (Exo. 24).

- How are we going to meet Christ in the air?
- How are we all going to see the seven last plagues poured out unless we are all on the Sea of Glass and we see it take place?

Verse 5: “And after these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And the seven angels who had the seven *last* plagues came out of the temple; they were clothed in linen, pure and bright, and girded about the chest with golden breastplates. And one of the four living creatures gave to the **seven angels seven golden vials, full of the wrath of God**, Who lives into the ages of eternity. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from His power; and no one was able to enter inside the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled” (vs 5-8).

Here is the vengeance of God. We’re told to wait for the vengeance of God. We will see the vengeance of God, and here’s how it’s poured out. Now then, again, *angels against Satan, the beast, the false prophet and men!* Isn’t that something?

So, they all gather together. There’s this space of time from Pentecost—the resurrection (Rev. 15)—to Trumpets that we’re on the Sea of Glass. That’s when the nations gather together and that’s when the seven last plagues are poured out. Let’s see it. That’s quite a thing! Very powerful!

Revelation 16:1: “Then I heard a loud voice from the temple say to the seven angels, ‘Go and pour out the vials of the wrath of God onto the earth.’ And the first *angel* went and poured out his vial onto the earth; and an evil and grievous sore fell upon the men who had the mark of the beast, and upon those who were worshiping his image. And the second angel *went and* poured out his vial into the sea; and it became blood, like *that* of a dead *man*; and every living soul in the sea died” (vs 1-3).

Look at what the earth is going to be like when we return to take it over.

Verse 4: “And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers, and into the fountains of waters; and they became blood.”

Go back to the book of Exodus and read about the plagues that God brought upon Egypt. Same weapons! Are they effective? *Yes!* Can men do anything about it? *No!* But notice how the angels look at this after seeing what has happened for all the history of mankind down to this point.

Verse 5: “Then I heard the angel of the waters say, ‘You are righteous, O Lord, Who are, and Who was, even the Holy One, in that You have executed this judgment.’” All of us are going to be on the Sea of Glass and we’re going to witness this.

I don’t know how high up in the air that Sea of Glass will be, but I’m sure at that time that there will be clouds around it. But we will be able to look down and see what’s going on. This is going to be utterly amazing!

Verse 8: “And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and *power* was given to it to scorch men with fire. Then men were scorched with great heat; and they blasphemed the name of God... [rather than repent] ...Who has authority over these plagues, and did not repent to give Him glory. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the throne of the beast; and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain” (vs 8-10). Didn’t that happen in Egypt? *Yes!*

Verse 11: “And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; yet, they did not repent of their works.” ***There are people who will not repent under any circumstances—period!*** That’s going to be something!

Verse 12: “And the sixth angel poured out his vial into the great River Euphrates; and its waters were dried up...”—because it began flowing again after the first wave of the armies got over there.

“...so that the way of the kings from the rising of *the* sun might be prepared. Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet” (vs 12-13).

Great miracles to deceive them into the final battle: ‘If we can just get all the armies and all our weapons, all of our planes, all of our nuclear things that we have, and our special ray guns and that which disintegrates material. Bring them all here and let’s line them up and go to this great platform that we see up there in the heavens. If we can destroy it and it falls down to the earth they will all die, and we will be able to win!’

That’s the message that goes out and the armies come!

Verse 14: “For they are spirits of demons

working miracles, going forth to the kings of the earth, even of the whole world, to gather them together to *the* battle of that **great day of the Almighty God.**”

Then He gives a little warning here, v 15: “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed *is* the one who is watching and is keeping his garments, so that he may not walk naked and they *may not* see his shame.” ***All Laodiceans, pay attention!***

Verse 16: “And he gathered them together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. Then the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, ‘IT IS FINISHED.’” (vs 16-17)—***the completion of the age; it has ended!***

Verse 18: “And there were voices and thunders and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were on the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and* so great.”

What happens after the marriage of the Lamb and the marriage supper? *Now we are ready to come and fight!* Isn’t that what Jesus said? *If My kingdom were of this world then would My servants fight!* Now we’re going to fight; we’re going to fight God’s way with the power that God gives us:

- to take care of the enemy
- to take care of any who resist
- to bring mercy and repentance to those who are willing to repent and accept God
- to heal them from all their wounds, bruises and everything that has happened

The first job for all of the living human beings will be to *bury the dead!* But God has something special for the armies that come to fight that very last battle at Armageddon. Let’s see what that is.

Revelation 19:11_[corrected]: “And I saw heaven open; and behold, a white horse; and He Who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He does judge and make war. And His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns; *and* He had a name written that no one knows except Him. And *He was* clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and **His name is The Word of God.** And the armies in heaven... [that’s us and the angels] ...were following Him on white horses; *and* they were clothed in fine linen, white and pure. And out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He shall shepherd them with an iron rod; and **He treads the winepress of the fury and the wrath of the Almighty God.** And on *His* garment and on His thigh He has a name written: King of kings and Lord

of lords” (vs 11-16).

Here’s the final battle, v 17: “Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in *the* midst of heaven, ‘Come and gather yourselves together to the supper of the great God so that you may eat *the* flesh of kings, and *the* flesh of chief captains, and *the* flesh of mighty *men*, and *the* flesh of horses, and of those who sit on them, and *the* flesh of all, free and bond, and small and great.’ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, gathered together to make war with Him Who sits on the horse, and with His army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet who worked miracles in his presence, by which he had deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. **Those two were cast alive into the Lake of Fire, which burns with brimstone; and the rest were killed by the sword of Him Who sits on the horse, even the sword that goes out of His mouth;** and all the birds were filled with their flesh” (vs 17-21).

We find what that is in Zech. 14, that special weapon of Christ. Here we have a great and fantastic thing take place.

Zechariah 14:12: And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will smite all the people who have fought against Jerusalem.... [Rev. 19] ...**Their flesh shall consume away while they stand on their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their sockets. And their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.**”

Here they are all ready to fight, however many there are in the army, and Christ gives the word and their bodies just fall apart. Their skeletons collapse to the ground, and the great birds, the flesh-eating birds, are coming to clean up the greatest mess from the greatest war that has ever been! As they are circling and coming then we are coming down to the earth and the angel takes the beast and the false prophet and casts them into the Lake of Fire. *Then we begin to reign!*

Verse 3: “And the LORD shall go out and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle. And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives...” (vs 3-4). Right from where He ascended to heaven, He’ll come right back to that place.

“...which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall split in two, from the east and to the west, and make a very great valley. And half of the mountain shall move toward the north, and half of it toward the south. ‘And you shall flee...’” (vs 4-5).

Verse 6: “And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark. And it will be one day, which shall be known to the LORD, neither day nor night; but it shall come to pass that at evening time it shall be light” (vs 6-7).

All the saints are with Him. There we are; quite a thing! Fantastic battle; a great thing is going to take place! We are going to come and start cleaning up the earth and showing people what to do. ***God is going to rule in Jerusalem!***

That’s is the meaning of the Feast of Trumpets!

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:23-25
- 2) Revelation 14:6
- 3) Ezekiel 33:1-11
- 4) Joel 2:12-13
- 5) Isaiah 13:1-13
- 6) Isaiah 24:1-6
- 7) Jeremiah 25:26-38
- 8) Revelation 8:1-13
- 9) Revelation 9:1-21
- 10) Revelation 10:7-9, 11
- 11) Revelation 11:1-18
- 12) Revelation 15:1, 5-8
- 13) Revelation 16:1-5, 8-18
- 14) Revelation 19:11-21
- 15) Zechariah 14:12, 3-7

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 6
- Daniel 11
- Matthew 24
- Mark 13
- 2 Thessalonians 2
- Zechariah 3; 4
- Revelation 4; 5
- Exodus 24

FRC: bo
Transcribed: 7/30/17

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Day of Atonement Deliverance from Satan the Devil

A special day for God, Israel and the world
Fred R. Coulter—September 30, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Day of Atonement! This is the day that all mankind is waiting for, because this is the day that explains why there is evil and who is going to get rid of it!

Down through the ages, men have wanted to get rid of evil and have peace, stop wars, sickness, sin and all of those things, because men—in rejecting God—*think* that they can accomplish these things. But they fail to realize—or if they do realize—they don’t understand the severity of it, which is *there is a Satan the devil!*

He was the one who originally rebelled against God. After the rebellion of Lucifer and a third of the angels that went with him, then for some period after that—we don’t know exactly when it was—God renewed the surface of the earth for mankind. How much instruction God gave to Adam and Eve, we’re told a bare minimum. But He did tell them not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, for in the day that they eat of it, ‘in dying they shall surely die!’ They obviously didn’t die immediately.

To test them in how they would use their free moral agency, God let Satan come into the Garden of Eden, and he brought his subtle, sweet-sounding beneficial lies! At that point, Adam and Eve were neither hostile against God, nor totally loving Him to qualify for eternal life. But the reason that the choice was given was because mankind is made a little lower than God, and after His image and likeness.

Our choices can be very powerful! What we do can be tremendous or destructive. So, in God’s plan there will come a time that there will never be anymore evil. God gave the test to Adam and Eve, and we know that they failed the test. But look at how Satan came, contradicting what God said and offering a benefit that God did not offer in the way that Satan offered it.

Satan said, ‘You can decide good and evil for yourself; you’re smart, you’re good. Look at you! And besides, don’t you want to know good and evil?’

That’s how sin entered into the world! It says, ‘as by one man, sin entered into the world, and by that *death!*’ (Rom. 5). Death passed into all mankind, and also had the nature of the ‘law of sin and death.’

With that nature there was still some good in human nature, but not the good that would come from love and obedience to God.

Lev. 23—here we have the command for the Day of Atonement. It’s a particularly special day to God, for the children of Israel, for the Church, and eventually for all mankind. The first thing God wants us to learn for the Day of Atonement is that *we are absolutely inefficient to ourselves!*

- we don’t know how to go
- we don’t make the right choices
- we are incapable of living forever on our own
- we are incapable of overcoming sin on our own

And unless God—in His love for all mankind—*provided everything for all people, we could not continue to exist!*

So, this day is a special fast day; a day which we do not eat food nor drink water. That’s to show us that we are totally and absolutely dependent upon God for *every breath of air, every morsel of food and every drop of water*, which God has provided in abundance for all people!

But Satan is still there, and *this day pictures when he is removed!*

Leviticus 23:26: “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Also, on the tenth *day* of this seventh month, is the Day of Atonement. *It shall be a Holy convocation to you. And you shall afflict your souls...*’” (vs 26-27).

We find in Ezra 10 that Ezra didn’t drink water or eat food when he fasted to God. Likewise, when even David prayed for his enemies he afflicted himself (Psa. 35:13); David prayed for them!

So, when it says that you to afflict your souls, that means to *eat no food or drink any water.*

“...and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD” (v 27). Well, today we don’t make offerings *made by fire.* We make offerings *from the heart.* We give offerings and tithes because we love God and obey Him!

Also, for those of us who are in the Church, God expects the best through His Spirit, and the first. The first commandment is to *love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being.* He wants you to

have Him *first*

- in your thoughts
- in your heart
- in your mind
- in your whole way of living

By Him we live, move and have our being! Our very existence!

(pause for the offering)

Now let's see the rest of the instructions for the Day of Atonement. This is the Holiest day of all, and we will see that God has given special instructions for this day.

Verse 28: "And ¹**you shall do no work** in that same day, for it *is* the Day of Atonement, in order to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God." *No work!*

We're going to see that He emphasizes this three times, because it's so important!

Verse 29: "For whoever is not afflicted in **that same day, he shall be cut** off from among his people." How does God cut people off? *Well, His blessing is withdrawn from them!* If they disobey God then an automatic penalty comes upon them. *The blessings and cursings are automatic!* There are consequences to sin!

Verse 30: "And whoever does ²**any work** in that same day, the same one will I destroy from among his people." That doesn't mean to absolutely ZAP him out of existence, but people can be destroyed because of:

- their sins
- their inability to follow God
- their inability to make right decisions
- living in sin

They destroy their lives! Have you ever heard anyone express, 'You have destroyed me' when something has gone wrong. But they're still alive.

Verse 31: "You shall ³**do no manner of work.** *It shall be a statute forever* throughout your generations in all your dwellings."

There again, three times *no work*. In the space of four verses, that's pretty powerful! So that everyone will observe the day at the same time all together, and so there will be absolutely no question as to when the day begins, and no question when the day ends He says this:

Verse 32: "It *shall be* to you a Sabbath of rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. In the ninth *day* of the month **at sunset, from sunset to sunset,** you

shall keep your Sabbath."

Here is the verse that unlocks many other verses. It defines a complete day: "...from sunset to sunset..." The least educated of anyone can understand when the sun sets. You just look out over the horizon and when the sun dips below the horizon—unless you're at the base of a mountain, then you have a little more time—then the day ends and a new one begins. Since time is continuous and the earth is rotating, when there is an ending there's a beginning. You end the day and begin the day at the same precise time.

So, this defines the 10th day. This defines what it means. In *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* we have it translated *sunset*, as the Hebrew requires. This way we have the principle of taking it for every day, and know that's how God calculates the time.

Lev. 16 tells us the special ceremony that goes on. This was one of the most Holy days of all, and there was a portrayal in here how God is going to get rid of Satan the devil. Then we will see the fulfillment in the book of Revelation.

So, on this day God said, Leviticus 16:2: "And the LORD said to Moses, 'Speak to Aaron your brother, that he does not come at all times...'" *You're only to come in there when I have appointed for you to come in.*

Aaron was to do that, because if he did any other day he would die. Think about that! What did God say about destroying someone who didn't afflict themselves? Here if the priests didn't obey God he would die! Remember, God also executed the two sons of Aaron when they put strange fire on the altar. *The fire on the altar was started by God, and was to be perpetually continued so that it would always be the fire of God* for the burning of the incense, for the burning of the sacrifices. *Not man's efforts!*

All these instructions are very important! Then God tells Moses how He's going to do it. So, special was this day:

Verse 3: Aaron shall come into the sanctuary this way: with a young bull, for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering."

He didn't bring them in there, but he brought the blood. The burnt offering was wholly burnt on the altar, and he sin offering was burned outside the camp where all the sin offerings were burned.

Verse 4: "He shall put on the Holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches on his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and

with the linen miter he shall be dressed. *These are Holy garments.* And he shall wash his flesh in water and put them on.”

This is another good example of God giving instruction about something first, but tells you about something that you do before that after He has told you. If we were to write it, we would say, ‘And he shall wash his flesh in water and he shall put on the Holy garments.’

You find that pattern in the Bible a lot, and that is a sign of the proper sequence of events in the Bible the way God wants them, a sign that it is God’s. When it’s translated that way and in that order, that’s following what God wants.

Verse 5_[corrected]: “And he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. And Aaron shall offer his young bull of the sin offering which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself and for his house.... [all the priests and Levites] ...And he shall take the two goats... [identical goats; two kid goats] ...and present them before the LORD *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots on the two goats...” (vs 5-8).

This was a decision that God would make. Only God could reveal which goat was for Him, and which goat was for Azazel, which is another name for Satan.

Verse 8: “And Aaron shall cast lots on the two goats; one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel. And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the LORD’S lot fell, and offer it for a sin offering” (vs 8-9).

We will see this sin offering was to take away the sins, all the sins and transgressions, of the children of Israel, their part in sins. We’re going to see something very interesting with the goat for Azazel, because he will not sacrifice it.

Verse 10: “But the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement upon it and sent away into the wilderness for Azazel.”

Why would this be done? *There is human sin and mistakes! There are Satan inspires sins and mistakes! As long as Satan is in the world there will be sin!* We will see that in Rev. 20; just as soon as Satan is let out of his prison, what happens? *War! Sin!* This is to depict Satan and his part in our sins, showing that Satan is a spirit being and cannot die and must be removed.

The instructions continue, v 11: “And Aaron shall bring the young bull of the sin offering which

is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the young bull of the sin offering which is for himself. And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of fragrant incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil. And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD. And the cloud of the incense shall cover the mercy seat that is on the testimony. And he shall not die” (vs 11-13).

What they did later was because they were afraid that the priest would make an error and do something wrong and he would die, and no one could go in there. So, they tied a rope around the priest so, in case he didn’t get out of there and died, they could pull his body out. That’s pretty serious stuff!

Verse 14: “And he shall take of the blood of the young bull and shall sprinkle with his finger on the front of the mercy seat eastward. And he shall sprinkle at the front of the mercy seat seven times from the blood with his finger. Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil....” (vs 14-15). He went out of the veil and back into the Holy of Holies.

“...And he shall do with that blood as he did with the blood of the young bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat” (v 15).

Now, because there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood that’s why Christ came.

Verse 16: “**And he shall make an atonement for the sanctuary because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel and because of their transgressions in all their sins....**”—each and every one. These sins were forgiven to the tabernacle or the temple. They were not forgiven in heaven above (Heb. 9 & 10).

Verse 17: “And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goes in to make an atonement in the sanctuary until he comes out and has made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.... [at that point]: ...And he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make an atonement for it. And he shall take of the blood of the young bull and of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around” (vs 17-18). That’s the altar of burnt offerings.

Verse 19: “And he shall sprinkle of the blood on it with his finger seven times and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. And when he has made an end of

reconciling the sanctuary and the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, he shall bring the live goat. And Aaron shall **lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the sins of the children of Israel**, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send *it* away by the hand of a chosen man into the wilderness” (vs 19-21).

We’re going to see something very interesting concerning the wilderness, because this becomes important that we understand it. Let’s look at this again and understand what it’s saying here:

The sins were forgiven through the shed blood of the goat for a sin offering—all of them, all their uncleanness. Then they are, again, put upon the goat for Azazel: Satan the devil.

Remember that it says that ‘many shall be led into sin (Matt. 24). Well, Satan leads people into sin. We all sin with ‘the law of sin and death’ and die a physical death because of Adam. Likewise, all sin originates with Satan the devil and comes down and affects all of mankind! Satan the devil being a spirit being does not die. So, this symbolically shows that all sin is accredited to Satan the devil in what he has done.

Verse 22: “And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities to a land in which no one lives. And he shall **let the goat go in the wilderness**. And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall strip off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the sanctuary, and shall leave them there. And he shall wash his flesh with water in the Holy place, and put on his garments, and come forth and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people, and make an atonement for himself and for the people. And the fat of the sin offering shall he burn upon the altar. And he that let go the goat for Azazel shall wash his clothes and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp” (vs 22-26).

That’s quite a thing! This shows the vileness of sin and the uncleanness of sin. It shows that there can be no Holiness as long as there is sin, and as long as Satan the devil—Azazel—is allowed to come upon people.

We’ll see what happens to him in just a little bit, but it’s interesting and also factual that we will see him in the wilderness. Keep that in mind.

Verse 27: “And the young bull *for* the sin offering and the goat *for* the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the Holy place, shall they carry forth outside the camp....”

You have the temple, the Valley of Kidron and the Mount of Olives. Up on the Mount of Olives

there was another altar called *the Miphkad Altar*. There all the sin offerings would be burned completely and then the ashes pushed down in the Valley of Hinnom. These were not burned in the temple.

Verse 29: “‘And it shall be a statute forever to you: in the seventh month, on the tenth of the month, you shall afflict your souls and do no work at all, *whether it be* one of your own country or a stranger who is living among you, for on that day an atonement shall be made for you, to cleanse you, so that you may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. **It shall be a Sabbath of rest to you, and you shall afflict your souls, by a statute forever**. And the priest whom he shall anoint, and whom he shall consecrate to minister in the priest’s office in his father’s stead, shall make the atonement and shall put on the linen clothes, the Holy garments. And he shall make an atonement *for* the Holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar; and he shall make an atonement for the priests and for all the people of the congregation. And **this shall be an everlasting statute to you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for their sins once a year.**’ And he did as the LORD commanded Moses” (vs 29-34).

There is a certain similarity between the Passover, the 14th day of the 1st month, when Christ was crucified and shed His blood for the sins of all mankind, the sins of the world. But that has not applied to all human beings, yet, because each individual must personally repent before God the Father. Here this was a blanket forgiveness for everyone.

Now then, the Passover and the forgiveness of the sins of those who are in the New Covenant is pictured in the first month, on the 10th day of the month, when Jesus was selected for the sin offering for the world. The Day of Atonement is on the 10th day^[transcriber’s correction]. He was crucified on the 14th, and was put in the grave on the 15th.

Now then, the parallel is this: In the 7th month Christ returns; the Day of Atonement Satan is bound. Tabernacles begins on the 15th. All of that is possible because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. But on the day that God removes Satan the devil, that will open up the way for the forgiveness of the sins of everyone in the world. ***But everyone must repent and come under the blood of Jesus Christ!***

Let’s carry this further. Luke 4 is quite a thing! This is when Jesus went out to be tempted by Satan the devil, and this was the ‘battle royale’ for all mankind. Would Jesus Christ be able, as a human being, to overcome Satan the devil, because no other human being has been able to, or would be able to?

But could God, manifested in the flesh, overcome Satan the devil and not sin?

Also remember that *all sin was condemned in the flesh of Jesus Christ!* He had to have human nature with the ‘law of sin and death’ in Him and still overcome Satan the devil. That’s the only way there would be the perfect sacrifice and the perfect payment for sin when Jesus died.

(go to the next track)

Luke 4 is a very important chapter and contains a tremendous amount of information, knowledge and understanding, as well as when this occurred. It talks about the baptism of Jesus, receiving the Holy Spirit (Luke 3).

Luke 4:1: “And Jesus, filled with *the* Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.” Where was Azazel let go? *In the wilderness!*

Some people have said that’s Jesus Christ coming before God taking all of our sins away into heaven. The sins are left on the earth. The second goat was Satan the devil who causes all of mankind to sin, and his abode is eventually going to be in the ‘blackest of darkness forever.’ That’s the worst kind of wilderness that could possibly be!

This is south going toward the Gulf of Aqaba, “...and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness *For* forty days to be tempted by the devil.... [face-to-face, one-to-one, and all of mankind hinged on this right here]: ...And He ate nothing in those days; and after they had come to an end, He hungered. Then the devil said to Him...” (vs 1-3).

- think about this in relationship to human nature
- think about the pulls that would be there when fasting for 40 days and 40 nights
- think how weak physically that He would have been

“...***If***... [almost a sarcastic note] ...You are *the* Son of God, command that this stone become bread” (v 3). *Show me a miracle!* Jesus could have done that, but this was a contest: **Who was Jesus going to obey under all circumstance?**

Jesus said, ‘I did not come to this earth to do My will, but the will of Him Who sent Me. I do nothing of Myself.’ That applies right here, because He could have made the stone into bread. But that would have been under the inspiration of Satan, and it would have been His choice to do so. But Jesus didn’t do that.

Satan could have said, ‘Just think how lovely the smell of that new fresh bread that You

would have created out of the rock, and would have tasted. I can run over here and get a little honey out of this beehive and you can have some honey. Just think about how good that would be. Think how weak You are.’

Verse 4: But Jesus answered him, saying, ‘It is written...’—present tense! Whatever is in the Word of God is always—unless it’s an historical event—present tense. All His commands are present tense, applying all the time.

“...‘It is written... [Deut 8:3] ...**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God**’” (v 4)—that proceeds out of His mouth. That’s what we have with the Bible.

So, on this Day of Atonement, let’s ask ourselves: **Are we living by every word of God?** This is on an individual level.

Verse 5: “Then the devil led Him up into a high mountain *and* showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘I will give You all this authority...’” (vs 5-6).

Satan knew this is what Jesus was going to inherit, but he’s going to give it to Him ahead of time. ‘Isn’t this kind of wonderful of me to do this for You? You don’t have to wait; You don’t have to go through all of this.’

“...and the glory of them *all*; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I desire” (v 6). Very interesting, isn’t it? Who controls this world?

- Rev. 12 says that Satan ‘is deceiving the whole world’
- Rev. 13 says that ‘the whole world worships Satan the devil’

There are a lot of people out there saying, ‘I don’t, I’m good.’ Jesus said that ‘no man is good except One,’ and that’s God.

Verse 7: “Therefore, if You will worship me in *my* presence, all things shall be Yours.” Satan wants to be worshipped because ‘he is the god of this world.’

- with all its sins
- with all its problems
- with all its difficulties
- with all the hatred
- with all the shed blood
- with all the sins in everyone’s life

Yes, they choose to do it, but who is responsible but Satan the devil. Think of this: What if Jesus said a little bow won’t hurt?

- that’s how people think about sin

- that's how people think about Satan the devil

Verse 8: "But Jesus answered *and* said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan; for it is written...'" This is a command to human beings, and Jesus was saying this to Himself concerning the fact that He was a human being:

"...“You shall worship *the* Lord your God... [Satan will never worship the Lord God. That's not for Satan. *No way!* That's for Jesus and for us.] ...and Him only shall you serve”” (vs 8-9). Then he led Him to Jerusalem and set Him upon the edge of the temple...—right up where the highest point was. And from the top of that to the bottom of the Kidron Valley was about 650 feet.

"...and [Satan] said to Him, ‘**If**...’” (v 9). Whenever people are challenged with *if* they have to answer back.

"...‘**If** You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down from here... [that's a long way down] ...for it is written, “He shall give His angels charge concerning You to keep You; and in *their* hands they shall bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone”” (vs 9-11)—tempting words, being in the weakest condition possible.

Verse 12: "But Jesus answered *and* said to him, 'It is *clearly* stated, “You... [not Satan the devil, because Satan will tempt God all the time; He was speaking to Himself as a human being] ...shall not tempt *the* Lord your God.””

There's more to it here that fits in with the New Covenant. Let's understand that this was at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, which began in the fall of 26_{A.D.} this was done on the Day of Atonement—a complete fast by Jesus Christ for 40 days and 40 nights—and that year was the 50th year Jubilee; the release of slaves and the return of property to the tribal owners. Very interesting, *the great redemption in the Jubilee!* That's how Jesus started His ministry.

The way you count the Jubilee is by seven years by seven years to 49, and then on the 10th day of the 7th month is the Jubilee year. What did Jesus do on the Jubilee year? *He went to Nazareth where He had been brought up!*

Verse 16: "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and according to His custom, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day and stood up to read." This Sabbath Day was a special day, which is in the Greek *the day of the Sabbaths, or the Day of Pentecost, the Day of Weeks!*

So, Jubilee is counted by seven-year increments, then the 50th year. Pentecost is counted

by seven weeks and then the 50th day. So, on that 50th day Jesus came into Nazareth and what did He do? *He gave this spiritual Jubilee!* What day will we be resurrected? *On Pentecost!*

- free from sin
- free from Satan
- free from the world
- filled with the Spirit of God
- spirit beings standing on the Sea of Glass

Also, there's another fulfillment of this, because the Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost. That was the down payment and the beginning of salvation.

So, we have the physical fulfillment of it by Jesus, to be the Savior, *to release people from their sins*, which began on Pentecost. So, it's combined together, with double emphasis, and here is what Jesus read when He found the place in the book of Isaiah:

Verse 18: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; for this reason, He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal those who are brokenhearted, to proclaim pardon to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth in deliverance those who have been crushed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord*" (vs 18-19).

What a year to begin His ministry—on the Jubilee Year—and announce it on the Pentecost during the Jubilee Year. Fantastic! Tremendous! Quite a fulfillment! And also to give us deliverance from Satan the devil. That's what it's all about! *Only God can do that!*

There are many areas in the Gospels where Jesus cast out demons. We'll see a little later that He gave that power also to His disciple to cast out demons *in His name!* After showing James, Peter and John the vision of the Transfiguration, Jesus came back down. I'm going to use this as something important for us to understand that there are demon possessions, and demons can be expelled. But it has to be done with *prayer, fasting and in the name of Jesus Christ*; and give no quarter to any of the evil wicked spirits.

Mark 9:14: "And after returning to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and the scribes disputing with them. And all the people who saw Him ran to *Him* at once in great amazement and saluted Him. And He asked the scribes, 'What are you disputing with them?' Then one from the multitude said, 'Master, I brought my son who has a dumb spirit to You; for wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and gnashes his teeth, and is withering away. And I spoke to Your disciples, in order that they might cast it out, but

they did not have *the power*” (vs 14-18).

Remember the one who was possessed of Legion, and the demon said, ‘Oh, you’ve come to torment us before the time.’ They know the day is coming when they’re going to be put away with Satan the devil and be tormented. Jesus wouldn’t let them speak. Then He cast the demons out into the swine and they all ran down the steep slope and drown in the sea. We need to resist the devil!

Verse 19: “And He answered him, saying, ‘O faithless generation! How long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.’ Then they brought him to Him. But when the spirit saw Him, *it* immediately threw him into convulsions; and he fell down on the ground *and* began rolling about *and* foaming *at the mouth*. And He asked his father, ‘How long a time has this *demon* been with him?’ And he said, ‘From childhood’” (vs 19-21).

Let’s stop right here! That is also a great problem with young children watching cartoons! Remember that ***Satan always introduces sin with humor, pleasure or a benefit!*** Watch the cartoons your children watch. Look at the books that they have.

- What are books for children now? *Harry Potter, and many like it!*
- What are they taught in school? *You have a little friend on your shoulder! That is demonism!*
- Why is there so much rebellion with children? *They’re not disciplined, but also because there are probably a good many of them possessed of Satan the devil and the demons!*

Verse 22: “For it often throws him both into the fire and into the water, that it might destroy him. But if You have the power *to do* anything, have compassion on us *and* help us.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe...’” (vs 22-23).

- ***you’ve got to believe*** on Jesus Christ
- ***you’ve got to believe*** the Word of God
- ***you’ve got to believe*** the Truth of God

“...all things are possible to the one who believes” (v 23).

This is what you need to take with whatever problems you may be experiencing in your life, be they:

- physical
- mental
- spiritual
- demonic

Whatever it is, ***you believe in Jesus Christ and the power that He has given to us to overcome all of these things!*** You use that power!

Verse 25: “Then Jesus, seeing that the multitude was running together, rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, ‘You deaf and dumb spirit, I command you *to* come out of him, and you are not allowed to go into him anymore!’ And after crying out and throwing him into severe convulsions, it came out; and he became as dead, so much so that many said, ‘He is dead.’ But Jesus took him by the hand *and* lifted him up, and he arose. And when He came into a house, His disciples asked Him apart, ‘Why were we not able to cast it out?’ Then He said to them, ‘This kind cannot *be made to* go out by anything except prayer and fasting’” (vs 25-29).

Does Satan want to get in at the top? *Yes, he tried to get Jesus!* We will see that Satan tried to get Peter.

Matthew 16:21: “From that time Jesus began to explain to His disciples that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem, and to suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and to be killed, and to be raised the third day.”

Was it the will of God that He go to Jerusalem and do these things? *Yes! Suffer everything!* Give Himself as the ultimate sacrifice for the sin of the world. Peter didn’t quite understand that at that time. Notice what Peter said and Jesus’ answer.

Verse 22: “But after taking *Him* aside, Peter personally began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘*God will be* favorable to you, Lord. In no way shall this *happen to* You.’ Then He turned and said to Peter, ‘**Get behind Me, Satan!**...’” Satan was influencing Peter with that thought. Just like you go back to King David and we find that he was moved by Satan to number Israel (1-Chron.). We’ll see here in just a minute that Satan wanted Peter real badly. Oh, yes indeed! Satan had the name and that was the name that he wanted, and if he could knock off one of the leading disciples, what a coup that would be.

“...You are an offense to Me, because your thoughts are not *in accord* with the things of God, but the things of men” (v 23).

That’s why prayer and study everyday is important, so that you’re loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and being.

Let’s see that Satan the devil did knock off one of the disciples^[transcriber’s correction]. But Jesus chose him for that very purpose. Here is a good lesson for us:

Luke 22:1: “Now, the Feast of Unleavened

Bread, which is called Passover, was approaching; and the chief priests and the scribes were speculating as to how they might put Him to death, for they feared the people. Then Satan entered into Judas, who was surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve” (vs 1-3). ‘I don’t like what Jesus is doing, I’m going to betray Him to the priests.

Verse 4: “And he went away, *and* spoke with the chief priests and the captains about a way by which he might betray Him to them.” Notice that there is pleasure in sin for a season.

- Does Satan want you to be happy in your sins? *Yes!*
- Does Satan want you to receive a benefit for your sins? *Yes!*

He doesn’t tell you that ‘the wages of sin are death.’

Verse 5: “And **they rejoiced**... [happy, giddy: ‘all this time we’ve been wanting him and here comes one of the twelve, and he’s going to deliver Him up for us’] ...and agreed to give him money.” A benefit! He was paid 30 pieces of silver, the price of a dead slave.

Verse 6: “And he promised, and sought *an* opportunity to betray Him to them away from *the* multitude.” This is why Jesus did not tell the disciples ahead of time where they were going to keep that last Passover. Judas would have gone to the chief priests and would have come to that house, arrested Jesus and took Him off at that time. But that was not in the plan and program and will of God.

This is why Jesus did the Passover this way and didn’t tell them. He didn’t even tell Peter and John. When He told them to go do the Passover, ‘When you go into the city follow a man carrying a pitcher of water. Pray tell, how many men were carrying pitchers of water. This was done so they wouldn’t get Jesus until He was arrested in the darkness of the night of the Passover at midnight, by the forces of evil. That was their hour, their day, their power!

What we need to remember is that everything in the Bible has far more meaning and understanding than we even suppose, or even know what we know, yet.

Verse 31—after the Passover: “Then the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon, listen *well*. Satan has demanded to have all of you, to sift as wheat... [what a coup that would have been] ...But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and when you are converted, strengthen your brethren” (vs 31-32).

Notice Peter’s answer; he had a powerful lesson to learn! Verse 33: “ And he said to Him,

‘Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death.’ But He said, ‘I tell you, Peter, *the* cock shall in no wise crow today before you have denied knowing Me three times” (vs 33-34).

All the other disciples, as the other accounts show, said that was true. We will see that that did happen, and that the Word of Christ was more powerful on Peter than Peter’s own good intentions from his carnal ability.

Verse 54: And after arresting Him, they led *Him away* and brought Him into the house of the high priest. Now, Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in *the* middle of the court, and had sat down together, Peter sat among them. And a certain maid saw him sitting by the light; and after looking at him intently, she said, ‘Now this one was with Him.’ But he denied Him, saying, ‘Woman, I do not know Him.’ And after a little *while*, another saw him *and* said, ‘You also are *one* of them.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I am not.’ Now, after about an hour had passed, a certain other *man* strongly affirmed, saying, ‘In truth, this one also was with Him, for he is indeed a Galilean.’ And Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are talking about.’ And immediately, while he was yet speaking, the cock crowed” (vs 54-60).

Another account says that Peter was even swearing, cursing.

Verse 61: “Then the Lord turned *and* looked at Peter; and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, ‘Before *the* cock crows, you shall deny Me three times.”

I wonder if Jesus looked right at Peter, eyeball to eyeball, and the reality of what he did hit him. That was really an important lesson for Peter to learn, and a really important lesson for us to learn.

- Satan would like to get us!
- Satan would like to come after us!
- Satan would like to destroy us!

But we have be prepared, and we have to be aware of all of the sins of Satan the devil.

2-Cor. talks an awful lot about false prophets and Satan the devil, and what we are to watch out for. Remember Satan the devil coming after the Churches (Rev. 2 & 3). For those who are going to go to a place of safety, Satan comes after them to destroy them. But the earth opens up and swallows up the armies/‘water’ of those going to a place of safety.

Satan the devil martyrs, and there will be martyrs, and we are going to have to be strong in the Lord for that. Who it’s going to be and when it’s going to be, we never know! Especially in today’s

world.

Paul was instructing them that the man who had committed a heinous sin had repented and that they ought to receive him back.

2-Corinthians 2:10: “But to whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*; and if I also have forgiven anything, to whomever I have forgiven *it*, for your sakes *I forgave it* in the person of Christ; so that we may not be outwitted by Satan...” (vs 10-11). He’s very clever with many things:

- false prophets
- sweet words
- enlightenment
- even quoting the Scriptures as we saw with Jesus

“...for we are not ignorant of his schemes” (v 11).

- What happens when you first begin to sin and do not repent?
- What has happened to people who have heard about the Truth, but still want to do things their way and follow Satan?

Remember, this is the age of darkness, the power of Satan the devil, and that’s what we are going to be looking at and facing in the future.

2-Corinthians 4:1: “Therefore, having this ministry, according as we have received mercy, we are not fainthearted.” We don’t want to be fainthearted:

- we need to be strong in the Lord
- we need to be bold in the Lord
- we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God
- we need to do the things that are right
- we need to do the things that are true
- we need to yield ourselves to God
- we need to not be lifted up in vanity and self-importance

Remember that *putting everything personally and your personal feelings can give Satan an open door.*

- whatever hurts
- whatever problems
- whatever bitterness

Get rid of it!

Verse 2: “For we have personally renounced the hidden things of dishonest gain, not walking in *cunning* craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully...” That’s what all of the Protestant ministers do, and even ministers in the Church of God who exalt themselves above the people, exalt themselves to high and mighty positions. *Beware! Those of you who do that! God can take care of you!*

“...but by manifestation of the Truth, we are commending ourselves to every man’s conscience before God. But if our Gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are perishing; in whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe” (vs 2-4).

If you do not believe God completely, wholly, with all your heart, all your soul and all your being you better be careful!

“...lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is *the* image of God, should shine unto them. For we do not preach our own selves, **but Christ Jesus *the* Lord**, and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake” (vs 4-5).

Satan comes as an angel of light, and his ministers as ministers of righteousness (2-Cor. 11). ‘Oh, we have such wonderful sermons on Sunday afternoon. We have such a big crowd there full of all of those who have itching ears that want to hear our wonderful sermons. We make them feel good! Our Sunday services are bursting with happy people.’

Well, the day is going to come when Jesus will say, ‘I don’t know you!’ Here’s what we are to do, not only during the Days of Unleavened Bread and the Passover, but all the time:

Ephesians 6:10: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in *the* Lord, and in the might of His strength.” That comes:

- with the power of God
- with the Spirit of God
- by studying His Word
- by praying
- by yielding to God
- by believing in Him
- by trusting in Him
 - ✓ not trusting in self
 - ✓ not trusting in men

But trusting in God!

Verse 11: “Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.... [yes, he is so clever] ...because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities *and* against powers, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual *power* of wickedness in high *places*” (vs 11-12)—because Satan knows we are going to take over the world. Christ is going to bind him. The demons are going to be removed, and the glorious Kingdom of God is coming on this earth.

This is why all the sins are placed on the goat of Azazel, because unless Satan is removed you cannot bring in everlasting righteousness. It’s as simple as that! That’s why when Christ and all the

saints return from the Sea of Glass (Rev. 19), the beast and the false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire. All the armies have all their flesh fall off of them, and all the birds come and clean up the mess. Isn't it interesting that God cleans up His mess.

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Revelation 20:1: "Then I saw an angel descending from heaven, having the key of the abyss, and a great chain in his hand. And he took hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him *for* a thousand years" (vs 1-2).

God has one more mission, yet, at the end of the Millennium for Satan. We will cover that on Day 7 of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Verse 3: "Then he cast him into the abyss, and locked him *up*, and sealed *the abyss* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer until the thousand years were fulfilled; and after that it is ordained that he be loosed *for* a short time."

This is the meaning of the Day of Atonement!

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:26-32
- 2) Leviticus 16:2-15, 17-27, 29-34
- 3) Luke 4:1-12, 16, 18-19
- 4) Mark 9:14-23, 25-29
- 5) Matthew 16:21-23
- 6) Luke 22:1-6, 31-34, 54-61
- 7) 2 Corinthians 2:10-11
- 8) 2 Corinthians 4:1-5
- 9) Ephesians 6:10-12
- 10) Revelation 20:1-3

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 5
- Ezra 10
- Psalm 35:13
- Hebrews 9; 10
- Matthew 24
- Luke 3
- Deuteronomy 8:3
- Revelation 12; 13; 3; 4
- 2 Corinthians 11
- Revelation 19

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Transcribed: 7/30/17

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Welcome to the Feast of Tabernacles Obey the Voice of God and Catch the Vision

Leave all your troubles behind and look forward to the first resurrection

Fred R. Coulter—October 4, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Feast of Tabernacles! We're going to have a wonderful feast of Tabernacles, and we need to keep it with understanding, wisdom, love and take care of the situations we need to, to have a wonderful Feast.

Fellowship with each other and enjoy everything the way that God would be pleased, so that we can draw closer to each other, draw closer to God, and prepare for the Kingdom of God!

Prov. 29 tells us that this is true with whatever you do, even a small project cannot just be aimless with no plan or understanding.

Proverbs 29:18: "**Where there is no vision, the people perish**; but happy is he who keeps the Law." It tells you how you can arrive at that vision, if you do it lawfully.

The Word of God is fantastic, magnificent and wonderful.

- some places are hard to understand
- some places are easy to understand
- some places have multiple understanding
- some places have single application

But it's all inspired by the mind of God! God-breathed! Or literally God-spirited!

Jesus said, 'The flesh profits nothing! The words that I speak to you, they are Spirit and they are Life!' Of course, we have the whole Bible; we need the whole Bible.

God created man and woman in His image, after His likeness. The whole plan of God is so that we will be after His kind! So, as a precursor of that, God created, planted and built the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve. God placed them in it, and here we come across the three most important words throughout the whole Bible. It may not always be exactly like this; those three words are—and you know them—**obey My voice!**

Isn't it interesting that in order to make sure that everyone would understand God's voice, what He wanted us to have He caused it to be written down. That's a marvelous thing, indeed, isn't it? Not only that, **we can be guaranteed that it is the truth!**

What did God do with Adam and Eve? *The first thing He did was marry them!* He had them in the Garden of Eden and to show God generosity and

greatness: After God had created the earth and everything that there is, He gave it to mankind and said to 'have dominion over the earth, replenish it, multiply.

How about that for a gift to all human beings? Never have we received a gift like that from anyone else. Of course not! So, the whole challenge throughout the whole Bible narrows down to those three words!

- **IF** you do, blessings!
- **IF** you don't, curses!

Automatically, just like the law of gravity.

Well, in the beginning, God was living in the garden with Adam and Eve; God was dwelling with them! How long that was, we're not told. We have the shortest summary of all to tell us exactly the principle that happened. Of course, Adam did not listen to the voice of God, rather he listened to the voice of his wife. If she would have given him good advice, that would have been fine, but since she listened to the serpent Satan the devil—ate of the fruit, and he watched her and didn't stop her—they were exiled from the Garden of Eden.

They still had a chance at obeying God, but not for eternal life. I'm sure that at the east end of the Garden of Eden God taught them many things that they needed to know.

Beginning in Gen. 4, about Cain and Abel, the difference in their offering was that Abel^[transcriber's correction] obeyed God and brought the right kind of offering.

We know what happened with the Flood leading up to Gen. 8, what Noah did. God spared him and the animals and so forth, and took them on the other side of the Flood. Then afterward, God revealed something very interesting concerning the nature of human thought with independent free moral agency and choosing.

Genesis 8:20: "And Noah built an altar to the LORD, and he took of every clean animal, and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savor; and the LORD said in His heart, 'I will not again curse the ground for man's sake—although **the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth**; and I will not again smite every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold

and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (vs 20-22).

We know that the Flood came because the thoughts of men and women were evil all the time. That’s the hardest thing to understand when you come to realizing what God wants done. Then we come down to Abraham. From Abraham, clear on through the rest of the whole Bible, **everything is based upon Abraham’s obedience!**

We know that God called Abraham (Gen. 12) and told him that He would make him a mighty man, a great man. Abraham had to obey the voice of God, **and he did!**

Abraham left his father’s house, left everything behind and came into the land of Canaan where God showed him that he would go. He said, ‘I will make you a great name, a great nation, and I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you, and you shall be a blessing to all nations.’ Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all dwelt in tents or tabernacles, and God dealt with them.

Gen. 15—here again God gives the blessing for the covenant, and the covenant was that Abraham would have a son from his own loins and his seed would be as the stars of heaven and as the sand that covers the seashore.

Then we come to Gen. 17 and God reveals more of the covenant to him, because there were two major aspects:

1. *physical seed* through Isaac
2. *spiritual seed* through Christ

Here God gives the details of the physical nation and tells Abraham that he would be a father of many nations and changed his name to Abraham (his original name was Abram). Abraham’s wife’s name was changed from Sari to Sarah. Here’s what God demanded of Abraham:

Genesis 17:1: “And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I *am* the Almighty God! Walk before Me and be perfect.’” That sets the tone for all the rest of the spiritual understanding, and even sets the tone for the New Testament.

The God tells Abraham that His covenant would be with them, that He would multiply his seed exceedingly. Sarah would be the mother of kings and nations.

We’re just overviewing and surveying so we can have some vision as to what God wants. Remember, God dealt directly with Abraham all the way through every one of these things.

Gen. 22 has shades of the Passover and the slaying of the Firstborn of God—Jesus Christ—for the sins of the world. Abraham obeyed God! He did as God said in the most critical command of all: **to offer Isaac, the only son that he had with Sarah! And he was willing to do so!**

Heb. 11 tells us that he did so because he counted God worthy of raising Isaac from the dead. You know how God intervened and did not allow that to take place.

As we’re going over this, I want you to think about what is the most difficult thing that you have to do to obey the voice of God? What is it that you must be willing to sacrifice to obey the voice of God. Just let that sit there for a while and think on that!

Genesis 22:15: “And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, ‘By Myself have I sworn,’ says the LORD...” (vs 15-16). Think of that! The Creator God in the person of the One Who became Jesus Christ the Lord God. Of course, this is also with the Father behind it, as well.

“...‘because you have done this thing...’ (v 16)—and swearing by Himself; you can’t have any greater guarantee of anything than the very person of God Himself saying, ‘By My existence I’m blessing you, and by My very existence I’m telling you that I will carry out my plan and covenant with you.’

Sidebar: Much of it did not depend on the righteousness of the descendants to fulfill the promise of Abraham. But since God swore by Himself, and said that He would do it...

“...and have not withheld your son, your only son; that in blessing I will bless you... [that’s what He said in Gen. 12] ...and in multiplying I will multiply **your seed like the stars of the heavens...**” (vs 16-17).

Note: Matt. 13:43—those who enter into the Kingdom of God, the children of the kingdom—that’s us—shall ‘shine like the sun.’ Dan. 12 says that we will ‘shine like the stars of heaven.’ Of course Abraham had the blessing for the physical seed, the sand on the seashore. God said that He would do it.

Then the blessing was passed on to Isaac. After Abraham died, God appeared to Isaac and told him to stay in the land and He would bless him.

Let’s see why Isaac received the blessing, and why we have the promise extended to us, so we can participate in the blessing ***IF we repent, obey and love God!***

Genesis 26:2: “And the LORD appeared to him and said, ‘Do not go down into Egypt. Live in the land, which I shall tell you of. Stay in this land, and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your seed, I will give all these lands; and I will establish the oath, **which I swore to Abraham your father**. And I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and will give to your seed all these lands. And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (vs 2-4).

Think about that! God’s plan down through time is so awesome and fantastic; it’s an amazing thing! The Feast of Tabernacles projects from this time all the way down to New Jerusalem and the new heaven and new earth, *because Abraham obeyed the voice of God!*

Verse 5: “**Because Abraham obeyed My voice...**” Listen to this: What does it mean to obey the voice of God? *Everything that He says!* Notice how He broke this down:

“...**and kept My charge...**” (v 5). One of the charges was, ‘Take your son Isaac and offer him.’

“...**My commandments...**” (v 5). The Ten Commandments of God were in existence from the beginning.

“...**My statutes, and My laws**” (v 5). That’s why Isaac received the blessings. That’s why we receive the blessings. God promised that He would bring the children of Israel out of Egypt, which He did. Bring them to Himself and they would be a mighty nation and the children of Israel like the sand of the sea.

In a couple of places they are referred to as the stars of heaven. But the stars of heaven refer to the *spiritual seed*, which then would come much, much later.

So, the way that God always begins is with a statement to see **IF you will obey!** To see **IF we will understand what He’s saying and do it!**

So, the children of Israel gathered there are Mt. Sinai; Exodus 19:3: “And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel, “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and **brought you unto Myself**”’” (vs 3-4)—that’s quite a thing! At Mt. Sinai.

In the New Testament God does even greater than that. He puts His Spirit *in us*, and through the power of God’s Spirit: the Spirit of the Father for begetting and the Spirit of the Son for the

mind of Christ combined as the begetting for eternal life, *to bring us to Himself and to be as He is!*

Verse 5: “Now, therefore, **if you will obey My voice...**” There it is! It would be a nice Bible study to go through the whole Bible.

- *God said*, and what did the people do?
- *God commanded*, and what did the people do?
- *God blessed*, and what did the people do?
- How did it turn out?

Everything that we do is based on *IF*. Isn’t it interesting that independent free moral agency (IFMA).

“...**if you will obey My voice** indeed... [almost identical to what God told Isaac about what Abraham did] ...and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation....” (vs 5-6).

That’s the proposition. All the details came later. That’s the proposition, because **IF you will obey His voice it doesn’t matter what God says, we are to do it!**

“...These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words, which the LORD commanded him. And all the people answered together and said, ‘All that the LORD has spoken we will do.’...” (vs 6-8). Of course, they didn’t do it! Even right there at Mt. Sinai.

Then you can read everything all the way up to the coming of Christ:

- children of Israel
- Israel and Judah
- blessings and cursings
- wars and victories
- wars and defeat
- punishment and correction
- intervention and raising up

Then God raised up Solomon, a great time; almost like a Millennial setting, because there were no wars and they had peace.

John 1 becomes very profound and interesting; this is the pinnacle of all the Gospels because of all the spiritual things that are here.

Just exactly as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and as the children of Israel at Mt. Sinai, **God dealt with them directly**, and likewise with us. Because the children of Israel didn’t want to hear the voice of God anymore... God said that **IF you will obey My**

voice... What did the children of Israel say when they heard the voice of God giving the Ten Commandments? ‘OH, Moses! You speak with us; we can’t stand to hear the voice of God lest we die! But we’ll listen to you.’ It didn’t happen!

So, then God gave to Moses a prophecy of *That Prophet*, which was Christ. Some men like to claim that for themselves, but that is a blatant, blasphemous lie! Christ is *That Prophet* (Acts 3).

In order to bring the New Covenant, which God promised to Abraham, what happened? *The One Who was the Lord God of the Old Testament became Jesus Christ!* He reduced Himself to a pinprick of life and was born of the virgin Mary.

John makes it clear that God, in order to fulfill His promise to Abraham said, ‘By Myself I have sworn...’ So, God Himself came to the earth as a man!

Sidebar: A lot of people say that if God would speak to them, ‘then I’d understand what He wants.’ You can tell them that He already has, and furthermore so that ‘you won’t be confused, He had it written down.’ Isn’t that great? *Yes!*

John 1:1-4 is simple and straightforward and is exactly what God wants us to understand:

John 1:1: “In *the* beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**” A lot of people say, I wonder Who Jesus was? what does it say here? **“...the Word was God!”**

Verse 2: “**He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and not even one thing that was created came into being without Him.**” (vs 2-3). You can read that again in Col. 1. He has the preeminence above everything else, except the Father.

Verse 4: “In Him was life, and the Life was the Light of men.” No human being lives separate from God, whether you are a saint or a sinner!

What did Christ do? *He fulfilled the prophecy of Deut. 18: That Prophet* coming in the flesh! Here’s how He did it:

Verse 14: And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us... [dwelt temporarily with mankind] ...(and we ourselves beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten with the Father), full of grace and truth.” John was one of the three apostles who saw Jesus in the vision of transfiguration.

When Jesus came, what did He do? *He came to the temple suddenly* (John 2), just like it was prophesied. They didn’t believe Him. All the scribes,

Pharisees and priests gathered around and said, ‘What are You doing turning these tables upside down, money rolling all over the place? Who gave You the authority to do this? Who are you?’

Jesus said, ‘Destroy *this temple* and I’ll raise it up in three days.’

Sidebar: Sometimes Jesus gives an answer that is way beyond the question, because He spoke of His own body as the temple of God, rather than the physical temple that was right there.

Now when He came into Galilee, what did He say? *Repent and believe the Gospel, which is the good news of the coming Kingdom of God!* The good news that those who repent and receive the Holy Spirit of God—and **IF** they grow, change and overcome—at the resurrection they will become like God to dwell with God just like He began with Adam and Eve, only now as a Spirit Being. That’s quite a thing!

Luke 12 tells us a little bit about what we need to do, and the whole goal and vision, everything that needs to be. He doesn’t want us to be downcast and oppressed. He wants us to be joyful in the promises that He is going to give us and fulfill them just as He did with Abraham.

Galatians 3:29: “And if you *are* Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to *the promise*”—*of eternal life*, and the promises of *dwelling with God* in New Jerusalem on the new earth.

Luke 12:25: “And which one of you, *by* taking *careful* thought, has the power to add one cubit to his stature?” All of these ‘I’m going to make myself stronger, bigger, greater; take this, eat that, breathe this and that, sleep here, do this...’ Even one they have that you hang upside down and you’ll be more right-side up.

- What is the greatest change?
- What is the greatest thing?
- **Being changed from flesh to spirit!**

This is to humble us so that we don’t get all lifted up!

Verse 26: “Therefore, if you do not have the power *to do even the least*, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow; they do not labor, nor do they spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory was adorned like one of these” (vs 26-27).

- next time you look at a flower, or you look at a whole batch of flowers
- next time you look at a tree

- next time you look at the grass
- next time you look at animals
- next time you look at people

think on this, because you've got to have vision—without vision the people perish!

Verse 28: “But if God so adorns the grass that today is in the field, and tomorrow is cast into an oven, **how much more shall He clothe you, O you of little faith?**” Think what it's going to be like as a spirit being clothed with clothes made of spirit; that are bright, that shine! *Fantastic!*

Verse 29: “Then do not be seeking what you shall eat or what you shall drink, and do not be anxious. For all the nations of the world seek after these things; and your Father knows that you have need of these things. **But seek the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not be afraid, little flock...**” (vs 29-32)—and we are a *little flock*.

- don't be afraid
- have courage
- have faith
- have love

*in spite of the fact that we may be weak and old—*and many of us are and we've been in the Church for long time. So, don't get discouraged. That tells you that you're just closer to receiving what we're going to read here.

“...for your Father delights... [is happy, is rejoicing] ...**in giving you the kingdom**” (v 32). That's why we're here!

- that's why we're here
- that's why we go through what we go through
- that's why we have the Sabbath, Holy Days and Passover

The Feast of Tabernacles tells us that though we're temporary dwellers on this earth—***we are going to live with God! In His New Jerusalem!*** When Christ returns, ***we are going to rule the world!***

Think of what a mess that this world is in! everywhere you go, everything is upside down and backward, warring and fighting, and all of these things. People get all involved emotionally, mentally and physically in these things, and it's all going to come to an end.

Sidebar on the condition of the world when the resurrection takes place: I think one of the questions that down through history those who have died in the faith is: When we're resurrected and we're all on the Sea of Glass looking down at the

earth, and the wars and stuff going on down here, the seven last plagues: ‘Lord, why didn't You tell us that the earth would be almost destroyed when we inherit the kingdom? He's going to say, ‘Listen, I'm going to give you the job of overseeing its rebuilding.’ *Yeah, but Lord, I didn't know it would be this bad!* You read the seven last plagues and all the wars in Revelation.

But He will tell you, ‘Don't worry!’ He'll tell you to be perfect! ‘I will have made you perfect!’ We know that we cannot inherit the Kingdom of God now. We know that we have to be spirit beings to live in the Kingdom of God. God wants us to do everything that we do to attain to the Kingdom of God.

Paul says that he did everything so that he could have the righteousness of Christ at the resurrection and enter into the Kingdom of God. But also, he tells us how in loving God and serving Him, that we can be perfect—in heart, mind and attitude—so that we *can be perfected* spiritually.

Here's what we are to do; here is the ultimate; Philippians 3:14: “I press toward *the* goal... [the Kingdom of God, the vision of God] ...for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. So then, let as many as *be* perfect...” (vs 14-15)—just like God told Abraham to be perfect:

“...be of this mind...” (v 15)—forget all the things behind; forget all the difficulties that come against you. Ask God to help you, cleanse your mind and to go forward.

“...And if *in* anything you are otherwise minded, God will reveal even this to you” (v 15).

Here is the ultimate of that vision, v 20: “But **for us**, the commonwealth of God exists in *the* heavens, from where also we are waiting for *the* Savior, *the* Lord Jesus Christ, **Who will transform our vile bodies, that they may be conformed to His glorious body**, according to the inner working of His own power, *whereby He is able* to subdue all things to Himself” (vs 20-21).

Brethren, that's what we have to have before we then can rule as kings and priests during the Millennium!

- This is the vision!
- This is where we're headed!
- This is what we are doing!
- This is why *we don't take any permanent stock in our temporary physical lives, but use that as a vehicle to:*
 - ✓ grow
 - ✓ change
 - ✓ overcome

✓ develop the love of God

and be in the first resurrection!

Have a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles!
Welcome to everyone! *Fellowship, visit, have a great and fantastic Feast!*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Proverbs 29:18
- 2) Genesis 8:20-22
- 3) Genesis 17:1
- 4) Genesis 22:15-17
- 5) Genesis 26:2-5
- 6) Exodus 19:3-8
- 7) John 1:1-4, 14
- 8) Galatians 3:29
- 9) Luke 12:25-32
- 10) Philippians 3:14-15, 20

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 4; 12; 15
- Hebrews 11
- Matthew 13:43
- Daniel 12
- Acts 3
- Colossians 1
- Deuteronomy 18
- John 2

FRC: bo
Transcribed: 8/15/17

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Day 1—Feast of Tabernacles The Restitution of All Things

From vast destruction and upheaval to renewal

Fred R. Coulter—October 5, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Feast of Tabernacles! What a wonderful Feast that the Feast of Tabernacles is, and the meaning of it. It brings, as we will see, the salvation of God to the world!

The Feast of Tabernacles shows that everything physical is temporary. That's why God had the children of Israel dwell in booths. Today we understand that every building is temporary, every abode is temporary. There is coming a new earth and the Government of God is going to be here, and we are going to be the ones to save the world.

Let's begin as we always do in Leviticus 23:33: "And the LORD spoke to Moses saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, saying, "The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD.'" (vs 33-34). That's according to the Calculated Hebrew Calendar, as we understand it.

Verse 35: "On the first day *shall be* a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein*. Seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD...." (vs 35-36).

Those are the required (Num. 29). We will see that there's another offering to be given, which is separate from the fire offerings that are commanded by God to the priesthood and the Levites to do, and that's the individual offering that we do.

"...On the eighth day shall be a Holy convocation to you..." (v 36). Isn't that an interesting thing? What does God say about the least? *They shall be great!* And the last day is *the Last Great Day*, and it's going to produce more than any other part of the plan of God. But you'll have to be here to go through that day.

Then it says "...It is a solemn assembly.... [v 37]: These *are* the Feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be Holy convocations to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, everything on its day; besides the Sabbaths of the LORD..." (vs 36-38).

This is very important for everyone to understand, especially people who are new. The Sabbath is called *the Sabbath*. That's the seventh-day Sabbath. Of course, Lev. 23:1-3 shows that the weekly Sabbath is the one that sanctifies all the Holy

Days, as well. So, every Sabbath that is a Holy Day is called a *Sabbath*, not *the Sabbath*.

"...and besides your gifts, and besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD. Also, in the fifteenth day of the seventh month when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep a Feast to the LORD seven days. On the first day *shall be a* Sabbath, and on the eighth day *shall be a* Sabbath" (vs 38-39). Then it shows how they were to make booths out boughs and things like that.

If you take a bough on the first day and break it off a tree and just keep it and look at each one of the eight days, you will see that by the seventh day it's just about gone, and on the eighth day you're just about ready to throw it out. A perfect example of what Jesus says:

'I am the vine and you are the branches. Every branch that does not bear fruit the Father cuts away and is cast into fire. You must remain in the vine as the branches in order to bear fruit.'

When you break off that bough and you look at it every day, you will see what is true. So, if you don't have a constant supply of sap for the bough or the branch, and if you don't have a constant supply of God's Spirit *you can do nothing!*

Here we have a command for a free will offering; Deuteronomy 16:16: "Three times in a year shall all your males appear before the LORD your God in the place which He shall choose: in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles...." Today there are many places that God chooses. Even in some instances, like Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in the midst of you.'

In keeping the Feast of Tabernacles and coming to the different Feast sites, fellowshiping with the brethren and being there all eight days to go over the Scriptures, to hear the sermons, to fellowship with everyone, that is a great, great time.

"...And they shall not appear before the LORD empty, every man *shall give* as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God, which He has given you" (vs 16-17). So, whenever we bring an offering to God:

- we look at the blessings that God has given

us

- we look at how God has spared us from so many things
- we look at how God has delivered us from our trials

God has given us His Spirit and He has given us His Word! We have all of these things available to us today in a most fantastic way. *Keep all of those things in mind as you give your offering* for this Holy Day of the Feast of Tabernacles, 2017!

(pause for the offering)

While the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the great time of peace, and a great time of harvest for those to enter into the Kingdom of God, it starts out quite a bit differently than you might suppose. It's not going to be an instantaneous change of everything and now we have peace and everything is wonderful.

We saw that on the Day of Atonement that Jesus Christ sent an angel to take Satan and the demons and cast them into the abyss and then set a seal over them.

Rev. 20—here is a job description for what we will be doing all during the Millennium. We don't yet know what our job description will be in the new heaven and the new earth and going out into eternity. Isn't that a fantastic thing to understand? *We can understand the concept of it, but we don't know how it's going to be!* That's why we need to always remain faithful and:

- love God with all our heart, mind, soul and being
- keep His commandments
- love the brethren
- overcome
- do the things that God wants us to do

So that we can be there!

This begins the Millennium, and then we will see what the work is that we have to do at first:

Revelation 20:4: "And I saw thrones; and they that sat upon them, and judgment was given to them..." We're going to judge the people of the world. The 12 apostles are going to sit on 12 thrones judging the children of Israel. King David is going to be king over all of greater Israel physically and spiritually.

"...and *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and those who did not worship the beast, or his image, and did not receive the mark in their foreheads or in their hands; **and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years**" (v 4).

That's something! Reigning as kings and priests!

Just a little hint for the Last Great Day. Isn't it interesting how that fits in, exactly how it's recorded in Lev. 23. It talks about the eighth day, but then doesn't tell us anything about it. Likewise here:

Verse 5: "(But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed.)..." We know, as we have covered, that those who are Christ's are going to be raised from the dead, and those who are alive will be changed at His coming. We're all going to meet Christ in the air on the Sea of Glass, and after everything is done there, we're going to come back to the earth, Satan is going to be bound and then we are going to be given the actual *rule and judgment* of this world.

"...This *is* the first resurrection" (v 5). That parenthetical statement [first part of v 5] is put there to look forward to after the thousand years. But what it's talking about is those in the *first* resurrection. This also tells us that there's a *first* resurrection and there's a *second* resurrection. Wondrous when you stop and think about it and read it.

Notice what it says about us: ***We'll be the sons and daughters of God ruling and reigning with Christ!***

Verse 6: "Blessed and Holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power.... [because we're going to live forever] ...But they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

Then we're going to rule and reign after that, but that's saved for the Last Great Day. Let's look at our coming back to take over the world. We finished off on the Feast of Trumpets in Zech. 14. This tells us an awful lot about how the condition of the world will be:

Zechariah 14:3: "And the LORD shall go out and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle."

What happens when there's war? *Everything gets destroyed!* We need to look at the challenge that we're going to be facing at the beginning of the Millennium. We need to contemplate what the people will be up against at that time, those who survive through all the calamities that happen at the end.

Verse 4: "And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall split in two, from the east and to the west, and make a very great valley. And half of the mountain shall

move toward the north, and half of it toward the south.” That’s something!

Think about the earthquakes that are talked about just going through the book of Revelation. This is going to be a fantastic earthquake when Christ puts His feet on the Mount of Olives and the mountain splits in two and creates a great valley. So, the whole geography of everything is going to be changed. That’s going to be awesome, indeed!

Verse 5: “...And the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with You. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark. And it will be one day, which shall be known to the LORD, neither day nor night; but it shall come to pass that at evening time it shall be light. And it shall be in that day, that **living waters shall go out from Jerusalem...**” (vs 5-8)—out to heal the whole world. Why? *Because all the rivers and all the oceans have been turned to blood, and everything in it died!*

This is how God is going to take care of cleansing the oceans; “...half of them shall go toward the eastern sea, and half of them toward the western sea. In summer and in winter it shall be” (v 8). A constant flow of the River of God. This is symbolic of the Spirit of God.

Verse 9: “And the LORD shall be King over all the earth; in that day there shall be one LORD, and His name shall be one.” Then it talks about what’s going to happen.

Verse 11: “And they shall dwell in it, and there shall never again be any more utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall dwell safely.” For Jerusalem, that’s quite a promise! *No more destruction!*

Verse 12: “And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will smite all the people who have fought against Jerusalem...” There are going to be people mad, angry and fighting against us. It’s not going that everything is going to peaceful and righteous right off the bat.

“...Their flesh shall consume away while they stand on their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their sockets. And their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall be in that day *that* a great panic from the LORD shall be among them. And they shall each one lay hold of his neighbor, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor. And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the nations all around shall be gathered—gold, and silver, and clothing in great abundance” (vs 12-14). So, this is now all going to come into Jerusalem.

There’s still independent free moral

agency—IFMA—and everyone, every individual, every province, every nation is going to have to choose:

- Are they going to fight God?
- or**
- Are they going to obey God?
 - Are they going to submit to the government of God?
 - What are they going to do?

Verse 15: “And likewise shall be the plague of the horse, the mule, the camel, and the donkey, and of all the beasts which shall be in these camps—*it shall be* as this plague.”

Let’s see one of the things that has to be done, not only about Satan but the demons.

Zechariah 13:1: “In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the people of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and for uncleanness. And it shall be in that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall be remembered no more....’” (vs 1-2).

The first thing that is going to happen is the destruction of every idol. You go back and read how Israel conquered the ‘promised land,’ what was one of the first things they were to do?

- destroy the images
- destroy the groves
- destroy the places of worship

“...and they shall be remembered no more. And also I will cause **the lying prophets and the unclean spirits** to pass out of the land” (v 2). All of the demons will be bound in the abyss with Satan the devil.

When this happens all the nations are going to be given a choice: Will they obey God? **or** not? Let’s see what happens in the rest of:

Zechariah 14:16: “And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came up against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.” Remember:

- God told them to keep the Feast of Tabernacles
- Jesus and the apostles kept the Feast of Tabernacles
- we are to keep the Feast of Tabernacles
- now the whole world is going to keep the Feast of Tabernacles

Verse 17: “And it shall be, whoever will not come up from all the families of the earth to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.”

Obviously, not everybody can get to Jerusalem. So, there have to be duly authorized representatives representing them, who will be keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in their countries. But in Jerusalem the official representation of that country and everyone in it.

Verse 18: “And if the family of Egypt that has no rain, does not come up to present themselves, *this* shall be the plague with which the LORD shall strike the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.”

At first there are going to be some more battles to be fought. We’re going to see that the earth is going to be in ruins and desolation and falling apart. What a tremendous job that we will have to bring about the way that it should. That’s going to be interesting, indeed, when we look at it. In Isa. 24 we get a great description of the condition of the earth. It’s going to be shambles. We’re going to have to help them rebuild. In another place in Isa. It says that they’re going to ‘rebuild the waste places.’

Here’s what happens with all the wars right up to the return of Christ; Isaiah 24:1: “Behold, the LORD makes the earth empty and makes it waste, and turns it upside down, and scatters its inhabitants.”

- think of all the chaos
- think of all the destruction
- everything is broken
- everything is ruined

Everything that man has done in defiance against God is going to be obliterated! Like we saw in Zech. 14, we’re going to get rid of the idols first.

Verse 2: “And as *it is* with the people, so it shall be with the priest; as with the slave, so with the master; as with the handmaid, so it is with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the creditor, so with the debtor. The earth shall be completely laid waste, and utterly stripped; for the LORD has spoken this word” (vs 2-3). *That’s what it’s going to be!*

Verse 4: “The earth mourns *and* languishes; the world withers *and* languishes; the proud people of the earth wither. And the earth is defiled under its people; because they have transgressed the Laws, changed the ordinance, and have broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, the curse has devoured the earth... [that’s quite a condition] ...and

they who dwell in it are desolate; therefore, the people of the earth are burned, and few men are left” (vs 4-6).

When you look at some of these war stories, the bombing and things that have gone on in different wars. When you think of some of the atomic bombs that have been blown off like in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, and also the blast at Chernobyl, look at the destruction. That’s going to be something!

Verse 10: “The city of shame is broken down; every house is shut up so that no one may come in. A crying for wine is in the streets; all joy is darkened, the mirth in the land has gone. In the city, *it* is left a desolation, and the gate is stricken with destruction, for so it is in the midst of the earth among the people, *it shall be* like the shaking of an olive tree and as gleanings when the grape harvest is completed” (vs 10-13). That’s quite a thing! So, the whole world is going to have to start from scratch!

Verse 14: “They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea. Therefore, glorify the LORD in the east where the light dawns, the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea” (vs 14-15). They’re all going to come and recognize God!

Verse 16: “From the ends of the earth we have heard songs, ‘Glory to the righteous.’ But I said, ‘Leanness to me! Leanness to me! Woe to me! Deceivers deceive, even treacherously. Deceivers deceive!’ Dread and the pit, and the snare *are* upon you, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall be, he who flees from the sound of dread shall fall into the pit. And he who comes up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare, for the windows from on high are opened, and the foundations of the earth quake. **The earth is broken, yea broken down!**...” (vs 16-19). Think of that! The whole earth in total shambles!

“...The earth is crumbling, yea crumbling to pieces! The earth is tottering, yea tottering! Like a drunkard the earth is staggering, yea staggering! And it rocks to and fro like a tree hut! And its transgressions are heavy upon it; and it shall fall and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones *that are* on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered, *as* prisoners are gathered in a dungeon. And they shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days they shall be punished” (vs 19-22).

So, that’s the way the earth is going to be when we come and take over. You might say that the

book of Isaiah has a lot to do with the Kingdom of God.

Isaiah 33:1: “Woe *to* the destroyer, and you who *have* not been destroyed; and *to* the treacherous one, for they have not dealt treacherously with you. When you stop destroying, you shall be destroyed. When you stop dealing treacherously, they shall deal treacherously with you. O LORD, be gracious to us...” (vs 1-2).

This is showing that everyone who has committed sins, followed demons and worshipped idols ***there has now got to be repentance!*** That’s how it’s going to start out at the beginning of the Millennium. Think about how the people are going to be. We’re going to help them recover from:

- shock
- wounds
- lost limbs
- destroyed minds
- destroyed homes
- destroyed lives

that’s why it is “...be gracious to us; we have waited for You; be their arm every morning; our salvation also in the time of trouble. At the noise of the tumult the people fled; at the lifting up of Yourself the nations were scattered. And your spoil shall be gathered *as* the stripping locust gathers; as the running to and fro of locusts they shall run upon them. **The LORD is exalted...**” (vs 2-5). The first thing they’re going to do is that ***God reigns in Jerusalem!***

‘We have been sent here as kings, priests, rulers and administrators, and we are going to show you how you need to start repairing your lives, your cities and your homes, ***and come to God!***

Verse 5: “The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high. He has filled Zion *with* justice and righteousness. And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of your times, *and* strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD *is* his treasure. Behold, their mighty ones shall cry outside; the messengers of peace shall weep bitterly. The highways lie waste, the traveler ceases. He has broken the covenant. He has despised the cities. He cared for no man. **The earth mourns and languishes....**” (vs 5-9).

Now God is going to change everything! We are going to be the ones who are going to do it. This is how it’s going to be when we start. This is going to be unimaginable! So, we need to prepare ourselves to understand what’s going to happen.

Isaiah 25:1: “O LORD, You *are* my God; I will exalt You, I will praise Your name; for You

have done wonderful *things*; Your counsels of old *are* faithfulness *and* Truth, for You have made a city a heap; a fortified city into a ruin; a citadel of foreigners to be no city; it shall never be rebuilt” (vs 1-2).

Some of those things are just going to be wasted away; new things will be put on it. They’re never going to rebuild it the way it was.

Verse 3: “Therefore, the strong people glorify You, the city of the terrible nations shall fear You, for You are a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones *is* like a storm *against* the wall. You shall bring down the noise of foreigners, as the heat in a dry place; even the heat with the shadow of a cloud....” (vs 3-5). It’s going to be something!

- there are going to be people resisting
- there will be people fighting

We’ll be able to take care of them, because we’ll have the power to do it.

Verse 6: “And in this mountain... [notice the transformation]: ...the LORD of hosts shall make a feast of fat things **for all the people...**” How long that takes to get all of that in order so that there will be that Feast of Tabernacles talked about in Zech. 14...

“...a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of refined wines on the lees” (v 6). This shows that there is going to be:

- replanting
- growing
- harvesting
- getting all the produce
- making wine

It says in Rev. 12:9 that Satan the devil is ‘deceiving the whole world.’ All blinded! Think about how fixed their minds are going to be when they have been worshipping *the beast* and the *false prophet!* Think how their minds are going to be fixed if they survive and we’re fighting against the return of Christ and he saints.

So, there has to be a change; here is the change, v 7: “**And He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering, which covers all people...**”

- Remember how they’re blinded?
- Why are they blinded? *Because of Satan the devil!*

God is going to have to take care of all of this!

“...and the veil that is woven over all nations” (v 7). That’s quite a thing to take place! That’s really going to be something.

Verse 8: “He will destroy death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces. And He shall take away from all the earth the rebuke of His people, for the LORD has spoken it. And one shall say in that day, ‘Lo, this *is* our God. We have waited for Him, and He will save us.... [complete change; conversion will come and amazing things will take place] ...This *is* the LORD; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation” (vs 8-9). That’s going to be something!

Isa. 26 shows the gradual:

- changing
- rebuilding
- making things correct
- getting rid of the sinner
- getting rid of the destruction
- getting rid of all the things that this world has consisted up

and begin a new!

Isaiah 26:1: “In that day this song shall be sung in the land of Judah: ‘We have a strong city; He sets up salvation *as our* walls and banks. Open the gates, so that **the righteous nation** shall enter in...” (vs 1-2). New Jerusalem on the earth, not the New Jerusalem of Rev. 21 & 22, but the rebuilding of Jerusalem for the Millennium. “...the righteous nation...” are all of those in the first resurrection.

“...one that is faithfully keeping Truth. You will keep *him* in perfect peace, whose mind *is* stayed on You; because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever...” (vs 2-4).

We’re going to trust in the Lord even when we’re spirit beings! Are we not? *Yes, indeed!* Did Jesus Christ trust in the Lord? *Yes! All through His life when He was in the flesh!*

“...for God the LORD *is* the everlasting Rock” (v 4). That’s quite a thing that happens here.

Verse 7: “The way of the just *is* uprightness; O Upright One, You make the path of the righteous level. Yea, *in* the way of Your judgments, O LORD, we have waited for You; for Your name and for Your remembrance *is* the desire of *our* soul” (vs 7-8). Changing everything about carnal nature. There will still be some carnal nature, but not like it is today. *God is going to do that!*

There’s going to be salvation that’s going to be granted to them, and it’s going to be a marvelous thing. We will be the ones to bring it. Now we will

see how things are progressing, and people are going to be happy and people are going to understand:

- they’ll be keeping the Sabbath
- they’ll be keeping the Holy Days
- they’ll be worshipping and reverencing God
- *we will help them*

Imagine what it’s going to be like at Sabbath services! The whole earth keeping the Sabbath. Can you imagine that?

Isaiah 35:1: “The wilderness and the desert shall be glad and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly...” (vs 1-2).

Think of that the next time you see any aerial shot of the Sahara Desert, the Gobi Desert, the desert of the southwest, or wherever there’s a desert. It’s all going to bloom! It’s all going to be productive!

“...and rejoice even *with* joy and singing; the glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD *and* the majesty of our God” (v 2).

Not only is He going to be ruling from Jerusalem, He’s going to be going around the earth and meeting with the people:

- they will see His glory
- they will see His majesty
- we’ll all lead them in worship and prayer to God when He comes to visit that part of the world

Verse 3: “Make the weak hands strong and make the feeble knees sure. Say to those of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, fear not; behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, with the full recompense of God. He will come and save you” (vs 3-4). That’s what we will be doing: saving the earth; saving the people! Notice what it’s going to be. Imagine this:

- How many people are going to be blinded because of all the wars?
- How many people are going to be lame, missing limbs and so forth?

Verse 5: “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped”—physically and spiritually, because Satan is removed, the demons are gone and the sons and daughters of God are ruling as kings and priests and administrators. They will be bringing the way of God to the people.

- healing them
- uplifting them

- encouraging them
- loving them

Verse 6: “Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing; for in the wilderness waters shall break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land shall become springs of water in the home of jackals, in its lair, it shall be a place for the reed and rush. And **a highway** shall be there...” (vs 6-8).

Yes, there are going to be roads and people will travel. But this highway is the *Way of God!* That’s what it’s talking about. Today the majority of people are deceived. When the Millennium is here nobody is going to be deceived. The way of righteousness will be there, called the *Highway of God!*

“...and a way, and it shall be called **The Way of Holiness**....” (v 8). How do these physical people now:

- live
- understand
- grow
- overcome
- love God
- keep the commandments

We’ll be teaching them and be with them, to learn the *Way of Holiness* so that they may fulfill their lives and enter into the *spiritual* Kingdom of God, as we have. That’s interesting when you contemplate it and look at it.

“...The unclean shall not pass over it. But it will be for him who walks in that way, but fools, shall not err *in it*.... [they won’t go near it] ...No lion shall be there, nor *any* beast of prey shall go up on it, they shall not be found there. But **the redeemed shall walk there**. And **the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion** with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (vs 8-10).

- that describes our mission
- that describes what we are going to do
- that shows what it’s going to be like

At the beginning of the Millennium!

Jer. 30 talks about the return of all nations to their own nations. Everything is going to be *the restitution of all things*, as Peter prophesied (Acts 3).

Jeremiah 30:8: “‘For it shall be in that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘I will break his yoke from your neck...’” Bring them out of captivity; that’s

going to be a big thing. What’s it going to be like to bring all the people of Israel back to their various lands?

“...and will burst your bonds. And strangers shall no longer enslave him, but they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up to them” (vs 8-9).

What did God promise David? *He promised that there would always be someone sitting on his throne!* That blends out to Christ, but it also comes back to David.

- Christ is going to rule over all the world
- David is going to rule over all Israel
- the 12 apostles will be judging the 12 tribes of Israel

They’re going to be serving their God and David their king, whom God is going to raise up.

Verse 10: “‘And you, O My servant Jacob, do not fear,’ says the LORD. ‘Do not be terrified, O Israel. For lo, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. And Jacob shall return, and shall be at rest, and be quiet, and none shall make *him* afraid.’” That’s something! That is an incredible thing!

When there’s war the men get killed, because they’re the ones who go to war. Just like after WWII, look who was cleaning up the rubble and the bricks: *women! Long lines of women!* There were millions of dead men.

So, unless something is done to balance out the population so that there becomes the amount male and female—men and women—that should be in a normal population, how are we going to get the abnormality of numbers back to an equal status so that there can be one man and one woman in a marriage situation? At the beginning of the Millennium there will be women who have no husbands, but will have one husband for them who will raise up children from those women.

Isaiah 4:1: “And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, ‘We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothing; only let us be called by your name. Take away our shame.’” That’s going to be quite a thing!

Then when the population gets balanced out, there will be the normal relations and balancing of male and female. Of course, marriage and children is going to be wonderful thing during that time.

(go to the next track)

There’s a verse in Jer. 31 that verifies what we read in Isa. 4. this is talking about the restoration

of Israel, Ephraim and so forth.

Jeremiah 31:21: “Set up way marks, make sign posts for yourself. Set your heart toward the highway, even the way that you went....” Notice the highway; there’s a lot there about coming back to God and doing what we need to do.

“...Return again, O virgin of Israel, return to these your cities. How long will you go to and fro, O faithless daughter? For the LORD has created a new thing in the land; **a woman shall court a man**” (vs 21-22).

Isa. 4 tells us that in order to balance out the population, it’s going to take seven women.

Verse 23: “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘Again they shall speak this word in the land of Judah and in its cities, when I shall bring them back from their captivity: ‘The LORD bless you, O habitation of righteousness *and* mountain of Holiness.’”

Everything that men have always wanted and have never been able to get, because it has to be God’s way. Now we have this great work as kings and priests, and as sons and daughters of God the Father. We will be administrators, directors and builders; all of this. It’s going to be magnificent!

Verse 24: “And farmers, and those going forth with flocks, shall dwell in Judah itself, and in all the cities of it together. For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul” (vs 24-25). This is the great healing that we are going to be doing, and what a magnificent thing that is going to be.

Remember, we’re going reign a thousand years! Tomorrow we’ll talk about how that thousand years is divided up. But today what we’re seeing is that we’re coming from vast destruction, vast upheaval **to renewal!** God changing things:

- changing the land
- making deserts bloom
- making mountains be fruitful
- the land fruitful
- restoring all the plants and animals

Verse 25: “‘For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.’ On this I awoke and looked up; and my sleep was sweet to me” (vs 25-26). What a dream that was for Jeremiah, with all the misery and terrible things that he had see, go through, preach and put up with.

Verse 27: “‘Behold, the days come,’ says the LORD, ‘that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and with the

seed of animal. And it shall come to pass, as I have watched over them to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; **so I will watch over them to build and to plant,**’ says the LORD” (vs 27-28). No more war! No more evil!

Verse 29: “ ‘In those days they shall not say any more, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the teeth of the children are set on edge.’ But every man shall die for his own iniquity.... [if he chooses to sin] ...Every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge. Behold, the days come,’ says the LORD, ‘that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, **and** with the house of Judah’” (vs 29-31).

The covenant of eternal life through the operation of the Millennium! That’s going to be quite a thing! Even though we have some Scriptures that tell us about it—we’ll get into those tomorrow and during the whole Feast—but this is something!

Verse 32: “‘Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant of Mine they broke, although I was a husband to them,’ says the LORD; ‘but this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days,’ says the LORD, ‘I will put My Law in their inward parts... [conversion] ...and write it in their hearts...’” (vs 32-33). Can you imagine

- what the cities are going to be like?
- what the farms are going to be like?
- what the animals are going to be like?

Is God going to make childbirth so much easier, that there will be many children? *Yes! Because God needs all of them to help run the entire universe!* This is going to be a great thing during the Millennium!

“...and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall no more teach each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD’; for **they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,**” says the LORD. **‘For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more’**” (vs 33-34). That is going to be fantastic!

Just stop and think about it! In your mind, or if you have a globe at home, take out that globe and look at all the death and destruction, war and misery, upset weather, heat and cold, deserts and artics and so forth; we don’t really know what the climate is going to be like. Is it going to be wonderful all around the world? Are we still going to have the Northern ice cap and the Southern Antarctica the

way it is now.

Verse 35: “Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, who stirs up the sea when its waves roar; (the LORD of hosts is His name), ‘If those ordinances...’” (vs 35-36).

Here’s a promise; you want to know how sure that the Millennium is coming, how sure all of the things at the end-time that we are living through are going take place:

- that Christ is going to return
- that the Millennium is going to be set up

Verse 36: “‘If those ordinances depart from Me,’ says the LORD, ‘the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before Me forever.’” Think about that!

Sidebar: How can it be said that Israel was absorbed into all of the Gentile nations when He says the nation will never cease before Him?

- Do we still have the oceans? *Yes!*
- Do we still have the sun? *Yes!*
- Do we still have the moon? *Yes!*
- Do we still have day and night? *Yes!*
- Has it be going on continuously from the time that these words were spoken until now? *Yes!*

Therefore, there is the end-time nations of the children of Israel.

Verse 37: “Thus says the LORD, ‘If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be searched out, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done,’ says the LORD.”

That means that He’s saying if those things can be done, ‘then know for sure that I’m going to get rid of Israel.’ But since they can’t be done, Israel continues to exist!

How God is going to restore Israel and then every nation. We’re going to see what going to have to happen with every nation and how it’s going to be.

Joel 2:21: “Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD will magnify his deeds. Do not be afraid, beasts of the field; for the pastures of the wilderness grow green; for the tree bears its fruit, and the fig tree and the vine yield their strength. Be glad then, children of Zion... [all of Israel, all Judah] ...and rejoice in the LORD your God, for He has given you the former rain in just measure, and He will cause the rain to come down for you, the former

rain and the latter rain as before” (vs 21-23).

Restore the climate! Everybody today is worried about climate change. Well, only God can restore it. It’s changing because of the sins of men today.

Verse 24: “And the threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.” It talks an awful lot about wine during the Millennium. I sounds like that’s going to replace Seven-Up.

Verse 25: “And I will restore to you the years, which the swarming locust has eaten, the locust larvae, and the destroying locust, and the cutting locust, My great army which I sent among you. And **you shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied**, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt with you wondrously; and My people shall never *again* be ashamed” (vs 25-26).

That’s quite a tremendous thing to think about! How is that going to be? What a wonderful thing! We’re the ones who are going to lead it and direct it, and cause it to be done.

Verse 27: “And you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel, and that **I am the LORD your God, and there is none else; and My people shall never *again* be ashamed....** [Why?] ...And afterward it shall be *that* I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh....” (vs 27-28)—*universal salvation!* This was quoted by Peter on the Day of Pentecost; that was the fulfillment there. But here is fulfillment in the Millennium.

“...And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; your old men shall dream dreams; your young men shall see visions. And also I will pour out My Spirit upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days” (vs 28-29). That’s going to be quite a thing!

No more war! That’s going to be something! Think about all the resources, all the money, all the weapons that have been down through the centuries in war! God holds Babylon the Great—directly Satan the devil and his whole system (Rev. 18)—for all the bloodshed of mankind down through every war, every fight, every murder. This is why you need the Kingdom of God, the government of God and the kings and priests of God all being spirit beings to help manage and bring the people salvation.

Micah 4:1: “But it shall be in the last days *that* the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.” This is depicting:

- the Kingdom of God
- the government of God
- the rule of God

and below that

- the governments of the nations, which are going to be run by us
- the various people within those nations
- the countries
- the cities

Here's what's going to happen when they see what's taking place with Israel:

Verse 2: "And many nations shall come and say, 'Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob. And **He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths**'—for the Law shall go forth out of Zion, and the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among many people, and will rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall... [they're going to] ...beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, **neither shall they learn war anymore**" (vs 2-3). That's one of the first things that 'kiddies' are taught today, *war!*

Sidebar: Have you ever watched on the History Channel *Forged in Fire*? That's quite interesting, because it shows all the work that has to be done in making the weapons. But beyond that they have to get the ore, the coal, the coals, all the things for the furnaces. They have to melt down the ore, make into iron, steel and brass. In *Forged in Fire* it shows how they make weapons: all the work, all the effort and all the time to make all of these weapons.

One thing I've never understood, when you watch WWII and you see how the Germans were being defeated, I always ask:

- Where did they get all of that ammunition?

We know they were making planes right under the city of Berlin. But:

- Where did they get the metal?
- Where did they get the smelters?
- Where were they doing these things?
- How did they have so many weapons?
- How did they have so many bombs?

Just like with all the nations of the world—fighting, warring, bombing, shooting—and all of the planes, submarines, ships and everything. The Chinese are bragging that they're going to build gigantic submarines, battleship submarines. Well, all of that is under Satan the devil!

- they will not learn war

- they will not be taught it
- they will not make the weapons

Verse 4: "But they shall sit each one under his *own* vine and under his *own* fig tree; and no one shall make them afraid..." What a fantastic time that is going to be! And all of their animals and children. Wonderful! They're going to have their carnal nature reduced down to the bear minimum. That is going to be quite a thing!

"...for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken" (v 4). God is guaranteeing that this is going to happen. Isn't it something that down deep in the heart, mind and psyche of every human being, what do they really, really want? *Love, joy, peace and safety!* But you can't get it by human means, *only by God!*

Verse 5: "For all people will walk, *each* one in the name of his god... [we will be the sons of God; they're going to worship the true God, we'll just be there helping] ...and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever." *The firstfruits!*

Verse 7: "And I will make the lame into a remnant, and she who was cast off into a mighty nation; and the LORD shall reign over them in Mount Zion from henceforth, even forever." *Quite a story that all of this brings out!*

God is going to make it so productive! With *the restitution of all things*, guess what's going to be gone? *Thorns, thistles and weeds!* Won't that be nice? *Yes, indeed!* For their gardens, they'll have to go out and hoe it and till it, that's true. That's so you get the air in there and the plants are healthy and produce. But no more weeds! That's going to be marvelous! I look back on the gardens that we've had in our time, and the weeds have always been a problem.

Amos 9:13: "'Behold, the days come,' says the LORD, 'that the plowman shall overtake the reaper...'" There's so much to harvest that the reaper can't get out of the way of the plowman, and plowman is saying, 'Hurry up, I've got to get this ready for the next crop!'

"...and the treader of grapes him who sows seed. And the mountains will drop sweet wine..." (v 13). What's it going to be like in Millennium? *No teetotalers there!* Look at that!

"...and all the hills will flow with it. And I will bring back the exiles of My people Israel, and they shall build the cities which are desolate, and they shall live *in* them. And they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine. They shall also make

gardens and eat their fruit. And I will plant them in their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them,' **says the LORD your God**" (vs 13-15). *That is a tremendous and wonderful thing for us!*

This is the first thing we're going to have to proclaim as the Millennium begins:

Psalm 97:1: "**The LORD reigns**; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of islands be glad."

Psalm 99:1: "**The LORD reigns...**" Your God reigns in Jerusalem! Jesus Christ and the Bride are there, and all of those who serve Him. And the beautiful tabernacle that God is going to put in Jerusalem.

Sidebar: All of those of you who think that the Millennial temple is the one listed in Ezek. 40 onward. *That's not it!* Read it carefully and Ezekiel is told to measure the temple in Jerusalem. Those measurements were for the second temple after the Babylonian captivity, *because you can't make a temple of God for God without His plans!* So, Ezekiel measuring, in vision, the temple in Jerusalem was measuring the temple according to the plans that God had given to David, and Solomon was the one who built the temple.

As you will see on Day 2, tomorrow, it's going to be spectacular! Now, these are the Millennial Psalms:

Verse 1: "**The LORD reigns**; let the earth rejoice; let the people tremble. He sits between the cherubim; let the earth quake. **The LORD is great** in Zion, and He is high above all the people" (vs 1-2). Isn't that something? *They're all going to know God!*

I think God is going to make His presence known around the world at different times, in different places, *so that they all know God!* We're going to go up to Jerusalem and we're going to walk on that *great highway*. It's going to be an awesome thing to visit Jerusalem. Outside around where the great tabernacles is going to be is where they will be keeping the Feast of Tabernacles. There will be representatives of every nation: a place over here for this nation, a place over there for that nation, a place for every nation on earth to represent all the people in the nations back home before God during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Verse 3: "Let them praise Your name as great and awesome; Holy is He. The strength of the King also loves justice; You established uprightness; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob" (vs 3-4).

That's what we will be doing! This is really a fantastic thing! See how Psa. 98 fits right in with the Millennium, and how it's going to be God from Jerusalem and the saints ruling and reigning.

Psalm 98:1: "O sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His Holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations" (vs 1-2)—all nations!

This is going to be so awesome, the things that God is going to give us to do. How we can help undo every evil thing that men have done. Satan is going to be removed. The demons will be removed. There will be righteousness, peace and joy! What a wonderful thing that's going to be!

Verse 3: "He has remembered His steadfast love and His faithfulness toward the house of Israel; **all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God**. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, **all the earth**; break forth, and rejoice, and sing praise" (vs 3-4).

Just think about this: Here's God the Father in heaven above; He's not on the earth. Of course, I'm sure we'll be able to go up and see God the Father and come back to the earth. Why not? But just think of this:

Sabbath starts—it has to start where the new day begins, and it doesn't involve splitting any landmass. So, let's just say New Zealand. As Sabbath comes here's the rejoicing, the singing, the praising and the teaching of God's Word. We are there with the people in this location. Other saints are with other people in other locations. It comes to Jerusalem, and Jerusalem will be the high point of it, because that will be the center of earth, and the center of the Sabbath. So, when the Sabbath comes to Jerusalem, think of what a wonderful thing that is going to be. Think of the songs by spirit beings! No more just a 'joyful noise.' We will be able to sing in great beautiful harmony and:

- praise to God
- praising Christ
- celebrating the Sabbath

Then we will have those from other nations around Jerusalem there for the Sabbath to learn. They go back and tell the people about it. It's a wonderful thing!

Psalm 100:1: "Shout for joy to the LORD, **all the earth**." On the Sabbath that's what they're going to do. It's going to be a joyful time! Wonderful time! Fantastic time! No one is working!

No one is doing anything but keeping the Sabbath and serving God:

- coming to services
- learning of God
- being with their families
- being with their brethren in the congregation
- being with their community

What a wonderful thing that is going to be!

Verse 2: “Serve the LORD **with gladness**; come before His presence **with singing**.” Everyone is going to sing! It’s going to be great!

Verse 3: “Know that the LORD, **He is God. He has made us, and we are His; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture**. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; give thanks unto Him and bless His name, for the LORD is good; His steadfast love is everlasting; and His faithfulness endures to all generations” (vs 3-5).

What an actually awesome and wondrous thing that this is going to be! We are going to restore the earth; we are going to help all during the Millennium. There are going to be people entering into the Kingdom of God all during the time of the one thousand years.

- no more war
- no more fighting
- no more killing
- no more Satan the devil
- no more demons

None of those things that we have to fight today!

That’s why we are the firstfruits and the firstborn, and we’ll remain that forever, because salvation for them is going to be so much easier than for us.

Psalm 146:10: “**The LORD shall reign forever**... That’s why we have New Jerusalem and the new heaven and the new earth.

“...even your God, O Zion, to all generations. O praise the LORD!” (v 10). When we get to New Jerusalem and the new heaven and the new earth, then it’s going to be *into the ages of eternity!* What is that plan going to be? Think about that! We really don’t know very much!

Psa. 148 is quite a Psalm, a wonderful Psalm, indeed! Psalm 148:1 “O praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights.” Talk about singing and praising God; a whole total different situation for mankind and for us. What’s it going to be for us as spirit beings? The very sons and daughters of God the Father?

As we bring people into salvation during the Millennium, Jesus then will also become ‘an everlasting Father for those people who spiritually enter into the Kingdom of God.

Verse 2: “Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts. Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars of light” (vs 2-3). How is that going to be? *I don’t know!* But it says that it’s going to be!

Verse 4: “Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and waters that are above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for **He commanded and they were created**” (vs 4-5). What a fantastic thing!

Sidebar: One thing I can hardly wait for is the coming James Webb Space Telescope. It’s going to be a fantastic telescope up in space that’s going to replace the Hubble. It will be so huge, 21-feet across. It’s going to be quite a reflector that they have built and will be composed of pentagon mirrors put together. It’s going to be such that it will all fold up so it can be shot into heaven by a rocket and reach its altitude and then it will open up and all of these pentagon mirrors will open up and there will be this huge, gigantic mirror to peer into the darkness and depth of space and send back those awesome pictures to us.

Greater than that, what is it going to be when we can travel into the universe? Think of that!

Verse 5: “Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created. He has also established them forever and ever; He has made a decree, which shall not pass away. Let praise be to the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters, and all the depths” (vs 5-7).

How can all of those things there praise God? *I don’t know!* But Rev. 5 attests to the fact that everything in heaven, everything on earth, and everything under the earth is going to be saying, ‘Worthy is the Lamb. Praise God the Father.’ That’s going to be something.

Then everything is going to be praising God (vs 8-10).

Verse 11: “Kings of the earth... [that’s us] ...and all people, princes... [that’s us] ...and all judges... [that’s us] ...of the earth.”

- just think what the world is going to be
- just think what Sabbath services will be like

It’s going to be awesome!

Verse 12: “Both young men and maidens, old men and children; let them praise the name of

the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and the heavens. And He has also lifted up a horn for His people, praise for all His saints, even of the children of Israel, a people near to Him. **O praise the LORD!**" (vs 12-14).

What a thing this is going to be, brethren! Bringing the earth back from destruction, chaos, mayhem and all the problems with wars and fighting, and having Satan removed and rebuilding the earth. Then it builds, *and builds, and builds!*

This is why we have the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days. When that great work is done, then the greatest of all is going to take place the Last Great Day.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:33-39
- 2) Deuteronomy 16:16-17
- 3) Revelation 20:4-6
- 4) Zechariah 14:3-9, 11-15
- 5) Zechariah 13:1-2
- 6) Zechariah 14:16-18
- 7) Isaiah 24:1-6, 10-22
- 8) Isaiah 33:1-9
- 9) Isaiah 25:1-9
- 10) Isaiah 26:1-4, 7-8
- 11) Isaiah 35: 1-10
- 12) Jeremiah 30:8-10
- 13) Isaiah 4:1
- 14) Jeremiah 31:21-37
- 15) Joel 2:21-29
- 16) Micah 4:1-5, 7
- 17) Amos 9:13-15
- 18) Psalm 97:1
- 19) Psalm 99:1-4
- 20) Psalm 98: 1-4
- 21) Psalm 100:1-5
- 22) Psalm 146:10
- 23) Psalm 148:1-7, 11-14

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Numbers 29
- Leviticus 23:1-3
- Revelation 12:9; 21; 22
- Acts 3
- Revelation 18; 5
- Psalm 148:8-10

Day 2—Feast of Tabernacles

How God is Going to Bring Conversion to the Nations

Beginning with Israel the nations will soon come to know God

Fred R. Coulter—October 6, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome! Of course, the Feast of Tabernacles is one of the great prophetic things, especially as we have seen in the major prophets and, in particular, Isaiah. We'll be spending a lot of time in Isaiah. As we get through things we'll be able to understand more of:

- what God is doing
- how He's doing it
- the way it's going to take place

Of course, Christ returns and the saints come back to the earth, Satan is bound, and we begin reigning and ruling with Jesus Christ. As we're going to see, the first thing that God does is He gathers all of Israel back to their lands. That's going to be a tremendous and wonderful thing that's going to take place.

Let's begin; let's put a good deal of Scripture together so that we get an idea of the setting:

- how the Millennium is going to begin
- what it is with Israel
- what it will be with the Gentiles
- how long will it take for the earth to be subdued under the Government of God and the Kingdom of God

All of those are important and vital questions. Let's see how God looks at it, and see right at the beginning of the Millennium, right at the start of their exodus back home out of captivity and back to their own lands, that it will hardly be believable.

Isaiah 49:13: "Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth, and break out *into* singing, O mountains; for the LORD has comforted His people, and will have compassion upon His afflicted." It will be almost unbelievable! Especially for the Jews, that this is really, really *God!*

Verse 14: "But Zion said, 'The LORD has forsaken me, and my LORD has forgotten me.'" *Not so!* God's answer back is that God has a plan for all of Israel, for His Church, for those who have died, etc. It all comes as laid out on the Holy Days.

So, God gives His answer, v 15: "Can a woman forget her suckling child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet, **I will not forget you.** Behold, I have carved you upon the palms of *My* hands; your

walls *are* forever before Me. Your children shall make haste; those destroying you and ruining you shall go out from you. Lift up your eyes all around and see; they all gather *and* come to you. *As I live,*' says the LORD, 'You shall surely wear them as an ornament, and bind them *on* as a bride; for your wastes and your desolate places, and your land has been destroyed, shall even now be too narrow to dwell there, and they who swallowed you up shall be far away. The children of your bereavement shall say again in your ears, "The place is too strait for me: give a place to me that I may dwell"' (vs 13-20). Here again, coming out and resettling the earth.

Verse 22: "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I will lift up My hand to the Gentiles...'" We can see the spiritual fulfillment of this with the Church, with the Gospel.

"...and have set up My banner to the people; and they shall bring your sons in *their* bosom, and your daughters shall be carried upon *their* shoulders" (v 22). This is a blending back into the Gentile people bringing the children of Israel back to their land.

Verse 23: "And kings shall be your nursing fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. They shall bow to you, with their faces to the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet; and you shall know that I *am* the LORD; for they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me."

As we go through these things, there's a fulfillment to the Church and a fulfillment to Israel.

Verse 24: "Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? But thus says the LORD, 'Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the fierce ones shall be rescued...'"

- saved from oppression
- saved from the invader
- saved from Satan the devil

"...for I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children. And I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh; and they shall be drunk with their own blood, as with sweet wine; and **all flesh shall know that I the LORD am your Savior and your Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob**" (vs 24-25).

This is what's going to happen first; bring all Israel back and get them settled. We're going to see that it may be as long as seven years.

Isaiah 43:1: "But now, thus says the LORD Who created you, O Jacob, and He Who formed you, O Israel; 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called *you* by your name; you *are* Mine. When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned; nor shall the flame kindle on you, **for I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior**; I gave Egypt *for* your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for you. Since you are precious in My sight, you have been honored, and **I have loved you; therefore, I will give men for you, and people for your life**'" (vs 1-4). *That sounds like there are conflicts coming!*

Verse 5: "Fear not; for I *am* with you. I will bring your seed from the East, and gather you from the West. I will say to the North, 'Give up'; and to the South, 'Do not keep back'; bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth" (vs 5-6).

Sometimes, because God gives us free moral agency and doesn't reach down and just control us like a robot or puppet and make us do what He wants us to do, we have to choose. But even in the most difficult things, God has a special place for all the 12 tribes of Israel.

Verse 7: "*Even* everyone who is called by My name... [this can apply to the Church as well as to Israel] ...for I have created him for My glory... [to the Church and to Israel] ...I have formed him; yea, *I have* made him."

For the Church, Christ be formed in you; for the Israel, all the physical descendants of Israel. Stop and think for a minute: Why did God give every individual a separate genetic code? What else is on that genetic code that men don't know? *I'll let you think about that!*

Verse 8: "Bring out the blind people who have eyes, and the deaf who have ears. Let all the nations be brought together, and let the people be gathered; who among them can declare this and show us the former things?... [no, they can't; they don't know] ...Let them bring out their witnesses, that they may be justified; or let them hear, and say, '*It is Truth*'" (vs 8-9)—what God is doing!

The nations are going to have to be convinced that it is the Truth; v 10: "'You *are* My witnesses,' says the LORD... [to the Church; to Israel] ... 'and My servant whom I have chosen; that

you may know and believe Me, and understand that I *am* He. **Before Me no God was formed, nor shall there be after Me...** [to physical Israel concerning idols] ...**I, even I, am the LORD; and besides Me there is no savior**. I have declared, and have saved, and I have shown, when *there was* no strange *god* among you; therefore, you *are* My witnesses,' says the LORD, '**that I am God**' (vs 10-12).

This is quite a thing coming to the whole world! The whole world doesn't know God the Father. That will have to be revealed to them, just like it was revealed to the Church and will be revealed to Israel. With the beginning of the Millennium, we are going to begin to put the history of the past behind us:

- to learn the lessons of humanity
- what we need to do
- how we need to live
- what Satan the devil has done

Here's what God says going forward:

Verse 18: "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall sprout; shall you not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. The beasts of the field shall honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches; because I give waters in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to **My people, My chosen. This people that I formed for Myself...** [for the Church and for Israel] ...they shall declare My praise" (vs 18-21).

This is going to be quite a thing in bringing back Israel. God has all the promises to fulfill to them *first*. That's why they're going to be the leading nation on earth, and the Church is the spiritual Israel, and then together ***we are all going to bring the world to God***—with the power of God and the Spirit of God—***the way God wants it done!*** God is going to intervene to make it known.

We need to ask when we get to some of these verses: **How is God going to do that?**

Isaiah 2:1: "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass, in the last days the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains... [all the governments, all the nations] ...and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it" (vs 1-2).

Everything is going to be coming from Jerusalem, because that's where Christ is going to be. That's going to be really something, what God is going to do there, and what a great thing that is.

Let's see what the tabernacle will be like in

Jerusalem. Remember that in Zech 14, when Christ puts His feet on the Mount of Olives in that day, the Mount of Olives is going split in two from the East to the West, and there will be a very great valley.

Isaiah 4:2: “In that day shall the Branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious... [describing Christ and His work] ...and the fruit of the earth excellent and comely for those who are the survivors of Israel.... [the Church and the nations] ...And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion, and he who remains in Jerusalem, shall be called Holy... [that’s to the Church] ...even everyone who is written unto life in Jerusalem” (vs 2-3). You have to tie in the Church with that.

Verse 4: “When the LORD shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from its midst by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the LORD will create over every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and over her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day...” (vs 4-5).

It’s going to be a great tabernacle with a great cloud, with the pillar of smoke “...and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory *shall be* a canopy” (v 5)—*a great canopy!* There is not going to be a physical temple built out of stone. It is going to be what God has made, what He has created. It will be special!

Verse 6: “And there shall be a tabernacle for shade by day from the heat, and for refuge, and for shelter from storm and rain.” A perfect place right over Jerusalem.

This is where all nations will come; they shall flow into Jerusalem and back out again. That’s going to be the center of the whole earth. When you look at it geographically, it’s right there.

Isaiah 2:3: “And many people shall go and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. And He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”

Not all nations will do that, so a little later we’re going to see how God is going to bring all nations into complete submission to His government, because:

- David will sit on the throne to Israel
- Christ will sit on the throne to the world

It’s going to be something! Think about that!

Verse 4: “And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their

spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

That’s quite a thing when you really understand it, when you realize how much effort of all of mankind down through history has been devoted to war, to weapons, to killing, to destruction, all inspired by Satan the devil. It’s going to be very difficult for some of these people scattered around to actually believe that this is really God and not aliens from outer space.

Before we get to how God is going to bring all those nations into subjection, and that they will come to know the Lord, let’s see what He does with Israel *first*. Go through Isaiah, and it’s very interesting if you do a study there, because there are so many verses that are for:

- the Church and Israel
- the Church alone
- Israel alone
- the world
- the different nations

Isaiah 14:1: “For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel and set them in their own land; and the stranger shall be joined with them, and they shall cling to the house of Jacob. And the people shall take them and bring them to their place; and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids....” (vs 1-2). That’s going to be something!

“...And they will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors.... [turn it all upside down] ...And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear, and from the hard bondage, which was imposed on you. You shall take up this song against **the king** of Babylon...” (vs 2-4)—*Satan the devil and the Beast Power!*

“...and say, ‘How the oppressor has ceased! How his fury has ceased!... [that’s going to be a wonderful song] ...The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers who struck people in wrath, *with* unceasing blows, ruling the nations in anger, with an unrelenting persecution. **All the earth is at rest and is quiet...**” (vs 4-7).

This shows that God is going to have to do something very dramatic! When it says that He ‘rebukes nations far off,’ what will it take? *Right there! Look at that!* That’s going to be something, indeed!

Let’s see the theme of *servicing Israel first*;

Isaiah 30:18: And, therefore, will the LORD wait, that He may be gracious unto you. And, therefore, He will be exalted, that He may have mercy upon you, for the LORD *is* a God of justice; blessed *are* all those who wait for Him. For, O people, who dwell in Zion at Jerusalem, you shall weep no more; He will be very gracious to you at the voice of your cry. When He hears it, He will answer you. And though the LORD gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction... [that is before they were brought out of their captivity] ... yet, your teachers shall not be removed into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers” (vs 18-20).

That’s us! We will be teaching and showing them God’s ways! Isn’t that something? Still free moral agency; everybody has to choose! The heart will be less carnal than they are today, and more readily to worship God and serve God, and the children that come into the world will be taught the way of God from the beginning, actually before the beginning of their lives. Their mothers will be taught how to take care of the children that are within their bodies so that when they’re born everything will be according

- to the Word of God
- to the blessing of God
- to the glory of God
- to the beauty of God

That’s going to be something!

Verse 21: “And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This *is* the Way...’”—the way of God. That’s ties right in with the New Testament. Jesus Christ said, ‘I’m the Way, the Truth, and the Life.’ This is going to come to all Israel and then come to all the world.

“...walk in it,’ when you turn to the right hand and when you turn to the left” (v 21). Teaching is going to be entirely different. What will that produce? *That ought to produce something really fantastic! Really great!* Notice how many times that God is talking about:

- redeeming Israel
- what He’s going to do for them
- what He’s going to do to them
- how it will be done
 - ✓ intermixed with the Church
 - ✓ intermixed with correcting the Gentile nations

Isaiah 41:1: “Listen to Me in silence, O isles; let the people renew *their* strength; let them come near; then let them speak; let us come near together for judgment. Who raised up the righteous

one from the east...” (vs 1-2). Talking about Cyrus the Great, that is true, but then this blends into Christ as we will see. Cyrus was the one who gave the word for the children of Israel to come out of Babylon. Jesus Christ is the One Who is going to give the word that all the children of Israel be brought out of greater Babylon the Great. So, it fits into both.

“...at whose steps victory attends? Who gives the nations before him, and made *him* to rule over kings? His sword makes them as the dust, His bow as windblown stubble. He pursued them; he passed on safely; *even* by the way *that* he had not gone with his feet” (vs 2-3).

Verse 4 is all of the plan of God. We understand the basic outline of it because of the Holy Days, that’s true! Absolutely true! But how great will the plan of God really, really be?

Verse 4: “**Who has planned and done it, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I, THE LORD, AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST; I AM HE.**” The isles saw and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid, and drew near, and came. They helped everyone his neighbor, and said to his brother, ‘Be of good courage.’” (vs 4-6). Then it talks about the idolaters and will be eliminated.

Verse 8: “But you, Israel, *are* My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham, My friend; whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called you from its uttermost parts. And I said to you, ‘You *are* My servant; I have chosen you, and have not cast you away.... [forever] ...¹**Do not fear;** for I *am* with you; be not dismayed; for **I *am* your God. I will strengthen you; yea, I will help you; yea, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness**” (vs 8-10).

This is going to be a great, wonderful thing that God is going to do with Israel, and we will be the ones doing it with Him, and for Him. Just think what a great and fantastic blessing that is going to be.

Verse 11: “Behold, all those who were angered against you shall be ashamed and confounded; they shall be as nothing. And those who strive against you shall perish. You shall seek them, and shall not find them; men warring against you shall be as nothing, and as a thing of naught, for I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, ²**Do not fear; I will help you.** ³**Do not fear,** you worm Jacob *and* men of Israel; I will help you,’ says the LORD and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel” (vs 11-14).

That's quite a thing! Look at all these Scriptures that are going to be fulfilled. Not one word will fall short! Think about all the participation that we will have and how we will do it. The way to:

- bring peace and happiness to the whole world
- bring those out of captivity that are in captivity
- help all of them who are in desperate condition
- heal them
- restore limbs
- bring them back

Oh, what a thing that is going to be! Isa. 12 is quite a wonderful chapter. Isn't it something the way that God has laid it all out. He spells

- doom and gloom
- death and destruction

then He gives

- hope and revival
- salvation and redemption

That's quite a thing, beginning with Israel! Then we can project forward to the Last Great Day, and all of Israel that never had an opportunity for salvation will be raised. So, we need to look at the plan of God as greater, more fantastic and more wonderful than we have thought. When we do this will help us not to get caught up in the problems and difficulties of this world and how bad it's been out there in some places, and ***to realize that we will be the ones to help Christ end all of Satan's rule, destruction and wretchedness that he has brought upon the world!***

Here again it's talking about Israel; Isaiah 12:1: "And in that day you shall say, 'I will give thanks to You O LORD; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You do comfort me.'" What is that going to be like?

Have you ever had a terrible, terrible trial and finally it's over and finally it's gone, and finally you have some peace and quiet? Don't you feel great? *This is what it's going to be for the children of Israel!* Here's what they're going to say:

Verse 2: "Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD God is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation." I don't think we have ever—especially in this age—understood the real joy of true happiness, and the real relief of coming out from underneath oppression, slavery and grinding your nose into sin.

Verse 3: "And with joy you shall draw water out of **the wells of salvation.**" Remember that

during the Feast of Tabernacles between the seventh day and the Last Great Day, they had the pouring around the altar and Jesus said, 'He who comes to Me, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water'—speaking of His Holy Spirit.

That's not just for time that we have today. Think about what it's going to be. It says, "...the wells of salvation." Project that forward to New Jerusalem with the waters coming out from beneath the throne of God the Father and Jesus Christ, crystal clear from "...the wells of salvation" watering the 12 Trees of Life. That is going to be astounding!

Back to Israel coming out of captivity and being put in their land, v 4: "And in that day you shall say, 'Praise the LORD! Call upon His name; declare His doings among the people, make mention that His name is exalted. Sing *to* the LORD; for He has done gloriously; this *is* known in all the earth'" (vs 4-5). We will find out how that's going to be known in all the earth.

Verse 6: "Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion; for great *is* the Holy One of Israel in your midst."

What powerful words! What a terrific section of Isaiah in only six verses! But look at the power and meaning that has been packed into that. That's something for us to really contemplate and look at it.

(go to the next track)

We have a couple of other sections to finish concerning Israel and then how God is going to bring all the other nations who had been *unwilling* to come to Jerusalem to learn of His Way and how He's going to make all the rest of the earth submit.

Isaiah 45:17: "*But* Israel shall be saved by the LORD *with* an everlasting salvation..."—to Israel and to the Church, both. Remember what was said to Abraham: *your seed shall be like the sand of the sea and the stars of heaven.*

- *stars of heaven* are those who going to be in the first resurrection
- *sand of the sea* is physical Israel and their salvation to begin receiving eternal life will begin for all the nations—all 12 tribes—when the Millennium begins

"...You shall not be ashamed nor disgraced *even* into the ages of eternity... [the Church and Israel] ...for thus says the LORD the Creator of the heavens, He Himself *is* God, Who formed the earth and made it; He has established it. He created it not in vain, *but* formed it to be inhabited. 'I *am* the

LORD, and *there is no other*” (vs 17-18).

Where we come to salvation is on the physical earth. Then when the whole process of salvation is completed we have the *new heavens* and the *new earth*. As you go through and read these Scriptures you can have different applications at different times.

Verse 24: “*One shall say, ‘Only in the LORD do I have righteousness and strength... [no longer trusting in self] ...even to Him shall men come. And they are ashamed, all who are angry against Him.’ In the LORD shall **all** the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory*” (vs 24-25).

Isaiah 46:3: “Hearken to Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, who are borne *by Me* from the belly, who are lifted from the womb.”

I want you to think about something as great as that God, with Israel, has always been involved. Then expand this out to the Millennium and expand it out to the second resurrection. All of that is right here.

Verse 4: “*Even to your old age I am He; and to gray hairs I will carry you....*” Today in the Church we are facing a demographic cliff, which is that many of the people in the Church have been in the Church a long time, and we’re all gray-haired. God is telling us *not to worry!*

“...**I have made you...**” (v 4). Now Christ is being formed in us; the Spirit that is given to us to become spirit beings.

“...and **I will bear you up; even I will carry you, and will deliver you**” (v 4). Even though we die and are put into the grave. That is sleep!

Verse 5: “To whom will you liken Me, and make *Me* equal, and compare Me, that we may be alike?” Then He comes against the idol-makers again.

Verse 8: “Remember this, and show yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O you transgressors. Remember the former things of old; for I *am* God, and there is none else, I am God, and there is none like Me, **declaring the end from the beginning...**” (vs 8-10).

That’s also in Isa. 45 and Rev. 1; 22—‘I’m the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last, the Alpha and Omega.’ God’s plan is perfect, and the parts of it that He works at any time, He’s going to do.

“...and from ancient times the things, which were not *yet* done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I [God] will do all My pleasure’” (v 10). Think

about that! God is *a God* of love, of Truth, of righteousness, and He wants us all to be in His family and live forever.

Verse 11: “Calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. Yea, I have spoken...” [What do we have here? *The spoken Word of God!*] ...I will also bring it to pass...” Think about that! If you get discouraged and doubtful, read these verses. Pray about them! It’s a fantastic thing that God has done and is doing, and will do.

“...**I have purposed it, I will also do it**” (v 11). Think about that!

- Does God want us in His kingdom? *Yes!*
- Will it happen? *Yes!*
- What is our part that we need to do?
 - ✓ love God, serve Him
 - ✓ keep His commandments
 - ✓ trust in Him
 - ✓ believe Him
 - ✓ live in His way
 - ✓ walk in His way
 - ✓ be guided by His Spirit

Remember: God the Father and Jesus Christ *dwell in us!* That’s a fantastic and almost unbelievable thing to full contemplate how much God:

- loves us
- cares for us
- has called us
- is going to do His will

Verse 12: “Hearken to Me, you stubborn-hearted who *are* far from righteousness; I **bring near** My righteousness...” (vs 12-13). Think about that! He makes it available for us now!

“...It shall not be far off, and My salvation shall not be delayed; and I will place salvation in Zion, for **Israel My glory**” (v 13)—to the Church, to the nation.

Remember that Paul wrote that even He couldn’t understand it. So, *all* Israel shall be saved!

- How is He going to save the rest of the world?

Because He’s going to!

- What about those nations that don’t submit?
- What about those nations that don’t come up to Jerusalem?
- What is He going to do?

God has a special plan for them, and they will, after that, understand that **He is God!**

Many times in the Bible there is the *first*

fulfillment and the *second fulfillment*, and in some cases, even the *third fulfillment*.

When Christ and all the saints come back to the earth, where are all the armies going to be? *From the nations of the North*—Russia, Siberia, Mongolia, China, Korea, India, Vietnam, Pakistan and Iran—and from the kings of the East we know that there will be armies totally 200-million (Rev.). All of these nations have never known God. These nations were deceived by Satan and the false prophet and the beast with the demons going out to convince them to come and fight at Armageddon.

You can't get into Armageddon all of those armies. So, there will still be armies that are left that will be afraid to come and invade Israel, at the first part of the Millennium.

- What are they going to do?
- How is God going to deal with them?
- *The answer is in Ezek. 38 and 39!*
- the first fulfillment of this has to be Genghis Khan, and coming clear up to the gates of Europe
- the second fulfillment has to be the armies when Christ returns
- the third fulfillment will be after the Millennium has begun

We will see that in Ezek. 38-39; so consider these two chapters in that way.

Ezekiel 38:1: “And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, set your face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief ruler of Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him. And say, “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the chief ruler of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. And I will turn you back, and put hooks into your jaws, and **I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen**, all of them clothed most gorgeously, a great assembly *with* buckler and shield, all of them swordsmen; Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet; Gomer and all his bands; the house of Togarmah *from* the uttermost parts of the north, and all his bands; *and* many people with you” (vs 1-6).

Those are all those nations that I mentioned there. So, if you have a map or globe, go look at it. It won't be the remnant army that comes against Christ and the saints when they return to the earth.

Verse 7: “Be prepared; yea, prepare for yourself, you and all your assembly that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them. After many days **you will be summoned**. In the latter years... [that applies to Rev. 8 & 9] ...you shall

come into the land restored from war...” (vs 7-8). This also applies to the third fulfillment. That is the Holy Land, Israel.

“...gathered out of many people, on the mountains of Israel, which have always been waste. (But she has been brought out of the nations, and they shall dwell securely, all of them.)” (v 8). This is right after the beginning of the Millennium. How far into the Millennium? *Don't know!* But we know that it's going to happen.

Verse 9: “‘And you shall go up, coming like a storm. You shall be like a cloud to cover the land, you and all your bands, and many people with you.’ Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘And it shall be in that day that things shall come into your heart, and you shall devise an evil plan” (vs 9-10).

Remember when the children of Israel left Egypt and came down by the Red Sea? The Egyptians sent to Pharaoh, and all of his counselors said, ‘What have we done? We have let them go!’

God told Moses and the children of Israel that He let this happen so that *He would be glorified in their destruction!* So, here again, we have the same thing. We have these leaders of these nations thinking that the aliens have invaded and taken over this part of the earth, and now that there's no more war, ‘let's send spies out to see what this looks like, and maybe we can get rid of all the aliens. Don't you think that would be a good thing to do?’

Verse 10: “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘And it shall be in that day that things shall come into your heart, and you shall devise an evil plan. And you shall say, “I will go up to the land of unwallied villages...”” (vs 10-11). That's certainly not Israel today, but it will be when Christ returns and establishes Israel. They won't need any walls. They won't need any fortification.

“...I will go *to* those that are at rest... [the Millennium] ...who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and there are no bars nor gates to them... [what a tempting thing] (he's going to come): ...in order to take a spoil, and to steal a prize; to turn your hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, who have gotten cattle and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land” (vs 11-12).

This shows that it's going to be a number of years. Could it be as many as seven years? *Very possibly!* We don't know. (speculation)

Verse 13: “Sheba and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, and all her villages, shall say to you, ‘Have you come to take a spoil? Have you

gathered your company to steal a prize, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?” A repeat of Pharaoh and the Egyptians, only now a repeat of Gog and Magog and all the nations of the East.

Remember, none of these nations have ever submitted to anything from Israel of the past ages, nor even to the Christianity of this world. They’ve always been under Satan and his demons. Now Satan and his demons are bound. Now they’re going to come, and look what God is going to do to them; the same of total destruction that He did to Pharaoh.

Verse 14: “Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘In that day when My people of Israel dwell securely, shall you not know *it*? And you shall come from your place out of the uttermost parts of the north, you and many people with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. And you shall come up on My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. **It shall be in the latter days...** [spilling over into the Millennium] ...and **I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me when I shall be sanctified in you, O Gog, before their eyes**” (vs 14-16).

This is how God is going to bring all of the other nations into the jurisdiction of the Kingdom of God, and then begin bringing them salvation. That will be after Israel is in the land for some time, perhaps as many as seven years.

Verse 17: “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘*Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days, by the hand of My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for many years that I would bring you against them? And it shall come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,*’ says the Lord GOD, ‘My hot anger will be aroused. For in My jealousy *and* in the fire of My wrath I have spoken, “Surely in that day there shall be a great quaking in the land of Israel”’” (vs 17-19).

This is going to be an earth-shattering thing that’s going to take place with this. Then after this, when we get done with Ezek 39, you are going to see that God says over and over again, ‘***You shall know the Lord your God! The nations shall know the Lord God!***’ They will know! They’re not going to come willingly. God is going to bring this upon them.

Verse 20: ““So that the fish of the sea, and the birds of the heavens, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men on the face of the earth, shall quake at My presence. And the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall

shall fall to the ground.” And I will call for a sword against him upon all My mountains,’ says the Lord GOD. ‘*Each man’s sword shall be against his brother*’” (vs 20-21).

Just like God has always done. The enemy comes and God makes them fight against each other and kills them. Just as in the days of Hezekiah, 180,000-army was slain at night by an angel. The general got up in the morning and it was totally quiet. He opened his tent door and looked out and they’re all dead! So, he snuck back to Assyria. Israel went out and took all the spoils.

Verse 22: “And I will judge him with pestilence and with blood. And I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people with him, an overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire and brimstone.”

They forgot what happened with the seven last plagues. So, whatever time it is, they’re looking at that and saying, ‘Look there are no armies, there are no planes, they don’t even have walls.’ So, God is going to bring them in. Look at the weapons that God uses: those weapons you find throughout the whole Bible: *hail, fire and brimstone!*

Verse 23: “Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself. And I will have Myself known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.”

That’s going to be a powerful thing! That’s not going to happen in this age. Yes, there will be a type of it, with the Battle Armageddon. But once Christ returns, Israel is re-gathered, brought into the Holy Land:

- set up everything the way that God wants
- all the blessings of God
- the prosperity of God
- the abundance of God
- gold and silver flowing to them

Ezek. 39 is quite a thing. This is going to be the ‘coup de grace’ to put all the nations in the world under Jesus Christ as King of the earth. You will see how all of this fits in. Even though it says ‘in the latter years’ that stretches into the beginning of the Millennium, because all of those nations who fought against Christ haven’t yet submitted themselves to God.

That’s why it says in Isa 2 and Micah 4, that He’s going to have to rebuke nations ‘afar off.’ But what He’s going to do is bring them in and let them come with their evil and think that they can attack the children of Israel who are at peace and living there and have no fortification, no walls, no planes,

no armies, no guns, nothing that is apparent. **But they have the Almighty God to battle for them!** Here's how it's going to happen and this will end up being the beginning of the conversion of all those nations; these are the Bible names of them, but it's:

- Russia
- Mongolia
- Siberia
- North Korea
- Kazakhstan
- Uzbekistan
- Pakistan
- India
- Iran

Apparently some from the Isles, maybe that will include Japan; we don't know. None of those nations have ever, ever had very much concerning Christianity. A little bit with Ukraine and Russia, but that was a Babylonian 'Christianity': Russian Orthodox.

Ezekiel 39:1: "Therefore, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the chief ruler of Meshech and Tubal. And I will turn you about, and lead you on. And I will bring you up from the uttermost parts of the north, and I will bring you against the mountains of Israel'" (vs 1-2). Nothing could be clearer than that!

Verse 3: "And I will strike your bow out of your left hand, and will cause your arrows to fall out of your right hand. You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your bands, and the people with you. I will give you for food to the birds of prey of every kind, and *to* the beasts of the field" (vs 3-4). Again, that's how God cleans up the mess!

Verse 5: "You shall fall upon the face of the open field, for **I have spoken it,' says the Lord GOD.**" When God says that He's going to do something, He's going to do it!

Verse 6: "And I will send a fire on Magog, and on those who dwell in the isles. And they shall know that I *am* the LORD. And I will make My Holy name known in the midst of My people Israel. And I will not *let them* profane My Holy name any more. **Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel**" (vs 6-7). Again, the nations shall know!

Verse 8: "'Behold, it is coming, and it shall be done,' says the Lord GOD. 'This *is* the day of which I have spoken. And the inhabitants of the cities of Israel shall go out and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the javelins, and the

spears. And **they shall burn them with fire seven years**" vs 8-9). That's a fantastic army! Think of that; that has never happened in prophecy before.

Verse 10: "'So that they shall take no wood out of the field, nor cut down *any* out of the forests; for they shall make fires of the weapons. And they shall plunder those who plundered them, and rob those who robbed them,' says the Lord GOD. 'And it will be in that day that I will give to Gog a *burial* place there in Israel—the valley of those who pass by, east of the sea. And it shall block off those who pass by. And there they shall bury Gog and all his multitude. And *they* shall call *it*, The Valley of the Multitude of Gog'" (vs 1-11).

Gather up all the bones and bury them, v 12: "'And the house of Israel shall bury them, to cleanse the land, seven months. And all the people of the land shall bury them, and it shall be to them a *day* of renown, the day that I shall be glorified,' says the Lord GOD" (vs 12-13). So, it looks like we're going to have another day of celebration. Will that be, again, on a Feast of Trumpets? *Could be!*

Verse 14: "And they shall employ men to continually search the land, burying those who remain on the face of the earth, to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they shall *begin the* search. And as those who pass through the land, pass through, if *any* man sees a bone, then he shall set a sign beside it until the buriers have buried it in The Valley of the Multitude of Gog" (vs 14-15).

That's going to be quite something! The greatest slaughter ever, *ever, ever!* They're going to know God!

Verse 16: "And also the name of the city *there is* Multitude. Thus they shall cleanse the land. And you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to the birds of every kind, and to every beast of the field, "Gather yourselves and come; gather yourselves from all around to My sacrifice that I sacrifice for you, a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, so that you may eat flesh and drink blood'" (vs 16-17).

Just think! All of the vultures and all of the scavengers and eagles—all of the birds that clean up the rotteness—will all come. What a thing that is going to be!

Verse 18_[transcriber's correction]: "You shall eat the flesh of the mighty and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, lambs, goats, *and* bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. And you shall eat fat until you are full, and drink blood until you are drunk, of My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you" (vs 18-19). That's going to be something!

Verse 20: “And you shall be filled at My table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, all the men of war,” says the Lord GOD. ‘And I will set My glory among the nations...’” (vs 20-21).

This is when all the nations will submit. This will convince them that, yes, ***this is God***. These are not aliens from outer space, but God and the resurrected saints themselves with Him, *and you can't fight against them! They're all going to know God!* That's how they're going to do it.

- Don't you think that's going to be a great humbling?
- Don't you think they will bow down before all the resurrected saints who go out among these nations to teach them God's way?
- *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 21: “And I will set My glory among the nations and **all** the nations... [each and every one] ...shall see My judgments which I have executed, and My hand that I have laid on them.”

Also for the house of Israel; this is going to convince any gainsayers. Remember what Jesus said to His disciples and apostles at different times.

- Were there were those who didn't believe, even at the mount out in Galilee to worship after the resurrection? *Yes!*
- Was there 'doubting Thomas' who didn't believe, as one of the 12 apostles? *Yes!*

So, God is going to do this to convince all of these nations to believe, to repent and to realize now the Kingdom of God is on the earth with power, ruling and all nations will submit. Then it will be revealed to them the great plan of God.

Verse 22: So, ***the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward***.... [absolutely no doubt] ...And the nations shall know that the house of Israel was exiled for their iniquity....” (vs 22-23). Now they've all been punished for their iniquities and sins.

You can't have righteousness rule and reign until everyone understands that they have to obey and then learn to love God. Then the blessings will start flowing, but not until then.

“...Because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore, I hid My face from them and gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have done to them, and hid My face from them. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Now, will I again bring back the captives of Jacob, and will have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for My

Holy name’” (vs 23-25).

Then the nations are going to know! He is reiterating to them why He did this to Israel; v 26: “*After they have borne their shame and all their sins by which they have sinned against Me, when they dwell securely in their land and no one terrified them; when I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; **then they shall know that I am the LORD their God Who exiled them among the nations.*** But I have gathered them to their own land, and have not left any of them there. Nor will I hide My face from them any more, for I have poured out My Spirit upon the house of Israel,” says the Lord GOD” (vs 26-29).

What a tremendous thing that is going to be! So, there's even going to be a time, which this is, that all the children of Israel are going to believe.

- they're going to *choose* to believe
- they're going to *choose* to love God

Likewise the nations, because it says, the nations ***shall know that I am the LORD God.***” They will come to Jerusalem and they will learn of God's ways.

We will go back and show them how to administer the Government of God in their nation. All the saints will be there as spirit beings to rule, beginning with Israel and then all the nations of the world. ***This is how God is going to do it when the Millennium begins!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 49:13-20, 22-25
- 2) Isaiah 43:1-12, 18-21
- 3) Isaiah 2:1-2
- 4) Isaiah 4:2-6
- 5) Isaiah 2:3-4
- 6) Isaiah 14:1-7
- 7) Isaiah 30:18-21
- 8) Isaiah 41:1-6, 8-14
- 9) Isaiah 12:1-6
- 10) Isaiah 45:17-18, 24-25
- 11) Isaiah 46:3-5, 8-13
- 12) Ezekiel 38:1-23
- 13) Ezekiel 39 1-29

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Zechariah 14
- Revelation 1; 22; 8; 9
- Micah 4

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Transcribed: 8-4-17

Day 3—Feast of Tabernacles

How to be Good Stewards for God

How the Parable of the Talents relates our part in the Kingdom of God
Fred R. Coulter—October 7, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Day 3 of the Feast of Tabernacles!

After seeing what God is going to do, as we saw on Day 2, to all of those nations in the North and in the East. Finally, after that has taken place, the world will know that *the Lord is God!*

Whatever time it is into the Millennium that that takes place—3, 5 or 7 years later; only God knows the timing—let's look and see:

- what it will be like
- how it will be run
- our part in it
- what are we to do
- how we are going to bring Truth to the world

Let's start out in Psa. 9; quite a very interesting Psalm. David is the one who is talking and he's talking about his throne. Who is going to sit on his throne? *Christ as King, as Ruler!*

Psalm 9:1: "I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart..." This is the attitude that we need to have today so that we will be in the Kingdom of God, so that we can rule and reign with Christ and bring peace to the world, happiness and joy to people.

"...I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High" (vs 1-2)—reference to God the Father. He has been referred to in the Old Testament, but He was not revealed until Christ came, and revealed the Truth about God the Father to those who are called.

Verse 3: "When my enemies have turned back... [that's what we saw on Day 2] ...they shall fall and perish before You, for **You have maintained my right and my cause...** [for Christ as well as David] ...You sat upon the throne giving righteous judgment" (vs 3-4).

We have a whole study on *Judge Righteous Judgment*. As we're going to see, that's going to be one of the main functions of what we will be doing: *judging righteous judgment!*

As a matter of fact, when you read John 7, that's where Jesus said to *judge righteous judgment*.

Verse 5: "You have rebuked the nations; You have destroyed the wicked... [this follows up

on where we left off Day 2] ... You have blotted out their name forever and ever. Endless ruin has overtaken the enemy..." (vs 5-6). *Everything* is going to be in desolation, and it's going to cause a lot of problems and difficulties. What we're going to have to do to repair it we'll see a little later; especially Babylon.

Verse 7: "But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. And He shall judge the world in righteousness; **He shall govern the people with justice**" (vs 7-8). That's really something for us to understand.

Verse 9: "The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You. Sing praises to the LORD, Who dwells in Zion; declare among the nations His deeds" (vs 9-11). That's what we will do.

Now let's see something very interesting about what Daniel said. Again, this is speaking about the destruction of Babylon the Great as prophesied:

Daniel 7:26: "But the judgment shall sit, and his dominion shall be taken away to be consumed... [that's the Beast Power, Babylon the Great] ...and to be destroyed unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to **the people of the saints of the Most High...**" (vs 26-27)—God the Father!

- we are the people
- we are the saints
- we are in training to be the rulers in the Millennium
- we are to be the firstfruits forever in the Kingdom of God

We've got the greatest and most precious promises. It's absolutely marvelous, as Peter wrote, that we will be given 'the Divine nature' (2-Pet. 2). That's awesome to understand. That's what God is doing!

If you grasp that, then you'll understand why God hates 'religion.' You'll understand why so many out there are preaching a false Christ and so forth. It's good for the world, so to speak, but it has

nothing to do with true salvation and the true love and plan of God. The promise was given: *a good understanding have all of those who do His commandments!*

“...Whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom.... [into the ages of eternity] ...And all kingdoms shall serve and obey Him.” That’s something! That means they will serve and obey *us!*

It’s amazing how all of these things are scattered throughout the Bible. Of course, a good number of them are found in the book of Isaiah. Isa. 2:32 picks up where we left off in the book of Daniel, that Christ is going to rule as King and the kingdom will be given to the saints of the Most High. Here we have it expressed in another way:

Isaiah 32:1: Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and rulers **shall rule in justice.**” What’s one of the greatest things that’s a problem in the world? *Righteous judgment!* Men want to do everything *their own way*; they want to pick and choose what *they think* is good. What happens in the end run? *Satan comes in and gets a hold of it!* This is why that before the Millennium can begin, Satan and the demons have to be put away.

Verse 15: “Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high... [on all people] ...and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is thought to be a forest. Then **justice shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. And the work of righteousness shall be peace...**” (vs 15-17)—which men have tried to establish for themselves separate from God from Adam to the return of Jesus Christ.

“...and the result of righteousness shall be quietness and confidence forever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable home, and in secure dwellings and quiet resting places” (vs 17-18). That’s a fantastic thing. Tie this in with Micah 4.

All of these are descriptions, just like in Isa. 28. How are you going to understand? *You’ve got to be weaned from the breast and know knowledge, ‘here a little and there a little; line upon line and line upon line; precept upon precept, precept upon precept’ and then you put the whole thing together!*

This is why the framework of the Holy Days is so important, because putting the Word together is a special spiritual project. The Holy Days are the framework. Just like with a puzzle: if you have a thousand-piece puzzle, your first task is to get all the border first, then begin putting the pieces together. Same way with the Word of God.

Isaiah 33:5: “The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high. He has filled Zion *with* justice and

righteousness. And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of your times, *and* strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD *is* his treasure. Behold, their mighty ones shall cry outside; the messengers of peace shall weep bitterly” (vs 5-7). Yes, when Christ returns.

Verse 15: “He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly; he who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands free from holding bribes, who stops his ear from hearing of blood, and shuts his eyes from looking upon evil; he shall dwell on high; his refuge *shall be* the strongholds of rocks; bread *shall be* given him; his waters shall be sure. Your eyes shall see the king in his beauty; they shall behold the land that is very far off” (vs 15-17). That’s quite a thing! Then God taunts all of those who have been against Him.

Verse 20: “Look upon Zion, the city of our Holy gatherings; your eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet home, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down...”—just like we saw in Isa. 4.

Verse 21: “But there the glorious LORD *will be* to us a place of broad rivers *and* streams, in which no galley with oars shall go, nor shall a mighty ship pass by it.”

This is the outpouring of Truth, righteousness and love symbolized coming from the throne of God. We this also in Rev. 22, New Jerusalem.

Verse 22: “For the LORD *is* our Judge, the LORD *is* our Lawgiver...”—tie that in with James 4:11-12 that if you judge the Law you are judging the Lawgiver; you are judging God. How many people do that today? *Nearly everyone!*

“...the LORD *is* our King; He will save us” (v 22). This is really great! This shows what we’re going to do. That’s why the Feast of Tabernacles is so important to us.

Isa. 61 tells us a little bit more about our job and what we are going to be doing. We are going to rule and reign with Christ.

Isaiah 61:6: “But you shall be called the priests of the LORD... [we’re going to be kings and priests] ...it will be said of you, ‘The ministers of our God’”:

- carrying the Word of God
- carrying the Truth of God
- carrying the love of God
- teaching the people
- helping them to grow and overcome
- showing them the way of salvation
- showing them how their life is going to be

- showing them the purpose of their life and what that is
- showing them the greatness of God
- showing them the wonders of His way

Think about some of the things that we are able to understand about God today, think about what it's going to be then!

“...you will eat the riches of the Gentiles, and you will boast in their glory” (v 6).

Because of the difficulties that we have living in this world today, yet, with this destiny and promise of God, notice what God says here:

Verse 7: “For your shame *you will have* double; instead of dishonor they will rejoice in their portion; therefore, in their own land they will possess double; everlasting joy will be theirs. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth...” (vs 7-8).

What is it that we need to have always in everything we go about understanding the Bible? ***The Truth, the Truth, the Truth!*** It all fits together and there are no disagreements or contradiction with it.

“...and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people; all who see them will acknowledge them, that ***they are the seed the LORD has blessed.*** [Isaiah says]: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul will be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me *with* the robes of salvation...” (vs 8-10).

Think of that! Read Rev. 19-20 and ‘the righteousness of the saints is the *fine linen, pure and bright, spiritual!*

“...He covered me with ***the robe of righteousness*** like a bridegroom adorns *himself* with ornaments, and like a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels; for as the earth brings forth its bud, and as the garden causes that which is sown to grow; ***so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to grow before all the nations***” (vs 10-11).

Think about how marvelous that is going to be. We’re going to be the ones who are going to carry it to them:

- showing them the way
- showing them the Truth
- showing them the love
- showing them how to live their lives
- showing them how to be righteous before God

That’s an amazing thing that we need to realize!

1-Tim. talks about that ‘we will reign with Him’; kings and priests with Christ! This is throughout the whole Bible.

1-Timothy 1:17: “Now to the King of eternity, *the* incorruptible, invisible, *and* only wise God, *be* honor and glory into the ages of eternity. Amen.” There it is! Doesn’t that sound a lot like Isaiah and the Psalms? *Yes, indeed!*

1-Timothy 6:15: “Which in His own times the blessed and only Sovereign will make known, the King of kings and Lord of lords; Who alone has immortality... [1-Cor. 15] ...dwelling in light which no man can approach; Whom no man has seen, nor has *the* ability to see... [God the Father] ...to Whom *belong* eternal honor and power. Amen” (vs 15-16).

This is what we’re going to bring to the world: *God’s way!*

When the Apostle Paul began writing his epistles, they did not know that the Kingdom of God was so far off. They didn’t understand that until wait late in their ministry, just before the destruction of Jerusalem. Especially if you read 1st and 2nd Timothy, the first epistles that Paul wrote in 52-53^{A.D.} talking about the return of Christ as being very imminent.

Here in 1-Cor. 4 we will see that the brethren were arguing over who is going to be ruling what. They were acting as though they were already in the Kingdom of God and were ruling and reigning. So, Paul had to correct them.

1-Corinthians 4:1: “So then, let *every* man regard us as ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Beyond that, it is required of stewards that one be found faithful” (vs 1-2).

That’s what we will be. We will be stewards of God to convey the Truth to all the people. Stewards to help the people in:

- growing in grace and knowledge
- understanding and Truth
- how to live

Today we are all stewards of the Word of God, to be faithful to it. But especially all the elders and ministers are stewards. A steward is one who uses the owner’s property, money and power to improve and increase his riches and standing. So, when we’re stewards, we’re going to be doing the same thing:

- to increase those who come into the Kingdom of God
- to increase the spiritual wealth and understanding for the people

And for all of us who are in the Kingdom of God!

After they were judging Paul in a way that they shouldn't have been, v 5: "Therefore, **do not judge anything before the time; wait until the Lord comes...**" You can't make the final decision on anything because *God is Judge!* There they were judging one another, jockeying for positions in the coming Kingdom of God, because they thought it was coming very soon.

"...Who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the motives of *all* hearts; and then shall each one receive praise from God. Now these things, brethren, I have applied to Apollos and myself for your sakes; that in us you may learn not to think *of men* beyond what is written, so that no one among you is puffed up on behalf of one *of us* against the other. For what makes you superior *to others*? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you also received *it*, why are you boasting as if you did not receive *it*? Now you are satiated. Now you have been enriched. You have reigned without us..." (vs 5-8).

They were acting as though the Kingdom of God was there already. So, Paul says, "...And I would that you did reign, so that we also might reign with you" (v 8).

They were looking forward to it. Today people will say that 'the Lord has delayed His coming.' *NO!* You have misunderstood the timing of how God is doing it, especially for those who don't keep the Holy Days. That's quite a thing for them to understand.

Rev. 5 is a prophecy sung by the 24 elders, and this will be one of the songs that we will sing when we are resurrected.

Revelation 5:9: "And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are You to take the book, and to open its seals because You were slain, and did redeem us to God by Your own blood, out of every tribe and language and people and nation.'" That does not apply to the 24 elders. Some people think that it does, but there are only 24.

Verse 10: "'And did make us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth.'" Because the Kingdom of God is going to come to the earth. Fantastic, isn't it? *That's quite a thing!*

If we're faithful, Paul wrote to Timothy; 2-Timothy 2:12: "...we shall also reign together with *Him...*"

There it is! Think about this, for those in the first resurrection, we will have the firstborn blessing and the firstfruits blessing for all eternity. Keep that

in mind. That's an amazing thing! Whatever you troubles, difficulties that you may be going through in this world, **count it all as just stepping stones to eternity!** That's an amazing thing!

Matt. 25 is where it talks about the talents and what we will be doing:

- we will be reigning
- we will be ruling
- we will be teaching
- we will be showing them God's way
- we will be showing them God's Truth
- we will be showing them God's righteousness

This is right after the return of Christ (Matt. 24).

Matthew 25:14: "For *the Kingdom of Heaven* is like a man leaving the country, who called his own servants and delivered to them his property." What property has He given us?

- His Word, which is Truth
- His Spirit, which is eternal
- understanding of the Word of God

What are we to do with it? *Jesus told the apostles to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature!* The prophecy in Rom. 10 says that 'their word has gone out to the ends of the earth.' A prophecy of the Gospel going out just before the return of Jesus Christ to every place in the world. This is also going to be made known by the two witnesses.

Verse 15: "Now, to one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one; he *gave* to each one according to his own ability, and immediately left the country. Then the one who had received five talents went and traded with them, and made an additional five talents" (vs 15-16). This is what we are to do. This is how we grow in grace and knowledge. Let's look at it this way:

- How much do we love God?
- How much do we love His commandments?

Read all of Psalms 119; do so before you pray on your knees before God. Don't try to read the whole thing all at once, but read certain sections of it; there are 22 sections, each section for one letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Let that inspire you:

- to grow
- to overcome
- to learn
- to serve

All the things that come from God! That is likened:

- to trading
- to increasing

- to knowing
- to understanding

Verse 17: “In the same way also, the one who had *received* two *talents* also gained two others. But the one who had received the single *talent* went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord’s money. Now, after a long time, the lord of those servants came to take account with them. Then the one who had received five talents came to *him and* brought an additional five talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered five talents to me; see, I have gained five other talents besides them’” (vs 17-20).

Now, there may be big talents or little talents, but you can have five big ones or five little ones, but they’re still five. It depends on how we start and how we finish. That’s another thing we need to learn: ***it’s not how you start, it’s how you finish!*** That becomes very important as we go through the Feast of Tabernacles.

Verse 21: “And his lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant! *Because* you were faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things.... [God is going to choose it; it is going to be so great we’ll be joyful forever] ...Enter into the joy of your lord.’ And the one who had received two talents also came to him *and* said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; see, I have gained two other talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant! *Because* you were faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’” (vs 21-23).

Now let’s look at the one who received the one talent. This is much like the Protestants. They have a certain amount of understanding from the Word of God. They know they need their sins forgiven, and only Jesus can forgive their sins. *But that’s as far as they go!* That’s like taking the one talent, the beginning knowledge of the Word of God, and stopping all progress at that point.

Verse 24: “Then the one who had received the single talent also came to *him and* said, ‘Lord, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter.’”

They didn’t want all of those hard Scriptures in the Old Testament and in the New Testament; they wanted it easy. They wanted to just take the talent that God had, bury it in the ground, say that they’re Christian, that they’re good, that they’re wonderful... Let’s see what happened here:

Verse 25: “‘And *because* I was afraid, I went and hid your talent in the earth. *Now* look, you have your own.’ His lord answered *and* said to him,

‘*You* wicked and lazy servant!....’” (vs 25-26).

Think about this for just a minute. I’m not taking the Protestant’s name in vain, nor condemning them for something that should not be brought out. However, what is the sign, *perpetual sign*, of God’s people? *His Sabbaths! The weekly Sabbath! The annual Sabbaths!* Those are the treasures that God has given us, and the talents so that we can grow in grace and knowledge and produce.

His servants were the stewards, just like we are the stewards today and we’ll be the stewards in the Kingdom of God.

Verse 27: “‘Because *you knew* this, you were duty-bound to take my talent to the money exchangers, *so that* when I came, I could have received my own with interest. Therefore, take the talent from him, and give *it* to the one who has ten talents’” (vs 27-28). Why give it to him?

Sidebar: Example today: A lot of people are angry—mostly Democrats—who also get all of their campaign money from the rich and elite, and claim that they’re helping the poor. So, Donald Trump comes along and doesn’t take any salary, and most of those who are working for him are so rich they don’t take any salary. Whereas, most of those coming to Washington D.C., go there to get rich. They are operating on the basis of talents, of working to increase for the nation and for the people. So, the whiners and the complainers—whomever they are: Democrats, Socialists, anarchists, atheists—complaint that Donald Trump has got the smartest men possible, rich men, who know how to deal in money to help get the nation set right.

Would you hire a homeless man off the street and put him in charge of the treasury? *NO!* You hire someone who knows how to use and make money! Likewise with us! ***God has given us:***

- His Word
- His Truth
- His Spirit
- His understanding

He wants us to grow in grace and knowledge so that we can produce to receive eternal life. We need to think about that, that’s important. So, what’s going to happen with the worthless servant? When they complained about giving the talent to the one who has ten:

Verse 29: “‘For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and *he* shall have abundance; on the other hand, *as for* the one who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken from him.’”

Interesting statement! How many times have to you seen brethren and ministers come to a certain point and VOILA! they have a new doctrine, supposedly out of the Bible, but contrary to the Word of God. What happens to that? *They lose even the talents that they had! They lose the understanding that God gave them!* Some of them leave and go into the world, and it's as if they were never in the Church of God. So, here's what God says is going to take place:

Verse 30: “‘And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness.’ There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Now, when the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the Holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon *the* throne of His glory; and He shall gather before Him all the nations; and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats” (vs 30-32).

That's the judgment that's going to be coming out of Jerusalem, and we're going to be given the task as stewards of God, ministers of God, those who understand the Word of God—now spirit beings—to *help, to teach, to increase the Kingdom of God many thousands of times over again!* So that when the end finally comes and the New Jerusalem and the new earth are here, it's going to be the greatest thing that has ever been.

(go to the next track)

Now let's continue with what we'll be doing all through the Millennium in helping and teaching and so forth. Tomorrow we will look at some of the major problems that we will face, and that people will face, in the Millennium. Remember that they will still have human nature to a good degree. They will still have independent free moral agency (IFMA) and they're going to have to choose. But they're going to have everything laid out there for them.

Let's see some things on which the whole basis of the Millennium, the Kingdom of God, the Government of God and then expand it into all eternity forever.

Psalm 89:1: “I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”

Of course, this is talking about David who would do this. It's interesting that the whole 89th Psalm is praising God for His goodness and for David the king. Then it's a complaint (the last half of it): ‘God, where is Your faithfulness?’ Where is the throne?’ This was written by an Ezrahite after they came back from Jerusalem, and they only had a governor. They did not have a king, so they were perplexed. God is this great, righteous and Holy, yet,

Lord, You swore to David that his throne would be forever and we don't have it.’ They didn't know that Jeremiah took it on to Ireland and then over to Scotland and then down to England. There it sits today!

So, there's a good lesson in that. If there's something you don't understand right now, don't accuse God of any wrongdoing. Rather take it this way: God has said that it is true, and it will happen, but you don't have all the facts or understanding.

Verse 2: “For I have said, ‘Your steadfast love shall be built up forever; You shall establish Your faithfulness in the heavens.’” Then it talks about the covenant that God made with David.

What about the covenant that God has made with us? This is something we all need to know. This is something! People get all lifted up in vanity, all lifted up in self-importance, thinking how great they are, etc., etc., but God says that all the nations are ‘a drop in the bucket’! Here's how to approach God:

Verse 11: “The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; You have founded the world and all its fullness”—everything that there is in the world. How can man, who is a created being, get so exalted in his own importance?

Verse 12: “The north and the south, You have created them; Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in Your name. Your arm is an arm of might; Your hand is strong, and Your right hand is exalted” (vs 12-13).

This is how we're going to rule and reign in the Kingdom of God as kings, priests, teachers, administrators and those over cities, provinces, etc.:

Verse 14: “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth shall go before Your face. Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound; they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance” (vs 14-15). *That's us now and into the Kingdom of God!* What blessings can be compared to that? *None!*

Verse 16: “In Your name they shall rejoice all the day; and in Your righteousness they shall be exalted.” How is someone exalted? Remember that it says ‘he who humbles himself shall be exalted, but he who exalts himself shall be abased.’ Not just humbled, but *abased! We're exalted in God's righteousness, not ours!*

Verse 17: “For You are the glory of their strength; and in Your favor our horn is exalted, for the LORD is our shield; yea, our King is the Holy One of Israel” (vs 17-18).

Now let's put this together with Ps. 85, a wonderful Psalm. This is possibly talking about the second resurrection, or even the first resurrection, because you die, but you receive life back again.

Psalm 85:6: "Will You not give us life again, so that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation. I will hear what God the LORD will speak..." (vs 6-8). We have it right here.

- What is God going to teaching and telling us when we're in the Kingdom of God?
- What is it going to be like going to Jerusalem, that great city covered with this great tabernacle?

Fire by night and cloud by day, and hear Jesus Christ give a Sabbath message!

- What's that going to be like?

"...for He will speak peace to His people, and to His saints, but let them not turn again to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, so that glory may dwell in our land" (vs 8-9). That's what we want on the whole earth, the glory of God reflected in everything that there is:

- in the land
- in the water
- in the plants
- in all of the birds
- in all the animals
- in everything that there is

What a glorious thing that is going to be, as we'll see a little later on.

To the end of this chapter is some of the most inspiring verses in the Bible:

Verse 10: "Mercy and Truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good, and our land shall yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before Him and shall set us in the way of His steps" (vs 10-13).

The definition of how the Kingdom of God will be administered and run. That's quite a thing when you come to understand that. That's why it's so important! What do we really need? *We know we need:*

- the Truth, *the Truth, the Truth!*
- the love of God, *the love of God, the love of God*
- the righteousness of God, *the righteousness of God, the righteousness of God*

- the mercy of God, *the mercy of God, the mercy of God*

All of those are what we need now and on into eternity.

Let's see what we are to learn concerning being kings, and how that's going to be, and how is it going to be put together. Think of this in terms of the Millennium:

- what we will be doing
- how we will be teaching
- what our character needs to be
- what we are going to be looking toward

This has to do with the knowledge of God, through the Spirit of God, and we will all be composed of spirit. Here's what we are to learn. Spirit and wisdom comes from God.

Proverbs 8:6: "Hear; for I will speak of excellent things..." Think of this: Christ in Jerusalem instructing us, we are instructing all the people.

"...and the opening of my lips *shall be* right things, for my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips" (vs 6-7). Yes, there will still be sin in the Millennium. We'll see how we deal with that a little later.

Verse 8: "All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; there is nothing twisted or perverse in them.... [the straight Truth of God] ...They *are* all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge. Receive my instruction and not silver..." (vs 8-10). Most important!

We have spiritual character likened to gold, silver and precious stone. But eternal life cannot be measured in the literal sense of physical things; whether it be gold or silver.

"...and knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom *is* better than rubies, and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. I, wisdom... [this wisdom comes from God] ...dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion. The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil; I hate pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the perverse mouth" (vs 10-13).

Obviously, this is what we are to do today, develop the character of God. We're to love the Truth, love the righteousness, love God, but hate the evil, hate the sin, and not be involved in it.

Think about the perverse mouth, as well: *false doctrine!* Remember the sermon series we went through on *false prophets and false doctrine in the*

end time—False Prophets, “Works of Law” and Justification. How many will succumb to it, and how they will do it. An amazing thing! Look what happened to the largest church in the history of the Church. It got taken down and destroyed with false doctrine, perverse things.

Sidebar: It always starts with the nature of God and the Passover—*always, always!* That’s why we have *The Christian Passover* book of over 500 pages. I’m going to tell you again, beware of Messianic Jews and Sacred Namers who think that they know more than God. The sacred names of the New Testament are *the Father* and *Jesus the Christ, the Son of God!* That’s it! The names of God are important in the Old Testament to tell us about the nature of God and so forth. But in the New Testament there’s not one sacred name in the Hebrew. They come along with a perverse mouth, ‘A little bit it says here, don’t you believe what it says here? *Yes, I believe the whole Bible!* ‘Well then, why aren’t you doing this?’

Verse 14: “Counsel and sound wisdom *are* mine; I *am* understanding; I have strength. By me kings reign and princes decree justice. Princes rule by me, and nobles, and all the judges of the earth” (vs 14-16). *That’s going to be us!*

- we’re going to judge
- we’re going to rule
- we’re going to teach
- we’re going to glorify God

Verse 17: “I love those who love me; and those who seek me early shall find me. Riches and honor *are* with me; *yea*, enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit *is* better than gold, *yea*, than fine gold; and what I give *is better* than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice, that I may cause those who love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasuries” (vs 17-21).

What’s going to happen during the Millennium? Let’s see how they tie and who they tie to, and what that amounts to, what we do with it, and what they do with what they have. Now it’s talking about kings, and we’re going to sit on various thrones or chairs of judgment.

Proverbs 25:5: “Take away the wicked *from* before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.” Think about what Satan tried to do. He came right in to try to destroy Christ.

How are countries taken down? *You get a confidant to rise up with the king!* But the confidant is perverse and wicked, but he doesn’t show his hand until he’s ready to take down the king. So,

there won’t be that opportunity when we’re spirit beings.

Prov. 29 is very interesting; it has to do with several key important verses concerning kings and rulers.

Proverbs 29:2: “**When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice...**” Think about what it’s going to be all during the Millennium, for a thousand years.

We are righteous! We will be in authority, granted officially to us to do this, that or the other. “...the people rejoice...”

Look at it today; look at every country where there is an oppressor. Look at Venezuela, what a mess that is! Perfect example, sad to say, of this verse.

“...but when the wicked rule, the people mourn” (v 2). Isn’t that something? *Yes!*

Verse 4: “**The king establishes the land by justice...**” This starts with Christ; establishes the whole world, all the nations, getting down to every person. As we have seen, Truth and righteousness together. Psa. 85 says ‘they kiss each other.’

Think about any government that you want to look at, but we can think of the one that was just put out of office in Washington, D.C.

Verse 12: “**If a ruler hearkens to lies...** [and lies himself, believes lies and lives lies]: **...all his servants are wicked.**”

Now you know what the motto is: **Drain the swamp** in Washington, DLC (District of Liars and Corruption). Perverse! Double-tongued!

Verse 14—this is true of Christ, this will be true of us, this is true of any leader in the world today who will follow the basic principles in the Bible: keep His Word and tell the truth.

Verse 14: “A king who faithfully judges the poor, his throne shall be established forever.” Think of that! We’re to be rulers and kings and priests! Notice the difference and the contrast:

Verse 16: When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases...” Isn’t that what we have today? *Yes!* How hard is it to turn all of that around? *Very difficult!* We’ll have more power and authority than the government today.

“...but the righteous shall see their fall” (v 16). Aren’t we going to see the fall of all wickedness and lies, epitomized by Babylon the Great and what they do to the world?

Prov. 20:28—Isn’t this New Testament

doctrine? Think about it; everything that is written in the New Testament is an expansion on what is in the Old Testament. True? *Yes, it is!*

- How many hundreds of prophecies are there concerning the coming of Christ?
- How many hundreds of prophecies are there concerning the coming Kingdom of God?

All there!

Proverbs 20:28: “Love and truth preserve the king...” That is true! Let’s apply this to Christ: ***Love, Truth and righteousness and all of the attributes of God combined together result in eternal life forever!*** Isn’t that true? *Yes!*

- that’s why we are to learn, grow, change and overcome
- that’s why we have the Feast of Tabernacles
- that’s why we’re here

This is what we’re to bring to the whole world, starting with Christ, Proverbs 29:18: “**Where there is no vision...** [no plan, no understanding, no definition, no love, no truth, no righteousness, no mercy] ...**the people perish...**”

We saw that happening here in America. Our current President is trying to turn this around and head it in the other direction. Look at the resistance he has from all of those evil people. Not that he’s a paragon of righteousness, but at least he’s telling the truth and doing the right thing and trying to give vision to the people of what we need to do.

“...but happy is he who keeps the Law” (v 18). That’s great!

Now let’s come and see how we are going to build up the society. Think about all the wonderful things, all the things that we have, all the gadgets, all the wonderful things we have today. People look at that and think that this is going to be marvelous and great and good. Look at all the conveniences we have, unlike in any other age before us that we know of.

Isa. 60 is a prophecy of the coming Kingdom of God. We know that the coming Kingdom of God is going to be greater than any civilization that men have ever had on this earth, and we’ll have a part in doing that.

Isaiah 60:1: “Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you... [that’s the starting of the Millennium] ...for behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness *the* people; but the LORD shall arise upon

you, and His glory shall be seen upon you. And the Gentiles shall come to your light... [some will have to be persuaded, but they will come] ...and kings to the brightness of your rising” (vs 1-3). That’s us! That’s an amazing thing! That’s something! Quite a thing!

Let’s see what’s going to happen, because this chapter tells us what kind of society we are going to bring about.

Verse 4: “Lift up your eyes all around, and see. All of them gather themselves together; they come to you. Your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be nursed at *your* side. Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall throb and swell for joy; because the abundance of the sea shall turn to you, the wealth of the Gentiles will come to you” (vs 4-5). That’s going to be quite a thing!

Do we know what real wealth really is? I mean, even as human beings, the most wealthy on earth; what’s it going to be like to live forever in the Kingdom of God? To live forever in New Jerusalem?

It talks about God having mercy upon them, v 10: “...but in My grace I had mercy upon you. Therefore, your gates will always be open... [the gates to New Jerusalem] ...they will not be shut day nor night, that men may bring unto you the wealth of the Gentiles, and their kings in procession, for the nation and kingdom that will not serve you will perish. Yes, *those* nations will be completely wasted” (vs 10-12).

You need to think about that at the end of the Millennium and also the Lake of Fire. Notice what it’s going to be. Notice how this society is going to be:

- so wealthy
- so rich
- so beautiful
- so powerful
- so righteous
- so good

Verse 13: “The glory of Lebanon will come to you, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box tree together, to beautify the place of My sanctuary; and I will make the place of My feet glorious. Also, the sons of your afflictors shall come bowing down to you; and all your despisers will bow down at the soles of your feet...” (vs 13-14).

What does it say to the Church of Philadelphia and the synagogue of Satan (Rev. 3)? *They will worship at your feet!* There’s the

fulfillment of it, the prophecy right here.

“...And they will call you, ‘The city of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel’” (v 14). Where are those of the Philadelphia Church going to be? *In the City of God, Jerusalem!* On the earth and the New Jerusalem that is coming.

Notice what this society is going to be like; the curse of Adam is going to be removed completely; v 15: “Instead of being forsaken and hated, so that no one passes through, I will make you an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. You will also suck the milk of nations, and suck the breast of kings; and you shall know that I the LORD *am* your Savior and your Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob” (vs 15-16).

We will see that what I’m going to read next had a partial fulfillment in the days of Solomon.

Verse 17: “For bronze I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver; and for wood I will bring bronze, and for stones, iron. I will also make your overseers to be peace, and your rulers to be righteousness.”

That’s us! That’s how we’re going to serve! Every deep down desire within the deepest part of the heart of man wants these things: peace, love, joy, righteousness and goodness. But with the ‘law of sin and death’ and Satan the devil ruling this world, it can never happen. People get so complacent that it has to be taken away from them.

Verse 18: “Violence will no more be heard in your land, *neither* wasting nor ruin within your borders; but you will call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. The sun will no more be your light by day; nor the brightness of the moon give light to you; but the LORD will be to you for an everlasting light, and your God your glory” (vs 18-19). That’s how it’s going to be. What a wonderful thing!

Verse 20: “Your sun will no more go down... [getting into the new heaven and the new Earth] ...nor your moon withdraw; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.” What is the light of New Jerusalem? *God the Father and Jesus Christ!*

Verse 21: “Your people also *will* all be righteous; they will inherit the land forever... [that transfers over into New Jerusalem and a new Earth] ...the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, so that I may be glorified.” This ties in with Eph. 2.; that through the grace of God we are the workmanship of God right now, so we need to let God with His Word and His Spirit

- work with us

- help us
- train us
- give us strength
- help us to overcome the weakness, the trials, the difficulties

Living in this world we’re going to have them. If you get overwhelmed with it, stop and think about what Jesus went through. How He was scourge and crucified *for you, for me, for the whole world, for the complete plan of God!*

Verse 22: A smallest will become a thousand, and the least one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it **in its time**—meaning *according to the plan of God!*

Let’s see what it’s going to be like for the whole earth. Again, notice how in Isaiah and the Psalms there are so many Scriptures relating to the coming Kingdom of God and the Millennium, and what we will do, how we will do it, and this all ties in with everything in the New Testament and reaches clear back to the creation of God.

Isaiah 11:1: “And there shall come forth a shoot out from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him...” (vs 1-2).

Here’s how Christ is going to rule; here is how we’re going to rule and what we are going to bring to the world: *the greatest civilization the world has ever, ever known in the history of all of mankind!*

“...the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. And He shall not judge according to the sight of His eyes, nor after the hearing of His ears. But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and shall reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. And He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins” (vs 2-5).

The whole animal kingdom is going to change. When Adam and Eve sinned, the nature of the land changed and the nature of the animals changed. Notice how this is going to be totally, *totally, totally* different than what it is now:

Verse 6: “Also the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid...” If you don’t believe that that’s a fantastic verse, go watch NatGeo Wild sometime.

“...and the calf and the cub lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them” (v 6). Hey, Mattel is out of business, no more plastic toys; they’ll have the real thing. ‘Johnny, how would you like a cub lion.’ *That would be good, Daddy.*

Verse 7: “And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.” That’s going to be something to see. Watch NatGeo and see how the lions take care of the animals today. Is that not a complete change and conversion? I wonder what it’s going to be with hyenas; the worst of the animals.

Verse 8: “And the suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp... [I can’t comprehend that, but that’s going to happen] ...and the weaned child shall put his hand on the viper’s den. **‘They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My Holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.’**” (vs 8-9). How fantastic is that going to be? It will make the Bible just like a little speck with so much knowledge.

Verse 10: ““And in that day there shall be the Root of Jesse standing as a banner for the people; to Him the nations shall seek; and His rest shall be glorious.’ And it shall come to pass in that day, the LORD shall again set His hand, the second time, to recover the remnant of His people that remains, from Assyria and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Ethiopia, and from Persia, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the coasts of the sea. And He shall lift up a banner for the nations, and shall gather the outcasts of Israel and gather together the scattered ones of Judah from the four corners of the earth. And the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not trouble Ephraim” (vs 10-13). It’s going to be quite a thing!

Verse 16: “And there shall be a highway for the remnant of His people, those left from Assyria; as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.”

Remember, we’re going to rule and reign with Christ. The whole world is going to be changed. Former adversaries will become loving neighbors and friends.

Isaiah 19:23: “In that day there shall be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria shall come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and Egypt shall serve with Assyria. In that day Israel shall be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the land... [unheard of, but it’s going to happen] ...whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, **‘Blessed be My people Egypt, and Assyria**

the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance”” (vs 23-25).

This is how the Millennium is going to be for 1,000 years!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Psalm 9:1-11
- 2) Daniel 7:26-27
- 3) Isaiah 32:1, 15-18
- 4) Isaiah 33:5-7, 15-17, 20-22
- 5) Isaiah 61:6-11
- 6) 1 Timothy 1:17
- 7) 1 Timothy 6:15-16
- 8) 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-8
- 9) Revelation 5:9-10
- 10) 2 Timothy 2:12
- 11) Matthew 25:14-32
- 12) Psalm 89:1-2, 11-18
- 13) Psalm 85:6-13
- 14) Proverbs 8:6-21
- 15) Proverbs 25:5
- 16) Proverbs 29:2, 4, 12, 14, 16
- 17) Proverbs 20:28
- 18) Proverbs 29:18
- 19) Isaiah 60:1-5, 10-22
- 20) Isaiah 11:1-13, 16
- 21) Isaiah 19:23-25

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 7
- 2-Peter 2
- Micah 4
- Isaiah 4
- Revelation 22
- James 4:11-12
- Revelation 19; 20
- 1 Corinthians 15
- Matthew 24
- Romans 10
- Psalm 119
- Revelation 3
- Ephesians 2

Also referenced:

- Booklet & Sermon Series: *Judge Righteous Judgment*
- Sermon Series: *False Prophets, “Works of Law” and Justification*
- Book: *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter

FRC: bo
Transcribed: 8-6-17

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Day 4—Feast of Tabernacles

The Example of Solomon and How He Started Out

The Problem of Complacency, Self-Righteousness and Sin

Fred R. Coulter—October 8, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Day 4 of the Feast of Tabernacles! What a great Feast that it is this year, and every year because we learn a little bit more what it's going to be like to be kings and priests in the Kingdom of God. That's really quite a thing for us to understand and to grasp.

That's why there are the few. We look to the Truth and the righteousness of God. We look to the goodness of God and everything for us *to do His will!* That's why we're here, and that's why we do what we do!

Today we're going to examine what do you suppose will be the chief problems that we will face in teaching the people and showing them the way of God? What will be the greatest difficulty of all? There will be three major things that we will have to be especially careful for and for the people, which will be:

1. complacency
2. self-righteousness
3. sin

How do we handle it? God has given everyone free moral agency, and we are to *choose!* The choices will be set before everyone the same way that it is in Deut. 30; everyone has to choose. God made us to be thinking, choosing individuals. He's given us independent free moral agency that *He will not take away.* God doesn't want robots. He doesn't want people to just conform because that's what everybody else is doing! *NO!*

It's going to be each individual, even though it's among a group that does what it's supposed to do. It's important to understand that *it has to do with our choices and our thinking!* God is the one who knows the heart. We will also be the ones who will be able to read their thoughts. So, there will not be any 'subversive shenanigans' pulled on the kings and priests of God, Jesus Christ and God the Father.

This is what God is going to set before everyone, just like He always has:

Deuteronomy 30:15: "Behold, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil." Satan's going to be removed, the demons will be removed, so the evil there will be what they're thinking in their mind as well as the actions they may carry out.

First of all, we need to see about this free moral agency. Let's apply this to those coming in, the children of Israel and all the other nations.

Verse 16: "In that I command you this day to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments so that you may live and multiply. And the LORD your God shall bless you in the land where you go to possess it." That's the whole world. God will bless them! But there will still be sin.

Let's just project ahead a little bit: What's going to happen at the end of the Millennium when Satan is let loosed from his prison to go and lead the people again to war? So, back to the beginning or middle of the Millennium; we find that everybody has choices to make. This is really something!

Verse 17: "But if your heart turn away... [the heart and the mind] ...so that you will not hear, but shall be drawn away and worship other gods and serve them." Now, there won't be other gods there during the Millennium, but *if they serve themselves and worship themselves and think that they're just fine, then they have idols in their mind!* So, that will be the only kinds of other gods that there will be: *your own selfish thoughts!*

Verse 18: "I denounce to you this day that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong *your* days on the land where you pass over Jordan to go to possess it. I call heaven and earth to record this day against you *that* I have set before you life and death..." (vs 18-19). Isn't God going to do that everyone: all nations and all people? *Yes, indeed!*

"...blessing and cursing..." (v 19). Yes, there will still be the cursing. And we will see how that may work out.

"...Therefore, **choose life...** [independent free moral agency (IFMA)] ...**so that both you and your seed may live...** [that's what God wants] ...that you may love the LORD your God, *and* may obey His voice, and may cleave to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, so that you may dwell in the land, which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob—to give it to them" (vs 19-20).

We find in Rom. 4 that that inheritance for Abraham was expanded out to include the whole world. This is why we need the Old Testament and

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the New Testament and put it together.

Now let's see how things will be during the Millennium and, yes, also in the Great White Throne Judgment in the 100-year period afterward.

Isaiah 65:16: "*He* who blesses himself in the earth shall bless himself **by the God of Truth**. And he who swears in the earth will swear **by the God of Truth**; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from My eyes."

God is going to bring about the restitution of all things. When it first starts out, there's a lot of cleaning up and rebuilding and so forth, but when you get down into year 50, 100, 150, 200, 300, 400...

Remember that all during the Millennium all the Laws of God are going to be kept, so there will be the Sabbath 'land rest' every seven years, and he Jubilee every 50 years. How that will work going down through time, some of it we'll just have to wait to see about it when we get there.

Verse 17: "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth..." True! What happened to the heaven and earth with the return of Jesus Christ? *Everything was out of place, upside down and destroyed!* Here we have that God is going to make it right.

"...And the former things will not be remembered, nor come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever *in that* which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy" (vs 18-19). That's going to be the center of the Government of God on earth: Jerusalem!

Verse 19: "I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and I will joy in My people; and the voice of weeping will no more be heard in her, nor the voice of crying."

Here's what it's going to be like during the Millennium and we can apply this to the 100-year period of the Great White Throne Judgment, as well:

Verse 20: "There will not be an infant who lives but a few days... [nor will there be any abortion] ...nor an old man that has not filled his days..."

Hebrews 9:27: "And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this, *the judgment*." Also, 'as in Adam, we all die,' because with the sin of Adam and Eve 'the law of sin and death' was put into our bodies. So, we sin and we die. Let's understand this, because it's very important: When you read Ezek. 36, God is going to give everyone 'a heart of flesh' and 'take away the heart of stone from them,' *so human nature will not be quite as evil!* But the 'law of sin and death,' even

though it is in a lesser degree with sin, is still there, because we all have to die in Adam.

1-Thess 4—those who are alive and remain to the coming of Christ will not precede those who are asleep or dead and buried. The dead in Christ shall rise first! There will be some who will still be alive at that time. Those who are alive will be changed.

How does that change take place? Let's think about this for just a minute: Since it's given to man 'once to die'—all human beings once to die, and that's going to carry through in the Millennium. Just like those who are alive when Christ returns, there will be—there has to be to fulfill Scripture—an instantaneous death and change. So, likewise, during the Millennium people will live 100 years. When they get to the end of their life and it's time for them to enter into the Kingdom of God, as the sons of God, then *instant death and change!*

The one who remains a sinner is accursed and is buried and will await the second resurrection, the part to be cast into the Lake of Fire. You need to think about that for a little bit.

Isaiah 65:20: "...for the child will die a hundred years old... [then enter into eternal life] ...but the sinner *who is* a hundred years old shall be **accursed**"—*facing the future of being cast into the Lake of Fire!* That's how life is going to be structured during the Millennium.

Verse 21: "And they will build houses and live *in them*; and they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build, and another live *in them*; they will not plant, and another eat; for like the days of a tree *are so will be* the days of My people, and My elect will long enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for calamity. For they *are* the seed of the beloved of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear" (vs 21-24). We will be the ones to fulfill that.

Verse 25: "'The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust *will be* the food of the serpent. They will not hurt nor destroy in all My Holy mountain,' says the LORD." So, that has to apply to the Millennium as well.

With that said, and with the structure of things that will be, how will life be led? What will it be like? *The only thing we know is that if we look at a time during Israel's history...*

Let's see about Solomon—1-Chron. 28—here is where David is giving the charge to Solomon

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who is going to sit on David's throne. Here's the great ceremony of all the princes, all the people, all the nobles, and the pronouncement that Solomon was going to take David's place. Let's look at this, because this is going to be very similar to what we are going to be teaching the people and what they will hear and what will have to do.

After God told David that he could not build a house for God, because he was 'a bloody man' then God said that 'Solomon will take your place.'

1-Chronicles 28:4—David said: “‘However, the LORD God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever.... [on into the Millennium] ...For He has chosen Judah to be the ruler, and of the house of Judah the house of my father. And among the sons of my father's house He was pleased to make me king over all Israel. And of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons), He has chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. And He [God] said to me, “Solomon your son shall build My house and My courts, for I have chosen him *to be* My son, and I will be his Father. And I will establish his kingdom forever **if**...’” (vs 4-7).

Everyone is going to have the same thing given to them in the Millennium:

- **if** you want eternal life
- **if** you want to live forever
- **if** you choose what is right
- **if** you love the Lord your God
- **if** you keep His commandments
- **if** you do what is right
- **if** you have right thoughts

Now everything is going to be based on the thoughts and the heart!

This is what God told David, and we'll see that here's what He told Solomon, as well.

“...he continues resolute in keeping My commandments and My ordinances, as he is today.’ And now in the sight of all Israel, the congregation of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the LORD your God, so that you may possess this good land and leave *it* for an inheritance for your children after you forever” (vs 7-8).

That's the proposition! Remember the other proposition that was given in Exo. 19 to the children of Israel: *If you will obey My voice, you shall be a kingdom of priests for Me!* That was just to bring God's way to the world.

David continues, v 9: “And you, Solomon

my son, acknowledge the God of your father and serve Him with a **perfect heart** and with a **willing mind**...” That's His judgment that is going to be used by us in leading and teaching the people and helping them to fulfill their lives during the Millennium so they can enter into the spiritual Kingdom of God and live forever.

“...with a **perfect heart** and with a **willing mind**...”

- no conniving
- no double thinking
- none of this

“...for **the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts**...” (v 9). That's how it's going to be judged! That's how we're judged today; think about it!

“...**If** you seek Him...” (v 9). God is not going to seek us and chase us down. We seek God and He answers.

“...He will be found by you. But **if**...” (v 9). All of this is choice—independent free moral agency (IFMA).

“...But **if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever**. Take heed now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary. **Be strong and do it.**” (vs 9-10). Then David tells him about all the plans that God gave to him. Tells him about all the wealth—the gold, silver, iron, brass, copper—and how he worked with King Hiram to get ready to build the temple and so forth.

1-Chronicles 29:1: “And David the king said to all the congregation, ‘Solomon my son...’” there was a slight rebellion by Adonijah to try and take the kingship.

“...whom alone God has chosen, **is young and tender**...” (v 1)—not polluted with a lot of sin. That can be an advantage or it can be a disadvantage. Just like everything that we do when we choose. It can be used for good and it can be used for evil.

Look at how Solomon started out and then we will see how God responded to Solomon. *God chose him!*

Sidebar: think about this with us. We are *the called, the chosen, the faithful!* All of those who are in the Church of God—regardless of corporate identity—having the Spirit of God, have been chosen by God because of *repentance, baptism, seeking God and growing in grace and knowledge*. Here's Solomon who is “...young and tender...”:

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- What is his life going to be as he lives down through time and having every blessing of God? *Peace all around; no war!*
- What will he do?
- How will he love God and keep His commandments?
- Will Solomon sin?
- Will he choose to go against God?
- What is that Solomon will do because he's "...young and tender...?"

David continues: "...and the work *is* great, for the palace *is* not for man, but for the LORD God. Now, I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for *things of* gold, and the silver for *things of* silver, and the bronze for *things of* bronze, the iron for *things of* iron, and wood for *things of* wood, onyx stones, and *stones to* be set, and also stones of antimony, and stones of many colors, and every precious stone, and stones of alabaster, in abundance. And also, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, out of my own treasure of gold and silver I have given to the house of my God over and above all that I have prepared for the Holy house" (vs 1-3). Everything ready!

What is it going to be like for the children to be born in a society that everything is ready? *No difficulties, no problems!* All the teachers of God—people will have children—will help them learn, grow, overcome and everything. They're all going to live a hundred years. What will their lives be like?

Here in the Millennium, they will be born into a perfect human society. That's something *only God* can bring. Men have tried it, but they've not been able to produce, even with the help of God. That is because of human nature and independent free moral agency (IFMA).

1-Chronicles 28:19: "'All *this*,' said David, 'was in writing from the hand of the LORD....'" All the plans that were given were given *by God* and God directed David to draw all the plans for everything for the temple.

"...He made me understand all the details of these plans.' And David said to Solomon his son..." (vs 19-20). Notice that this how we're going to start the Millennium; this is how people will start their lives. This is what God told Joshua to do and now He's telling Solomon to do:

"...Be strong and of good courage, and do *it*. Do not fear, nor be dismayed, for the LORD God, *even my God, will be* with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.'" (v 20).

Then David said that all the skilled workers are ready, everything is ready to go. It becomes very important for us to understand, because **Solomon had a blessed life!** His example for us is the closest example that we come in the Bible to understanding how we're going to confront the people in the Millennium to teach them what their lives will be like.

Solomon started out the right way! Like I've said before: ***it's not how you start, it's how you finish!***

1-Kings 3:3: "And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father. Only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there..." (vs 3-4).

Let's go back a little bit in history: during the early days of Samuel the prophet, who was also to be priest and judge, was under the tutelage of Eli the high priest and Eli's two sons: Phinehas and Hophni. Remember, there was a war. Israel went out to battle and got defeated. They came back and Phinehas and Hophni said, 'Let's get the Ark of God and take it out, and God will win for us.'

Sidebar: The key thing in war and fighting is that God was the One to tell them when to go to war and who to fight, ***and He would fight for them!*** So, you read about how they conquered the land in the book of Judges and Joshua, and see that God fought for them when they loved God and kept His commandments.

Here was sin right at the temple with Eli, Phinehas and Hophni. They took the Ark of the Covenant and went out and said that 'we're going to destroy the Philistines.' What happened? *They lost! The Philistines took the Ark!* Their god Dagon fell down, bowing down to the Ark of the Covenant. After they put him back up, the next day he fell down again and broke both of his arms. God sent a plague of hemorrhoids and mice throughout all the land. So, they said, 'We've got to get rid of the Ark.' They sent it off in a new cart and it ended up in Kirjath Jearim and stayed there until David brought the Ark out and put it in a special small tabernacle within his house. So, the Ark of the Covenant was separated from the tabernacle. The tabernacle being re-setup in Gibeon and this is where Solomon went to worship God.

Verse 4: "And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that *was* the great high place. Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings upon that altar. In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night...." (vs 4-5).

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Not only was Solomon chosen personally by God, now God is going to personally appear to him *in a dream* and instruct him.

“...And God said, ‘Ask what I shall give you!’” (v 5). A test; what would Solomon do? During the Millennium there are going to be a lot things people are going to be tested about, because of free moral agency and being able to chose, knowing what’s in their heart. Do they really love God?

Verse 6: “And Solomon said, ‘You have shown to Your servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before You **in truth and in righteousness** and in uprightness of heart with You. And You have kept this great kindness for him, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* today. And now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of David my father. And I *am* a little child...” (vs 6-7).

- Remember what it was with King Saul?
- Remember what Samuel had to tell him?
- *When you were little in your own sight you served God!*

But then he got emboldened in evil and *chose his own way and disobeyed the commands of God*. That’s just a summary of what happened to Saul. He was rejected!

Verse 7: “And I *am* a little child, I do not know *how* to go out or come in! And Your servant *is* in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a numerous people who cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Now, therefore, **give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people...**” (vs 7-9). This is what we will need!

“...to discern between good and evil, for who is able to judge this, Your great people?” (v 9). Humble as you can be; the right thing to ask. God let him do the choosing of what he would ask for. What was his heart at this time? *It says that he loved the Lord!*

Verse 10: “And the word was good in the eyes of the LORD that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said to him, ‘Because...’” (vs 10-11).

God Who knows the heart, knows every thought, knows what we are, what we do... This is how we are to come before God:

- not get lifted up in vanity
- not get lifted up in importance
- not getting our mind on ourselves and how great we are

That is just so much vanity! How many times has God taken that down? *Over and over and over again!*

Verse 11: And God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life and have not asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to judge justly...’—*judge righteous judgment.*

What we will see is that when you receive a blessing like this—and there are conditions for it—we have to maintain those conditions, loving God and having a tender heart toward God.

Verse 12: “Behold, I have done according to your words. Lo, I have given you a wise and an understanding heart, so that there was none like you before you and after you none shall arise like you. And I also have given you that which you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there shall not be any among the kings like you all your days. Therefore, **if...**” (vs 12-14). As long as we are in the flesh—and Solomon had a long life to live:

- What would be his choices down the road?
- What would they be like in the years as he matured?

Verse 14: “‘Therefore, **if** you will walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.’ And Solomon awoke, and, behold, *it was* a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants” (vs 12-15).

- this is how Solomon started
- this is how the Millennium will begin
 - ✓ people all war-weary
 - ✓ wounds and bruises
 - ✓ everything destroyed

They’re going to be willing to obey!

But down through the thousand years, how willing will their offspring be? and their offspring? and their offspring?

(go to the next track)

We won’t go through all of the details in building his own house and the temple, and so forth.

1-Kings 7:51: “So, all the work that King Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished. And Solomon brought in the things which David his father had dedicated: the silver and the gold and the vessels he had put into the treasuries of

the house of the LORD.”

Here’s the dedication of the temple; this is quite a thing, spectacular, that God would put His presence in the temple. That’s called the Shemitah. We will see that there were seven days of dedication, and then seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, and he dismissed them the eighth day. What’s between Trumpets and the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles? *Atonement!* So, you have seven days dedicating the temple, then you have days 8, 9 & 10—the Day of Atonement. Then you have days 11-15 beginning the Feast of Tabernacles.

All of those who could not be there for the dedication, there came thousands more to be there for the Feast of Tabernacles after the temple was dedicated. That was a special trip for them to get there to see the temple and everything that was there.

Let’s see concerning the dedication of the temple and how great that that was.

1-Kings 8:1: “Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, so that they might bring up the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which *is* Zion.”

You have Fort Antonia that wasn’t there at that time. It was just a huge spike of a rock on top of this hill. Then the temple was built south of that on a flat area, and the house of David and Solomon was on Mt. Zion. That went up to a large high peak, and on top of that is where their house was.

Verse 2: “And all the men of Israel were gathered to King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which *is* the seventh month.” This has to be the first day of the month.

Verse 3: “And all the elders of Israel came in, and the priests took up the Ark. And they brought up the Ark of the LORD and the tabernacle of the congregation and all the Holy vessels, which *were* in the tabernacle, even those the priests and the Levites brought up” (vs 3-4).

They were getting ready to put it in there. They also brought all of the things from Gibeon and stored in the underground chambers everything having to do with the tabernacle.

Verse 5: “And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled to him *were* before the Ark sacrificing sheep and oxen which could not be counted nor numbered for multitude. And the priests brought in the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD into its place, into the Holy place of the house, into the Holy of Holies under the

wings of the cherubim... [carved and overlaid with gold] ...for the cherubim spread forth *their* two wings over the place of the Ark. And the cherubim covered the Ark and the staves of it above. And they drew out the staves, so that the ends of the staves were seen out in the Holy *place* in front of the Holy of Holies....” (vs 5-8).

So, they took the staves out and placed them right alongside the Holy of Holies, so the Ark—if it was ever to be moved—they would have to take those staves and put them in the Ark of the Covenant to carry it.

“...And they were not seen outside. And there they are to this day.... [the day that this was written] ...There *was* nothing in the Ark except the two tablets of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made *a covenant* with the children of Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt. And it came to pass when the priests had come out of the Holy of Holies, the cloud filled the house of the LORD. And the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD” (vs 8-11).

It shows in 2-Chron. 5 that there singers—120 trumpets, 120 singers—singing, and the glory of God appeared and filled the whole house. What an awesome thing that it was that this occurred this way.

If you lived and saw that, you would know that God was there. But human nature likes to move in a different direction. We’ll see the problems that took place because of that.

Verse 12: “And Solomon said, ‘The LORD said that He would dwell in the thick darkness. I have surely built an exalted house for You, a settled place for You to abide in forever.’ And the king turned his face around and blessed all the congregation of Israel. And all the congregation of Israel stood. And he said, ‘Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to David my father and has fulfilled *it* by His hand, saying, “From the day that I brought forth My people Israel out of Egypt, I did not choose any city out of all the tribes of Israel to build a house, so that My name might be in it. But I chose David to be over My people Israel.” And it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. But the LORD said to my father David, “Because it was in your heart to build a house to My name, you did well that it was in your heart. Only, you shall not build the house, but your son who shall come out of your loins, he shall build the house for My name.”’” (vs 12-19).

Verse 20: “And the LORD has performed

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His Word, which He spoke, and I have risen up instead of my father David. And I sit on the throne of Israel as the LORD promised. And I have built a house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. And *I have* set there a place for the Ark in which *is* the covenant of the LORD which He made with our fathers when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.” (vs 20-21).

What I want you to do is to read the whole prayer of Solomon. He got on his knees and lifted his arms to heaven and prayed this fantastic prayer! I want you to understand how involved that Solomon was and how dedicated he was and everything that he did was right. He completed it! God blessed him!

Notice his closing comments, v 55: Then he stood and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying, ‘Blessed *be* the LORD, **who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised...**” (vs 55-56).

Where do we find the word *rest*? *Isa. 11, referring to the Millennium!* And His rest—the *rest of God*—will be glorious!

“...There has not failed one word of all His good promises, which He promised by the hand of Moses His servant. May the LORD our God be with us as He was with our fathers. Let Him not leave us nor forsake us” (vs 56-57).

Let’s understand a very important principle here with God. As long as we are with God, and seeking Him continually, He is with us. But:

- if we leave God
- if we forsake God
- if we go our own way

Then He will leave us to our own devices. If those devices become more evil, and we don’t repent and return to God, then He will leave us. So, the *if* of IFMA is always on our part.

Verse 58: “To incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments which He commanded our fathers. And let these my words, with which **I have made supplications before the LORD, be near the LORD our God day and night**, so that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel at all times as the matter requires... [think of how great it is with God and Israel; tremendous] ...**that all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other**” (vs 58-60).

I’m reading these words with emphasis because this becomes profoundly important! ***It’s not how you start; it’s how you finish!***

Verse 61: “‘And let your heart be perfect with the LORD our God: to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day.’ And the king and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD” (vs 61-62). Then it lists all the offerings that Solomon gave at that point.

Verse 65: “And at that time Solomon held a Feast and all Israel with him, a great congregation—from the entering in of Hamath to the river of Egypt—before the LORD our God, seven days and seven days, *even* fourteen days.” You know how I explained it divided.

- Trumpets starts it—*seven days*
- Atonement—*break in between*
- Feast of Tabernacles—*seven days*

Verse 66: “On the eighth day he sent the people away.... [toward the end of the day of the Last Great Day] ...And they blessed the king and went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the good that the LORD had done for David His servant and for Israel His people.”

WOW! What a ceremony that was! Think about how great and dedicated that was; absolutely amazing!

1-Kings 9 is a focal point of Solomon’s reign. Let’s see how God responded back to Solomon. Let’s see what God told Solomon.

1-Kings 9:1: And it came to pass as Solomon finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king’s house, and all Solomon’s desire which he was pleased to do, the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon. And the LORD said to him, ‘**I have heard your prayer...**’” (vs 1-2). Stop and think about that! God hears our prayers.

Remember the model prayer (Matt. 6); we have to repent everyday. Why? *Because we have ‘the law of sin and death’ in us!* Even some of the things that we do, that we think at the time doing them are good, turn out not to be good.

- we have pride
- we have vanity
- we have selfishness
- we have jealousy
- we have anger
- we have hatred
- we have lust

Especially today with all of the things pouring into our homes through television, all of those things are there to impress upon our mind. Remember this: every single ad, every single movie,

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every single thing that is done to be put out there has been designed to do a specific thing.

Just like with music today. It is designed to literally blast through your bodies and your mind; to get you totally addicted to this kind of hateful music. I know most of us in the Church don't listen to it. But look at the young people. That's what they are addicted to. Where is God? *Nowhere!* God has turned them over to their own devices, and it's a terrible thing, indeed!

Here's Solomon; God appeared to him the second time, and now he's got the further blessing of God. But let's analyze what God told Solomon, because this becomes profoundly important!

Verse 3: "And the LORD said to him, 'I have heard your prayer and your cry which you have made before Me. I have made Holy this house, which you have built to put My name there forever. And My eyes and My heart shall be there perpetually.'"

Just think about what God thinks of Jerusalem today. What a mess that place is in. This is going to be for the people during the Millennium:

- ***IF*** you will love God
- ***IF*** you will keep His commandments
- ***IF*** you will repent of your sins
- ***IF*** you will do what is right

Verse 4: "And ***if*** you will walk before Me as David your father walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to ***all*** that I have commanded you... [not some, not part, but *all*] ...***and if*** you will keep My statutes and My judgments, ***then*** ...I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever as I promised to David your father, saying, 'There shall not be cut off from you a man upon the throne of Israel.' ***If*** you shall at all turn from following Me, you or your children, and will not keep My commandments *and* My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them... [this next verse has been fulfilled] ...***then*** I will cut off Israel from the face of the land, which I have given them. And this house which I have made Holy for My name I will cast out of My sight. And Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people." (vs 4-7).

Stop and think about it!

- Look at the Jews; **has that happened?**
- Look at that their history; **has it been pitiful?**
- Look at their attitudes, **has it been against God?**
- **Did God destroy Jerusalem and the temple twice, because of their sins? *Yes!***

Furthermore, we're going to see, because of the sins of Solomon, God took away the northern ten tribes. When we're looking at the situation concerning the Millennium and teaching the people, we need to understand that God means Truth, business, love, obedience, and ***we must respond!***

Sidebar: Listen to the Protestants preach. They all claim the love of God, but do they love God back with all their heart, mind, soul and being? *No they do not!* Think about that for a minute!

Verse 8: "As to this house, *which now* is exalted, *then* everyone who passes by it shall be amazed and shall hiss. And they shall say, 'Why has the LORD done this to this land and to this house?'" And He did it so completely that the Jews today do not even know where the temple should be built.

They go to the Western Wailing Wall and they say that's a Holy place there; they pray to God and put notes in the cracks of the rocks. I guess that after a while they have to take them out and do something with them, because so many people go there. Little do they realize that that's not the temple. Jesus said of every stone, 'Not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.'

Yes, the house where David and Solomon was on Mt. Zion, that whole hill was cut down and put into the western ravine. You have the Brook of Kidron on one side and then you have the arm of the land where the temple and Ft. Antonia was, and then on the other side you have the Tyropoeon Valley, which is where they put all fill dirt taking down that high hill—about 150-200 feet—on which the house of David and Solomon sat. The Jews do not even know where the temple was.

"... 'Why has the LORD done this to this land and to this house?' And they shall answer, 'Because they left the LORD their God who brought out their fathers from the land of Egypt, and have taken hold of other gods and have worshiped them and served them. On account of this the LORD has brought upon them all this evil'" (vs 8-9).

Solomon was warned! Did he know? *Yes, indeed, he knew!* How could Solomon have prevented this? Let's see what happened to Solomon for good, every thing, all the riches. They were bringing 666 talents of gold as tribute every year from around the world to Solomon. They came to hear his wisdom. He was wiser than anyone in the world. He was richer than anyone in the world. You can't have it any better than that.

1-Kings 10:21: "And all King Solomon's drinking vessels *were of* gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon *were of* pure gold.

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None were of silver; it was counted as nothing in the days of Solomon.”

I read this because that’s what we find in Isa. 60. There’s going to be such an economic boom that gold, silver, bronze, and all of that is going to be overwhelming available for everyone.

How will the people respond? *Right at first, at the beginning of the Millennium, they’re going to be zealous, anxious, willing and wanting to do things!* They’ll want the blessing of God, the healing of God, building new houses, building new roads, building new cities.

Verse 22: “For the king had at sea a navy of Tarshish with the navy of Hiram....” They had ships go out from the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea and go around the world. Down from the Port of Elate they would go from there over to the Orient. They got gold, silver and all kinds of things. They had safaris down into Africa.

Verse 23: “And King Solomon was greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. And all the earth...” (vs 23-24). People read that and say that it must have just been those little countries around there. **NO!** When the Bible says *all the earth*, it means *all the earth!*

“...sought Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. And every man brought his presents, vessels of silver and vessels of gold, and clothing and armor, and spices, horses and mules, at a rate **year by year**.... [tribute to Solomon] ...And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen. And he had fourteen hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the cities for chariots and with the king at Jerusalem. And the king made silver like stones in Jerusalem, and he made cedars like the sycamore trees in the valley for abundance. And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt and out of Kue. The king’s merchants received linen yarn from Kue at a price. And a chariot was imported from Egypt for six hundred *shekels* of silver...” (vs 24-29).

How should Solomon have dedicated his life so that he would stay true to God? That comes right to us. How do we dedicate ourselves to God and stay true to God on a consistent day-by-day basis; week-by-week, month-by-month, year-by-year, decade-by-decade until we are faithful unto the end? *We endure whatever comes along!*

Let’s see the specific command that God gave. Since we’re going to be kings and priests, and this is also for us to do:

Deuteronomy 17:14: “When you come to the land, which the LORD your God gives you, and

shall possess it and shall live in it and shall say, ‘I will set a king over me, like all the nations that *are* around me,’ you shall surely set a king over you, whom the LORD your God shall choose....” (vs 14-15).

- Did God choose Saul? *Yes!*
- Did Saul go bad? *Yes!*
- Did God choose David? *Yes!*
- Did David have his sins? *Yes!*

But David repented! Saul didn’t!

- Did God choose Solomon? *Yes, he did!*

“...You shall set a king over you from among your brethren. You may not set a stranger over you who is not your brother. Only he shall not multiply horses to himself... [What did we read that Solomon did? *Horses!*] ...nor cause the people to return to Egypt...” (vs 15-16). Solomon made a league with Egypt! He married the daughter of the king of Egypt! What do you think the people are going to do? Don’t the people do exactly as the leaders do? Especially the king! Especially the one chosen by God!

‘He’s chosen by God and if he does it then it’s okay. If he does this, that’s okay. We’ve heard that God said don’t do it, but it must be alright because he’s doing it.’

- How do you prevent that kind of thing?
- How will it be prevented during the Millennium in the Kingdom of God?

Verse 17: “Nor shall he multiply wives to himself...” We’ll see that he did that and what happened to him.

- How far did Solomon go in leaving God?
- During the Millennium, when people sin, how far with their IFMA will they go?
- What are we going to do about it?
- What is God going to do about it?
- How can that be corrected?

What we’re going to talk about here now is the prevention:

“...so that his heart does not turn away. Nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold to himself. And it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself...” (vs 17-18). Today we don’t have to write it for ourselves, *it’s printed!* And you can get *it digitally!*

“...a copy of this Law in a book from that which is in the custody of the priests the Levites” (v 18). He was to go down to the temple, go into one of those special rooms—they had rooms all the way around it—and have the priest bring the Scroll of the

The Example of Solomon and How He Started Out

copy of the Law that was in the custody of the priest. He was to write himself a personal copy.

Think about this: Today God has done better than that. He has provided a Bible for every single one of us.

Verse 19: “And it shall be with him, and **he shall read it all the days of his life...** [Why?] ...**so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this Law and these statutes, to do them.**”

- Do you suppose when we are spirit beings that we’re going to quit learning?
- Do you suppose that somehow we are not going to have to study and pray?

I don’t think so!

- We will all worship God!
- We will all pray to God!
- How much more of the Word of God will there be to study as spirit beings?
- What will the Law be for all spirit beings in the Kingdom of God?

It will be written down!

- What do we have now before the throne of God?

Daniel 10:21: “But I will show you that which is **written in the Scripture...** [or Scroll] ...**of Truth...**”—in heaven!

Let’s apply this to ourselves today. What do you hear all the time? *S & P—study and prayer!* So, you can say SPR—study, prayer, repentance! Then love, Truth, righteousness and doing right, living the right way that God wants us to live. God wants us to do that now, because that’s what we’re going to teach the people in the Millennium.

How are they going to enter into the Kingdom of God unless we first do the things that we need to, so we can be there to be the kings and priests to teach them.

Deuteronomy 17:19: “And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this Law and these statutes, to do them **so that his heart may not be lifted up above his brethren...**” (vs 19-20).

When you understand the greatness of God and the magnitude of His creation—to the greatest ability that we can—when we’re spirit beings we’ll understand it that much more. Those things humble us. We give God:

- the praise
- the credit

- the honor
- the glory
 - ✓ for creating it
 - ✓ for making it
 - ✓ for sustaining it
 - ✓ for having His great plan

This is how that Solomon should have done, but we’re going to see that because of *complacency, self-arrogance and self-righteousness!* Leads to sin!

“...and that he does not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, to the end that he may prolong *his* days in his kingdom, he and his children, in the midst of Israel” (v 20).

Isn’t that something? That’s a good example for us! Solomon had everything! The perfect Millennial setting with everything imaginable, everything good and right. We will see what happened to Solomon tomorrow—Day 5—and why it happened.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- 2) Isaiah 65:16-20
- 3) Hebrews 9:27
- 4) Isaiah 65:20-25
- 5) 1 Chronicles 28:4-10
- 6) 1 Chronicles 29:1-3
- 7) 1 Chronicles 28:19-20
- 8) 1 Kings 3:3-15
- 9) 1 Kings 7:51
- 10) 1 Kings 8:1-21, 55-62, 65-66
- 11) 1 Kings 9:1-9
- 12) 1 Kings 10:21-29
- 13) Deuteronomy 17:14-19
- 14) Daniel 10:21
- 15) Deuteronomy 17:19-20

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 4
- Ezekiel 36
- 1 Thessalonians 4
- Exodus 19
- 2 Chronicles 5
- Isaiah 11
- Matthew 6
- Isaiah 60

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Transcribed: 8-6-17

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Day 5—Feast of Tabernacles

How Solomon's Life Went Wrong

Complacency, self-righteousness and sin starts with becoming philosophical
Fred R. Coulter

Welcome, brethren, to Day 5 of the Feast of Tabernacles. We're starting the second half of the Feast. Here we're into about 500 years of the Millennium and we can learn from Solomon some very important lessons. What are going to be the greatest sins of people during the Millennium:

- complacency
- self-righteousness
- sin

God is not taking away free moral agency; everyone will still have to choose. Even though we find in Ezek. 36 that God is going to give them a heart of flesh and take away out of them the heart of stone. Nevertheless, people are going to have choices.

We'll project ahead just a little bit to Day 7, when at the end of the Millennium Satan is released to go to those nations that are out in Gog and Magog in the four corners of the earth. They come to make war against Jerusalem. How did the people get out there? *Because they chose, in spite of everything that God has done:*

- removal of Satan the devil
- giving human nature less pull of the flesh
- government by God
- the saints to rule over them
- proper teaching
- proper food
- working and doing everything

But people will be born into this society where everything is controlled and run by God and the Family of God.

There's going to be free moral agency, and people will choose not to go God's way. They will choose so, in spite of everything.

When Adam and Eve were in the garden with God, did God stop them from choosing? *No, He didn't!* Free moral agency for every person all the way down through time.

We can learn some more lessons from Solomon, because here was he only time on earth, during the reign of Solomon—especially the first half; second half no so good, in fact, *very bad, awful*—we will see that's by choice.

Proverbs 20:27: "The spirit of man *is* the

lamp of the LORD..." Every human being has 'the spirit of man.' When there's repentance and baptism and receiving of the Holy Spirit, then the Holy Spirit unites with the spirit of our mind and we are not begotten children of the kingdom, but not yet born into the kingdom. When Christ returns then they will be born into the Kingdom of God, *born again!* During the Millennium, how is that going to be at that time?

Verse 28: "Love and truth preserve the king..." We're going to see that that is not only true but anybody else. If you:

- walk in the love
which are the commandments of God
- love your neighbor
- love God
- are converted
- yielded to God

He knows it, because He can search the spirits, search the heart, and we'll be able to have that ability, too, to teach people. When they start really going the wrong way we'll be able to tell them, if they go the left hand or the right hand, that that's not the way to go (Isa. 30)—*you walk in the way of God!*

"...and his throne is upheld by mercy" (v 28).

Proverbs 21:1: "The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD *as* the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He will." In other words, going to lead.

If you're led by the Spirit of God rather than you own thoughts and your own ways and your own self then you're going to find success, love and so forth. God will ensure that you grow and overcome. But here's the catcher with human nature and independent free moral agency:

Verse 2: "Every way of a man... [or woman] ...*is* right in his own eyes..." We're going to see what happened to Solomon; we will see *complacency, self-righteousness and sin!*

"...but the LORD ponders the hearts" (v 2). God knows the heart of man. The heart of man without anything to do with God is *'deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.'*

Verse 3: "To do righteousness and justice *is* more pleasing to the LORD than sacrifice.... [keep

that in mind] ...A high look, a proud heart, *and* the plowing of the wicked *are* sin” (vs 3-4).

We're going to take these verses and come back here to 1-Kings 11 and see what happened to Solomon. He had everything going. God spoke to him twice in vision, God gave him wealth, riches, power and his kingdom. God also gave him the understanding for judgment.

Let's see what happens when you have everything that your heart desires and you don't remain faithful to God. There will be those who do that, because we saw in Day 4 in Isa. 65 that the sinner will die a hundred years old *accursed!* That's during the Millennium.

So, there will be those few, how many we don't know. The reason we don't know, and God doesn't know, is because He has given free moral agency to every human being to choose. So, let's see what happens when you do not do things God's way, though God has blessed you, when you turn your back on God when you should be coming to Him, and everything looks right *in your own eyes*.

1-Kings 11:1: “And King Solomon loved many foreign women...” One of the biggest problems human beings have is with sex, money and religion.

“...even the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, Hittites” (v 1).

- Did Solomon know better? *Yes, he did!*
- What did he choose? *He chose to love them!*

But that is not Godly genuine love!

Verse 2: “Of the nations, which the LORD had said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not go in to them, and they shall not go in to you; surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.’ *But* Solomon clung to these in love.”

Solomon was an all or nothing kind of guy, so he wasn't content with two, three, four, five or six—or a hundred. You talk about really going overboard on this.

Verse 3: “And he had seven hundred wives... [Can you imagine the arguments between the women! Whoa!] ...princesses, and three hundred concubines...”

If you're a single man and all of these thousand women—*think of that, a thousand women*; that blows my mind! He got henpecked so much that he listened to them.

“...**And his wives turned away his heart**” (v 3)—from the Lord. They had their gods, they had their way, and they thought—just as Solomon

thought he was right—that they were right.

How do you stop all of the arguing and bickering? *If you're henpecked this much, you give in!* See what happens? *A little leaven leavens the whole lump!* Think of all the leaven that this was.

Verse 4: “For it came to pass when Solomon was old... [doesn't tell us how old he was; it doesn't matter—young or old—sin *is* sin] ...**his wives turned away his heart after other gods...**”

If anyone knew better, it was Solomon! Remember the charge that we read that David gave to him? *Keeping the commandments of God, if you do, God will be with you!* If you don't God will wipe all of this away from Jerusalem. And we know that God did do that!

“...And his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God as *was* the heart of David his father” (v 4).

Notice that in his self-righteousness and complacency and sin—Solomon had all three at once—it affected his thinking; it always does, especially when you think you're right. I don't think the problems that we're going to face with the people that we're going to rule over in the Millennium are this severe, but there will be problems.

What happens when a person comes to the point that:

- regardless of the circumstances
- regardless of who you are
- regardless of where you are
- regardless if God is near
- regardless of the children of God who are ruling and reigning are near

if free moral agency is used, stubbornly stuck to and there is no repentance, what happens? It gets worse!

Verse 5: for Solomon went after Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom, the abomination of the Ammonites; and **Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD...**” (vs 5-6).

Remember: *it's not how you start, it's how you finish!* So, Solomon is not doing very good here in finishing up his life; not like he started out. What a tremendous start he had! Fantastic! Everything given to him! That's what it's going to be like after the Millennium is all established. Children are born into the society and they know nothing when they are born. Here's the society and here's how they're taught. They see the people and what they do, but they still have free moral agency.

When Solomon was young he didn't use it

in an evil way. He used it a Godly way! All the world, all the kings; remember the Queen of Sheba came and was overwhelmed with everything. Think of what happened! Solomon received the tribute of 666 talents of gold a year, plus horses, mules and *women* from around the world. I wonder what that harem was like?

Here's what Solomon did because he was right in his own eyes, and he failed to give God credit for everything! ***That is the beginning of complacency, self-righteousness and sin!***

Verse 7: "Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill, which is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise *he did for all his foreign wives...* [all 700] ...and burned incense and sacrificed to their gods" (vs 7-8).

Stop and think about that. When the temple was dedicated, look at all the offerings that Solomon, the people and all of the officials were able to offer. Fantastic! At the dedication of the temple, God came in the cloud of God's presence—the Shemitah—was put into the temple. Solomon gave a fantastic prayer on his knees and his arms outstretched to God. God answered that prayer as we cover in Day 4. The burnt offering that was on there, fire came down and just consumed it entirely. That's how pleased God was with Solomon; now look at it!

Sidebar: Look at all the mistakes that people make—men and women—when they've been faithful up to a certain point and then they begin to have confidence in self and they sin.

Verse 9: "And the LORD *was* angry with Solomon because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel who had appeared to him twice."

What do we read in Prov. 21? *God knew all of this!* Did He send warnings? *Yes, He did!* How did He do it? *We'll see in a minute!*

Verse 10: "And he commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; and he did not keep that which the LORD commanded."

- How are we going to handle it in the Millennium?

People will get to points like this and we're going to have to intervene and correct them!

- What if they still refuse?

It's possible that they could! In fact, it's probable that a good number will do that.

Verse 11: "And the LORD said to Solomon,

'Since this has been done by you, and since you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant.'" That's Jeroboam, who was a prince of Joseph's tribe—Ephraim and Manasseh—and one of the leading generals of Solomon.

Verse 12: "But I will not do it in your days, for David your father's sake, *but* I will tear it out of the hand of your son."

What does it say in the Ten Commandments about idolatry? *The first commandment: have no other gods; don't do it!* Then idols: weren't all these temples idols? incense altars idols? *Yes!* It says you shall not make it. For 'He's a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the children unto the third and fourth generations. Did children suffer, as well? *Yes!*

Here's something else that God does, and this is something that they haven't learned in the world today, and in America and Britain.

Sidebar: Take for example Sweden. To show you how they have turned their back on God so much, God sent in the adversary. Who are the adversaries? *The Muslims!* Consider that the Swedes are noted to be the most tolerant wonderful people—get along/go along people—in the world. But they've turned their back on God. How long have they done it? *A long, long time!*

So now, what's invading their country, and they're inviting them? *The most intolerant people in the world, the Muslims!* Of course, they're so embarrassed that they don't dare report the truth of what's going on. That is correction from God! Rather than come down and do it personally Himself, God always send an adversary just like He did here.

Verse 14: "And it came to pass the LORD stirred up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite. He *was* of the king's seed in Edom." Very interesting; *a terrorist group attacking, killing!*

Does what the king does affect his people? *Yes!* Was he to look upon as 'we'll just raise up a greater and greater army and get rid of these people? *You don't fight against God that way!*

The way that you handle it when you get that kind of correction from God is by repentance and change of behavior. So, none of the western countries—that includes America—are going to have an end of terrorism until they return to God in mass repentance for all of their sins, ***beginning with killing—murdering—the most innocent: the unborn in the mother's womb!*** It will not stop!

- you can delay it a while by building fences
- you can delay it a while with extreme vetting

But unless there is repentance, it will not go away!

Hadad was joined by the Midianites and came down and found solace in Egypt. Sounds like a repeat of what's going on now. Who is the same yesterday, today and forever? *God!* Are those the punishments that we have? *Yes! Until people turn to God, it isn't going to stop! It isn't going to change!*

Let's see what is the beginning of sin? Anybody's sin? Here is a tremendous example of it. 2-Tim. 3 applies to Satan the devil. You read about Satan's sin. He got lifted up in the vanity of his own beauty and glory. Got his mind on himself, instead of loving God. Satan loved himself so much that he said, 'I'm going to take over the throne of God!' and he got a third of the angels to follow him in this rebellion. That's a key thing to remember. We're going to see that this happened to Solomon. This is a choice, and it will happen to those during the Millennium. We will be able to see how and when this develops, and we will be able to instruct people to repent, change and not get lifted up with self. Where are most of the idols anyway? *In the mind!*

2-Timothy 3:1—this is what's wrong with the whole world; it starts out with this one thing: "Know this also, that in *the* last days perilous times shall come; for **men will be lovers of self...**" (vs 1-2). What follows? Solomon had it all given to him.

"...lovers of money..." (v 2). Solomon had all the money that there was, yet, he ended up taxing all the people so much that that was a sore point with the ten northern tribes.

"...braggarts... [We'll see that. What did Solomon do?] ...proud, blasphemers..." (v 2). Wasn't that blasphemous what Solomon did in building all those temples? offering the sacrifices to other gods? burning incense to them?

"...disobedient to parents..." Turning his back on the legacy of his parent David and his mother Bathsheba.

"...unthankful, unholy" (v 2). All of these sprout from the one thing: **"...lover of self..."**

Verse 3: "Without natural affection..." If you have a thousand women, is that "...natural affection..."?

"...implacable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, despisers of those who are good, betrayers, reckless, egotistical, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; having an outward appearance of Godliness, but denying the power**

of true Godliness..." (vs 3-5). But *as for you*, turn away from *all* these.

Let's take those verses and come back to Ecc. 1; I think you will find it very interesting. All of those applied to Solomon. We've also seen it in our day in the Church and the things that go along. Stop and think about it, even with your children. When they start exercising their free moral agency to love themselves and their way, despise you, want to go their own way and have nothing to do with God, doesn't 2-Tim. 3 fit that? *Yes, indeed!* ‘

Look at the world today; isn't that the way the world is run? rejecting God? *Without a doubt!* What happens is that you do not apostatize all at once. You do so a little at a time, starting with loving self. How can you tell when a person is loving himself more than anything else? *You talk about yourself!* Keep this in mind as we go through some things here. God gave Solomon everything that he had:

- through his father to build the temple
- through God's blessing and riches that God poured out upon him
- through the power that God gave to him

Remember IFMA: *free choice!* God will not intervene in independent free moral agency to make us into robots, because that would defeat His purpose.

God wants us to choose! He wants us to do it of our own free will volition, as led by God's Spirit to love Him and serve Him with all heart, mind, soul and being. As we go down through life, it needs to get more intense and greater and greater. Not as with Solomon. He started out and it got less and less until God had to take away the ten tribes from him.

There was a point that Solomon came to where he began to justify himself and look to himself more than God. Yet, at the same time, he would still acknowledge God somewhat.

Ecclesiastes 1:1 "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 'Vanity of vanities,' says the Preacher, 'vanity of vanities! All is vanity.'" (vs 1-2). It is true, without God all is vanity, *but with God all is for eternal life!* With God, with the love of God, all is for eternal life! Not vain!

Verse 3: "What profit does a man have in all his labor, which he labors under the sun?... [cynical] ...One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the earth remains forever" (vs 3-4). Where is God? **Who create it?**

Verse 5: "The sun also arises, and the sun goes down, and hurries to its place where it arose" (vs 3-5). **Who created it?**

Verse 6: "The wind goes toward the south, and it turns around to the north; it whirls around continually; and the wind returns on its circuits." **Who created it?**

Verse 7: "All the rivers run into the sea; yet, the sea *is* not full; to the place from where the rivers come, there they return again. All things *are* full of labor; man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing" (vs 7-8).

What happens? **When you begin to leave God**—it doesn't happen all at once—**it starts with becoming philosophical, rather than oriented to God!** That's what we have here: *philosophical!* Looking at the natural course of things *separate from God!* That's something to keep in mind.

Verse 9: "That which has been *is* that which shall be; and that which has been done *is* that which shall be done; and *there is* nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing *of* which it may be said, 'See, this *is* new'? It has already been in days of old, which were before us. *There is* no memory of former things, neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who shall come afterwards" (vs 9-11).

Here's the evidence of self-love. As we go through here, note the *I*s—41 *I*s, 27 *me*, *myself*. *Not one reference to God!* He forgot, by choice! He justified himself in what he was doing that he was good, rather than understand that every human being lives, moves and has his/her being from God.

- every breath of air
- every morsel of food
- every drop of water
- everything that there is

all comes from God!

Verse 12: "**I**, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem." He should have said,

'And the Lord God Almighty, the God of my father David made me to succeed my father in this wonderful throne, over all of these people who are God's people, all of Israel.'

But what happens when you become lover of self, pleasure and things? **You forget God!** You become *philosophical!* Instead of the Word of God, you now use your own thoughts, or the thoughts of other men in philosophy instead of God's way.

Verse 13: And **I** gave **my** heart to seek and

search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under the heavens. *It is* a grievous task... [he mentions God here once]: ...God has given to the sons of men to be exercised by it." One time he mentions God; all the rest is *I, me and myself*.

Verse 14: "**I** have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all *is* vanity and striving after wind." Without God that's true! But there are always going to be things you need to do to repair, to make good, etc.

Verse 15: "What *is* crooked cannot be made straight; and *what is* lacking cannot be numbered. **I** spoke within **my** own heart... [he didn't say that he prayed to God for understanding] ...saying, 'Lo, **I** have become great and have gathered more wisdom than all that have been before **me** in Jerusalem; yea, my heart has experienced great wisdom and knowledge.'" Who gave it?

Verse 17: "And **I** gave **my** heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly; **I** perceived that this also *is* striving after wind. For in much wisdom *is* much grief; and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow" (vs 17-18).

Really? *That is true if you don't retain the knowledge of God!* He experimented with life; that's how he got a thousand women. Think of that! That's beyond comprehension! We only found one mention of God—v 13.

- nothing about the love of God
- nothing about the goodness of God
- nothing about the fact that God created all these things and gave them to us
 - ✓ how we are to use them
 - ✓ how we are to develop them
 - ✓ what it is to be

NO! "...lovers of self..." just like Paul wrote.

(go to the next track)

Ecclesiastes 2:1: "**I** said in my heart, 'Come now, **I** will test you... [the heart] ...with pleasure to find out what is good.' and, behold, this also *is* vanity. **I** said of laughter, '*It is* madness,' and of mirth, 'What does it accomplish?' **I** sought in **my** heart to give myself unto wine, yet, conducting **my** heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, until **I** might see what was good for the sons of men, what they should do under the heaven the few days of their life" (vs 1-3). ***He should have said to:***

- seek God
- learn of God
- love God

It all begins with *loving self!* Then comes *complacency*, you no longer go to God. Then comes

sin, because you have to justify what you're doing. This is exactly what Solomon did!

Verse 4: “**I** made great works for **myself**; **I** built houses for **myself**; **I** planted vineyards for **myself**. **I** made gardens and orchards for **myself**, and **I** planted trees in them, of all fruit. **I** made pools of water for **myself**, to irrigate groves of growing trees. **I** bought men slaves and women slaves, and servants *were* born in **my** house; also **I** had great possessions of herds and flocks, above all that were before **me** in Jerusalem” (vs 4-7).

Verse 8: “**I** also gathered silver and gold to **myself**, and the treasure of kings and of the provinces....” Solomon should have said ‘God gave me. Why am I here doing this.’ See the difference?

“...**I** got men singers and women singers for **myself**, even the sensual delights of the sons of men, and many women.... [a thousand] ...So, **I** was great and increased more than all that were before **me** in Jerusalem; also **my** wisdom remained with **me**” (vs 8-9).

Think how different it would have been, and how different the kingdom would have been. When the king goes bad, the country goes bad. The king sins and the people say, ‘Look, he did it.’ So, everything degenerates! It got so bad in the northern ten tribes that after the ten tribes were taken from Solomon's son Rehoboam and given to Jeroboam that there wasn't one righteous king in the ten tribes. Jeroboam set the pattern by building the gold calves and putting them in Dan and Bethel.

In Judah there were some kings who were from very good to very evil. There were those who sought God and those who didn't. The northern ten tribes: *no!*

- lover of self
- lover of things
- lover of pleasures

You can't have a greater demonstration of the fulfillment of 2-Tim. 3:1-8 than right here in Ecc. 1 & 2. Also, a lesson for us so we can help the people and teach them in the Millennium. But remember, sin begins with **I, me, myself**.

Lover of pleasure, v 10: “And whatever **my** eyes desired **I** did not keep from them; **I** did not withhold **my** heart from any pleasure; for **my** heart rejoiced in all **my** labor, and this was my portion of all **my** labor. Then **I** looked on all the works that **my** hands had done, and on the labor that **I** had labored to do; and, behold, all *is* vanity and a striving after the wind; and *there is* no profit under the sun” (vs 10-11)—**IF you leave God!**

Verse 12: “And **I** turned to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly; for what *can* the man *do* who comes after the king? Only that which has been already done. Then **I** saw that wisdom excels folly, as far as light excels darkness. The wise man's eyes *are* in his head; but the fool walks in darkness; and **I myself** also perceived that one event happens to all of them. Then **I** said in my heart, ‘As it happens to the fool, *so* it happens even to me; and why was **I** then more wise?’ And **I** said in **my** heart that this also *is* vanity” (vs 12-15)—**without God!** The answer is:

- Solomon was more wise, because God gave him wisdom
- he was more wealthy because God gave him wealth
- God blessed him to sit on the throne of David to rule the 12 tribes of Israel in righteousness and wisdom that came from God

So that all the people would profit! So that all the world—the kings—bringing tribute and gold to him every year; he could have set them down and said:

‘Gentlemen, I'm glad you have come on these ships over the seas to hear what I have to tell you concerning God! If you listen carefully to me, we'll send you home with the Word of God so that you can teach your people. I've got a whole lot of Proverbs that I've done, which will help all of the young people in your nations.’

Think how the world would have been different, *except for one man who loved himself more than God!*

Verse 16: “For *there is* no memory of the wise *more than* of the fool forever, since that which is now shall all be forgotten in the days to come. And how does the wise die? Even as the fool!” You take your last breath!

Verse 17: “Therefore, **I** hated life...” How many people come to that point? Why do they hate life? *Because:*

- they have forgotten God
- they have become complacent
- they have become self-righteous
- they have sinned

Now, with this, he had nothing to look forward to! No wonder it was all vanity! What do we have, brethren? *We have everything to look forward to, in spite of all the difficulties that come along!*

- some of them are not very pleasant
- some of them very difficult to handle

- some of them hard to deal with

That's why we need the vision that God is going to give us the kingdom so we can teach people what Solomon never learned: *to love God and serve Him!* So, he became bitter, hateful!

Verse 17: "Therefore, I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun *is* grievous to **me**; for all *is* vanity and a striving after wind. Yea, **I** hated all **my** labor, which **I** had done under the sun, because **I** must leave it to the man who shall be after **me**" (vs 17-18).

Rather than saying, 'Rehoboam my son, look at all that you're going to inherit, and here are the things of God that you need to learn so you can be a good king and rule over the 12 tribes. It didn't have to split; there was no need for it to split, *but for the sin of Solomon*. Amazing, isn't it?

Verse 19: "And who knows *whether* he shall be wise or a fool? Yet, he shall have rule over all **my** labor in which **I** have labored, and have shown **myself** wise under the sun. This *is* also vanity."

That's what you're supposed to do, leave it to your son and your grandchildren with the teaching and message of God. Is that not what we're going to do during the Millennium? *Yes, indeed! We're going to have a thousand years to do it!* Solomon only had 40 years, and look at what he did.

Speaking of ending life, how many people in the world hate life? Why? *Because they're living in sin and not loving God! They may even hate themselves instead of loving themselves!* That's a double-whammy! Amazing, isn't it? *It starts out with self and IFMA—choose!*

Look at everything here in Ecc. 1 & 2; everything that Solomon speaks of was a choice. He chose to do this; he chose to do that; but the biggest choice he made was to put God way off someplace rather than making God the central focus of his life. ***In God we live, move and have our being!***

Verse 20: "And **I** turned to cause **my** heart to despair of all the labor, which **I** had done under the sun." Self-imposed depression. Some people have that, because their minds are on themselves, they give up on God, they're having a tough life and they don't know what to do. They don't know how to cope, so they go into depression, rather than getting on their knees and pray to God and ask for help, strength, understanding and wisdom to come out of it.

Verse 21: "For there is a man whose labor is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and with skill; yet, to a man who has not labored in it, he shall leave it for

his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil." No, a great thing **IF** you do it right! **IF** you have God in it! If it's all self—if it's all me, myself and I—and you're not thinking of other people...

Where is it that he was so thankful at this stage in his life to be able to be king over all Israel and serve the people? He should have been going out there and being with them, teaching them and all of that sort of thing. NO! He stayed in Jerusalem, experimented around like a 'hippy' of the 60s that we had here in America. Now look at them.

Verse 22: "For what has man from all his labor, and from the striving of his heart, in which he has labored under the sun? For all his days *are* sorrows, and his labor vexation; yea, so his heart does not take rest in the night. This *is* also vanity" (vs 22-23).

Every single one of his complaints would not have to be there if he hadn't pushed God out; if he hadn't decided to love himself and serve himself. The king is to serve the people; that's what Jesus Christ said. Not to lord it over, not to take from them so that you can be absolutely submerged in all the physical things and wealth, and you yourself become an unhappy individual:

- because you've had so much that you've wasted
- because you've left God

Does that describe our nation? *Look at what's happening!*

Verse 24: "There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink and make his soul see good in his labor? This **I** also saw, that **it was from the hand of God.**"

Three times Solomon mentions God, and combined altogether, 68 times he mentions *I, me, myself!* Who was he worshipping? *Himself!*

Verse 25: "For who can eat, or who can enjoy it, more than **I**? **For God gives wisdom, and knowledge, and joy** to a man who *is* good in His sight. But to the sinner He gives labor, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to *him who is good before God*.... [He even convicted himself with his own words. That is an amazing thing!] ... This also *is* vanity and a striving after wind" (vs 25-26).

Then Solomon becomes *very philosophical* in Ecc. 3, mentioning a lot of things that right and good. The philosophers had certain things that were right, but they didn't have God!

During the Millennium, everything is going to be there:

- Jesus Christ
- all of the saints as
 - ✓ kings and priests
 - ✓ rulers and teachers

to bring

- the Truth of God
- the love of God
- the Word of God

to the world, so they don't end up like Solomon!

After receiving all the blessings of God, look at what he ended up being. Not even satisfied with all the wealth, with all the things that he did. He hated life! Rather than being joyful and saying, 'O Lord God, look at what You have given. Help me to serve the people of Israel. Help me to do what is right.'

Ecclesiastes 3:1: "To everything *there is* a season, and a time for every purpose under the heavens: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what *is* planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up" (vs 1-3).

All of those things are true, and for what purpose? *To understand why we're here, where we're going, the purpose of life and what God is doing!*

Verse 4: "A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence... [he should have done that] ...and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. What profit does he have who works in that in which he labors? I have seen the task, which God has given to the sons of men to be exercised by it. He has made everything beautiful in its time; He has also set eternity in their heart..." (vs 4-11).

Amazing statement, because all human beings have the capacity to think beyond themselves. All human beings have some sort of thought of eternity or living forever beyond this physical life. But unless you have the Word of God and the Truth of God, then you learn **to love God and put it all together, and be able**—through the thick and thin, all the experiences that you go through—**to develop the character of God.**

God's plan is so great! That's why the Feast of Tabernacles! God is going to expand His Family, expand everything greatly, and we're the ones to help Him to do that.

In a sense this is what we're going to begin doing when the Millennium starts (Acts 17). How will all the world have been under *the beast and the false prophet? Worshipping Satan the devil!* All the religions amalgamating together as one association of the religions of men. Think what the experience of these people is going to be? We'll be the first ones to come along and say:

'I'm here from God Almighty and the Lord Jesus Christ to help you, to serve you. Look at all the rubble around you because of sin and idolatry, and all of the fruitlessness of life because of what men have done. Now we're here to show you how to worship the true God, to understand His Word, and to know why He created you. We know that you had your own religion in the past, and we know that now God calls you to repentance.'

A little different than what we find in Acts 17. Here's Paul waiting for Timothy and Silas to come to him.

Acts 17:16: "But while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he saw *that* the city was wholly given to idolatry, *and* his spirit was sorely moved within him." Compare Paul's feelings toward all this idolatry and stuff to how Solomon did, who made temples to other gods, burnt incense to them. He had a thousand concubines and wives. Quite a difference.

Verse 17: "Because of this, he [Paul] reasoned earnestly in the synagogue with the Jews and those who worshiped *there*, and daily in the marketplace with those who met with *him*. Then some philosophers of the Epicureans and the Stoics encountered him. And some *of them* said, 'What will this babbler have to say?' And some *said*, 'He seems to be a preacher of foreign gods'..." (vs 17-18).

That's what we will be when we come to help the people who survive through all the terrible things at the end. We're going to be preaching that God in Jerusalem and those of us who are with Him are not evil aliens from outer space.

'When they told you that, that was a lie. We have come to save you and the world, and to help you recover from this.'

Quite a different approach!

That was "...because he was preaching to them the Gospel of Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought *him* to Mars Hill..." (vs 18-19). This was like saying 'Okay, let's come back to the center of all Greek knowledge and philosophy and religion right there at Zeus' temple,' with all the

other gods around there. And the great philosophers who believed in Aristotle, Socrates and Pythagoras.

Sidebar: All of their philosophies came out of Babylon.

“...saying, ‘May we know what this new teaching *is* that is spoken by you? For you are bringing certain strange things to our ears....’” (vs 19-20). Teaching the people who survive through the Great Tribulation, right at the beginning of the Millennium, there are going to be “...certain strange things...” When we get down through the Millennium, it's going to be ‘that's the way that it is, folks!’

“...So then, we desire to know what these things mean.’.... [here's a little inset by Luke, the author of the book of Acts]: ...(Now, all the Athenians and the strangers sojourning *among them* spent their leisure in nothing other than to tell and to hear something new.)” (vs 20-21). That's how they did it without television, without too many books, recordings and things like that.

Verse 22: “Then Paul stood in *the* center of Mars Hill *and* said, ‘Men, Athenians, I perceive *that* in all things you are very reverent to deities... [all the demons] ...for *as* I was passing through and observing the objects of your veneration, I also found an altar on which was inscribed, “To an unknown God.” So then, **He Whom you worship in ignorance is the One that I proclaim to you.** He is the God Who made the world and all things that *are* in it. Being *the* Lord of heaven and earth, He does not dwell in temples made by hands” (vs 22-24).

There Paul is standing right in front of the temple of Zeus and all the idols, all of the strange gods saying that God doesn't dwell in there. Zeus is not a god. ‘When I was down in Ephesus, they were going broke because I was preaching the Gospel.’

Verse 25: “Nor is He served by the hands of men, as *though* He needs anything, *for* He gives to all life and breath and all things.” Yes, let's bring some food to Zeus.

Sidebar: In India they have a temple to the rats, because the rats are gods, so everybody brings a little food to feed them. Amazing! I wonder how often bubonic plague has come out of that?

“...as *though* He needs anything, *for* He gives to all... [everything that there is] ...life and breath and all things....” (vs 25-26)—everything you need to live as a human being, but **God made it so:**

- you have to go to work
- you must produce
- if you plant the seed it will grow, but you

have to take care of it and harvest, and you have to know what to do with it
same way with the animals:

- how to take care of them
- how to feed them

God made it all!

“...And He made of one blood all the nations of men to dwell upon all the face of the earth, having determined beforehand *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their dwelling; in order that they might seek the Lord...” (vs 26-27).

God gave this choice beginning with Adam and Eve to all people. But most people have said, ‘No, we don't want it.’ What did they do right after the Flood? *Probably 300 years after the Flood, maybe a little less than that, they didn't want God, they didn't want Noah, they didn't want Shem, they wanted Ham!* They wanted the way of the ‘religion’ before the Flood! So, they began to bring it all back. They set up Nimrod as their leader in place of God. They began to build the Tower of Babel. **Men don't want to do what God wants!** There they had the opportunity, even with the teachers, even with what is right, even what happened with those who were the good teachers.

What happened after all the apostles died? *The Church went into full pagan apostasy!* so much so that in prophecy—the prophecy that God gave to John of Mystery Babylon the Great and the daughters (Rev. 17). John was amazed! He was astonished! How could such a thing be? *Because that's the way that men under Satan do!* That's what they were doing here, and that's why God has done all of it, and has given choice to everyone.

- What do you really want to do?
- What is that you want to do with your life?

God says, ‘I'm here! I'll reveal Myself to anyone who truly seeks Me.’ Today, God has revealed Himself in the Word of God; the voice of God is here: **Obey My voice!** That's where we started!

Verse 27: “In order that they might seek the Lord...” What has God promised if you seek Him? *You'll find Him!*

“...if perhaps they might feel after Him and might find Him; though truly, He is not far from each one of us” (v 27). Why is that? *He's close because He made us, but He's far away in the thoughts of men, because they don't want God!*

Verse 28: “For in Him **we live and move and have our being;** as some of the poets among you also have said, ‘For we are His offspring.’” This

is what we're going to teach during the Millennium: *we are all the offspring of God.*

God has created the vastness of the universe, and He wants every one of those who come into the Kingdom of God to have a part in the universe forever and ever. But you've got to do it *God's way*. That's why we'll be there during the Millennium to teach them to do it God's way. Here is how to do it! That's fantastic!

Being kings and priests with Jesus Christ to bring them:

- the Truth about God the Father
- why we're created the way that we are
- where we're going
- what we're doing
- how do we get there
- that they can have a part in becoming spirit beings

Not only within the boundaries of the land that they live in, but within their individual homes and within their individual lives.

Verse 29: "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we should not think that the Godhead is like that which *is made* of gold, or silver, or stone—a graven thing of art *devised by the* imagination of man; for *although* God has indeed overlooked the times of this ignorance, He now commands all men everywhere to repent" (vs 29-30). That's what we're going to be doing all during the Millennium.

Having everything there, born into it, knowing the Truth, the only holdback is ***I, me myself—choosing to disobey!*** *Most will choose to love God and serve Him, and we will be there to see that they do!*

This is what the Millennium is going to be all about, ***the greatest time ever for the conversion of the most people till the Last Great Day ever in the history of the world up to that time,*** and we have been chosen by God, trained by God with the Word of God. Then He's going to fill us with his wisdom, knowledge and understanding how to serve the people ***so that they can enter into the spiritual Kingdom of God,*** as well.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Proverbs 20:27-28
- 2) Proverbs 21:1-4
- 3) 1 Kings 11:1-12, 14
- 4) 2 Timothy 3:1-5
- 5) Ecclesiastes 1:1-18
- 6) Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

- 7) Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
- 8) Acts 17:16-30

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Ezekiel 36
- Isaiah 30; 65
- Revelation 17

FRC: bo
Transcribed: 8-6-17

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Day 6—Feast of Tabernacles Society During the Millennium

How the Old and New Testaments work together filling out the picture

Fred R. Coulter—October 10, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Day 6 of the Feast of Tabernacles!

God's calling is so fantastic, is so great, and what God is going to do with us forever. Remember, it begins with the Millennium. What we're going to see is how that the Old Testament and the New Testament work together to fill out the whole picture of God's plan. You can't have one without the other; they both work together.

Isa. 64 is a prophecy of the gospel, and a prophecies that entails us who are called as the fulfilling of this prophecy. Then we will see in the New Testament how the Apostle Paul shows even more detail with it. Then we come back to the Old Testament and back to the New Testament and it all adds up together in a fantastic, marvelous, inspiring, great and overwhelming understanding of what God is going to do with us.

Remember where we started, Proverbs 28:18_[transcriber's correction]: "Where *there is* no vision, the people perish..." God has given us, not only just a vision, but a clear understanding of what it's going to be like during the Millennium. Then on days 7 & 8 we're going to see about the new heaven and the new earth and New Jerusalem.

Isaiah 64:1: "Oh that You would rend the heavens *and* come down, *that* mountains might quake at Your presence." As we know, at the return of Christ He's going to shake the heavens and shake the earth!

Verse 2: "As when the melting fire burns, the fire causes water to boil, to make Your name known to Your adversaries, *that* the nations may tremble at Your presence!" That's what's going to happens when Christ returns.

Verse 3: "When You did awesome things *which* we did not look for, You came down, the mountains quaked at Your presence. And from ancient times men have not heard, nor did they perceive, neither has the eye seen, a God besides you Who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.... [that's us] ... You meet him who rejoices and works righteousness, *those who* remembered You in Your ways. Behold..." (vs 3-5). Then it goes on and talking about how God was angry and He had to come back.

Let's see what God says about our calling.

We will see how the Apostle Paul expands this out in a tremendous way so that we really understand and have some clear vision of what God has in store for us, and what God has in store for the world; and a glimpse into eternity!

Here we are carnal human beings, and of course with those in 1-Cor. they had a lot of troubles and difficulties and Paul had to write to them to correct them.

1-Corinthians 1:24: "But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ *is* God's power and God's wisdom, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (vs 24-25).

God has a few things that you could call a little foolish to give men wonderment! The weakness of God is stronger than men! But, of course, that is an exaggeration on both sides.

Verse 26: "For you see your calling, brethren, that *there are* not many who are wise according to the flesh, not many who are powerful, not many who are highborn *among you*. Rather, **God has chosen the foolish things of the world, so that He might put to shame those who are wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world so that He might put to shame the strong things**" (vs 26-27). God works the opposite of what people think, because:

- He is the One Who gives us strength
- He is the One Who gives us power
- He is the One Who is righteous

Verse 28: "And the lowborn of the world, and the despised has God chosen—*even* the things that are counted as nothing—... [we're nothing in this world and this society] ...in order that He might bring to nothing the things that are; **so that no flesh might glory in His presence**. But you are of Him in Christ Jesus, Who was made to us wisdom from God, even righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, "The one who glories, let him glory in *the Lord*" (vs 28-31).

Here's what's important: God has given to us, at this time in His plan, *a greater understanding of His plan than has been revealed in the past*, except probably to Abraham.

1-Corinthians 2:7: "Rather, we speak *the*

wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden wisdom that God foreordained before the ages unto our glory.” ***The hidden wisdom of the plan of God!***

We know that through the Holy Days we have an understanding of that. But I want us to try and expand our thinking, expand our understanding, and be inspired that everything that God is doing is going to be absolutely fantastic, marvelous and ***we understand it by faith***, not by sight!

Verse 9: “But according as it is written, ‘*The eye has not seen, nor the ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*’” Key important thing: to *love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being!* Very, very foundational and important.

But notice that God’s plan is so great for us that we can only get glimpses of this mystery from the Word of God as He reveals the secrets that are buried within the Scriptures.

Verse 10: “But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things—even **the deep things of God.**” What a tremendous and wonderful understanding that is. What are “...the deep things of God”?

Well, if you look out and see the universe—as much of it as we can see—it’s amazing what God has done! Yet, that has all been done for His Family, for His plan. So, let’s open our mind and think universally, that is of the universe and all the things that are out there that God has created. That’s also part of the mystery. “...for the Spirit searches all things—even the deep things of God.”

Verse 11: For who among men understands the things of man except *by* the spirit of man, which *is* in him? In the same way also, the things of God no one understands except *by* the Spirit of God. Now, we have not received the spirit of the world... [that’s of Satan the devil] ...**but the Spirit that is of God, so that we might know the things graciously given to us by God**” (vs 11-12)—*and the Word of God complete is the greatest gift of grace so that we can know Him!*

Let’s see how Paul explains it here in Romans 8:14: “For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God.”

John writes in 1-John 3 about the love that God has for us. That when we’re resurrected—when Christ returns—we will see Him like He is, and that *we are the children of God!*

Verse 15: “Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear, but you have

received *the* Spirit of sonship, whereby **we call out, ‘Abba, Father.’**”

As we read these Scriptures and we read about Christ, I want you to think about this: God the Father, the great Sovereign of the universe *is involved in our lives*, directly with His Spirit.

- He’s the One Who has called us
- He’s the One Who opens our understanding
- He’s the One Who has provided—through Jesus Christ His Son—not only the sacrifice but also the understanding of the Word of God

We are the sons of God, “...whereby **we call out, ‘Abba, Father.’**” That’s the close term of endearment.

Verse 16: “The Spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit, *testifying* that we are *the* children of God. Now, if *we are* children, *we are* also heirs—truly, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—...” (vs 16-17). What did He inherit? ***All things!*** That means *he universe!* Think on that; let that sink in! I want you to set aside:

- every trouble that you may have
- every thought that is carnal
- everything that is against God that may be in our mind

—and think about what God is doing for us and His creation! That we have an active part in it that is absolutely marvelous.

“...if indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him” (v 17).

What is it going to be like to be a spirit being and have the ability to have glory that shines like the sun? *This is what God holds out for us!* Now you know why Christ is doing these things for us, and why Satan the devil is out there trying to take it away from us.

Here’s something else, next time you watch the news, think of this first; v 19: “For the earnest expectation of the creation itself is **awaiting the manifestation of the sons of God.**”

Stop and think on that statement! That means that with everything that’s going on in the world, all the men—the great ones, the high ones, the low ones, the in between ones—trying to bring some sort of stability and peace and work things out, ***they are waiting for us and they don’t even know it!*** Is that not special to God? *or what?* That applies to all of the saints down through time, “...awaiting

the manifestation of the sons of God.”

Verse 20: “Because the creation was subjected to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him who subjected *it* in hope, in order that the creation itself might be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (vs 20-21). That is going to be some thing to do! Think about this:

- even though we can think of it
- even though we can read the words
- even though we can explain Scripture that tell us things that are going to happen

The actual reality of it will be so great that it is going to be unbelievable for us at this time, because ‘we see through a glass darkly.’ We understand some things.

Verse 22: “For we know that all the creation is groaning together and travailing together until now.”

- we’re the ones whom God has called
- we’re the ones who are going to solve the problem

Let’s see how God promised this to David; promised it to Christ. It’s a phenomenal thing. These two verses—Isa. 9:6-7—cover the whole plan of God; amazing when you begin to understand the reality of the Scriptures. Here’s a prophecy of Christ:

Isaiah 9:6: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulders...” We have seen during the Feast how that’s going to be as King, as Ruler. And we’re assisting and helping as kings and priests.

“...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father...” (v 6)—because between the bride and Christ, all of those in the Millennium who come into the Kingdom of God, will be the children from that union and He will be an “...Everlasting Father...” God the Father at that point will be an Everlasting Grandfather.

Verse 7: “Of the increase of *His* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and over His kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with righteousness from henceforth, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this”—because God has purpose, God has plans, God has all of these things for us.

We know that it tells us in Rev. 20:5 that we will reign for a thousand years as priests. Rev. 5 tells

us that we will reign on the earth as kings and priests, and many other offices and things as well.

Remember what Jesus told His disciples in John 14, ‘*I’m going to prepare a place for you, and when I come again...*’—and that’s what we’re waiting for. What is it that God is doing for us?

Isa. 51—Let’s apply this to ourselves and a greater understanding of what God wants done, beginning with the Millennium. Then when we get to Days 7 & 8, reaching out *into all eternity*. That’s an amazing thing!

Isaiah 51:1: “Hearken to Me, you who follow after righteousness... [that’s us] ...you who seek the LORD: Look to the Rock *from which* you were cut, and to the hole of the pit *from which* you were dug. Look to Abraham your father...” (vs 1-2).

Galatians 3:29 “And if you *are* Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to *the* promise.” What was the promise? *The major promise was when God took Abraham out to look at the stars of heaven*, and said, ‘If you are able to count them, so shall your seed be!’ Stop and think about that for a minute:

- every word of God is true
- every word of God will be fulfilled to the maximum

God has called us to have that part; so think on that!

Isaiah 51:2: “...and to Sarah *who* bore you... [a type of the Church] ...for I called him alone, and blessed him, and made him many.’ For the LORD shall comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden...” (vs 2-3). So the earth, when we come back to take it over, is going to be absolute desolation. Our major work will be to serve the people, help them rebuild, and God’s work is to make the earth:

“...like Eden and her desert like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness shall be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody. ‘**Hearken to Me, My people; and give ear to Me, O My nation...**’” (vs 3-4). That’s us! We will be the nation of the firstborn!

“...for **instruction shall proceed from Me...** [we’re going to be learning forever and ever] ...and I will make My justice as a light to the people. My righteousness *is* near...” (vs 4-5). Yes, it is coming now.

“...My salvation has gone out...” (v 5). How many people have been saved since Jesus walked the face of the earth?

“...and My arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon Me, and on My arm they shall trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath; for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke... [new heavens and new earth] ...and the earth shall become old like a garment; and its inhabitants shall die in the same way....” (vs 5-6). That is all of those who refuse to repent and are burned up in the Lake of Fire.

“...But My salvation shall be forever, and My righteousness shall not be abolished. Harken to Me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My Law...” (v 7)—*that’s us!*

David had some great understanding of the Word of God, when he was here on the earth. How many Psalms did David compose? *Fantastic and marvelous!* So, one night he was musing and he wrote this Psalm:

Psalm 8:1: “O LORD our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens!” Yet, we can see them and see the glory of it today as never before.

Verse 2: “Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings You have ordained strength because of Your adversaries, to silence the enemy and the avenger.” *That’s us!* We’re going to do that!

Verse 3: “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You... [You, God!] ...are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?” (vs 3-4). Not only care, but love us!

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whomever may believe on Him may not perish, but may have everlasting life! Tremendous love! What is that going to be like? What is it going to be like to look into the face of God the Father? (Rev. 22).

Verse 5: “For **You have made him a little lower than God...**” That’s why we have the book: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* Read that book again. How marvelous it is from a pinpoint of life and here we are as human beings, and *from that to become spirit beings!* And from that to inherit the earth and then the universe! Think on that! *That’s why we’re called!*

When you do, doesn’t that make all of our problems seem little, small and petty? *Yes, indeed!* “...**You have made him a little lower than God...**” Think of that! Made in His image, after His likeness and His plan is to be so that we’re after the God-kind in the Family of God. That’s the whole plan of God in the Bible.

“...and have crowned him with glory and honor....” (v 5)—just even the physical things here on the earth. But what’s it going to be like to receive a golden crown? Isn’t it that we will receive a crown? *Yes, we will receive honor as spirit beings!* We’re going to be given rule and dominion over the earth to work out God’s plan to a greater and higher degree, with greater intensity than ever before.

I don’t imagine that we’re going to really do what we really need to do; inheriting the universe: there are trillions and trillions and trillions of stars and galaxies out there.

Psa. 82 is an important Psalm. This relates back to John 10 where the Pharisees wanted to stone Jesus because He said that He was the Son of God, and that was blasphemy to them. So, John quoted Psa. 82 and he also said, *‘The Scripture cannot be broken.’* Keep that in mind, because everything we’re going to cover is Truth and it will happen. It’s going to take place and we will be a part of it.

Psalm 82:1: “God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.” When will that be? *When we’re resurrected, we are going to be like Him, so we’re going to be gods!* That will be on the Sea of Glass, and we will see the Father and Jesus Christ, and the temple in heaven and the angels. God is going to bring it down closer to the earth.

It’s not so far away out in the universe that it will take billions of years to get here. God is involved directly in the earth.

Verse 6: “I have said, **‘You are gods...** [‘*elohim*’] **...and all of you are sons of the Most High**”—referring to God the Father. Jesus Christ came to reveal the Father. So, the Father was not the God of the Old Testament; Jesus Christ was.

Verse 8: “Arise, O God, Judge the earth, for You shall inherit all nations.” Just like in the Kingdom of God.

Let’s see how it’s going to be for us as kings, as priests serving the people, serving God, loving God and teaching the people the love of God. It’s going to be a tremendous thing! It’s not going to be like the earth today—*no way!*

Isaiah 61:6: “But you shall be called the priests of the LORD; it will be said of you...”—and you, *and you, and you,* of me and all the brethren who have ever lived and died faithful for the first resurrection: the righteous kings, the righteous prophets, all together. What a fantastic thing that is going to be.

“...‘The ministers of our God’; you will eat

the riches of the Gentiles, and you will boast in their glory” (v 6). God is going to give us great wealth and riches. We’re going to rule the Gentiles so that they can enter into the Kingdom of God.

Sidebar: Consider all the wars, all the fighting, all the division, all the politics that go wrong, all the broken lives and broken hearts and everything like that. *All of that we are going to undo!*

- doesn’t matter what you go through on this earth
- doesn’t matter if you suffer
- doesn’t matter if people don’t like you
- doesn’t even matter if people in the world hate you

As long as you love God, love Jesus Christ and the brethren. Here’s the promise:

Verse 7: “For your shame *you will have* double; instead of dishonor they will rejoice in their portion; therefore, in their own land they will possess double; everlasting joy will be theirs.” That can apply to the physical people that we’re going to rule and reign over, teach and help. But it applies to us and all the rest of eternity.

Here’s what we’re going to carry out, v 8: “For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work **in truth**...” Isn’t that what we need? Not degrees of truth, not some truth, not a high percentage of truth, but it will be at that time *total truth, spiritual Truth!*

“...and I will make an everlasting covenant with them... [that’s what it will be, *everlasting!*] ...And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles...” (vs 8-9).

Who is going to be the everlasting Father at that time? *Christ! And the seed that comes from Christ and the Bride!* That is the whole Church and all those in the first resurrection bringing it all about.

“...and their offspring among the people; all who see them will acknowledge them, that **they are the seed the LORD has blessed**” (v 9).

What are all of those blessings going to be? Just stop and think: How foolish is it for the people of God to *play* ‘religion’? *Play* ‘religious’ games? All that has to be done away.

Verse 10: “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul will be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me *with* the robes of salvation... [What will those be like?] ...He covered me with the robe of righteousness like a bridegroom adorns *himself* with ornaments, and like a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.”

Think of that, brethren! How wonderful that is going to be! And what is so fantastic about that is that *we will be spirit beings with a spirit mind*, and we will love God and Christ, and all those who are in the first resurrection, all of those coming into the Kingdom of God during the Millennium, all the people. There are going to be people multiplying! If you think we’ve had a population explosion, just wait until the Millennium. God needs billions and billions to carry out His work!

Verse 11: “For as the earth brings forth its bud, and as the garden causes that which is sown to grow; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to grow before all the nations.” That’s will be the commission of what we’re going to be doing.

It’s quite amazing how much there is in the book of Psalm about the Millennium and what we will be doing. It makes you wonder how much of this that David really understood Himself.

Psa. 39 is us; this is what it will be. I don’t even think we have a clue as to how beautiful, marvelous and fantastic and awesome that it’s going to be and what God is going to do for us and give us. And what we, in turn—with the mind and love of God in us—will be able to do for all the people. It’s not going to be like the world today. *Oh no!*

Psalm 132:9: “Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Your saints shout for joy. For Your servant David’s sake, turn not away the face of Your anointed. The LORD has sworn to David **in truth**... [we’re going to focus in on *truth* for a little bit] ...He will not turn from it: ‘Of the fruit of your body will I set upon the throne for you’” (vs 9-11). That’s is Christ!

Verse 12: “If your children keep My covenant and My testimonies which I shall teach them, their sons shall also sit upon your throne forever.” Come into the Kingdom of God and have eternal life.

Verse 13: “**The LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation.**” I want you to think about this:

- Jerusalem chosen in the days of David
- Solomon all down through time and rejected because of sin
- re-established at the Millennium
- then the New Jerusalem

Take these Scriptures and apply them in a great way.

Verse 14: “This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.” Amazing thing!

We're going to see some quite amazing things what God is telling us. I think that the two books in the Old Testament that talk more about the Kingdom of God than anything else are Isaiah and Psalms.

Sidebar: Psa. 37 says four times that the saints will inherit the earth. ***The righteous shall inherit the earth!*** Think about that inheritance because we're joint heirs with Christ. That's the whole world and a place in New Jerusalem forever.

Psalms 36:5: "Your loving kindness, O LORD, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Your righteousness is like the great mountains..." (vs 5-6). Every time I see some of these pictures on documentaries showing how the mountains—how God raised up the mountains.

I saw a documentary on the Himalayan Mountains coming up from India and stretching all the way across mountain after mountain, huge mountains. When you look at some of them, you see the strata has been just turned just straight up. You look at that and think: WOW! How fantastic that is.

'O Lord God, how powerful You are! What a mighty thing it was to make those mountains!' No wonder God says that about the mountains.

"...Your judgments are like the great deep; O LORD..." (v 6). Down seven miles, the deepest part of the ocean, there's life! That's amazing!

"...You preserve man and beast. How precious is Your loving kindness, O God!..." (vs 6-7). Oh yes:

- God loves us
- cares for us
- watches over us
- blesses us
- works with us
- corrects us
- teaches us

All of these things so we can be fit through the power of the resurrection to be the sons and daughters of God. Don't worry about looking in a mirror and says, 'Oh, oh, another wrinkle.' Say: 'Another day closer to the resurrection.' That's another way of looking at it. Then you won't have any wrinkles, you won't need any makeup and you'll have the finest clothes ever, *made of spirit!* ***Then you'll have a crown of life!***

"...Therefore, the children of men take refuge under the shadow of Your wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the richness of Your house; and **You shall make them drink of the river of Your pleasures...** [that is the River of Life] ...for

with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light. O continue Your loving kindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart" (vs 7-10).

Let us at this Feast of Tabernacles really grasp and understand as much as we can—though it's like looking through a glass darkly—the great and marvelous things that God has created for us.

(go to the next track)

Let's see what we are going to be doing to all nations beginning with Israel and Judah, collectively called Jacob.

Jeremiah 30:24: "...In the latter days you shall understand it." He's going to fulfill the purposes of His heart.

Jeremiah 31:1: "'At that time,' says the LORD, 'I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.' Thus says the LORD, 'The people *who were* left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I will go to give him rest.' [the Millennium] ...The LORD has appeared to me from afar, *saying*, '**Yea, I have loved you with an everlasting love...**'" (vs 1-3).

There's a vast difference in unconditional love and everlasting love. In order to receive salvation and the blessings of God, there are conditions. But God's love—regardless of the conditions—is everlasting.

"...therefore, with loving kindness I have drawn you. Again, I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin of Israel. You shall again put on your drums, and shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice. You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall eat *them* as common things. For there shall be a day *that* the watchmen on Mount Ephraim shall cry, 'Arise and let us go up to Zion to the LORD our God!'" (vs 3-6).

Coming up to the Feast at Jerusalem. Think about what the Feast in Jerusalem is going to be like with the great tabernacle and the representatives of every nation of the world. All of the sons of God there at the same time. Then there will be the Feast kept in different nations all around the world. The whole world is going to do it. That's going to be amazing!

Verse 7: "For thus says the LORD, 'Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations. Cry out, give praise and say, "O LORD, save Your people, the remnant of Israel." Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the corners of the earth, and with

them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and she who is in labor with child, together; a great company shall return there. They shall come with weeping, and with prayers I will lead them.... [says God] ...I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way; they shall not stumble in it, for I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim *is* My firstborn” (vs 7-9). Again, the *Everlasting Father* at that time!

He’s going to bring all of them; they’re all going to come back.

Jer. 33 describes what’s going to happen to Israel and hence all nations in the Millennium. Think about what that’s going to really be. If you’ve got a globe at home, take that globe and look at it, and think of today! Where on earth is there really any peace? Maybe somewhere remote there is a little peace, but not much. Think what it’s going to be like when the children of God are ruling as kings and priests, teaching and helping and everything is blessed of God, with His Spirit and with His love. We’re going to express the love of God to them in a direct way.

Jeremiah 33:6: “Behold, I will bring it health and healing, and I will heal them and will show them the riches of peace and truth. And I will cause the *return from* captivity of Judah and the *return from* captivity of Israel, and will build them, as at the first. And **I will cleanse them** from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me; and **I will pardon all their iniquities** by which they have sinned, and by which they have transgressed against Me. And it shall be for Me a name of joy, a praise and an honor before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear of all the good that I do to them. **And they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the peace that I bring to it**” (vs 6-9).

Quite a fantastic thing! Here’s how it’s going to be; lots of:

- weddings
- children
- fun
- joy
- righteousness
- goodness
- work
- production
- invention

What is it going to be like with the blessing of God on everything that people set their hand to do? *That’s what it’s going to be!*

Verse 11: “The voice of joy and the voice

of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who shall say, “Praise the LORD of hosts, for the LORD *is* good, for His steadfast love *endures* forever,” and the voice of those who shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will restore the fortunes of the land, **as at the first,** says the LORD”—the Garden of Eden. That’s going to be something!

Verse 14: “Behold, the days come,’ says the LORD, ‘that I will establish the good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah’”—which promises blessing and physical life during the Millennium and *eternal life*. Then wait and see what we’re going to find out about Israel on the Last Great Day.

Verse 15: “In those days, and at that time, I will cause the Branch of Righteousness [Christ] to grow up to David. And He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely....” (vs 15-16).

Think on that, the way that it is today. What a difference that is going to make. God is going to be there!

“...And this *is the name* with which she shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” (v 16). The righteousness of the whole earth. Amazing things! Quite amazing things are going to take place.

Zech. 8—here again, God talks about how He’s going to restore things, how He’s going to make it all great, wonderful, nice and fantastic.

Now, in some of these things part of it is for the Millennium, part of it on into eternity. There’s more than one fulfillment of many, many Scriptures in the Bible.

Zechariah 8:1: “And the Word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “I was jealous for Zion *with* great jealousy, and I was jealous for her *with* great fury.’” Thus says the LORD, ‘I have returned to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of Truth... [No more Satan, no more lies! What is the “...city of Truth...” today? *A mess!*] ...and the mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy mountain’” (vs 1-3).

Then it talks about the Millennium: kids will be playing, old men and women, and so forth. It shows that they’re going to live to be 100-years old (Isa. 65).

Verse 7: “Thus says the LORD of hosts,

‘Behold, I will save My people from the east country, and from the west country. And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God, in Truth and in righteousness’” (vs 7-8). Truth is what we need. Isn’t it something that the carnal mind hates the Truth?

Verse 9: “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Let your hands be strong, you who hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, that in the day the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts is laid, the temple is to be built, for before these days there was no hire for man...’” (vs 9-10). Then it talks about building the second temple.

Now we’re going to spend quite a bit of time in the Psalms. There is so much here concerning the Millennium, the Kingdom of God forever and living with God. It is an amazing thing!

Psalms 66:1: “Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.” I don’t think we understand how fantastic the music is going to be. Not like it is today with all that satanic dirge!

Verse 2: “Sing forth the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Say to God, ‘How awesome are Your works!...’” (vs 2-3).

- think of that with us and the Church now, and the resurrection
- think of that for all during the Millennium
- think of that when the New Jerusalem, and the new heaven and earth come

“...Through the greatness of Your power, Your enemies submit themselves in obedience to You. All the earth shall worship You and shall sing praises to You; they shall sing praises to Your name.’ Selah” (vs 3-4)—*think on that*, that’s what that means: stop and meditate.

What’s that going to be with all nations, and we’re going to be leading them in it. Isn’t it going to be nice that all of those of you who don’t know how to sing now are going to have marvelous voices. You’re going to sing!

Verse 5: “Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.” What’s that going to be like? *Fantastic!* Look at what He does:

Verse 6: “He turned the sea into dry land; they went through the river on foot; there we rejoiced in Him. **He rules by His power forever**... [and ever and ever down through eternity] ...His eyes keep watch upon the nations; let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.” (vs 6-7).

We’re going to have something for the

rebellious, because even though all of these blessings are going to be there, God is not going to get rid of *independent free moral agency* (IFMA); everyone is going to have to choose.

Psa. 67 in a great Psalm; I love this Psalm. Notice the ‘mays’ and the ‘let’s.’

Psalm 67:1: “**May** God be gracious to us, and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. Selah. So that Your way may be known **on earth**...” (vs 1-2). Think about that. Who is going to make it known? **We are!**

“...Your salvation among all nations” (v 2). Who is going to bring that? **We are!**

Verse 3: “**Let** the people praise You, O God; **let** all the people praise You. O **let** the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You shall judge the people righteously and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.” (vs 3-4).

The government shall be on Who’s shoulders? *Christ’s!* Think on that!

Verse 5: “**Let** the people praise You, O God; **let** all the people praise You. The earth shall yield its increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him” (vs 5-7).

What a time that’s going to be, and we’re the ones to help carry it out! Christ is the One Who will set the whole thing in motion. He’s the One Who is going to govern the whole earth, and we’ll have our part with Him as spirit beings. That’s going to be something!

Psalms 66:1: “Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth. Sing forth the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Say to God, ‘How awesome are Your works!...’” (vs 1-3).

Everything that God has done in the universe, on the earth, and what He’s doing to bring people to conversion and add them into the Kingdom of God. That’s an amazing thing.

“...Through the greatness of Your power, Your enemies submit themselves in obedience to You. All the earth shall worship You and shall sing praises to You; they shall sing praises to Your name.’ Selah” (vs 3-4). A magnificent thing! Everyone is going to be able to sing.

Verse 5: “Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.”

Verse 7: “He rules by His power forever; His eyes keep watch upon the nations; let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.”

We'll take care of the rebellious. We'll talk about that tomorrow, because God is not going to eliminate *independent free moral agency* (IFMA); everyone is going to have to choose.

Verse 8: "O bless our God, O peoples, and make the sound of His praise to be heard, *He* Who keeps us in life and does not allow our feet to slide."

Psa. 67 tells a lot about the Millennium. Just think what it's going to be like. If you have a globe get it and look at it and see that there's trouble everywhere in the whole world. Then think what it's going to be like when there will be peace, love, Truth, harmony and all the sons of God ruling under Christ year after year; 100 years times 10, a thousand.

Psalm 67:1: "May God be gracious to us, and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. Selah." Not only us, but think what it's going to be for the world.

Verse 2: "So that **Your way**... [the way of God] ...**may be known on earth**... [we're the ones to teach that] ...Your salvation among all nations. Let the people praise You, O God; let all the people praise You. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You shall judge the people righteously and govern the nations upon earth. Selah" (vs 2-4). That is on the shoulders of Christ.

Verse 5: "Let the people praise You, O God; let all the people praise You. The earth shall yield its increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him" (vs 5-7). Wondrous thing, indeed!

Psa. 85 is quite a Psalm and worded very beautifully. Psalm 85:7: "Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation. I will hear what God the LORD will speak; for He will speak peace to His people, and to His saints, but let them not turn again to folly.... [going to learn the way of God] ...Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, so that glory may dwell in our land" (9vs 7-9).

Verse 10 is one of the most beautiful verses in the Bible: "Mercy and Truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven" (vs 10-11). That's the administration that we're going to carry out.

- what a fantastic calling
- what a wonderful thing that that is for us
- what a fantastic thing for the whole world

Human beings under the governance of Satan the devil and ruthless men, we don't have a clue as to what it's going to be like. But the Bible tells us, and

we can look at this and be inspired and say, 'Yes! Yes! O Lord, bring it!'

Verse 12: "Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good, and our land shall yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before Him and shall set us in the way of His steps" (vs 12-13). The way of Truth; drinking of the rivers of pleasure. Isn't it amazing how much there is about the Millennium?

- some of it is a blending of returning from Babylon
- some of it a blending of the returning at the beginning of the Millennium
- some of it goes out into eternity

Psalm 138:4: "All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD..." That will be us, whatever it is. The kings, the administrators, the princes and so forth.

"...when they hear the words of Your mouth" (v 4). I wonder what it's going to be when God speaks to us as spirit beings? How we're going to speak to the people so they will understand?

Verse 5: "Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD. Though the LORD is high, yet, He has respect to the lowly; but the haughty He knows afar off" (vs 5-6).

Verse 8: "**The LORD will perfect His work in me**..."—every one of us. He wants us to be perfect.

Sidebar: what did Jesus say in John 5:48, when He first began His ministry? "**Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who is in heaven is perfect.**" Here is the verse in Psa. 138 where it shows that God is going to do that. God has to do that *in us*. That's the whole purpose of the New Testament.

Psalm 138:8: "...Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever; **do not forsake the work of Your own hands.**" Are we not the workmanship of God? (*Eph. 2*)! Forming and molding in our mind spiritually that which is necessary for the resurrection? You can take this verse and expand it out to everything:

- the work of God's hands in the physical creation
- the work of God's hands in all the people to be born during the Millennium
- the work of God's hands to perfect them spiritually to enter into the Kingdom of God
- the work of God's hands, as Jesus said, 'I prepare a place for you'; and that will be in New Jerusalem

What will that be like? *Brethren, we have so much to look forward to!*

Think about this as our part in it as spirit beings: Psalm 145:1: “I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You; and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and **His greatness is unsearchable**” (vs 1-3).

Just think about it! For all eternity we are going to be learning, and we will never ever, ever catch up with God the Father and Jesus Christ. But what’s that going to be like?

Here’s part of the Millennium, v 4: “One generation shall praise Your works to another and shall declare Your mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty and of Your wondrous works” (vs 4-5). We’ll actually see it; not only speak of it, but see it!

Verse 6: “And men shall speak of the might of Your awesome works; and I will declare Your greatness.” Can you imagine what kind of Sabbath services we’re going to have? It’s going to be awesome!

Verse 7: “They shall pour forth the memory of Your great goodness and shall sing of Your righteousness. The LORD is gracious and full of compassion; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love” (vs 7-8). That’s the administration that we are going to be enacting upon all the nations, all people, everywhere! Families, communities, cities, areas, countries, everywhere in the world.

Verse 9: “The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall praise You, O LORD; and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom**...” (vs 9-13).

It’s going to go on through all eternity. What is it going to be like to be a spirit being and live into eternity? I think we can compare the difference this way: A fully grown, fully educated, well mature, well aged human being talking to a newborn baby and saying, ‘You’ve got a whole life ahead of you.’ That baby won’t know a thing! That’s the best comparison that I can give.

You might want to do a study of all the Psalms that relate to the Millennium, to the kingdom, those things forever, living as spirit beings with God. All of that together; just think what that’s going to be like.

Psalm 49:1: “Hear this, all you people; give ear, all inhabitants of the world: both low and high, rich and poor together. My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and the thoughts of my heart shall be of understanding. I will incline my ear to a parable; I will open my dark saying upon the lyre. Why should I fear in the days of evil...” (vs 1-5). There won’t be any days of evil there.

Psalm 48:1: “Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised in the city of our God, in His Holy mountain. Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of all the earth...” (vs 1-2)—and soon the joy in New Jerusalem and of all the universe.

“...is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God in her palace has shown Himself to be a fortress, for lo, the kings assembled themselves; they advanced together” (vs 2-4).

Let’s see what we’re going to do, and how it’s going to be for the average person. What a tremendous thing when you think that the average person today has very little indeed. Think of it in the world, think of how it’s going to be when we bring all of this. Here’s what the society is going to be like. We don’t know how advanced it will be, greater than what we have today; probably a whole lot more. But we have no idea how that’s going to work, because it says that ‘every man is going to sit under his own vine and fig tree. And none will make him afraid.’

Isaiah 60:16: “You will also suck the milk of nations, and suck the breast of kings; and **you shall know that I the LORD am your Savior and your Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob**.”

When you look at all the poverty-ridden places in the world, this is what God is going to bring. It’s going to be overwhelmingly successful, mentally, physically, spiritually, economically, environmentally—everything!

Verse 17: “For bronze I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver; and for wood I will bring bronze, and for stones, iron. I will also make your overseers to be peace, and your rulers to be righteousness.... [that’s us] ...Violence will no more be heard in your land...” (vs 17-18). No! We’ll find out tomorrow how God’s going to take care of that.

“...neither wasting nor ruin within your borders; but you will call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.... [that’s how it’s going to be] ...The sun will no more be your light by day; nor the brightness of the moon give light to you... [this gets into New Jerusalem]: ...but **the LORD will be to you for an everlasting light, and your God your**

glory. Your sun will no more go down, nor your moon withdraw; for **the LORD will be your everlasting light**, and the days of your mourning shall be ended. Your people also *will all be* righteous; they will inherit the land forever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, **so that I may be glorified.** A smallest will become a thousand, and the least one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in its time” (vs 18-22).

That tells us what we will be doing and how the Millennium will be. Brethren, it’s been a wonderful Feast. I hope that it’s been helpful, enjoyable and inspiring to you, and that you’ve had good fellowship and everything up to this point.

We’ll see you tomorrow for Day 7, which ends the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days, and then we have one more, which is the Last Great Day.

- Revelation 22
- John 10
- Psalm 37
- Isaiah 65
- Ephesians 2

Also referenced: Book: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why were You Born?* by Fred R. Coulter

FRC: bo
Transcribed: 8/13/17

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- 1) Proverbs 29:18
- 2) Isaiah 64:1-5
- 3) 1 Corinthians 1:24-31
- 4) 1 Corinthians 2:7, 9-12
- 5) Romans 8:14-17, 19-22
- 6) Isaiah 9:6-7
- 7) Isaiah 51:1-2
- 8) Galatians 3:29
- 9) Isaiah 51:2-7
- 10) Psalm 8:1-5
- 11) Psalm 82:1, 6, 8
- 12) Isaiah 61:6-11
- 13) Psalm 132:9-14
- 14) Psalm 36:5-10
- 15) Jeremiah 30:24
- 16) Jeremiah 31:1-9
- 17) Jeremiah 33:6-9, 11, 14-16
- 18) Zechariah 8:1-3, 7-10
- 19) Psalm 66:1-7
- 20) Psalm 67:1-7
- 21) Psalm 66:1-5, 7-8
- 22) Psalm 67:1-7
- 23) Psalm 85:7-13
- 24) Psalm 138:4-6, 8
- 25) Matthew 5:48
- 26) Psalm 138:8
- 27) Psalm 145:1-13
- 28) Psalm 49:1-5
- 29) Psalm 48:1-4
- 30) Isaiah 60:16-22

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1 John 3
- Revelation 20:5; 5
- John 14

Day 7—Feast of Tabernacles Gog and Magog: Land of Exile *Unrepentant sinners cannot stay in the community* Fred R. Coulter—October 11, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Day 7 of the Feast of Tabernacles! We have one more day, the Last Great Day, tomorrow. The time has gone by really fast, and by the time we get home and get settled in again, all the holidays of the world will start unfolding. All of the lies, all of the nonsense, and the world is going to go gung-ho after it. Always have and will continue to do so until Christ returns, the Millennium is set up and the saints of God rule.

Isn't it a fantastic thing that God has done: His plan, His purpose and everything that we can know in this life—and need to know for living, about God, what He's doing and His plan—is in the Bible. That the book that people don't like.

We know that the Protestants use part of it, but because they keep all the holidays, they know nothing about the plan of God.

Revelation 1:4: “John to the seven churches that *are* in Asia: Grace and peace *be* to you from Him Who *is*, and Who *was*, and Who *is* to come; and from the seven spirits that are before His throne.”

{note sermons: *Spirit of God/Spirit of Man—7 Spirits of God #1 & #2*} They're important, Christ controls them; that's how He keeps track of what's going on in the world.

Verse 5: “And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him Who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, **and has made us kings and priests...**” (vs 5-6). We've been covering:

- how we're going to rule in the Kingdom of God
- how we're going to serve the people
- what are they going to learn
- what are our jobs going to be
- how will all these things apply

We can 'see through a glass darkly,' but after the resurrection, then we will see everything clearly! That will be great!

“...**to God and His Father;** to Him *be* the glory and the sovereignty into the ages of eternity. Amen” (v 6). This tells us that time is going to go on after this segment of God's plan is finished. As we saw on Day 6, that is going to be great and

magnificent and fantastic. The understanding of that is going to be great and glorious. But we have some work to do, yet, so let's cover that today.

Verse 7: “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye shall see Him, and those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.”

When He comes, they're going to think that aliens from outer space are invading the earth. They will be convinced, because they're all deceived by Satan the devil. That's what Satan is telling them, and he's preparing them for that right now.

Verse 8: “I am the **Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending,**” says the Lord, ‘Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come—the Almighty.’” What Jesus just said here: “...**Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending...**” and He says in v 11 “...**the First and the Last...**”

We need to understand the plan of God from the beginning to the end of the Bible. The ending of the Bible is very similar to the book of Acts. Acts 28 just cuts off. Know one knows what Paul did or where Luke was or where any of the apostles were.

Likewise with the book of Revelation. It ends with the ‘new heavens and the new earth’ and it stops. We'll cover that tomorrow: what is beyond into the ages of eternity? *Well, the Millennium is a big part of it!*

Let's apply Isa. 65 to the Millennium. When we take over the earth, it's going to be one giant chaotic, upside down, war destroyed *mess!* There's going to have to be a new heaven and a new earth at that time. We'll just leap ahead here a little bit: When those who are resurrected in the second resurrection come into the world, it's going to be a new one to them. But all during the Millennium we will building up, *building up, building up, preparing for the Last Great Day!*

God says, Isaiah 65:17: “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth. And the former things will not be remembered, nor come to mind.” Isn't that something?

- all the sins
- all the wars
- all the wretchedness

Wipe the slate clean and get it over with!

Verse 18: “But be glad and rejoice forever in *that* which **I** create...” Remember, the character of God is being created in us now, so all during the Millennium they’re going to be living in a new heaven and a new earth—physical—and God is going to be creating in all of those who are converted, *the spiritual character to enter into life!* That’s going to be a fantastic and tremendous thing. The whole world is going to be completely changed from what we think it is now and know it is now.

“...for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and I will joy in My people; and the voice of weeping will no more be heard in her, nor the voice of crying” (vs 18-19).

Also, you could apply this to Rev. 21 & 22. This gives us a good example of how the Bible has additional fulfillments layered in, which other parts of the Bible will help us understand.

Verse 20: “**There will not be an infant who lives but a few days... [there won’t be any abortion either] ...nor an old man that has not filled his days, for the child will die a hundred years old; but the sinner *who is* a hundred years old shall be accursed.**”

Verse 21: ““And they will build houses and live *in them*; and they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build, and another live *in them*; they will not plant, and another eat; for like the days of a tree *are so will be* the days of My people, and My elect will long enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for calamity. For they *are* the seed of the beloved of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust *will be* the food of the serpent. They will not hurt nor destroy in all My Holy mountain,” says the LORD” (vs 21-25).

That’s applied to the whole earth, every nation, all people. Let’s analyze this for just a little bit, and how can we answer certain question? *By other Scriptures!* What will that tell us? *Since God is ‘the same yesterday, today and forever, and changes not,’* what we find in the Bible that He has done in the past and what He promises to do in the future we can bring together and understand these Scriptures!

Brethren, what we’re going to understand is that it’s going to be fantastic, that God’s plan is so overwhelmingly magnificent and great that it is just absolutely breathtaking, dumbfounding, awesome—and whatever other adjectives you want to add to it.

Let’s analyze v 20, bring other Scriptures to bare so we can understand what’s going to happen.

Verse 20: “There will not be an infant who lives but a few days, nor an old man...” In general that means men and women.

Sidebar: God is not against women. There would be no plan, no people, no children, nothing without women! That’s how important you are!

“...that has not filled his days, for the child will die a hundred years old...” We know that ‘it’s given once to men to die and then the judgment.’ Keep that in mind.

“...but the sinner *who is* a hundred years old shall be accursed” (v 20). What does that mean? *Completely cutoff from God!* The sinner, when he dies he has a different fate than the one who is righteous.

We can learn something very important in 1-Thess. 4. When Christ returns, there will still be those who are still alive. What’s going to happen to them?

Hebrews 9:27: “...it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this, *the judgment.*”

1-Thessalonians 4:14: “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in exactly the same way also, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.” People read that they’re in heaven and He’s going to bring them with Him. *No!* This is talking about after they are resurrected.

So, here is thing that happens in the Bible a lot. It is outlined ahead of time, then the details follow. That’s exactly what we have here.

Verse 15: “For this we say to you by *the* Word of *the* Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall in no wise precede those who have fallen asleep.”

Those who have fallen asleep are dead and buried in the grave. They will be raised first. Then those who are alive will come and be changed and come up to the Sea of Glass.

What happens? *Since it’s given to everyone to die once, we can conclude that if they’re alive when Christ returns, there’s going to be an instantaneous death and change from flesh to spirit!* It’s give to every man once to die.

Even during the Millennium, people are still going to have the ‘law of sin and death,’ though not as powerful as it is now (Ezek. 36)—give them a heart of flesh rather than a heart of stone. But they will still have free moral agency; God is no going to take that away.

Verse 16: “Because the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with *a* shout of command, with *the* voice of an archangel and with *the* trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in *the* clouds for *the* meeting with the Lord in *the* air; and so shall we always be with *the* Lord” (vs 16-17).

That’s when we all come with the Lord, when we come back to the earth. We find that in Rev. 15, 16 & 19.

Let’s apply this to Isa. 65. The ones who are righteous will be changed. We’ll add one more Scripture to it to show how this whole process is going to work:

1-Corinthians 15:50: “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit *the* Kingdom of God...”

We have to be changed from flesh to spirit. So, how are those during the Millennium going to come into the Kingdom of God? *They will have to have an instantaneous death and change!*

“...nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery: we shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed” (vs 50-51).

So, with an instantaneous death you don’t go into the sleep of death, you are changed to be a spirit being. That’s what happens when Christ returns for those who are still alive. That’s what’s going to happen to those during the Millennium when they live their life to the full and are ready to enter the Kingdom of God at a hundred years old.

I’ve often thought this: What kind of Sabbath services are we going to have when they are brought into the Kingdom of God. What a motivator that will be for people to really see what a fantastic thing this will be. You come to Sabbath services and here is the group of people that have been faithful for a hundred years and now we have a special ceremony. I don’t know how that’s going to work, but we’ll find out, because we will participate in that. Christ is the One Who is going to make it happen. They will be changed from flesh to spirit, but because they have to die—like it says the infant will die—it will be instantaneous from flesh to spirit.

Let’s analyze the thing concerning the sinner; Isaiah 65:20: “...but the sinner *who is* a hundred years old shall be accursed.”

That’s means cutoff from God. That mean that the sinners will die because they had a hundred years to change, to repent, to overcome. IFMA— independent free moral agency—there are going to

be some who refuse to repent, so when they die they’re going to be buried. That’s their first death. Since they are accursed, that means they’re going to face the second death.

How is it going to work during the Millennium? We understand this, but how is it going to work? Let’s talk about what God has done in the past concerning when people sin. Remember: *repentance is always available until a person comes to the point that he or she has hardened their heart and refused to repent!* They’ve been warned and warned!

Gen. 3—perfect example: God was there. Just like in the Millennium Christ will be there, the saints will be there; we’ll be kings and priests, we’re going to rule on the earth, and all of those things will be part of it. That will be something!

Adam and Eve sinned. *The wages of sin is death*, but the key is that death doesn’t happen immediately. God kept them alive for over 800 years. The plan of God couldn’t go forward if, when Adam and Eve sinned, they would die immediately. This is why when you come to Gen. 3:15 that the first prophecy of the Messiah is given. All of mankind pretty much goes their own way and Satan the devil became the ‘god of this world.’

God was still in charge, but nevertheless, everyone had to choose. So, what did God do to Adam and Eve when they sinned? *He exiled them outside the Garden of Eden!* They couldn’t go in. They had no access to the Tree of Life, which is very important to understand.

All of those down through the Old Testament, except for the few that God chose—the patriarchs and some of the kings—never had eternal life offered to them, because they didn’t have access to the Tree of Life.

Now let’s see what happened with Abel and Cain. We know that Abel brought his offering and it was according to the commands of God, because God ‘had respect unto his offering, but not unto Cain’s.’ Let’s read about Cain and then see how God handled this. God didn’t have regard to Cain’s offering, and Cain was extremely angry:

Genesis 4:5: “But He did not have regard unto Cain and his offering. And Cain was extremely angry and his countenance fell. And the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you so angry? And why has your countenance fallen?’” (vs 5-6). He chose to be angry, instead of saying, ‘Lord, what should I do?’

Notice God’s answer and always remember that this applies to the Millennium, as well. *God offers repentance!* If you repent you’ll be accepted.

Verse 7: “If you do well, shall you not be accepted? But if you do not do well, sin lies at the door...” *Sin is the transgression of the Law*, and a greater definition is that *‘sin is lawlessness.’ Sin is also disobeying the voice of God!*

“...sin lies at the door. Its desire *is* for you, but you must rule over it!” (v 7)—*free moral agency!*

- we must choose
- we must choose to put sin out
- we must choose to repent to God

If we do, God will forgive us!

Sin is for you, “...but you must rule over it!” You can’t let sin control your life.

Verse 8: “And Cain talked with his brother Abel. And it came to pass that when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. And the LORD said unto Cain, ‘Where is your brother Abel?’ And he said, ‘I do not know. *Am I my brother’s keeper?*’ And He said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries to Me from the ground’” (vs 8-10).

Cain expected the death penalty, but God says, ‘No, I’m going to let you live. I’m going to put a mark on you, and I’m going to exile you.’ Notice the steps:

- sin—not unto physical death
- Adam and Eve were removed and they continued to live
- they were cutoff from salvation
- they lived their lives and they understood about some of the Laws of God

How they kept them we don’t know! We know from Josephus that they had 56 children, and all of them had children, and all of them had children.

So, here’s Cain: What did God do with him? Did God let him live right there where Adam and Eve were living outside the Garden of Eden? *No! He exiled Cain to the land of Nod, or the land of wandering! He was completely cutoff! Cutoff from God!* We don’t know about Cain’s descendants; we don’t know if any of them ever repented or not, it doesn’t tell us.

- Gen. 4 gives the line of Cain
- Gen. 5 gives the line of the patriarchs
- Gen. 6 gives the Flood

Look what happened and why God had to bring the Flood.

If someone is a sinner and will not repent, they are exiled! Sent away!

Let’s see the same thing with the Canaanites. After the blessing and promise given to Abraham, they’re going to take over the land. When the children of Israel went in there, look at all the sins that they did, what they committed.

With Israel, remember how it started out. ‘*If you will obey My voice you’ll be to Me a nation of priests.*’ They said they would. God gave the Ten Commandments, but since they were a physical nation He also gave ordinances and statutes and lesser laws to help regulate society. With that also came the death penalty, because they were a sovereign nation.

You look at all that was there, and there were things that people did that they could repent of, offer and offering and sacrifice, pay a fine, offer a sacrifice and they could continue to live. But if they did something that was *unto death* the death penalty was administered to them. *In all these cases that we’re talking about, this is the first death!*

Think about the ten tribes of Israel, how they came into being with the separation because of the sins of Solomon. Jeroboam setup the two calves in Dan in the North and Bethel in the South. This thing became sin, so God punished them by sending nations to invade them, war against them. How many ever really repented we don’t know. None of the kings of the ten northern tribes were ever commended for their righteousness. Some few of Judah were.

What happened to them? Since God’s plan continues on, and He desired not to execute the death penalty on all of them, He sent them into exile! After God commanded them to walk in the way that they should, not after the nations around them:

2-Kings 17:9: “Now, the children of Israel secretly did things that *were* not right against the LORD their God...” Here’s the real key: there’s no such thing as a secret sin *because God knows!*

“...And they built high places in all their cities for themselves from the Watch Tower to the fortified city. And they set up images and groves for themselves in every high hill, and under every green tree. And they burned incense in all the high places, like the nations whom the LORD had removed from before them, and they practiced evil things to provoke the LORD to anger, for they served the idols of which the LORD had said to them, ‘You shall not do this thing’” (vs 9-12).

Here’s something else that God always does. ‘The wages of sin is death,’ yet, that is the ultimate result of it, not immediate. God always offers

repentance. How does He offer repentance?

Verse 13: “And the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, **by all the prophets, by all the seers, saying**, ‘Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments *and* My statutes...’”

During the Millennium, if someone sins the same thing will apply. Didn't we read in Isa. 30 that if they go the right hand or the left hand that we will say, ‘here's the way, walk in it.’ *That's a warning!*

- What if they don't walk in it?
- What if they don't repent?
- What's going to happen?

Here's the warning; this is what God does to the nation. We'll talk about the individual in a little bit.

“...‘Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments *and* My statutes according to all the law, which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets’” (v 13). Isn't that what it's going to be for us administering people in the Millennium?

- we're going to bring God's Word
- we're going to tell them what to do

And if by free moral agency they sin, they will be offered repentance. If they repent they can stay in the community. Isn't that the way God works? *Yes, indeed!* For you to understand that, read 2-Chron. about Josiah and what he did. The people were able to remain in the land for the time being.

Verse 14: “Nevertheless, they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like the neck of their fathers who did not believe in the LORD their God. And *they* rejected His statutes and His covenant, which He made with their fathers, and His warnings that He testified against them. And they went after vanity, and became vain, and went after the nations around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them not to do like them. And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God and made molten images, two calves for themselves. And they made a grove, and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal” (vs 14-16). What a whole stack of sins that is!

Verse 17: “And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire. And they used divination and sorceries, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. So, **the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them out of His sight...**” (vs 17-18).

He sent the Assyrians to take them captive and to send them into captivity, exiled them! So, whenever God does not desire to execute someone

for their sins immediately, they are removed. Let's take that principle and we'll apply it to the Millennium.

Someone sins, *they repent!* Let's see what the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians with a man who sinned. Was he removed? Let's see what happened. We are not going allow, during the Millennium, sins to pile up. But nevertheless, when there sin and there is no repentance, they cannot stay in the community. Of course, the death penalty can be executed against anyone at any time if they do something worthy of death. But if the sinner remains a sinner for a hundred years, he's going to die accursed because he hasn't repented of his sins.

Here's what happened because this man did not repent, and he people were responsible:

1-Corinthians 5:1: “*It is commonly reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—allowing one to have his own father's wife.... [his step-mother] ...You are puffed up and did not grieve instead, so that he who did this deed might be taken out of your midst*” (vs 1-2)—removed from the fellowship.

Or in the case of during the Millennium, removed from the fellowship/community. You've got the churches, wherever they are—and there will be lots and lots of churches... They will be removed from the community. In this case, in Corinth, he went home.

Verse 4: “In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together... [against those who sin] ...and my spirit, together with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ to deliver such a one to Satan for *the* destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (vs 4-5).

In the Millennium, Satan will be gone! So where will they deliver them? *That will be something like a repentance center, that through prayer and study, repentance and teaching, the person can be reinstated after repentance!* That's what Paul said:

2-Corinthians 2:6: “To such a one this punishment, which *was inflicted* by the majority of you, is sufficient.” So, if there is enough punishment that is sufficient to bring a person to repentance, then they can come back into the community.

Verse 7: “So that on the contrary, you should rather forgive and encourage *him*, lest such a one be swallowed up with overwhelming sorrow.” Especially during the Millennium, because they will understand what's going to happen with the plan of

God, and they are going to know that they are going to lose out on eternal life.

So, for those sins, which are repentable sins, and they can come to repentance and be re-established in the community and the fellowship, they'll be brought back. So, Paul says that he didn't want him "...swallowed up with overwhelming sorrow."

Verse 8: "For this reason, I exhort you to confirm *your* love toward him.... [because all of this is done in love] ...Now, for this *cause* I wrote to you, that I might know by testing you whether you are obedient in everything. But to whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*; and if I also have forgiven anything, to whomever I have forgiven *it*, for your sakes *I forgave it in the person of Christ*" (vs 8-10).

Since Satan isn't around any longer, you can't turn them over to Satan. So, you turn them over to a *repentance center*.

- What if they don't repent there?
- What do you do?

(go to the next track)

Let's understand what Jesus said when someone sins. We also know that forgiveness is granted upon repentance, and that's the important thing to understand. God also grants repentance. So if there is:

- repentance
- a broken heart
- a contrite spirit

God will grant repentance, and they'll be brought back into the community.

Matt. 18 shows us how we are to handle things today, but it's a principle for us that will apply during the Millennium as well.

Matthew 18:11: "For the Son of man has come to save those who are lost." Of course, those who are lost have to repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit. That's what's going to have to happen during the Millennium, as well. So, Jesus asks:

Verse 12: "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, *does he* not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and search for the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. Likewise, it is not *the* will of your Father Who *is* in heaven that one of these little ones should perish" (vs 12-14).

So, we need to keep that in mind. God wants

mercy and not sacrifice! God wants people to repent so they can receive eternal life. But like everything else, when we sin and repent, we have to learn the lesson, and understand what we need to do to not do it again. If it comes up again in our mind, we need to repent for the things that come into our mind so that we can have God's Spirit help us cleanse our mind, our heart and our thoughts. *That same process will be for the ones who are righteous during the Millennium!*

Verse 15: "*So* then, if your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault between you and him alone. **If** he is willing to hear you, you have gained your brother." That's what God wants; redemption and reconciliation, of course!

Verse 16: "But **if** he will not listen, take with you one or two others, so that in *the* mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." You know exactly what happened, what went on, what the situation is, what needs to be done and what needs to be repented of.

Verse 17: "And **if** he fails to listen to them, tell *it* to the Church. But **if** he also fails to listen to the Church, let him be to you as the heathen and the tax collector. Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on the earth will have already been bound in heaven; and whatever you shall loose on the earth will have already been loosed in heaven" (vs 17-18)—according to the will of God *first*. Let's take this and apply it to during the Millennium.

Isaiah 65:20: "There will not be an infant who lives but a few days, nor an old man that has not filled his days, for the child will die a hundred years old..." we've cover what's going to be an instantaneous death and transformation to eternal life.

"...but the sinner *who is* a hundred years old shall be accursed" (v 21). I made the statement that if someone sins a sin unto death that he will be executed. *NO!* I've thought about that and I think that it's going to be exactly as it was with Cain.

- Did Cain murder? *Yes!*
- Was it willful and malicious? *Yes!*
- Was that deserving of the death penalty? *Yes!*
- Did God execute the death penalty upon Cain? *No!*
- What did He do? *He further exiled him away, far, far away to the land of Nod!*

If the sinner is going to be accursed at a hundred and dies and is buried, he is looking forward to resurrection to the Lake of Fire. So, let's see if we can answer this conundrum.

- What happens if someone is sent to a repentance center and they don't repent?
- What are you going to do then?

They absolutely refuse to repent, because free moral agency is *free moral agency*, and God isn't going to strip that away, otherwise we become robots! But if they choose not to repent, just like with the children of Israel who sinned, just like Cain who sinned, **God removes them into further exile!**

I think we will find the answer in Rev. 20. We know that before the Millennium begins Satan is bound, so Satan is nowhere around.

Revelation 20:7: "Now, when the thousand years have been completed, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison... [notice what he does] ...and he shall go out to deceive the nations that *are* in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog..." (vs 7-8).

Stop right here! Did we not read on Day 1 or 2 that Gog and Magog are going to be defeated by God shortly after the beginning of the Millennium and that they will know that God is Lord? *Yes!* Do we also know that God is no respecter of persons? *Yes!* So, when we read this—Gog and Magog—there are two ways to look at it:

1. the people

At the beginning of the Millennium, those who lived in that area are going to come to know the Lord. But how big is Gog and Magog? *It's quite a huge area!*

2. geographical area of Gog and Magog—perhaps not the whole nation

We find the same thing in the Bible. It talks about Israel as the people, and it talks about Israel as the land. If you're going to exile someone because they refuse to repent, you have to send them someplace where they will remain, and they have to die accursed and buried.

Will there be a section of Gog and Magog that God reserves for that? *We can conclude from what we have covered so far, undoubtedly it has to be something like that.*

"...Gog and Magog, of whom the number is as the sand of the sea, to gather them together for war" (v 8).

What's going to happen in the last generation of the thousand years, the full 100-year period. Those who sin a sin unto death, but will not have an opportunity to die will be exiled to the geographical area of Gog and Magog.

Something is going to happen in that last generation. We don't know what it is, but remember what we covered: *the problem of growing up in a*

perfect world: complacency, disobedience and sin, or rebellion, however you want it. ***Unrepented sin!***

How many that's going to be in the last 100 years that will not repent—they'll be given every chance to repent—will be further removed, exiled, to Gog and Magog and then God is going to bring about their first death, because they will not have had a chance to live a hundred years as a sinner and to die and be buried. Here's what's going to happen:

"...Satan shall be loosed out of his prison; and he shall go out to deceive the nations that *are* in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, of whom the number *is* as the sand of the sea, to gather them together for war" (vs 7-8).

Notice what's going to happen to them; they're all going to die at once; v 9: "Then *I saw* them go up upon the breadth of the earth and encircle the camp of the saints, and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven and consumed them." The flames devoured them, burned them up.

What we have here is the first death. Do not those people have to be removed before the beginning of the Great White Throne Judgment? *Yes, indeed!* How many people who have not reached a hundred, but are righteous will live on over to the beginning of the Great White Throne Judgment to help those people get established into what is the way of God?

We'll cover that tomorrow. This becomes very important for us to realize, because Satan now has to have his judgment and the end of the Millennium, the 7th day of the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the final judgment of Satan the devil. Since he's a spirit being, immortal, he cannot die, but he is likewise going to be exiled; removed and put out of commission.

Verse 10: "And the Devil, who deceived them, was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *had been cast...* [that was at the beginning of the Millennium] ...and they, *Satan and the demons*, shall be tormented day and night into the ages of eternity."

We assume that they're going to be tormented by the fire day and night for eternity. But the Lake of Fire consumes the whole earth and burns everything up to prepare it for the new earth. So, Satan is removed!

Jude tells us what's going to happen to Satan and the demons; very interesting, indeed!

Jude 8: "In the same way also, these dreamers of *filthy dreams* are defiling *the flesh*, and

are declaring as invalid *the* Lordship of *God*, and are blaspheming *the* Divine powers. But Michael the archangel, when he was personally taking issue with the devil, disputing about the body of Moses..." (vs 8-9).

That must have been some argument going on there. Just think what Satan would have done if he would have had the body of Moses. You know, incase it in a coffin filled with honey so he wouldn't rot.

"...did not presume to pronounce a reviling judgment against *him*, but said, '*The Lord Himself rebuke you!*' As for these, whatever things they do not understand, they blaspheme; but whatever things they understand by instinct, as irrational brute beasts, they are corrupting themselves in these things" (vs 9-10).

That's a perfect description of what's going to happen in the exiled area where the sinners go who committed a sin worthy unto death, but are exiled instead of being executed at that time.

Verse 11: "Woe to them! For they have walked in the way of Cain; and for gain, they have wholly given themselves up to Balaam's delusion, and have perished in the rebellion of Korah. These are subversive stains in your love feasts, feasting in person together *with you*; fearlessly they are feeding themselves. *They are* clouds without water... [this is referring now back to the demons] ... being driven by the winds; trees of late autumn, without *any* fruit, uprooted, **twice dead**" (vs 11-12). Those are the humans that the demons deceive.

Verse 13: "Raging waves of *the* sea, casting up like foam their own *ignominious* shame; **wandering stars...**"

That's the key of the demons; stars represent the angels of God. Lucifer and one-third of the angels followed him—who were stars previously—in the rebellion. This is talking about "...wandering stars..."

- they left God's way
- they left the Truth
- they followed Satan the devil

Satan had his own kingdom; they ruled over the earth! But here they are now "...wandering stars..."

"...for whom has been reserved the blackest darkness forever!" (v 13). That is the torment day and night *forever*. They will be exiled to someplace in the universe, wherever it is.

They understand some things about the universe concerning black holes. They have to be the darkest of blackness and once something goes in

there it never comes out. Would that not be the perfect eternal warning by God to all of those who are now in the Kingdom of God, the Family of God and ready to inherit New Jerusalem and the new heavens and the new earth?

Never rebel against God, because the earth is not going to be burning forever and ever. Peter tells us that it's going to consume the earth, the atmosphere around the earth, and then God is going to create, renew the earth for all the spiritual sons and daughters of God: families, nations and so forth as spirit beings.

Those who are the firstfruits, we will see tomorrow, will live in New Jerusalem. So, that is Satan's fate, ***the blackness of darkness forever!***

What does this mean for us today? This means that if we understand these things, understand the situation, understand the plan of God, what should we be doing? ***We need to be yielding ourselves to God to make our election sure!*** That's what we need to be doing.

Let's see Peter's admonition to us. Remember where we started on the night of welcome: ***where there is no vision, the people perish!*** But where people keep the vision, keep the understanding, realize the goal that's ahead and ***always working for it***; let nothing hold you back. If and when you sin, repent! God is there and He will forgive you! Ask Him to help you overcome, change and grow.

Notice what Peter wrote; he wrote this urgent epistle just before he died, and he told them he knew he was going to die, so he was writing this so they would have it.

2-Peter 1:1: "Simon Peter a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained ***the same precious faith as ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.***"

All of this comes spiritually from God! This is how we are going to succeed. This is how all of us need to succeed. Let's understand what God is doing for us. ***The special firstfruits, the Church of the Firstborn!***

Verse 2: "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in *the* knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, according as His Divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by *His own* glory and virtue" (vs 2-3).

- He's called us to live like God
- He's called us to be like God

Verse 4 is the key thing for us so that *we carry the understanding and Truth, and live according to the way that God wants us to:*

- so we can continue to grow and grace and knowledge
- so we can continue to understand the Word of God
- so that we can be strong in the faith
- so that we can be strong in Christ
- so that we can be strong in the knowledge of God

This is a promise, v 3: “According as His Divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by *His own* glory and virtue; through which He has given to us **the greatest and most precious promises...**” (vs 3-4).

- There is nothing greater, nothing in the world to compare with the Truth of God!
- There is nothing in the religions of men that compare to the promises of God!

“...that through these you may become **partakers of the Divine nature...**” (v 4). *Think of that!* What is that going to be like, to have the very nature of God as His own sons and daughters? To live forever in New Jerusalem? And whatever God’s plan for the whole universe is that we will have a part of? *That is going to be truly, truly an amazing thing!*

“...having escaped the corruption *that is in the world through lust*” (v 4).

Here is how we escape it and how we do the things so that we will be there working with Christ and all the saints, ruling for the whole Millennium and see all of things that we have learned during this Feast take place and actually be a part of it and bring it to pass.

Verse 5: “And for this very reason also, having applied all diligence besides...” If you’re diligent you have vision. If you vision you will have diligence. It’s exactly what Peter is talking about here:

“...add to your faith, **virtue...**”—good conduct, good thoughts, all built on love.

“...and to virtue, **knowledge...**” (v 5). He tells us in the last part that we are to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- think of all the knowledge that we have today
- think of all the things that God has given us today
- think of the things that He has given to us

with the understanding of His Word

Always remember: *We have nothing we didn’t receive, and it is in Him that we live, move and have our being!*

Verse 6: “And to knowledge, **self-control...**” That’s the whole purpose of growing and overcoming. Self control through:

- the power of God’s Holy Spirit
- making the right choices of God
- the Word of God
- the understanding and patience that comes from God

“...and to self-control, **endurance...**”—because we have to endure to the end! Remember this: Here’s a ravine with a cliff on each side, and in order to get to the Kingdom of God you’ve got to jump over this ravine, because that’s the cesspool of the world.

- IF you make it 50%, you’re not going to attain
- IF you make it 80%, you’re not enduring to the end and you fall down into the crevasse
- IF you make it 90%, if you can grab hold of something on the other side and exert great power, then maybe you can be lifted up and make it

But, today we have so much given to us that God expects us—as He told the Laodiceans—to *repent*. He Apostle Peter is saying that the process of repenting and growing is right here.

“...and to endurance, **Godliness**” (v 6). Godliness doesn’t come easily, especially when you’re fighting against the carnal mind.

Verse 7: “And to Godliness, **brotherly love...**” You see how this builds step-by-step.

“...and to brotherly love, **the love of God**” (v 7). Notice what Peter says, because this is important, We’ve seen all the things during the Feast of Tabernacles and the great things that Christ is going to do for all the world, for all people. He’s giving us the opportunity to be there with Him to rule as kings and priests.

Verse 8: “For *if* these things exist and abound in you, they *will* cause you to be neither lacking effort nor lacking fruit in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.... [because you keep that vision] ...But the one in whom these things are not present is *spiritually* blind—so short-sighted *that* he has forgotten that he was purified from his old sins. **For this reason, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure; because if you are doing these things, you will never fall at**

any time” (vs 8-10).

You won't fail! You may stumble, but you're not going to fall away. God has given this knowledge and understanding to us! The Feast of Tabernacles is a wonderful time for us to have the fellowship and be together. God in His merciful graciousness has given us one more day, *the Last Great Day*, which will be the most phenomenal time in the whole history of the world!

We will be there as the firstborn Church, as the firstfruits of God, administering the greatest salvation all during the Millennium and then the Last Great Day!

Come back tomorrow and we will hear the rest of the story!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 1:4-8, 11
- 2) Isaiah 65:17-25, 20
- 3) Hebrews 9:27
- 4) 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17
- 5) 1 Corinthians 15:50-51
- 6) Isaiah 65:20
- 7) Genesis 4:5-10
- 8) 2 Kings 17:9-18
- 9) 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 4-5
- 10) 2 Corinthians 2:6-10
- 11) Matthew 18:11-18
- 12) Isaiah 65:20-21
- 13) Revelation 20:7-10
- 14) Jude 8-13
- 15) 2 Peter 1:1-10

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 28
- Revelation 21; 22
- Ezekiel 36
- Revelation 15; 16; 19
- Genesis 3:15; 5; 6
- Isaiah 30

Also referenced: Sermons: *Spirit of God/Spirit of Man—7 Spirits of God #1 & #2*

FRC: bo
Transcribed: 8/13/17

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The Last Great Day The Second Resurrection & Judgment Day!

Revealing the fullness of God's plan
Fred R. Coulter—October 12, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Last Great Day! What a great day this will be when the time for its fulfillment comes! It is actually the day that the whole world is waiting for, but they don't know it. They can't understand why the world is the way that it is.

Even for those who are 'Christians' in the world, even some who keep the Sabbath but don't keep the Holy Days, do not know how God is going to solve all of the problems of the sins of mankind; especially when you find all the Holy Days listed in Lev. 23.

As we have covered before, Lev. 23 is like a bag of seeds, and each Holy Day is like a seed that unfolds into a plant and produces beautiful fruit. Well, the Last Great Day unfolds an orchard and produces greater fruit.

We're going to see that the Last Great Day is the least explained in one place, but has other Scripture that can fill in all the details. It's just listed as the eighth day. It appears to be least important of all the days, but in fact, as we will see, it is the most important, because *it reveals the fullness of God's plan!*

Leviticus 23:33: "And the LORD spoke to Moses saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, saying, "The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD"' (vs 33-34). We have kept that.

Verse 35: "On the first day shall be a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work therein." Then the offerings at the temple were to be every day made by fire.

Verse 36: "Seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day shall be a Holy convocation to you. And you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly. And you shall do no servile work therein."

Then He gives a summary concerning all the Feasts of the Lord. This tells us our relationship with God concerning the Feast and that God has something very important on all of these Feast days.

Verse 37: "These are the Feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be Holy convocations to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a

sacrifice, and drink offerings, everything on its day; besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, and besides your gifts, and besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD" (vs 37-38). This is why we take up an offering on all of the Holy Days.

We don't give offerings day by day from the point of view that there are no animal sacrifices required. So, taking up an offering as God says:

- we are to give an offering 'according to the blessing that God had given us'
- we are to give 'according to the promises given to us'
- we are to give from the heart, not grudgingly

The grace of God will provide for us so that we will have sufficiency in all things. Then when we enter into the Kingdom of God, then we have the fullness of everything!

This Last Great Day was not named the Last Great Day until we find it recorded in John 7. So, we'll pause and take up an offering.

We thank you for it in advance, thank you for your goodness and mercy in helping us in every way. It helps us to get the Gospel out to all of those who will hear and give a warning message as well.

(pause for the offering)

As you view the history of mankind on earth, they've been beset with problems, sins, wars, fighting, killing, earthquakes, disasters, fires, floods, troubles in everyone's individual life. Of course, today we're facing all the lawlessness that is going on; every person doing what is right in their own eyes.

Because lawlessness is multiplied, 'the love of many has grown cold.' So, we're confronted with intractable problems. People ask: Why God doesn't intervene to stop it?

- He hasn't stopped war
- He hasn't stopped murder
- He hasn't stopped sin

He hasn't stopped things that are very important such as:

- abortion
- crime
- mental illness
- despair

- Satan the devil and the demons (until the beginning of the Millennium)

All mankind has been subjected to all of these things as a result of sin, and it goes all the way back to Adam and Eve and their sin. It comes forward clear down to this time, as pictured by the Last Great Day.

Let's understand something really important, which you already know: Satan the devil has blinded the eyes of people to understand the Truth and gets them to sin and disobey, which automatically closes their mind and they can't understand.

John 7 is a very good example of it, because it goes beyond just the meaning of the day, and actually applies to all of mankind and the finale of God's plan. It doesn't tell us here; it just identifies the day and then tells us something else that's very special.

John 7:37: "Now, in **the last day, the great day of the Feast**, Jesus stood and called out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.'" That sounds a little bit like John 4, rivers of living water.

Notice no qualifiers, v 38: "The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said..." We need to understand that the Scripture applies at many different times.

"...out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, which those who believed in Him would soon receive; for *the* Holy Spirit was not yet *given* because Jesus was not yet glorified" (vs 38-39).

Let's tie that in with John 3:16. Think about this: there were over 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until Christ came, though that was the first thing that was prophesied after Adam and Eve had sinned. But it took 4,000 years. We need to look at the full scope of the time-plan of God in order to understand how these Scriptures will apply at different times.

Obviously, the Holy Spirit came to those who believed, beginning on Pentecost in 30_{A.D.} And the Holy Spirit is given to those who repent, and are baptized, accept Jesus as Savior, and are willing to love and obey God.

That excludes how many people? Those who are called now are the *called, chosen and few and faithful!* From the time of Adam and Eve down to Christ, very few were ever saved for eternal life. So, when you read John 3:16—of course, most people know this; they've heard it—but the truth is that it has a far greater meaning than they have ever

understood, which is explained with the Millennium and the Last Great Day.

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." How can you say that God loves the world when there's so much hatefulness, war, killing and every sin going on in the world?

- tragedies
- upsets
- earthquakes
- floods
- disasters

How does God love the world when those thing take place all the time? That's a good question, but they never ask: Why are we really suffering? *That's because beginning with Adam and Eve they accepted Satan the devil as the one who would teach them, instead of God!*

Yet, right there when that happened, God gave the prophecy that He was going to save mankind. Up to this time He hasn't saved very many. During the Millennium He's going to save a lot. So, the answer comes in the eighth day—#8 means *a new beginning*.

"...so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have everlasting life" (v 16).

- How is God going to give that?
- How many people lived and died and didn't even know about Jesus?
- How many have heard of Jesus really understand what God is doing with His plan and His people? *How it's accomplished!*

This is why we have the Holy Days, because this tells us how God is going to do it. We love God and keep His commandments, keep His Sabbath and His Holy Days, put the Scriptures to know what God is doing. That's how God has hidden it from the world. Yet, His Word is going to remain absolutely true. It's going to be carried out in great, magnificent and awesome way.

Here's a very interesting thing. When Lazarus got sick and Jesus deliberately stayed away so Lazarus would die. He did it for a purpose. Some would say that that was mean of Jesus to do that. *NO!* He wanted to teach a lesson. When we come to John 11, as He was coming back, Martha went out to meet Him:

John 11:21: "And Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not

have died.” Let’s take that statement there and think about the principle of it. If God could prevent it, which He can, why didn’t He do it?

God is not in the business of preventing sin! He is in the business of forgiving and overcoming sin! Also, to show a purpose here, *that through Him is the resurrection!*

After Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would be raised from the dead and she said she knew that, *on the last day.*

Verse 25: “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he die, shall live *again*.’” Again, that has to be applied many different ways.

So, they went out to the tomb and He called for Lazarus to come out of the tomb. He was raised from the dead and walked out of the tomb, still having the grave clothes on him, and taking off the death napkin that was over his head.

I wonder what he thought when he got out of the grave? He stood there and here are all these people. ‘What are you all doing here? What is this?’ *That’s the tomb where you were buried!* ‘Really? I died?’ *Yes, and Jesus raised you from the dead!*

Jesus did that so that Lazarus could live long enough to receive salvation, which is the whole message of the Last Great Day. The key to understanding the Last Great Day is to fulfill whomever believes, to fulfill anyone who believes on Jesus will receive the Holy Spirit and be saved and will have their sins forgiven. That means anyone down through time in history. So, let’s see how that’s accomplished.

Rev. 20 gives us the key. We know that 1-Cor. 15 tells us that when Christ returns, those who are His will be raised from the dead. That’s depicted by the Feast Day of Pentecost, but what about the rest of the people? By the time we come to Rev. 20 Satan is bound, the resurrected saints begin to rule over the world with Jesus Christ. We’ll be kings and priests and reign a thousand years.

Here is a inset sentence; the only one that gives us the true key that answers the question about those who died and never knew, and that’s almost all of mankind.

Revelation 20:5: “(But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed.)....”

Then it says that those in the first resurrection, v 6: “Blessed and Holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection...” and will reign with Christ.

At the end of the thousand years Satan is loosed for his last mission. We covered that on Day 7. Now let’s notice what takes place in v 11. Here we have the ending of the thousand years. Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire and bound in the darkest blackness forever. When it says Satan, that means all the demons as well.

Verse 11: “Then I saw a great white throne and the One Who was sitting on it, from Whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead...” (vs 11-12).

Who are these? *The rest of the dead that never heard, never knew, and did not commit the unpardonable sin!* The last part of the Last Great Day has to do with eliminating those who committed the unpardonable sin.

We know, as Paul wrote, that God acknowledges those who keep some of the Laws of God and do not sin a sin unto death; that is *a sin unto eternal death!* That in the Day of Judgment God will deal with them. What do we have here?

Verse 12: “And I saw the dead small and great, standing before God; and *the* books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged out of the things written in the books, according to their works.”

Let’s stop here for just a minute and understand a couple of things very important to know. *The wages of sin is death!* They lived their lives and they were sinners and they died. But they didn’t sin a sin unto eternal death. That becomes important, because there are other Scriptures that describes that there are going to be those who are raised from the dead unto judgment:

- who were never called
- who never knew
- who never had an opportunity

Think of this for a minute: If God does not give an opportunity for salvation to the vast majority of people, is He not a respecter of persons? *He would be*, wouldn’t He? So, this is why we have what is called, what we call *the second resurrection*. They are raised from the dead to be judged, not on how they lived their first life, but on how they live the second life.

This is not a second chance; *this is their first chance!* They never had a first chance, and yet, God wants all to be saved who would believe, all to receive the Spirit who believe in Him. So, He must give them an opportunity to believe in Him. That’s why this time.

Let's see something very interesting in Matt. 12. These are some of the Scriptures that a lot of people don't understand. If they believe that their soul goes to heaven, they couldn't possibly understand these Scriptures. They're very hard for some people to understand who know part of the Truth.

Matthew 12:31: "Because of this, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men **except the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit; that shall not be forgiven to men.**"

The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is the unpardonable sin! The Holy Spirit comes directly from God the Father and Jesus Christ, and those people reject it and refuse it, and that blasphemy is so great that they have:

- *rejected* God
- *rejected* salvation
- *rejected* the Truth

This is why all judgment has been given to Christ, because He knows the hearts of men. Those people, we'll see later, will be in the resurrection unto the Lake of Fire, which is the second death.

Verse 32: "And whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, **neither in this age...**" The time that they're living their lives now, or whenever they lived their lives, because the age of man is from Adam until the completion of the age up to the beginning of the Millennium.

"...**nor in the coming age**" (v 32). What is the coming age? *If they die it has to be after the 1,000-year period!* That was hard for people to understand, but the key to understanding it we find in the Old Testament, as well, but the key to unlock this mystery is not understood until:

Revelation 20:5: "(But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed.)..." That's all whomever lived and died. Those who believed in Christ will be resurrected on Pentecost before the Millennium begins.

Matthew 12:38: "Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, 'Master, we desire to see a sign from You.' And He answered *and* said to them, 'A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. For just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, in like manner the Son of man shall be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights'" (vs 38-40).

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is

a guarantee that all the words of God will take place and come true. Verse 41 without Rev. 20:5 and Ezek. 37, how are you going to understand this verse?

Verse 41: "*The men of Nineveh shall stand up in the judgment with... [alongside; these were generations at different historical times] ...this generation and shall condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah; and behold, a greater than Jonah is here.*" Let's think about this verse for a minute:

- "...shall stand up..."—resurrection
- "...in the judgment with this generation..."—separated by hundreds of years
- "...and shall condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah..."

Though they repented, they didn't receive eternal life at that time. Why? *Christ had not come!* Christ was not preached to them. They just had repentance toward God because of their sins, which they did. But they still died. They died in the condition that they had not committed the unpardonable sin.

Another example of this, v 42: "*The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation...*" That's another period of time that's different from Jonah; probably about 400 years removed from the time of Jonah. This is why Jesus is giving this.

Verse 42: "*The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation... [at the same time] ...and shall condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*"

This is repeated in Luke 11 as well. So, 'with' means *at the same time*. What do we also have here is the generation that Jesus was speaking to were the children of Israel, the Jews during His ministry. He made it clear that 'many are called but few are chosen.'

That generation is also going to be raised to a second physical life. How do we know that? *Psa. 85* is a very interesting Psalm that talks about living again. This is in relationship to the children of Israel coming back out of captivity from Babylon. Here in this verse is something that probably pertains to the second resurrection. Let's see that a lot of these people died, but they hadn't committed the unpardonable sin:

Psalm 85:3: "You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger. Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause

Your anger toward us to cease. Will You be angry with us forever? Will You draw out Your anger to all generations? Will You not give us life again...” (vs 3-6). Doesn’t that sound like they had died?

“...so that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy... [after receiving life again] ...O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.... [they didn’t have salvation then] ...I will hear what God the LORD will speak; for He will speak peace to His people, and to His saints... [the Church] ...but let them not turn again to folly” (vs 6-8).

This time they can’t go back and sin, because if they do, there will be no salvation. It’s also very interesting that if you read the last part of Ezek. 36, this is about the children of Israel coming out of captivity to begin the Millennium. Ezek. 37 is another whole phase of God’s plan. When they come back out of captivity, these are the ones who are alive.

- How many of the children of Israel died down through their history that never received salvation? *Nearly all of them!*
- Is God going to forget them?
- Is God going to forget the rest of the world and all of those who have lived and died? *He made them in His image!*
- What is He going to do with them?

The answer is contain right here:

Ezekiel 37:1: “The hand of the LORD was on me, and brought me by the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of a valley, and it *was* full of bones.” This is a way of telling you that they lived one life. You can’t have bones of someone unless they have lived one life.

Verse 2: “And He made me walk among them all around. And behold, very many *were* in the open valley. And lo, *they were very dry.*” Showing this is death going back a long, long time.

Verse 3: “And He said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ And I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, You know.’” Nothing is too hard for the Lord! He knows!

As we read more of this, I want you to see how it is structured, because what God does He tells Ezekiel what He’s going to do and then He does it. The Bible is structured this way in many, many places. Let’s see how this works:

Verse 4: “Again He said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, “O dry bones, hear the Word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, ‘Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews on

you, and will bring up flesh on you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live. And you shall know that I *am* the LORD’”” (vs 4-6).

God tells Ezekiel what He’s going to do: *restore life to these people.* Here are the bones:

- What about the people that died in the oceans?
- Consumed by sharks?
- What about people burned in fire? *No bones!*

But this is a way of showing the resurrection. So, just like we find in Heb. 12, that there are ‘the spirits of just men perfected’ that will be the instrument of resurrection—the first resurrection for all the saints—likewise, there has to be a place where God stores every *spirit of man* who has lived and died: man, woman and child, and even newly conceived. You are what you are at the time you are conceived. All the rest of it is a matter of growth, birth and living a human life.

Verse 7: “So, I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a noise. And behold, a shaking! And the bones came together, a bone to its bone.” This must have been very startling to him.

Verse 8: “And as I watched, behold the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them above. But *there was* no breath in them. And He said to me, ‘Prophesy to the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Come from the four winds, **O breath, and breathe on these slain that they may live.**”’” So, I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army” (vs 8-10).

What did we find in Rev. 20? *The rest of the dead were raised and stood before the Great White Throne,* and there were so many that there was no place left over for them. That tells you the vast group of all human beings who have lived and died:

- never had a chance for salvation
 - never knew about Christ
- or if they did they*
- never knew the Truth

standing before the throne! Here we find *how* God is going to accomplish that. True enough, this is to Israel.

- What do we find in the New Testament? *To Israel and the Jew first, and to the Gentile!*
- What did we find in Matt. 12? *The Gentiles*

and Jews resurrected together!

- What do we have here? *Israel resurrected!*

Let's see what's going to happen to them! Will they remember their past life? *Yes, we'll see that they remember their past life, because God takes that 'spirit of man' that went back to God at their death and puts it into a new body and a new mind! Everything that they were is stored on that 'spirit of man.'*

Verse 11: "And He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel... [all of them from beginning to end] ...Behold, they say...' They're able to talk, able to think, able to remember. What are they able to remember? *That their lives were really not very good!*

"...Our bones *are* dried and our hope is lost; we ourselves are completely cut off'" (v 11). No salvation! But that is just the beginning of the story. The account of what God is going to do, they're going to remember what they have done. They're going to repent.

The books are opened, and the Book of Life and their judged out of the things for eternal life that they are now going to do. They never had an opportunity to do until they were resurrected from the dead. If they were judged by what they did in their first life, then obviously there would be no salvation. But since they didn't sin a sin unto second death, then they have this second physical life for their first opportunity for salvation.

Let's see it right here, and this applies to all the people of the world:

Verse 12: "Therefore, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, and will bring you into the land of Israel.'"

In two verses He says 'grave' four times. So this shows that they were dead. Then you combine that with what we read in Matt. 12, and that includes the people of the world.

That's how God is going to fulfill John 3:16 and John 7 about anyone who believe will receive the Spirit of God, here it is. Now, when they're resurrected from the dead:

- Don't you think their minds are going to be opened?
- Don't you think they're going to be happy that they now have a chance for salvation?
- How about all of those who were killed in war?
- How about all of those who were aborted?

They never even knew that they existed! Someone is going to say, 'How is God going to resurrect them?' As long as they had 'the spirit of man'—and that's given at conception—then if they're killed in the womb that goes back to God. God will resurrect them as, probably, full term babies and give the majority of them back to their mothers who aborted them.

Think what a glorious thing that's going to be. Talk about undoing all evil! That's going to be fantastic!

Verse 13: "And you shall know that I *am* the LORD when I have opened your graves, O My people, and have brought you up out of your graves. And **I shall put My Spirit in you**...[conversion] ...and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. And **you shall know that I the LORD have spoken it and have done it,**' says the LORD" (v 13-14). We will see how this is going to be.

(go to the next track)

Here's a parable to explain something teach many lessons. If Protestants read this, they think there's heaven and hell. That's not true! There is eternal life and being with God, and heaven on the earth, and there is Gehenna fire, which is hell. But they're going to be burned up in it; the second death. But the Bible gives us some timeframes when these things occur. Because we know and understand the Holy Days, we can fit the timeframe.

Luke 16:19: "Now, there was a certain rich man, and he was clothed in purple and fine linen, and daily indulged himself in luxury. And there was a certain poor man named Lazarus, who was laid at his porch, full of sores. And he longed to be nourished with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table; and the dogs even came and licked his sores" (vs 19-21). That's a pretty sad situation.

Verse 22: "Now, it came to pass *that* the poor man died..." It doesn't say when he died; we don't know how many years it was from his death to the next part of this sentence. People can assume that it's immediate, but we find from 1-Cor. 15 that no one is raised from the dead until the return of Christ. We find from Matt. 24 when the angels carry us up to meet Christ in the air. So, there's no timeframe here. This is why you need the rest of the Bible to interpret these things.

"...and he was carried away by the angels into Abraham's bosom..." (vs 22). If you are Christ's then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise; so carried to Abraham's bosom.

"...And the rich man also died and was

buried. And in the grave he lifted up his eyes...” (vs 22-23). When will that take place? Do you open your eyes in the grave? *If you're not dead and you can get out of it, yes!* But when you open your eyes is when you're resurrected, and being resurrected back to flesh because Rev. 20 says 'this is the second death.'

Again, we need the timeframe. Now this is after the 100-year period of the Great White Throne Judgment.

“...and was in torment, *for* he saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom” (v 23). They're going to see all of those who are saved, all of those who are spirit beings.

Verse 24: “And he cried out *and* said, 'Father Abraham, have compassion on me and send Lazarus...’” What a change of attitude. But does there come a time that's too late for repentance? *Yes!* This is it!

“...so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am suffering because of this flame” (v 24). What is he doing? *Standing right there at the Lake of Fire!* The ones who have committed the unpardonable sin down through time are all going to be raised together to stand there to be thrown into the Lake of Fire. This is telling us what's going to happen without the timeframe. That's why it's easy to misunderstand and misinterpret the Scripture.

Verse 25: “Then Abraham said, 'Child, remember that in your lifetime... [the second lifetime for him; a second life. But the time for that life is going to be very short. you received good things to the full, and likewise Lazarus evil things. But now he is comforted, and you are suffering. And besides all these things, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed’” (vs 25-26). There's no way for flesh and blood to inherit the Kingdom of God. Isn't that what Paul wrote? *Yes, indeed!*

“...so that those who desire to pass from here to you are not able...” (v 26). You're not going to be able to go back and be a human being, flesh and blood, again. Now, in the Kingdom of God, you must be a spirit being to live forever and live in New Jerusalem on the earth, which will be a new earth.

“...nor can those from there pass to us” (v 26). Very interesting! That's the division between physical and spiritual, and the two will not meet.

Verse 27: “And he said, 'I beseech you then, father...’” Does he have a memory? *Yes!* He remembered what it was when he died.

“...that you would send him to my father's

house, for I have five brothers; so that he may earnestly testify to them, in order that they also may not come to this place of torment.” (vs 27-28). So, they're going to be tormented by seeing the Lake of Fire, then when they're cast it they'll all be burned up.

Verse 29: “Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them hear them.’” This is saying that 'at the time that your brothers were living and you were living they had Moses and the prophets. This also tells us that the rich man did not hear Moses and the prophets.

Jesus told the Pharisees, 'I know that you do not have the love of God in you. You do not have the Word of God in you, for it you did you would have loved Me. If you had believed Moses you would have believed Me' (John 5).

- Did they repent?
- Did they believe Jesus?

They will be in this group with the rich man.

Verse 30: “But he said, 'No, Father Abraham, but if one from *the* dead would go to them, they would repent.’” He understood that Lazarus had died, but now he has received salvation. He's saying, 'Send Lazarus because he was raised from the dead,' and they would believe him and repent.

Verse 31_[transcriber's correction]: “And he said to him, 'If they will not hear Moses and the prophets, they would not be persuaded even if one rose from *the* dead.’”

These are the ones who are going to be in the Lake of Fire. This is why you have rightly divide the Word of God, rightly put it together and you must love God, keep His commandments, keep His Sabbath and Holy Days in order to understand the Truth. So, a little bit of Truth over here *without that knowledge will do you no good*. A little bit of Truth over there *without the knowledge of God will do you no good*.

Rev. 20—what's going to happen here? They're all judged individually according to their works, regardless of how they died: whether in the sea, in the land, whatever. It even says in Deuteronomy that if you're in the farthest place in the heavens, God will even bring you back from there. So, there are probably going to be some people out there, astronauts, that are not going to make it back. There are already some that were blown up in space.

Here's what happens; they receive their final sentencing and they go into eternal fire; that is fire

that **God** started. What's going to happen with this fire?

Revelation 20:14: "And death and *the* grave were cast into the Lake of Fire...." The *King James Version* says, 'And death and hell were cast into the Lake of Fire,' because they mistranslate it. If hell is ever-burning, how do you cast hell into ever-burning fire? Ever-burning means *age lasting!* So, when this happens, and they're burned up, the age of man is going to come to a close in a fantastic and dramatic way.

"...This is **the second death**" (v 14)—which means that in order to die twice, you must live twice. How else could it be?

Verse 15: "And if anyone was not found written in the Book of Life, he was cast into the Lake of Fire." What's going to happen with that Lake of Fire? Peter knew this, but he didn't know the time-setting. Quite interesting how that God gives part of it in one place and part of it in another place; part of it in the Old Testament and part of it in the New Testament, etc.

2-Peter 3:7: "But the present heavens and earth are being held in store by His Word, *and* are being reserved for fire in *the* day of judgment and destruction of *the* ungodly"—second death; Lake of Fire!

Verse 8: "Now, beloved, do not let this one fact be hidden from you: that with *the* Lord, one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." He's not delaying!

He's going to return, v 10: "However, the Day of *the* Lord shall come as a thief in *the* night..."

Verse 11: "Since all these things are going to be destroyed, what kind of *persons* ought you to be in Holy conduct and Godliness, looking forward to and striving for the coming of the day of God, during which *the* heavens, being on fire..." (vs 11-12).

What's going to happen with the Lake of Fire? *The atmosphere around the earth is going catch fire!* It's going to burn up everything physical. As spirit being it won't affect us at all.

"...shall be destroyed, and *the* elements, burning with intense heat, shall melt?" (v 12). This is all in preparation for the new heaven and the new earth, and in preparation for God the Father and Jesus Christ to come into New Jerusalem. The earth is still going to be here, but it's going to be a *new* earth, a *new* heaven, exactly as it says. That's how it's going to be.

The first earth was for the angels; they

sinned, and it was destroyed with a flood. It was renewed and God created man to be on it. Still the same earth, but it was renewed, so it was like a new physical heaven and earth. After the fire is burned up and all of the wicked become ashes, then God is going to transform the earth into a place of dwelling for all of those who have entered into the Kingdom of God, and for all of those who are in the first resurrection we will be dwelling in New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:1: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea."

As human beings we need the seas to modulate the temperature, to keep it even and to have water. No more sea means that it is only going to be fit for spirit beings who do not need the sea.

Verse 2: "And I, John, saw the Holy City..." Remember what Jesus said to His disciples on the Passover night? *Behold, I'm going to prepare a place for you, and for all the saints!*

Now the earth has been prepared for all of those who are spirit beings, regardless whether it's the first resurrection or the second resurrection.

"...*the* New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice from heaven say, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men; and He shall dwell with them... [that is men and women made perfect] ...and they shall be His people; and God Himself shall be with them *and be* their God. And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and *there* shall not be anymore death, or sorrow, or crying; neither shall *there* be any more pain, because the former things have passed away'" (vs 2-4)—*and are burned up!*

Now we are ready for the greatest living possible, the greatest blessings possible, for the greatest relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ possible!

Verse 5: "And He Who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' Then He said to me, '**Write**...'" When God wants us to have the things that we need to know, He tells all of His servants to *write!* That way it's recorded for us.

"...for these words are true and faithful'" (v 5). He was told to write because 'these words are faithful and true.'

Verse 6: "And He said to me, 'It is done.... [the plan of God is complete] ...I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the one who thirsts, I will give freely of the fountain of the water of life.'" Always have the Spirit of God, renewed

and flowing into us. That is going to be fantastic!

Verse 7: “The one who overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.”

- What did it say that we covered in Rom. 8?
We’re joint heirs with Christ!
- What does it say in Heb. 1? *That He inherits all things! Ruler over all things! That’s the universe!*

Now we’re ready to really start living!

What’s it going to be like to travel out into the universe? Not needing food, water or air, but as spirit beings living forever!?

Sidebar: You need to live forever to travel around the universe because it’s so great!

Verse 8: “But *the* cowardly, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, **shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone; which is *the* second death.**” They won’t be around!

- No more Satan!
- No more evil!
- No more conniving!
- No more working against God!

But all in all!

Verse 9: “And one of the seven angels that had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, ‘Come here, *and* I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’” The Lamb’s wife is not the city. That’s where she will dwell with all of the first resurrection.

Verse 10: “And he carried me away in *the* Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, Holy Jerusalem...”

Read those Scriptures that He created Jerusalem *for joy!* Apply that here, because here is New Jerusalem, the Holy Jerusalem, spiritual Jerusalem. We will have joy like we would never understand today as human beings.

Verse 11: “Having the glory of God. And her radiance *was* like a most precious stone, as crystal-clear *as* jasper stone”—built out of the greatest, most wonderful things that can be, and to appreciate the significance of it as spirit material. Not just physical!

Verse 12: “And *the* city also had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and inscribed on *the* gates *were* the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.” Four by

four! Those are the gates in v 13.

Verse 14: “And the wall of the city had twelve foundations...” Those are not foundations, but sections of the wall—12 sections! Keep that in mind.

“...and written on them *were* the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And the one who was speaking with me had a golden measuring rod, so that he might measure the city, and its gates and its wall. And the city lies foursquare, for its length is as long as its breadth. And he measured the city with the rod, twelve thousand furlongs; **the length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.** And he measured its wall, one hundred *and* forty-four cubits...” (vs 14-17)—12 sections; each section is 12 cubits.

“...*the* angel’s measure *was* according to a man’s. And the structure of its wall was jasper; and the city *was* pure gold, like pure glass” (vs 17-18)—spiritual gold you can see through. Amazing!

Verse 19: “And the foundations of the wall of the city *were* adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation [section] *was* jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprasus; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. And the twelve gates *were* twelve pearls...” (vs 19-21)—a spiritual pearl! Imagine that!

“...each of the gates respectively was a single pearl; and the street of the city *was* pure gold, as transparent *as* glass.... [an amazing that John saw] ...And I saw no temple in it; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city has no need of the sun, or of the moon...” (vs 21-23).

Sidebar: This doesn’t mean that they don’t exist. This indicates that they do exist, but for the light on the city and in the city, they don’t need it.

“...that they should shine in it; because the glory of God enlightens it, and the Light of it *is* the Lamb. And the nations that are saved shall walk in its light...” (vs 23-24).

- all of those that came through the second resurrection
- all of those that came through the Millennium

They are going to dwell on the rest of the earth. This is going to be a fantastic place to live! Think of what the rest of the earth is going to be like.

What are going to do? *I don’t know!* But

since God works, and Christ said, ‘My Father works’ we’re all going to work. What kind of work will we do? *Fantastic spiritual work of the greatest, most profound nature, beyond our comprehension to even think about right now!* Isn’t that going to be something? *Yes, indeed!*

“...and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory and honor into it” (v 24). How that’s going to be all structured, what they’re going to be doing, we don’t know. I’ll tell you one way to really find out: ***Make sure that you’re there!***

Verse 25: “And its gates shall never be shut by day; for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it” (vs 25-26). So, whatever God’s plan is going to be, carried out at that time, it’s going to be fantastic!

Think about how glorious that this earth is, even the way it is physically right now, what’s it going to be like when it’s all spiritual. We’re still like that little speck of life that doesn’t have any consciousness, yet. That is we don’t have any real deep spiritual consciousness of what this is really going to be like. We have to wait for the resurrection, but this is a glimpse of it to tell us that we have something so great and marvelous and fantastic to look forward to, that it is going to be absolutely mind-blowing! There will be love, joy, peace, harmony and *a relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ*, and each other: *all together!*

There isn’t going to be anymore sin, v 27: And nothing that defiles shall ever enter into it... [it isn’t going to be there to enter] ...nor shall *anyone* who practices *an* abomination or *devises* a lie; but *only* those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” All of the others in that category are already burned up and gone! They’re ashes!

Rev. 22 finishes this vision and plan of God, to give us:

- the greatest hope
- the greatest inspiration
- the greatest love in our heart

the greatest desire to:

- love God
- keep His commandments
- serve Him and Christ
- be in the first resurrection
- be in New Jerusalem
- be right there at the throne of God

Revelation 22:1: “Then he showed me a pure river of *the* water of life... [constant spiritual

renewal, growth and understanding] ...clear as crystal, flowing out from the throne of God [the Father] and of the Lamb. *And* in the middle of *the* street... [here comes the River of Life and there’s a street on each side] ...and on this side and that side of the river, *was the* Tree of Life, producing twelve *manner of* fruits, each month yielding its fruit; and the leaves of the tree *are for the* healing of the nations” (vs 1-2). That means the continuous maintenance of spiritual life for all who have come into the Kingdom of God.

How that works, I don’t know. We’ll have to find out when we get there. So, let’s all be there, so we will know. Just think of the love and joy that we will have when we find out.

Verse 3: “And there shall be no more curse...”—because there’s no more sin, and Satan and the demons are out in the blackest darkness forever, and are there as a perpetual witness that we will never, ***never, never*** turn against God!

“...and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him, and they shall see His face; and His name *is* in their foreheads” (vs 3-4).

What is that going to be like to talk to God the Father? Can you imagine what that’s going to be like? We’ll have all eternity, so everyone is going to be able to talk to God the Father! Won’t that be something! Think of that! Amazing!

Verse 5: “And there shall be no night there; for they have no need of a lamp or *the* light of *the* sun, because *the* Lord God enlightens them; and they shall ***reign into the ages of eternity.***”

What we are going to be given will be everlasting, eternal jobs, offices, positions, whatever it may be. “...***reign into the ages of eternity.***”

That’s something! You might think about it at this time! Is all of this really going to happen? *Yes, it will!*

Verse 6: “And he [the angel] said to me, ‘These words *are* faithful and true; and *the* Lord God of the Holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things that must shortly come to pass.’” For God it’s a short time. For us, it may be long. Whatever, it’s going to come to pass.

Verse 7—Jesus says: “Behold, I am coming quickly.... [especially now that we’re living in the end of the age] ...Blessed *is* the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book”—and everything concerning:

- the plan of God
- the love of God

- the hope of God
- the Truth of God
- the commandments of God

Contained in this book, which is the Bible, in addition to everything that I just mentioned is also part of the book of Revelation.

Verse 8: “Now I, John, *was* the one who saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who *was* showing me these things. But he said to me, ‘See *that you do not do this!* For I am a fellow servant of yours, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. **Worship God.**’ And he said to me, ‘Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book because the time is near.’” (vs 8-10). That’s certainly true for us today. *The time is near!*

Then after all these mighty and spectacular visions, John brings us down to the present time:

Verse 11: “Let the one who is unrighteous be unrighteous still; and let the one who is filthy be filthy still; and let the one who is righteous be righteous still; and let the one who is Holy be Holy still.” In other words, just because it takes longer than we have anticipated, don’t go back into the world and sin.

Verse 12: “And behold, I am coming quickly; and My reward is with Me...” We want that reward. The reward is in addition to eternal life. Think of that! This is why we need to always be zealous, growing and overcoming, like I covered on Day 7.

“...to render to each one according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed are those who keep His commandments...” (vs 12-14).

Yes, we must love God with all our heart, mind, soul and being. And we must keep His commandments, as well. How? *Have them written in our heart and mind so that we do them.* We cast down every vain thought, everything against the obedience of God, and bring it into the obedience of Christ, which was perfect! He never sinned once, so that we can receive this blessing!

“...that they may have the right to eat of the Tree of Life, and may enter by the gates into the city. But excluded...” (vs 14-15). This is a warning to anyone who reads this. If you don’t do what has just been said, you’re excluded and have no part. You’ll be burned up in the Lake of Fire, because that’s where all of these people are going to be.

Verse 15: “But excluded are dogs, and sorcerers, and fornicators, and murderers, and idolaters, and everyone who loves and devises a lie. I, Jesus, sent My angel to testify these things to you in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star.’ And the Spirit [Christ] and the bride say, ‘Come.’....” (vs 15-17). Rather than be in that category that you’re excluded:

- come to God
- come to Christ
- come to the Father
- come to the Truth
- come to repentance

“...And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who thirsts come; and let the one who desires partake of the water of life freely. For I jointly testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book, *that* if anyone adds to these things...” (vs 17-18). This is summing up the whole Bible. This is not only the book of Revelation, but the whole Bible.

“...God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book” (v 18). What is the final plague? *The Lake of Fire!*

Verse 19: “And if anyone takes away from the words of *the* book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from *the* Book of Life, and from the Holy City, and from the things that are written in this book.” What a warning!

Because you have such a fantastic vision and understanding of what things are, and we are responsible for:

- the Spirit of God
- the Word of God
- the Truth of God
- to love Him
- to serve Him

That’s why these warnings are so strong and powerful! God loves us and doesn’t want us to fail.

Verse 20: “He Who testifies these things says, ‘Surely, I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen” (vs 20-21).

How great is the Last Great Day? *The eighth day! The most insignificant one of all becomes the greatest of all!*

Have a wonderful Feast going home, a wonderful time going home. *May God protect you with His angels, watch over in what you do, and that your life will be filled with happiness and joy*

and strength to go forward with Christ, to be faithful to the end!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:33-38
- 2) John 7:37-39
- 3) John 3:16
- 4) John 11:21, 25
- 5) Revelation 20:5-6, 11-12
- 6) Matthew 12:31-32
- 7) Revelation 20:5
- 8) Matthew 12:38-42
- 9) Psalm 85:3-8
- 10) Ezekiel 37:1-14
- 11) Luke 16:19-31
- 12) Revelation 20:14-15
- 13) 2 Peter 3:7-8, 10-12
- 14) Revelation 21:1-12, 14-27
- 15) Revelation 22:1-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 4
- 1 Corinthians 15
- Luke 11
- Ezekiel 36
- Hebrews 12
- Matthew 24
- John 5
- Hebrews 1
- Revelation 21:13

FRC: bo
Transcribed: 8/13/17

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