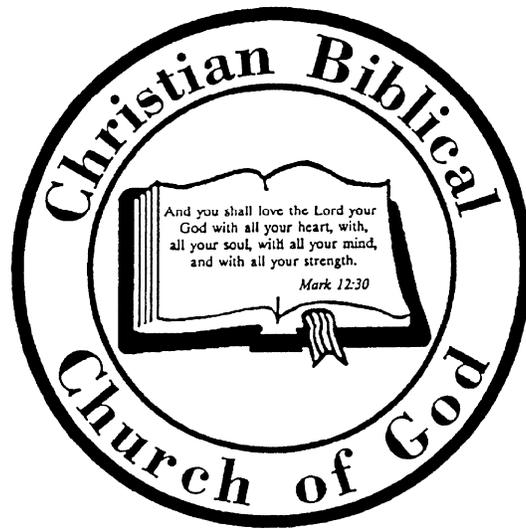


Fall Feasts 2016



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

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Fred R. Coulter
Christian Biblical Church of God
P. O. Box 1442
Hollister, California 95024-1442

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Feast of Trumpets

From That Time Until the End

The cataclysmic times ahead will affect the whole world and all peoples
shown by the opening of the seven seals
Fred R. Coulter—October 3, 2016

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to the Feast of Trumpets! What a year this has been up to this point!

We'll just have to wait and see how the election is going to come out, so that we understand how things are going to be looking at that time.

One thing we can always be sure of, the Word of God is true and everything is going to work out exactly as God has said. That doesn't mean that we have complete understanding; we have some understanding up to a certain point, and we'll see that as we go through this day of the Feast of Trumpets.

As you know, all the Holy Days are listed in Lev. 23, and this is the 1st day of the 7th month. The Calculated Hebrew Calendar is calculated and coordinated and adjusted to the first day of the 7th month, although the keeping of the Holy Days begins with the Passover, which is in spring.

Lev. 23 doesn't say very much about the Feast of Trumpets, but we will see that it has great meaning.

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..."' (vs 23-24). All Holy Days are called a Sabbath.

"...a memorial of blowing of ram's horns... [and trumpets] ...a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein* but you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD" (vs 24-25).

There were the official offerings that were given at the temple, as required in Num. 28 & 29. Then the other offerings were brought by the people. Of course, every Holy Day we likewise take up an offering. We know that God has promised that whatever our circumstances are, *He will provide for us*.

As Paul said, 'God's grace is sufficient' (2-Cor. 9) in everything that we do. This is very important for us to understand.

There have been those who have not used the monies properly, and God has taken care of them. We apply everything that we have to the work of preaching the Gospel, of which you are a vital part. *We appreciate everything that you do:*

- your prayers
- your love
- your letters
- the things that you do
 - ✓ in helping other brethren
 - ✓ in helping other people
 - ✓ in helping get out the message of God to the world

We're all together in this, and *Christ is the Head of the Church!*

(pause for the offering)

Let's begin in Isa. 41. It's a very interesting place to begin because there are many places in the Bible that we will look at that brings us to *the end*. Gen. 1 tells us about the beginning. Notice what God says in:

Isaiah 41:4: "Who has planned and done *it...*" Talking about God's overall plan. As we know, the Holy Days picture the sequence of events in God's plan.

"...calling forth the generations from the beginning? 'I, THE LORD, AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST; I AM HE'" (v 4).

Then we find in the book of Revelation, chapter one, He says it two more times: *I AM the First and the Last, I AM Alpha and Omega!* Then He says it also at the end of the book of Revelation, showing that the whole Bible is tied together as one unified whole with various parts.

It's very interesting when you study the account of Adam and Eve. There's a prophecy of the coming of the Messiah right there, right after their sin, that they had to be saved from their sins.

You find in many prophecies that it's *from here to the end*. Now, let's see this in the book of Daniel, which perhaps displays this more than any other book of the Bible. Dan. 2 talks about the image and it talks about the end. It shows:

Daniel 2:44: "And in the days of these kings, the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed. And the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and **it shall stand forever**"—*from that time until the end!* The stone that was cut out without hands was Christ.

Then we come also to:

- Dan. 5-6—we see the end of Babylon
- Dan. 7—it's *from that time until the end* and the setting up of the Kingdom of God.
- Dan. 8—from the time of Belshazzar; then it talks about the kings of Media and Persia and it comes *down to the end*

Here is what it is at the end, Daniel 8:23: And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have come to the full, a king, fierce of countenance and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.... [that has not yet happened] ...And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power...." (vs 23-24). No, because Satan is the one who gives him the power (Rev. 13).

"...And he shall destroy marvelously, and shall prosper and *do his own will*, and destroy the mighty and the Holy people.... [v 25]: ...He also shall stand up against the Prince of princes. But he shall be broken without a human hand."

- Dan. 9 is the 70-week prophecy, and verse 27 ends at *the end* with the 'abomination that makes desolate.'
- Dan. 10 carries on from that time

Daniel 11:40: "And at the time of the end, the King of the South shall push at him...." That has happened in repeated patterns, but not to the point of the other Scriptures that show that 'the man of sin, the son of perdition' goes into the temple of God proclaiming that he himself is God.

- Dan. 12 ends up at the resurrection

All the prophecies that we have in the Old Testament that talk about the end-time, etc., all tell us about *from that time to the end*.

Matt. 24—we see exactly the same pattern. This is a focal chapter of all the prophecies in the Bible. Prophecy is something that everyone is interested in. What's going to happen? We have, again, *from that time until the setting up of the Kingdom of God!*

There are certain key verses in Matt. 24, because there is contained within it cycles. There are things that happen in type, there are things that take place, which occur that look like the prophecy has been fulfilled, but it wasn't completely fulfilled to bring to the time of the end.

Let's go through Matt. 24 and see the things that are here, and how many of them have been cyclical. Of course, you can take Matt. 24 and overlay it with the 40 years from 30_{A.D.} when Christ

was crucified, until 70_{A.D.} when the temple was destroyed. Of course, 40 is *a time of trial and suffering*. But that was not the fulfillment of a very key thing in Matt. 24. All of the other things were fulfilled up to a point.

They wanted to know what was going to happen to the building, especially the temple because it was a beautiful building. When you looked at from the Mt. of Olives where they were, it was very spectacular. Jesus had talked about the time of the end and so forth, so they wanted to know when it would be.

Pointing to the most permanent thing that they could see, the temple, Matthew 24:2: "But Jesus said to them, 'Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, there shall not be left here even a stone upon a stone that shall not be thrown down.'" That's interesting, and of course, the true place of the temple is not where the Mosque of Omar is.

His disciples wanted to know, v 3: "... 'Tell us, when shall these things be? And what *shall be* the sign of Your coming, and of the **completion of the age?**'"

- the end of the age
- the beginning and the ending
- the first and the last
- from there to here

What we're going to read next are things that have come in cycles and have happened over and over again down through the time of history from the time of Christ until today.

Verse 4: "Then Jesus answered *and* said to them, 'Be on guard, so that no one deceives you. For many shall come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ"; and they shall deceive many'" (vs 4-5).

Has that happened? *Yes!* Look at Christianity today, look at some of the things that we have covered how that combining Christianity and Islam is becoming the 'in thing.' Then He says:

Verse 6: "And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars...." Has that not been the history from the time of when Jesus spoke this until the final battle that we find in Armageddon? *Yes!* This is cyclical.

"...See *that* you do not let *these things* disturb you. For it is necessary *that* all *these things* take place, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation..." (vs 6-7). That's the whole history of mankind.

Look at all of the wars. I got a book: *Langer's Encyclopedia of World History*. It's

centered around wars, changing of kingdoms, changing of rulers, and that's about all that is there. Men fight and war all the time! Look at today!

“...and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in *different places*” (v 7). We've seen all of those in our lifetime—have we not? And all the disciples down through time have seen those things in their lifetimes, as well.

Verse 8: “Now, all these *things are* the beginning of sorrows.

Verse 10: “And then shall many be led into sin... [over and over again] ...and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another; and many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many” (vs 10-11). True! Happens over and over!

Verse 12 begins to come to the time of the end: “And because lawlessness shall be multiplied, the love of many shall grow cold.” That likewise has happened over and over again, as well.

Verse 13: “But the one who endures to *the end*, that one shall be saved.” Whether it is the end of your life or the end of the age.

Verse 14: “And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be proclaimed in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come”—*from there to the end!*

All of these events have to take place, but they are fulfilled in such a way that people can look at them and scoff and say, ‘Well, it hasn't happened; God doesn't exist.’

Let's come to the next one that is very important to understand and it ties back to the book of Daniel.

Verse 15: “Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy place.’....”

Now, this parenthetical phrase—“...(The one who reads, let him understand.)”—was put there by John. In Rev. 11 John has a vision of the temple, but he lived to see the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 70_{A.D.} and he lived about another 30 years longer. So, in order for us to understand what this is talking about, this was put in here for us to realize two events:

1. the *abomination of desolation* did not occur when the temple was destroyed in 70_{A.D.}
2. the *man of sin, the son of perdition* did not go into the Holy of Holies and proclaim himself to be ‘God,’ which is

the final *abomination of desolation*

There was a type of it with Antiochus Epiphanes when he desolated the Holy sanctuary and offered swine on the altars of God. That was a type of it, but here we need other Scriptures to explain what this is.

Then Jesus says, v 16: “Then... [from that time] ...let those who are in Judea flee into the mountains.” It's going to lead to:

Verse 21: “For then... [at the time of the abomination of desolation standing in the Holy place] ...shall there be great tribulation, such as has not been from *the beginning of the world* until this time, nor ever shall be *again*.”

The very next verse—22—has not yet been fulfilled. So, we find from v 15 all the way down has yet to be fulfilled, and it ends with the return of Christ and the resurrection from the dead.

Verse 22: “And if those days were not limited... [we know that from other Scriptures that the limit is 3-1/2 years: *times, times and half a time*] ...there would no flesh be saved...” We did not reach the potential of that until the atomic bomb and then the hydrogen bomb, with all the missiles and all the bombs, Now we have artificial intelligence. All of this together, unless Christ would return and stop it, “...there would be no flesh saved...” alive—*none!*

“...but for the elect's sake those days shall be limited” (v 22). Then He talks about how the return of Christ is going to be, leading up to Pentecost.

Abomination of Desolation:

This is what sets off the Tribulation. As we've mentioned many times, there will be another temple built in Jerusalem. They already have the plans, they're already to go, but it will not happen until it is time. God has planned it and He will carry it out.

There has never been this occurrence as we find in 2-Thess. 2. Some men, in order to fulfill *their own interpretation* of these Scriptures like to say that when there was an overthrow of Church of God that those who did it fulfilled this, but that's not true. This has to be in the temple of God.

2-Thessalonians 2:1: “Now, we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him... [in the resurrection] ...that you not be quickly shaken in mind, nor be troubled—neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by epistle, as if from us, *saying* that the

day of Christ is present. **Do not let anyone deceive you by any means...**" (vs 1-3).

That's a pretty strong warning, because there are many who have come along and have been deceived by *many means*.

"...because *that day will not* come unless the apostasy..." (v 3). This is the rebellion against God, and that's what the Feast of Trumpets is all about.

The world is in rebellion against God, and God has a controversy with all the inhabitants of the earth. That's why all the events at the end encompass the world. That's why all of these events have to be put together properly in order to understand them.

"...the apostasy shall come first, and **the man of sin shall be revealed—the son of perdition**" (v 3). Notice how it describes him. We have those who come close to this: the popes of Rome, but none of them have ever sat in a temple of God, even though some of them profess themselves to be as God. So, you have to have all the facts together when understanding the Scriptures.

Verse 4: "The one who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is an object of worship; so that he comes into the temple of God... [the Greek is 'naos': *Holy of Holies*] ...and sits down **as** God, proclaiming that he himself **is** God." Notice all of the qualifiers there:

1. you need a temple
2. you need the apostasy and rebellion against God from the whole world
3. you need the man of sin, the son of perdition
4. you need the temple for him to go into
5. you need him to proclaim that *he* is 'God' *greater than any object of worship*
6. he sits down in the temple and proclaims himself to be 'God'

That's quite a thing! We'll see the fulfillment of that in just a bit.

Paul says, v 5: "Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things? And now you understand what is holding *him* back in order for him to be revealed in his own set time" (vs 5-6).

Everything in the plan of God has an appointed time, or a set time. Trumpets is an appointed, set time.

Verse 7: "For the mystery of lawlessness... [Didn't we see where lawlessness would be **multiplied?**] ...is already working; only *there is* One

Who is restraining at the present *time* until it arises out of *the midst*."

We will see how it arises in just a minute. But the important thing is that ***nothing happens until it is time!*** With things going on the way that they are:

- we still don't know how much time is left
- we still don't know what's going to happen in Europe
- we still don't know how things are going to come in America

All of these events are going to affect the whole world. The reason that we go through these things every year is so that we will not be complacent. We will not say, 'Oh well, the Bible isn't true; it didn't fulfill the way I understood it.' ***Maybe the way that people understand it is not correct!*** That doesn't mean that any part of the Scripture is not true.

Verse 8: "And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming)." We will see that there is only one place in the Bible—in the book of Revelation—where that will be fulfilled.

Verse 9: "*Even* the one whose coming is according to *the* inner working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are perishing because they did not receive the love of the Truth, so that they might be saved" (vs 9-10).

Think of this: With the Gospel being preached in all the world—and it's being preached more than ever before, in spite of what some people may think—it is and it will be, and there is more time to do it. This is why that not only *we*, but every Church of God everywhere, all need to get right with God the Father and Jesus Christ and preach the Truth, and help warn the world. Out in the world we have warnings from:

- economists
- governments
- environmentalists
- different people about different things in the world

But that all comes back to the fulcrum point of the Gospel and the lawlessness and the rebellion against God that is taking place in this world.

Notice what happens; this can happen at any time to anyone who rejects the Truth. There are some things we just don't understand. There are

some timing of things that we don't really comprehend, and apart of that is because God always gives space for repentance. God always acknowledges repentance. God is the One, Christ is there opening the seals. Nothing at the end time is going to take place unless Jesus Christ opens the seals and the events unfold.

This can happen at any time, but particularly at the end-time, v 11: "And for this cause **God will send upon them a powerful deception that will cause them to believe the lie.**" What is *the lie*? ***That the man, the son of perdition—the one who is the agent of Satan the devil—is God!***

Verse 12: "So that all may be judged who did not believe the Truth, but who took pleasure in unrighteousness." We are not to be that way. We are to be

- loving
- serving
- overcoming
- on guard
- watching these things all the time

Rev. 13—Here again, this starts at a certain point. Just like we have learned in the book of Daniel, these things are *event driven*. Certain events must take place before other events can happen.

How is it going to work out with a coming one-world government? *and* A one-world religion? We have seen how they have tried to bring it about, but it hasn't happened, yet. They try to bring it about again, but it hasn't happened, yet.

Look at it with everything that has been happening from the Brexit. People are *rejecting* globalization! They wanted to have a one-world government, religion and no borders! Well, that hasn't worked out too well. So, it's kind of backing away from that a bit. So, we don't know how it's going to happen.

It's interesting how in Rev. 13 it is described. Also, it's interesting that certain types of this have already been done, but the final fulfillment has not. And it's also interesting, as well, that when you watch the prophecies and things take place, that you have the same kind of thing coming again and again and again.

Revelation 13:1: "1: And I stood on the sand of the sea; and I saw a beast rising up out of the sea... [waters are a type of people that we find in Rev. 17] ...having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads *the* name of blasphemy.... [all of one] ...And the beast that I saw was like a leopard..." (vs 1-2). This

combines everything of Dan. 7 into a one new organized one-world system.

"...and his feet like *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth like *the* mouth of a lion; and the dragon gave him his power, and his throne and great authority.... [direct from Satan the devil] ...And I saw one of his heads as *if it were* slain to death, but his deadly wound was healed; and the whole earth was amazed *and* followed the beast" (vs 2-3).

Notice what they do; here is the apostasy, right here in full bloom; v 4: "And they worshiped the dragon... [Satan the devil] ...who gave *his* authority to the beast.... [because he has power over all nations] ...And they worshiped the beast, saying... [because he claims himself to be God] ...'**Who is like the beast? Who has the power to make war against him?**'"

So, there will come a time, just like it says in 1-Thess. 5; they're going to say 'peace, peace, and there is no peace.' That temporary peace is going to be broken and shattered, and at that point, everything is going to come unglued in the world, and all of the prophecies of Rev. that pertain to the end-time will be fulfilled in rapid succession and fulfill the 3-1/2 year time—times, times and half a time.

Verse 5: "And a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies was given to him; and authority was given to him to continue *for* forty-two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God..." (vs 5-6)—right in the temple of God, which the Jews are going to build.

Sidebar: Why is God going to have them build a temple? *Because the Jews think that if they build a temple, that is going to cause the Messiah to come!* But the lesson from God is that ***no man*** is going to do anything to ***compel God*** to do something that is ***demanded by a man!*** Never happen! *A man, men, groups of men, or even the whole world!*

Notice what's going to happen right after that wound, v 7: "And he was given *power* to make war against the saints... [ties in with Rev. 6] ...and to overcome them..." Notice why the Bible tells us that there will be a one-world government with a single man as world-ruler. Also it tells us that there will be a false prophet who will do signs and wonders, who will be along side the world-ruler bringing this to pass ***leading the world into sin!***

"...and he was given authority over every tribe and language and nation.... [none of this has ever been fulfilled] ...And **all who dwell on the earth will worship him**, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from *the* foundation of *the* world. **If anyone has an**

ear, let him hear” (vs 7-9). *A warning! You’d better listen to the Word of God!*

Here is the rise of the false prophet, v 11: “And I saw another beast rising out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon; and he exercises all the authority of the first beast before him; and he causes the earth and those who dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed” (vs 11-12).

There’s some big-time things going to happen down the road! Everything that is taking place now is going to be adding to or setting the stage for the fulfillment of these events.

Verse 13: “And he performs great wonders, so that he even causes fire to come down to the earth from heaven in the sight of men.” When people see it, they will believe it. They will say, Oh yes, this is *God, our Savior has come*. Yes, we’re going to have peace and everything is going to be great—***until that deadly wound!***

Verse 14: “And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by means of the wonders that were given to him to perform in the sight of the beast, saying to those who dwell on the earth that they should make an image for the beast, which had the wound by the sword, yet, was alive.”

Amazing! You can see it now; not only an image, but tee-shirts, signs, plaques, posters, idols, everything! It’s going to be a time of euphoria for the people of the earth.

It’s going to be so spectacular, v 15: And he was given power to give life to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast also could speak; and he causes everyone who will not worship the image of the beast to be killed.”

Not only the slaying of the saints, but everyone who refuses it. You talk about total oppression! Total destruction coming! *Yes, indeed!*

This also had to take place before this time, but in the book of Revelation some things follow along in sequence and order, and some of them *do not*. You have to explain something first, then you explain something later. Here it is, and think about this: the economic situations that are out there, and how they’re going to come about. They’re moving more and more to get rid of cash and to go to credit cards, and then—because there will be such thievery of it—to the *mark of the beast* in the right hand or the forehead.

Verse 16: “And he causes all... [that’s the first beast] ...the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, to receive a mark in their right hands, or in their foreheads so

that no one may have the ability to buy and sell unless he has the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” (vs 16-17).

Think about that for a minute. Never has there been a time when it would be possible on the whole earth that you could have a system that if you did not have this mark you could not buy and you could not sell. What if you went to the store and you brought out your handy-dandy little card and you swiped it and it said, ‘declined.’ You’d get another card, because you have a half a dozen cards, and you swipe and swipe, and they’re all declined.

You find out that the message that they got from the financial institutions was that all of your cards have been canceled. How are you going to buy anything? Think about that! We’re close to that time.

Please understand, in spite of the prophecies of men, this has to do with buying and selling. It has nothing to do with Sunday-keeping. This is the system that is coming! It was foretold beginning back there in the very beginning, then through the book of Daniel. Then through the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and through other prophecies in the New Testament, and the book of Revelation, which gives us the fulfillment of these things.

(go to the next track)

What we’re going to see is that there will be many things taking place on the earth all during the 3-1/2 year period of the Tribulation. There are two divisions in the Tribulation:

1. the first two years are against Israel and also the rest of the world
- after that*
2. the rest of the world

It’s really going to be quite something! There will never ever be a time like this again. Another thing to keep in mind is that this is going to affect *all nations* everywhere on earth. No one will be exempt regardless of what category they fit into:

- there will be those who will be protected
 - there will be the 144,000
- as we covered on Pentecost*
- there will be the great innumerable multitude
 - there will be those in battle
 - there will be those not in battle

It’s going to affect everyone on earth: *all* nations and *all* people. That’s why the Feast of Trumpets is a memorial of the blowing of ram’s horns and trumpets, because it depicts the cataclysmic times at the end leading up to the return of Jesus Christ.

Nearly all the places where it talks about *The Day of the Lord* in reference to the end-times, this is the sequence of events that leads up to the return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the saints, the return back to the earth, and as we see the events unfold through the Holy Days.

Isaiah 13:9: “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... [so powerful is this going to be; this ties is with Rev. 6:12]: ...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**...’ (vs 9-11).

We’re going to emphasize certain words here so that we understand this is a worldwide event.

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 last one of that will be *the Beast Power*.

“...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...” (vs 11-13).

This is why no one knows the day or the hour; even though we know the events that will take place, because of the Holy Days, we don’t know the day or the hour, because everything is out of whack!

“...in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of His fierce anger” (v 13).

We can say that this has never happened in the history of mankind, but it’s going to, Isaiah 24:1: “Behold, the LORD makes the earth empty and makes it waste, and turns it 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).

Let’s understand that when God says it’s going to happen, *it is going to happen exactly as He has said!*

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**” (vs 4-

5)—the world! We’re going to see that God says He has a controversy with the world!

Verse 6: “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.”

Some people think that all men will be destroyed. It doesn’t say that. It says that “...few men are left.”

Jer. 25 is an astounding chapter. I have read and gone over this many, many times, and I’m totally amazed, in going over it again in preparation for this Feast of Trumpets, how absolutely all encompassing and breathtaking and powerful that this chapter is.

Jeremiah never completed this, because he never went to all the nation that are listed here, but he went there in vision. He had a cup of wrath from God, which all nations were to drink of. That could not be fulfilled until the time of the end.

Jeremiah 25:26—after he lists all the kings: “And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and **all the kingdoms of the world, which are on the face of the earth**...”

Is that all encompassing or not? *That’s quite a statement!* Get out a globe and look at it. It’s going to affect the whole world. This is something and we’ll see the details of it when we get to the book of Revelation.

“...and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them. ‘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**; and shall you go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished. For I will call for a sword on **all the inhabitants of the earth,**’ 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 26-30). Those are sweeping statements.

Verse 31: “A noise shall come to the **ends of the earth**...” There is not going to be a place that this is not going to happen.

“...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). Isn’t that something?

Then God lays the blame right where it should be, v 34: Howl, you shepherds... [religious or civil] ...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.” Those are very powerful words.

As we go through the book of Revelation we will see how all of these prophecies of the Old Testament will all fit in together with these prophecies in Rev. None of the prophecies in the Old Testament could be understood without the prophecies of the New Testament. None of them are going to take place without Christ making it happen.

Everything is being built up here on the earth; all the things are getting ready. How long it will be, we don’t know. Many of us will probably be in our place of safety in the grave, but:

- there are going to be those who are going to have to live through this
- there are going to be those who will be taken to a place of safety
- there will be those who will be slain for the Word of God
- there will be the saving of the 144,000 and great innumerable multitude
- there will be the vast wars that will sweep across all the way from Asia to the Holy Land with **all nations** involved

We’re going to see that this is going to be a tremendous time, when the fulfilling of these events takes place.

John was crying because there was no one to open the seals. No one in heaven or on earth was found who could open the seals except the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 5:3-4 9).

First Seal:

Revelation 6:1: “And I looked when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures say, like the sound of thunder, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, *there*

was a white horse...” (vs 1-2)—the false christ, the one going about bringing together the one-world religion. There are many others involved and many things are taking place. It’s going on in different place in the world; people are getting together and ‘aren’t we nice, we’re going to be peaceful, we’re going to be wonderful and love each other.’ But that will only last for a short period of time. It will happen.

Second Seal:

The second seal becomes the key important one, because this seal represents what is going to happen when *the beast* of Rev. 13 is healed from the ‘deadly wound.’ This is the beginning of the Great Tribulation. *The beast* is given power to make war over all the earth!

Verse 3: “And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ And another horse went out *that was* red; and *power* was given to the one sitting on it to take peace **from the earth...**” (vs 3-4)—not just from a country. Just like we read in Jer. 25, the whole world, all nations, all flesh.

Third Seal:

“...and *to cause* them to kill one another; and a great sword was given to him. And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say...” (vs 4-5).

Notice that seals 2-6 follow within that two-year period. There are other things going on in different place of the earth. The first part of the Tribulation is against Israel. As we have covered many times, Hosea 5-6 we have the 144,00, which is the lifting of the Tribulation against Israel, but the Tribulation against the rest of the world continues for another year and a half_[transcriber’s correction]—for a total of 3-1/3 years.

Here is where it comes: these things happen quickly. When there is war then you have the what is right here: the third seal:

Verse 5: “And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, *there was* a black horse; and the one sitting on it had a balance in his hand. And I heard a voice in *the* midst of the four living creatures say, ‘A measure of wheat for a silver coin, and three measures of barley for a silver coin: and *see that* you do not damage the oil and the wine” (vs 5-6)—because it’s so precious.

Fourth Seal:

Verse 7: “And when He opened the fourth

seal, I heard *the* voice of the fourth living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, *there was* a pale horse; and the name of the one sitting on it *was* Death, and the grave followed him; and authority was given to them... [collectively, 2,3,4] ...over *one-fourth* of the earth...” (vs 7-8). Exactly where that is, how that’s going to work out, *we don’t know!*

“...to kill with *the* sword and with famine and with death, and by the beasts of the earth” (v 8).

Whenever these things happen, there is always a scapegoat. The scapegoat will be those who claim they are Christians who would not receive *the mark of the beast*, who would not submit to the authority of the world religion, would not submit to the authority of the beast; the martyrdom of the saints. Yes, we know that just before the Tribulation begins, there will be those taken to a place of safety so that the Church never dies out.

But what we need to understand is not setting our heart on going to a place of safety; let’s set our heart on being faithful to God in all circumstances so whether we go or whether we don’t go, we are faithful. Here this is going to be faithful unto death.

Fifth Seal:

Verse 9: “And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony that they held; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, Holy and true, do You not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ And white robes were given to each of them; and they were told that they should rest a short time, yet, until *it* be fulfilled *that* both their fellow servants and their brethren also would be killed, just as they had been” (vs 9-11).

This was a vision; not that souls go to heaven, but it’s interesting that what the Spirit of God does with the spirit of man when we die goes back to God. If we’re of the saints, where is it? *Somewhere close to the altar of God in heaven!* Read Heb. 12 on that.

Sixth Seal:

Just before the next to the last Pentecost the sixth seal is opened, the heavens depart as a scroll and the stars from heaven fall, the moon doesn’t give its light, the sun doesn’t give its light and this fulfills what we read in Isa. 13.

Then there is a pause right here; here is the 50th day harvest of God for Pentecost of the 144,000

and the great innumerable multitude.

Remember: From Pentecost to Trumpets is about four months. From Pentecost to Tabernacles four and half months. This involves all the rest of the world and this fulfills the prophecy of Dan. 11 that the kings of the North and the kings of the East, the Beast Power is going launch against them (the kings of the North and East). It’s going to be quite a thing that takes place.

That happens because God is intervening and the angels of God are fighting against men, demons and Satan the devil.

Rev. 8-9 are focal points of the Feast of Trumpets. From the next to the last Pentecost to the last Pentecost, that will be the resurrection on Pentecost. From Trumpets to Trumpets is the last year. These events take place in that last year.

Seventh Seal/Trumpet Plagues:

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, and seven trumpets were given to them” (vs 1-2).

Seven trumpet plagues, each one in succession. Again, we have the first four of them come very rapidly, and it comes directly from God.

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.”

There are those who are converted people—saints—who were still alive in the flesh at that time and they’re praying to God. That includes the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude and those in the place of safety, as well.

Verse 5: “And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire from the altar, and cast *it* into the earth; and there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings, and an earthquake. 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...” (vs 5-7).

Now it’s beginning to involve *all the rest of the world!* What happened?

“...and a third of the trees were burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up” (v 7). Keep in mind that when grass burns up... Look, trees and grass have no understanding of what’s going on. So, when they’re damaged and then they get a little

water, they start to grow and repair. That's why when we get to Rev. 9 we find that that is probably what has happened, because when you have all of these things take place, there are going to be great thunder storms going, as well.

Verse 8: "Then the second angel sounded *his* trumpet..." Feast of Trumpets picturing the things that are the fulfillment of that Feast.

"...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" (vs 8-11). Just like the Bible says:

- Who is going to fight against God?
- Who is going to stand against God?
- *No one!*

Verse 12: "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.*"

So, we have here the shaking of the heavens. That caused a problem with timing. Then we have again with the fourth angel and what happens.

This is why that no one knows the day or the hour. We can know the general time because of the Holy Days. But by the time we get down to the day or the hour, only the Father knows that.

Verse 13: "And I looked; and I heard an angel flying in the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, '**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.**'" Whoa! Three woes!

First Woe:

A great, massive retaliation by the Beast Power against the kings of North and the kings of the East with a secret weapon that is like the sting of a scorpion.

At that time, there are going to be millions of more demons unleashed on this earth. We don't know how many are in the abyss or the prison. This

is the greatest battle that is going to be between men and angels and demons that the world has ever seen.

Revelation 9:1: "And the fifth angel sounded *his* trumpet; and I saw a star... [a demon] ...*that* had fallen from heaven to the earth, and there was given to him the key to the bottomless abyss. 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 1-3).

I've never been stung by a scorpion; I have no idea what it's like, but it seems to be a very nasty and paralyzing. But in this case, it doesn't kill them.

Verse 4: "And it was said to them that they should not damage the grass of the earth..." It says in Rev. 8 that *all the green grass was burned up*. So, this shows a period of time from Rev. 8:7 to Rev. 9:4; the grass grew back; it always does. The grass knows nothing about the things going on, except it got burned.

This means that if there was green grass again there had to be rain, there had to be water, and it grew again. They were told that they were not to hurt the grass of earth.

"...or any green thing, or any tree... [so the trees were recovering] ...but only the men who did not have the seal of God in their foreheads" (v 4). This shows that men are alive. Who are the ones who have been sealed in their foreheads? *The 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude!* They are protected at this point. Very important to understand.

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... [it's going to be so bad]: ...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; and on their heads *were* crowns like *those* of gold; and their faces *were* like *the* faces of men" (vs 5-7).

This is the powerful army that it's talking about in Joel 2.

Verse 8: "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 8-10). This lasts for a total of five months out of a year. How much time is left? *If this is a leap year then there are 13 months according to the Calculated Hebrew Calendar, and they have 8 months left!*

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.” None other than Satan the devil!

Second and Third Woes:

Verse 12: “The first woe is past. Behold, after these things two more woes are still to come. And the sixth angel sounded *his* trumpet; and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God; *and* it said to the sixth angel, who had the trumpet, ‘Loose the four angels who are bound in the great River Euphrates.’ Ten the four angels, who had been prepared for **the hour and day and month and year**, were loosed, so that they might kill a third of men” (vs 12-15).

Remember what we read in Jer. 25? *Their bodies are going to be left on the earth for the beasts!* Now here comes the greatest army.

Verse 16: “And the number of *the armies* of the horsemen was two hundred thousand thousand; 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). This is something!

Again, there are going to be more men killed, v 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).

Here they come, wave after wave after wave; the armies stretching all the way from the Far East, coming through China, Afghanistan, Iran and on into Iraq and across the Euphrates River and coming into the Holy Land. This is something! As they’re coming it’s going to be quite a thing! This took five months for it to happen. That’s from Trumpets, for five months, then you’re getting into the springtime. Not quite, early spring. Then all of this takes place right after that, having eight months leading up to the next Trumpets.

Here they come, the battle is raging, v 20: “But the rest of the men... [though there are demons involved, there are men involved] ...who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the works of their hands...”

How powerful is belief to cling to by people who will not give up their evil ways? *It’s like it says, they’re all mad!*

“...that they might not worship demons, 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). Quite a powerful thing!

Rev. 10—the seven thunders. We don’t know what they are because God told John not to write them, but they are going to so awesome indeed that God said not to write them.

All of this takes place from Trumpets, five months, then beginning the sixth month down through to the next Trumpets all of this continues. However, don’t forget about Pentecost to Pentecost and the resurrection.

Four months are over, so you have five months and you have eight months, and right in the middle of this you have Pentecost and the resurrection. The second sun, which is the sign of the Son of man in heaven, then comes down to the earth as though it’s going to hit the earth.

As we saw, when it reaches over the Holy Land it’s going to spread out like a giant sea of glass and the resurrection is going to take place. That’s the seventh trumpet; that is the last trumpet (Rev. 11).

Let’s see how the last four months is carried out. All the saints will be on the Sea of Glass; we’ve covered how much we need to learn and how much has to take place. God is going fulfill a specific promise that He gave to all of the saints that they will see the vengeance of God.

Seven Last Plagues:

Revelation 15:1: “Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and awesome: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is filled up.”

Verse 6: “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.” (vs 6-7). They went out and poured out the wrath of God!

Here’s this great sea of glass; here are the armies fighting, and now God intervenes directly against them. These seven last plagues are awesome indeed, every single one of them: destruction, killing, destroying just as it says in Jer. 25.

Revelation 16:2: “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 2-3).

Sidebar: Animal life is called a *soul*: ‘nephesh.’

Verse 4: “And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers, and into the fountains of waters; and they became blood.” All water everywhere on the earth is going to turn to blood.

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. For they have poured out *the* blood of saints and of prophets, and You have given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.’ And I heard another *voice* from the altar say, ‘Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* Your judgments’” (vs 5-7). But:

- men will be cursing
- men will be blaspheming
- men will be killing each other
- there will be madness on the earth as never has been

Now a little timeout, v 8: “And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and *power* was given to it to scorch men with fire.”

Verse 10: “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, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; **yet, they did not repent of their works**” (vs 10-11).

What will it take for some people to repent? Well, *only God can answer that question!*

Verse 12: “And the sixth angel poured out his vial into the great river Euphrates...”—so that all the armies from the East could come. They were fighting, killing, looting, all of this.

Verse 13: “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; 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” (vs 13-14).

What a battle that is going to be! Here we are on the Sea of Glass! We’re going to be watching and seeing this. This is going to be something! Then he gives a warning to us to take care.

Verse 16: “And he gathered them together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.” The Battle of Armageddon is between God and the saints **and** Satan, his armies and the demons.

Verse 17: “Then the seventh angel poured out... [and then the proclamation]: ...‘IT IS FINISHED.’” Quite a thing!

Stop and think about—if we can; I don’t think we can possibly understand how many wars there have been in the history of mankind, but ***there is only one righteous war!*** That’s with Christ and the saints as we come back down to the earth to put an end to all of this madness and satanism and the kingdoms of this world: killing, looting, destroying and ***God’s judgment against them! We come down and stop it all!***

We descend with Christ to the earth. The armies will be there fighting, but we will overcome because Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. Then God has a special treat for *the beast* and the *false prophet*. An angel is going to take them and cast them into a the Lake of Fire. Then He has a mighty angel come and get rid of Satan the devil, which is pictured by the Day of Atonement; getting rid of the author of sin, because:

- you can never, *never, never* bring peace on Earth as long as Satan is here
- you can never have peace and harmony among men as long as Satan is here

We need to come back for the Day of Atonement, and that’s why it’s a day of fasting. It’s so important to God that Satan is gotten rid of.

This is the meaning of the Feast of Trumpets and the power of God to bring His Kingdom and we will be part of it!

Scriptural References:

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- 7) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
- 8) Revelation 13:1-9, 11-17
- 9) Isaiah 13:9-13
- 10) Isaiah 24:1-6
- 11) Jeremiah 25:26-34
- 12) Revelation 6:1-11
- 13) Revelation 8:1-3, 5-13
- 14) Revelation 9:1-21
- 15) Revelation 15:1, 6-7
- 16) Revelation 16:2-8, 10-14, 16-17

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Day of Atonement AT-ONE with God

God reveals His plan to rid the world of Satan the devil

Fred R. Coulter—October 12, 2016

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to the Day of Atonement! Time marches on! Here we are now getting ready for the Feast of Tabernacles, and in order to do that we have to have *at-one-ment* with God.

Actually, that's what the Feast of Tabernacles shows; *that we'll be dwelling with God!* You can't dwell with God unless you are first *at one with God!*

This is the absolute genius of God's hiding in plain sight His very plan, because it has to be put together rightly; rightly dividing the Scriptures, and understanding them. That cannot come unless we keep His commandments, love God's Sabbath and His Holy Days. Then the understanding begins to come. Then we realize God's great plan:

- Why we are here
- where we're going
- why He created the world
- why the world is in such a mess today
- how God is going to handle that
- how it is all going to be solved

That's what we're going to cover in the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

Leviticus 23:26: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying." As I've emphasized many times, everything that Moses wrote was what God told him to write. There is no such thing as the Law of Moses independent from God. So, that eliminates all of the traditions of Judaism.

There may be some few that adhere to the Word of God, so Moses only wrote and spoke what God told him to do. Remember the one time when he made the mistake? *God told Moses to speak to the rock and he got angry because of the children of Israel and beat it with his rod!* What did that cost him? *He could not go into the 'promised land'!* He could only see it.

It's very interesting when we look at those things that way. That is especially so concerning the Day of Atonement.

Verse 27: "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 and offer an offering made by fire to the

LORD."

Today we don't make offerings by fire, because there is no temple or priesthood and we worship God in Spirit and in Truth. Christ is the Head of the Church. However, we are to give offerings to God. We are to give them when we come before God, especially on this Day of Atonement. This pictures, as we will see, getting rid of Satan the devil! After all, who has caused all the problems in this world? *Satan the devil, indeed!*

Verse 27: "Also, on the tenth *day* of this seventh month..." This is God speaking to Moses; remember Moses didn't write a single thing on his own. If you think that that is wrong, go read the account where God instructed Moses to *speak* to the rock and it would bring forth water. The first time that happened, God said to 'strike the rock' and water will come forth. This time He said, the second time, 'speak to the rock' and it will bring forth water.

Well, Moses was so upset with the children of Israel harassing him, demanding of him, that he got angry and he *struck* the rock. The water came, but God said, 'Because you didn't believe Me and you struck the rock instead of speaking to it, you shall not go into the promised land.'

With that in mind, I challenge any doubter to search Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy and find out any law whatsoever that Moses wrote. So, when the New Testament talks about the Law of Moses, it's talking about the Law of God that God gave through Moses. The Hebrew is that 'he spoke by the mouth of Moses.' They're God's words.

Verse 27: "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... [your physical body] ...and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD."

So, we take up an offering the Holy Day of the Day of Atonement. We have a command right here: you shall "...offer an offering made by fire to the LORD." You might figure that your job is kind of like under the fire, but at this time we'll take up the offering. Thank you for it and for your faithfulness in serving and loving God.

(pause for the offering)

I want you understand what God is saying here, because three times He emphasizes *no work!*

Verse 28: “And 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, for whoever is not afflicted...” (vs 28-29). In Psa. 37 and in Ezra that means *fasting without food or water*.

“...in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people” (v 29). How does God cut off people from among the people? *You don’t have the blessing of God that goes to His people, even though you’re dwelling in the midst of them!* And generally, as we have seen in the Church, sooner or later they leave.

Verse 30: “And whoever does any work in that same day, the same one will I destroy from among his people.” Likewise that can be physical destruction or it can be ruin, even though they may still be alive.

Verse 31: “You shall do no manner of work. *It shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. *It shall be* to you a Sabbath of rest, and you shall afflict yourselves....” (vs 31-32).

Next is how a Sabbath Day is defined. From sunset on one day, which begins the Sabbath, to sunset of the next day at the end of it, which is the ending of the day and the beginning of the new day.

“...In the ninth *day* of the month at sunset, from sunset to sunset, you shall keep your Sabbath” (v 32).

God made it very particular there, because he didn’t want anyone to be in any doubt as to when the day began, and when the day ended. That applies to all Sabbaths; all days in the Bible end at sunset and as soon as the sun goes below the horizon, the new day has begun.

People ask: Why did God do that? Does God do things that we don’t understand? *Yes!* To our human minds, because we are so logical and know more than God (most people think) morning would be better because that’s when we get up. That’s not what God says. It’s the same thing with His Word, because God says so *it is so! It does happen!*

On this particular day there was a very special ceremony for the priests, Levities and the people, for the temple and all the land of Israel. Let’s understand something very important: whenever Satan is around there is sin. This is a special offering on this Day of Atonement, for the forgiveness of the

sins and uncleanness of all the children of Israel, for the priests, all the priests and all the Levites.

Remember that *the high priest could only enter the Holy of Holies once a year*, and that was on this Day of Atonement, to bring in the blood and incense and sprinkle it upon and around the Ark of the Covenant, as well as around the base of the altar, etc.

Then we find that there was a special offering that was made. The spiritual understanding of this today, with the understanding of the New Testament and what we understand in the Old Testament, as well, is that Satan the devil—the archangel who rebelled—as we will see when we get to the Feast of Tabernacles. Why did Solomon go wrong? *Because he got his mind on himself!*

That’s exactly what the archangel did — whom a lot of people refer to as Lucifer—when he got ‘lifted up in pride.’ He thought his glory was as good as God’s. He thought *he was* God. He led a rebellion of a third of the angels (Rev. 12). They came to assault the throne of God in the sides of the North, because he wanted to sit down on the throne of God and say, ‘I am God.’

Needless to say, *he failed!* Everything that Satan does, though it is something that is accomplished, it always ends in death, destruction and wretchedness.

Everything that God does, if people would respond... Because as we know, we all have free moral agency, and that is so powerful that God tells everyone of us that *we must choose* whether we will

- love God
 - keep His commandments
- or*
- serve Satan the devil

Because Adam and Eve chose the wrong way, Satan became ‘the god of this world’ as Paul writes in 2-Cor. 4. As ‘god of this world’ he has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe.

This is the way that the world is: *walking in darkness and blindness!* Jesus said of those unconverted, ‘Let the blind lead the blind, and let the dead bury the dead.’

So, here on this Day of Atonement, it’s a very important thing. God has concealed the beginning of this truth and how He’s going to take care of Satan the devil, and what is going to happen to him. He began revealing it here in Lev. 16. However, some 1800 years later, when the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation, it could not be

understood how God was going to take care of it. So, let's read about this special offering:

Leviticus 16:7: And he shall take the two 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; one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel.... [another name for Satan the devil] ... And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer it for a sin offering. But the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement upon it..." (vs 7-10). So, we have a two-way atonement here:

1. for the forgiveness of the children of Israel for the uncleanness and all their sins

That's the goat that is sacrificed and the blood is sprinkled on the burnt altar and also on the altar of the Holy of Holies. The one that is alive, we will see:

2. is for Azazel, which is for Satan

We will see that it is kept alive because God is not going to destroy Satan. There are some people who think they're better than God and say, 'Are all things are possible with God?' The answer is *yes!*

Here's a good example of human philosophical reasoning. Just because God can do anything and all things are possible for God, and nothing is impossible for Him, doesn't mean that *your idea* of what God should do with Satan the devil has any bearing on what God Himself is going to do. *That's the reason why this goat is left alive!*

"...and sent away into the wilderness for Azazel" (v 10)—removed forever!

It tells what he should do with the blood of all the different animals and the incense, and so forth.

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. And so he shall do for the tabernacle of the congregation, which remains with them in the midst of their uncleanness. 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. 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. 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" (vs 16-19).

That was for the goat, which was for the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin. This was a foretype of Christ. He's also called the Lamb of God. But, in this case, this is a good goat. The other one, for Satan/Azazel, God had to do something entirely different. Let's see what happened:

Verse 20: 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. 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" (vs 20-22).

Has heaven ever been pictured as a wilderness? *No!* There are some people who say, because the sins are confessed over this live goat, that this is a type of Christ ascending to heaven for the forgiveness of our sins. However, the goat was led away by the hand of a 'fit man.' Was Christ taken up to heaven by angels? *or* Did He ascend because He was God? *Obviously, because He was God!*

- Why have the sins been put on the head of the live goat?
- Were they not already all forgiven with the sacrifice of the first goat?
- The one to God?

And if He forgives the sin, they are forgiven!

- Why? *It doesn't matter how perfect you may be in the flesh!*
- Were Adam and Eve perfect? *Yes!*
- In the flesh? *Yes!*
- What happened when the serpent was loosed upon them? *They sinned!*
- Who was the author of those sins? *Satan the devil!*

As long as Satan is around, there will never be perfect righteousness! There will always be sin! He has to be removed. But in type, since he is spirit he cannot die, because God decreed that He would not kill him.

We find that on the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles, it pictures Satan and the demons cast into the Lake of Fire. At the beginning of the Millennium they were put in

prison, then let loose for a short season and then cast into the Lake of Fire.

We will see that that Lake of Fire will consume the whole earth and everything. We'll have to wait for the Last Great Day to get to that. But it says in Jude that the 'wandering stars—Satan and the demons—for them is reserved *the blackest darkness forever!*

This is what that wilderness pictures. Satan and the demons will be bound there forever, so that everyone in the Kingdom of God and the Family of God will know and understand forever that in order for God's magnificent plan to be carried out in the way that he wants it carried out, there cannot be sin and rebellion against God. *That's the long and short of the whole thing!*

That's why all the sins are confessed upon the head of the goat that is for Azazel, because Satan is responsible for all human sin.

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." We will see something about the wilderness in just a little bit.

Verse 23: "And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall strip off the linen garments... [v 24]: And he shall wash his flesh with water in the Holy place...and make an atonement for himself and for the people."

Verse 26: "And he that let go the goat for Azazel... [this is a type of the angel who casts Satan into the prison (Rev. 20)] ...shall wash his clothes and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp. 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...." (vs 26-27).

This was everything that was left of the sin offering and taken out to what is called the Miphkad Altar, which is up on the side of the Mt. of Olives. There's they burned all the sin offerings to ashes. Very interesting, isn't it?

What's going to happen to those people who commit the unpardonable sin and don't repent? *They are burned to ashes in the Lake of Fire!* Is that not true? Here's the parallel, getting rid of all the sin, burning it up.

Then it says, v 28: "And he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp....

[outside the camp] ...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" (vs 28-31)—of ridged obedience!

It's not a matter of ridge obedience that God wants no more sin. It's a matter of *love*. Love is going to be the whole foundation of everything that God does for eternity, because God is love.

The man who took the goat out in the wilderness will wash his clothes and cleanse his flesh and so forth.

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" (vs 29-31). There are the instructions for it.

Let's see some other things concerning this Day of Atonement. We know the account in Gen. 3; it's good for us to go back and review these things even though we understand what is there. We learn every time we go over the Word of God, we learn more again.

Let's understand something about Satan the devil. Satan has a very convincing sweet side, or gentle side to him, *because he is the master deceiver!* That's what it means here in Gen. 3. When you watch all the documentaries on how people 'got religion' it all comes back to the serpent, and that's none other than Satan the devil!

Genesis 3:1: "Now, the serpent was more cunning than any creature of the field, which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, '*Is it true that God has said...* [an innocent-sounding question] ...'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?" *God didn't say that!* God said just the opposite: 'You may eat of *every* tree that's in the Garden.'

Isn't it interesting that every idea to add to or take away from the Word of God, where did it originate? *From Satan the devil!*

Verse 2: "And the woman said... [she gave the right answer] ...to the serpent, 'We may freely

eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the middle of the garden, God has *indeed* said... [there is added instruction that God gave] ...“You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.” And the serpent said to the woman, ‘In dying, you shall not surely die!’” (vs 2-4).

Let’s think about this for just a minute.

- How did Jesus appear to the disciples after He was resurrected from the dead? *He appeared as flesh and bone, not flesh and blood. He shed His blood for the sins!*
- How did He enter the room? *He walked through the wall or door!*
- Was He a spirit being? *Yes!*

But He appeared to the disciples as flesh and bone!

- Why? *Because no man can be in the presence of God and see His glory, or see His face, and live!*

Let’s come back to the Garden of Eden.

How did God appear to Adam and Eve? *He couldn’t appear to them in His glorified form, because they would die!* So, He appeared as flesh and bone.

Now, newly created by God, and being the best and most perfect human being ever, *ever, ever!* They had a language already programmed into their brain, they could talk with each other. We don’t know how long that they were there with God, but we know that they would walk with God in the ‘cool of the evening’ and talk with God. So, God would have had to appear to them as flesh and bone.

When Satan brings up this statement ‘you shall not surely die’... Now, they were closer, they thought, to what God actually was, because He looked like them; they were made in *His* image.

So, when the serpent says, 5: “For God knows that...[He’s hiding something from you, He’s not telling you something] ...in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be like God....” That seemed like a logical step to take, to them, at that point. Don’t you want to be like God?

So, they thought about it, and here’s what they could do; they could not be like God in any other way than this, and they had to exercise they’re free moral agency—*independent free moral agency (IFMA)*—to choose whether they would obey God or not. So, as soon as Satan comes on the scene, sin is there! Also, Jesus said that Satan the devil—whom the ‘religious’ leaders of His day were serving instead of God—was the ‘father of lies!’ and ‘A murderer from the beginning.’

Here’s the only way that they could be like God, after a fashion: “...deciding good and evil” (v 5)—whether what God said, what they said, ‘We’ll decide good and evil. We’ll make the decision.’ ***They made the wrong decision and sin entered into the world and passed on to all of us!***

Here’s another thing concerning sin: *Sin can appear to be very attractive! Can appear to give you a great benefit!* That’s how people get hooked on sin; that’s how they get hooked on drugs; precisely like this:

- it’ll never happen to you
- you’re smart and intelligent
- you can handle it
- you won’t become an addict
- try some of this ‘pot’ it’s really good stuff
- it will make you feel good
- you can relax
- you can just kind of lay back and just cool out

Won’t that be nice? And they know that marijuana is a ‘gateway’ drug to other drugs. So, what comes a little later? *Cocaine, heroin and meth!* What happens? ***In dying you shall surely die!*** Exactly as God said!

Satan comes along to give a benefit! His benefit is an unlawful benefit, but it is very enticing. How many people fall for it? *Oh, it will make you feel good!* The German soldiers took Pervitin, which was crystal meth, during WWII (watch that on American Heroes channel). Quite a thing!

Verse 6: “And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it was pleasing to the eyes... [very attractive, wonderful] ...and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise...”

Doesn’t everyone want to be *smart* and *intelligent*? Look at the vanity of the elite! How smug they are in their satanic deception of atheism and evolution. ‘Why, you poor little crumbs down here who believe in God.’ *Just wait! Just wait! God has a surprise for you!* When He resurrects us, we’ll look at them and say, ‘Remember when you thought you were so smart?’

“...she took of its fruit and ate...” (v 6). Took a bite and probably said, ‘Why, that tastes wonderful; that’s sweet, that’s nice. Why would God say not to eat this? Maybe the serpent is right.’

“...She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. And the eyes of both of them were opened... [actually shut; ***shut to righteousness, but opened to sin***] ...and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool

of the day. Then Adam and his wife hid themselves..." (vs 6-7).

God *knew* where they were; God *knew* what they had done, but He wanted find out from them! So, you know what happened: All mankind from that time forth was cutoff from any access to the Tree of Life, any access to salvation. They still may have had some contact with God at the east entrance of the Garden of Eden, but they couldn't go into the Garden of Eden any longer, and they received in themselves 'the law of sin and death' and 'in dying you shall surely die.'

The New Testament tells us that 'as in Adam all die.' Isn't that something? *All die!* The only one to overcome death was Jesus Christ. He declared to John in the Rev. 1, 'Behold, I was dead, but now I am alive for evermore! I, Jesus, have the keys to death and the grave.'

So, Satan didn't accomplish anything here in the garden his way. But Adam and Eve chose the wrong way, and you know the rest of the story.

Satan is deceiving the whole world! Now at the end-time look at the sins that are happening. Look at the way that the world is, and all because of Satan the devil! That's why he has to be removed forever.

Let's see that Satan and the demons still have *limited* access to God, and God uses them to carryout different things that God wants done. We find that Satan said to God, concerning Job, 'You put a hedge around him,' meaning that God didn't allow Satan to get to Job. So, everything was fine! Job thought it was wonderful! Job thought it was great!

But Job could see that his sons were sinning, so he made burnt offerings and prayed for them everyday, lest they sin against God.

Job 1:6: "Now, there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD. And Satan also came among them." He could come before God on periodic occasions.

Verse 7: "And the LORD said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' Then Satan answered the LORD and said, 'From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.'" Why? *Because he's 'the god of this world!'* It says in 1-John 5 that the 'whole world is under the power of the evil one. So, he has that power!

Verse 8: "And the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job, that *there* is none like him in the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil?'"

And Satan answered the LORD and said, '**Does Job fear God for nothing?**'" (vs 8-9).

Why do you love and fear God with all your heart, mind, soul and being? If it's only because He's going to give you eternal life... *God wants that permanent connection with Him spiritually!* Not like Job just because there are some benefits that are given. This shows that using Satan the devil, God can take them away just like that!

We won't go through the book of Job, you can do that by getting our sermon series *Why God Hates Religion!*

We also know that in 1-Chron. 21 that Satan tempted David, and he fell for the temptation and numbered the children of Israel.

We also find that in Zech. 3 that Satan is standing there right alongside the high priest Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, to resist him. And, of course, it shows that the final one will be one of the two witnesses.

Then an angel came and rebuked Satan, saying, 'The Lord rebuke you!'

(go to the next track)

Let's find out a little bit more why this day is so important. God's plan could never, *never, never* be fulfilled without the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement and the removal of Satan the devil!

Let's talk about *independent free moral agency* (IFMA). God has given that to every one of us as human beings. We must choose!

For salvation, before Jesus came the only ones would be the patriarchs and some of the kings of Judah. Remember, not one king of the ten northern tribes was ever righteous. It's so important that God, to demonstrate to all the righteous angels, to Satan the devil and all of the demons, to all of mankind that sin and rebellion always leads to death and destruction.

Just to prove a point, Rev. 18:24 is talking about Babylon the Great and that her sins have reached to 'high heaven.' How did it get that way?

- through Satan the devil
- through his setup
- through his governments
- through the human beings whom he controls

Revelation 18:24: "And in her *the* blood of prophets and saints was found, and *the* blood of all those who were slain on the earth." Think on that statement! Tie that together with what Jesus said, that Satan was 'a liar and a murder from the beginning.'

That's why Azazel has to be completely removed! Whenever he is around, there is sin! He must be removed, but not destroyed.

Let's look at some other things concerning Satan the devil. We find that before Jesus could begin His ministry He had to overcome Satan the devil. This was quite a spiritual battle that was going on.

When you understand the chronology correctly, Jesus began His ministry here. This was the beginning of it. This day, the day He began the 40-day temptation, was the Day of Atonement in the middle of the week—fourth day of the week. When was Jesus crucified? *On the fourth day of the week!* So, Jesus began His ministry on the fourth day of the week and ended His physical ministry on the fourth day of the week.

Let's think about something else; in Luke 3 we find that Jesus was baptized and went into the wilderness immediately. So, he was probably baptized on a Monday, took two days to go into the wilderness, and there on Wednesday, the Day of Atonement—which was also a Jubilee year—Jesus began His ministry. The first order of business was overcoming Satan the devil!

Where was Azazel let go? *In the wilderness!* Right in the area where Jesus went to meet Satan!

Luke 4:1 (parallel account in Matt. 4): "And Jesus, filled with *the Holy Spirit*, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness." *The only way that any human being can overcome Satan the devil is with the Spirit of God, the power of the Spirit of God!*

So, this was a great spiritual battle for all of mankind, for all of the plan of God, for every one of us!

Verse 2: "For forty days to be tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing in those days..." That's why we fast on the day of the Atonement; that's why we don't drink water on the Day of Atonement.

"...and after they had come to an end, He hungered" (v 2)—actually famished; I would imagine that He was just skin and bones. When are people most susceptible to giving in?

- 1) when they're physically and mentally weak
- 2) when they're in pain and agony
- 3) when they seem to be in a helpless situation and are desperate

Don't you think that Jesus was that way, physically speaking? *Yes, indeed!*

"...Then the devil said to Him, '**If You are the Son of God...**'" First challenge! We also have to understand something very important: Jesus' *independent free moral agency* was here being tested to the extreme. Jesus could have said, 'Of course, I'm the Son of God!' *But that would not have been from God!* Notice Jesus' obedience based on *loving the Father, and the Father loving Him!*

"...*'If You are the Son of God, command that this stone become bread.'*" (v 3). He could have done that; it would be simple!

It's not really, in some cases, a matter of whether you *can* do it, or *cannot* do it; *it's really whether you should or should not do it!* So, notice Jesus' answer:

Verse 4: "But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written...'" Since Jesus was God manifest in the flesh, and the son of man, when he's speaking of 'man' here he's talking to Himself as well as all mankind, because He's the Creator of all mankind. Is that not true? *Yes, indeed!*

"...*'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God'*" (v 4).

Deuteronomy 8:3: "**...that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD** does man live"—as well as Matt. 4:4.

- How are we to live?
- What are we to choose?
- *God's way!*
- What has God written for us?
- *What He wants us to do!*

However, we've got to use our *independent free moral agency* to choose it. *It's all a choice!*

Luke 4:5: "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, and the glory of them *all*; for **it has been delivered to me...**'" (vs 5-6).

God has delivered the whole world to Satan the devil. Why? *Because of the sins of human beings!* God reaches down and calls those whom He wants to be in His Family. We have to respond to God and *choose*. There we go; that's the way the world is!

"...and I give it to whomever I desire" (v 6). Look at all the awful dictators, emperors, demigods, and all of this stuff. Satan wants to be worshipped!

He's going to get it at the end. It says that 'all the people—the whole world—worships the

dragon and Satan, and he gives his throne and authority to the beast' (Rev. 13). Just like it says here, "...and I give it to whomever I desire."

Verse 7: "Therefore, if You will worship me in *my* presence, all things shall be Yours." Satan wants to be *God!* All the worship and all the religions of the world are not directed to God, but to Satan. There are some who *think* that they are worshipping God, but they're not!

What is the thing that's important: *That you love God and keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome!* You must have the Spirit of God *within you*. If anyone does not have the Spirit of God within them, they are not of God. They may be close, they may be getting close to baptism and so forth, but that's just the way it is. The whole world is worshipping Satan the devil in one form or another.

Verse 8: "But Jesus answered *and* said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan; for it is written, "You..."'" That's not Satan; Satan will never worship God, so that doesn't refer to Satan. Jesus is referring the command to men, "...You..." commanding us directly.

"...shall worship *the* Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.' Then he [Satan] led Him to Jerusalem and set Him upon the edge of the temple, and said to Him, '**If** You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down from here. For it is written..."' (vs 8-10). Satan can quote Scripture; reading Scripture **does not** sanctify that it is being spoken by a representative of God.

Notice how Satan *misuses it! He misuses the Scripture!* Do they do that in all of the so-called Christian churches? *Yes, indeed they do!* They read Scriptures about Jesus while they have idols and candles around, and celebrate the Mass, have the Lord's Supper, keep Christmas, New Years, Halloween and all of those things. It makes no difference! **Satan can quote Scripture for his own advantage!**

What did Jesus say here? *Man shall live not by bread alone, but by every Word of God!* Think of that! Just go on your television and check up on the Catholics when they have a Mass. It's seems that's about the only thing they can do. They do read a little Scripture, but God is not there. Who do you think they are worshipping? *None other than Satan Himself!*

- you can't worship God with idols
- you can't worship God with lies

Notice that Satan quotes a Scripture, "...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 10-11). That's God's protection for those who are His, if an accident happened, not jumping off the edge of the pinnacle of the temple from which the top to the bottom of the valley floor was upwards of 500-plus feet.

If Jesus did that, and the demons came and held Him up and Satan called for all the priests and Pharisees and scribes, and told them 'this is your Savior' they would have accepted Jesus. He would have been owned lock, stock and barrel by Satan the devil. See the picture? What did Jesus answer?

Verse 12: "But Jesus answered *and* said to him, 'It is *clearly* stated, "You... [every human being] ...shall not tempt *the* Lord your God.'" Now, when the devil had completed every temptation, he [Satan] departed from Him for a time" (vs 12-13). That's quite a thing!

We will look at a couple of Scriptures showing about Satan, how he works.

- Is he interested in those who are in the Church?
- Does he want us to choose to reject salvation?
- *But of course!*

So, there will be times when we will be confronted with things that are caused by Satan and the demons. We can recognize them and rebuke them, and tell them, 'Get you behind me, Satan, in the name of Jesus Christ!' *They must obey!* But Satan is subtle and crafty and cunning (Gen. 3).

Here is how the ministry should be run, as Paul brings out; 2-Corinthians 4:1: "Therefore, having this ministry, according as we have received mercy, we are not fainthearted. For we have personally renounced the hidden things of dishonest gain... [those things that are lies] ...not walking in *cunning* craftiness... [not having a secret agenda] ...nor handling the Word of God deceitfully... [because that's what they do; they are corrupting the Word of God (2-Cor. 2:17)] ...but by manifestation of the Truth..." (vs 1-2).

Truth is what we need! Always! The Truth, *the Truth, the Truth!* Nothing but the Truth! That's why we changed the name of the website to: **truthofgod.org** Once we get all that settled in there, the website will be able to be reached by many more people than just **cbcg.org**

"...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...**” (vs 2-3)—Satan the devil. Did he not say that ‘all of this has been given to me, and I give to whomsoever I will’?

“...has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, 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 3-5).

Now then, let’s look at what this says here. We do have protection so that we may not be outwitted by Satan, for we’re not ignorant of his schemes

2-Corinthians 2:11: “So that we may not be outwitted by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.” His schemes are always appealing to something that will be transgressing the laws of God, or a lie concerning the Word of God. That’s why we’re told to prove all things. That’s why we’re to do things in accordance with

- the will of God
- the Truth of God
- the love of God

And nothing, *nothing*, **nothing** else! What did Jesus say? *Anything else is of the evil one!* Meaning it comes from Satan the devil:

- dishonest gain
- craftiness
- deceitfulness

Does he come against the Church? *Yes, he does!* What happened there in Acts 5 with Ananias and Sapphira? What did Peter say to them? **Why has Satan put it in your heart to lie to God?** They thought that after they pledged what they said they would pledge that they could go ahead and adjust it and modify it and say that it’s perfectly all right, and **lie to the Apostle Peter!**

What happened to them? **BOOM! They died right on the spot!**

Let’s see how Satan works, and then we’ll see that in the history of the Churches of God **Satan is always there in one form or another.** Here’s how it started in Corinth. There were those coming along saying that they were ministers of God *when they weren’t!* Who were they? *Some were Jews, some were Israelites!*

How did they say they knew Jesus? *Maybe there were some who were there and heard Jesus speak and were fed as part of the 4,000 or 5,000!*

They found out that they could make things really good by pretending to be a minister of God. Isn’t that what Simon Magus did (Acts 8)? *Yes!* Here was a high-powered religious leader who was saying that *he* was the power of God and deceiving them with sorceries and witchcraft!

Simon Magus was the ‘Simon Peter’ that went to Rome in 42_{A.D.} Go through the series on **churchathome.org** and watch all the series on *Was Peter Ever in Rome?* Think about that!

If you are a ‘good’ Catholic, which I don’t think here will be very many on the Day of Atonement there, but if you were a ‘good’ Catholic think on this: **Everything that they have said concerning Peter, the Church, the pope is a lie!** None of it is true! Understand that *there can be no salvation, no at-one-ment with God, no forgiveness of sin with a satanic counterfeit!* Though wonderfully produced, it is of Satan the devil.

Paul writes, 2-Corinthians 11:1: “I would *that* you might bear with me in a little nonsense; but indeed, do bear with me. For I am jealous over you with *the* jealousy of God because I have espoused you to one husband, so that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means... [clever, subtle, slight changes] ...as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from *the* simplicity that is in Christ” (vs 1-3).

Beginning with loving God with *all your heart, mind, soul and being*, and *the grace of God, the forgiveness of God, the Truth of God*, and all of those things. We have seen that happen in our day—have we not?” *Yes!*

- Did some people in the Church fall for it? *Yes!*
- Is Satan still active today? *Yes!*

Paul puts it this way, v 4: For indeed, if someone comes preaching another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit... [because satanic spirits go wherever there are lies] ...which you did not receive, or a different gospel, which you did not accept, **you put up with it as something good.**” What does that mean? *That they listen to people because they had an opinion!* Remember:

- **opinions** are not sacred
- **philosophy** is not sacred

That’s the wisdom of this world! What did Paul write of it in 1-Cor. 1? *The foolishness of this world!* “...**put up with it as something good.**”

Verse 5: “But I consider myself in no way inferior to those highly exalted *so-called* apostles.” It

wasn't Peter, Andrew, any of the other apostles of God; these were the ones proclaiming themselves to be apostles.

Verse 13: "For such *are* false apostles—deceitful workers who are transforming themselves into apostles of Christ."

- That is what has happened to the Church!
- That is what has happened to worldly Christianity!

It is in the world and everything of the world, is deceived by Satan the devil, and there are varying degrees of deception. But if you are deceived and you *follow him* and *keep his days* and *do his works and things*, you are deceived! You may be considered to be a good and upright person in this society, ***but that doesn't account for eternal life!***

Verse 13: "For such *are* false apostles—**deceitful workers** who are transforming themselves into apostles of Christ." They are not, so they've got to figure a way to do it.

Verse 14: "And *it is* no marvel, for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, *it is* no great thing if his servants also transform themselves as ministers of righteousness—whose end shall be according to their works" (vs 14-15).

So ingrained was this... Think of it! Here were these Greeks: intelligent, love philosophy, want great wonderful speaking, 'but this Apostle Paul just doesn't look good and doesn't speak good; his epistles are weighty.

Verse 16: "Again I say, no one should consider me a fool; but if otherwise, receive me even as a fool, that I also may boast a little." Then he talks about everything that he went through.

Verse 19: "For since you are *so* intelligent, you gladly bear with fools. For you bear *it* if anyone brings you into bondage... [taken out of the freedom that God gives us with His grace into the bondage of sin] ... if anyone devours *you*, if anyone takes *from you*, if anyone exalts himself, if anyone beats you on the face. I speak as though we were under reproach for being weak; but in whatever *way* anyone else is bold (I speak in foolishness), I also am bold" (vs 19-21). What did they claim? *I'm a Hebrew!*

Verse 23: "Are they servants of Christ? (I am speaking as if I were out of my mind.)...." Let's see that this did happen.

Read all of Rev. 2 & 3, and by the way we've got a new booklet coming out: *The Ministry is not the Government of God and the Truth of the*

Nicolaitans. All in one booklet!

Church at Ephesus:

How is an opening given to Satan the devil? *By not loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and being!* The Church at Ephesus left their first love. What were they doing? *The physical things of helping the poor and taking care of the homeless and things like this!* That's a good thing to do; nothing wrong with that. But:

- *if it takes you away* from the true God
- *if it takes you away* from loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and being

you're going to fall! That's what He said.

Church at Smyrna:

The synagogue of Satan was after them, cast them into prison and killed and martyred them. So, Jesus said, 'Be faithful unto death and I'll give you a crown of life.'

Church at Pergamos:

The great enlightened city of Pergamos where the great altar of Zeus was, *the throne of Satan*. There they learned about the Sacrifice of the Mass. There they brought in the hierarchy, which God says He *hates!*

Church of Thyatira:

The woman prophetess who calls herself Jezebel. Oh boy! I tell you! What happened? *They got so bad that some of them even got into the depths of Satan the devil!* Jesus told them, 'I'm going to kill you with death!' That's got to be the *second* death! He called them to repentance.

Church of Sardis:

Historically speaking, after that the Church was so exhausted that the only thing they could end up doing was keeping the Sabbath and the Holy Days. Jesus told them to hold fast to the strength you have left and 'I won't blot your name out of the book of Life.'

Church of Philadelphia:

They are the one who stand against the synagogue of Satan. They are the one, even though they are poor, they love the brethren and love God. You can't love the brethren unless you love God. They are faithful to the Word of God.

Church of the Laodiceans:

Lukewarm, smart-alecky! Yes, they teach some things of God, but where is the love of God? the zeal of God?

The Bible gives us the history of man and how he has been deceived by Satan the devil. It gives us:

- the Truth of God
- the true God
- the true Jesus
- the true plan of God

the way we understand those is to:

- love God
- keep His commandments
- keep His Sabbaths and Holy Days
- study the Word of God
 - ✓ rightly divide it
 - ✓ rightly put it together

And we understand what God is doing up to this point! But ***the Kingdom of God cannot be setup until Satan is removed!*** Let's see the fulfilling of Lev. 16:

- getting rid of Satan
- getting rid of Azazel
- getting rid of the demons

Zech. 13 says that the unclean spirits are removed from the land, so from the time we come on Trumpets back to the earth, what are we going to be doing? *We're going to be spreading out and helping people come to themselves!*

The angels will be there gathering the demons to put them into the abyss with Satan the devil. And there will probably be some fighting and warring and skirmishes with some of the remnants of the army, which probably a good number of the people of the 200-million. There's a lot going on between Trumpets and Atonement. But on Atonement:

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). Only then can the Millennium begin. That's pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles.

At the end of the Millennium we will see what happens to Satan and the demons. But this Day of Atonement pictures when ***we will be one with God, which was the whole goal of what Jesus prayed in His last prayer.*** Let's see the prayer that Jesus prayed. We won't go through the whole thing, but let's see how that right at the time before Jesus was to be arrested and led off to be falsely charged,

falsely convicted, falsely beaten, scourge and crucified and the spear thrust in His side, all to be that perfect Passover sacrifice for the sins of the world; God manifested in the flesh.

Here was the purpose that He had in mind and is saying to the Father, John 17:13: "But now I am coming to You; and these things I am speaking *while yet* in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in them." Think what the joy will be at the resurrection; that's when the joy will be fulfilled in us.

Verse 14: "I have given them Your words, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."

Don't worry if people don't care for you because you believe the Bible. Maybe you can try and help them understand it, but if they hate you, that's the way that it is! They hate Jesus!

Verse 15: "I do not pray that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them from the evil one.... [Satan the devil] ...They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them in Your Truth; Your Word is the Truth**" (vs 15-17). We are made Holy by:

- the Truth of God
- the Word of God
- the Spirit of God
- the love of God

That's how we grow in grow, change and overcome! That's why this Day of Atonement... Just think what a day that's going to be! We will live to see Satan and all the demons removed, and all the saints from Abel clear to the last two witnesses. **"Sanctify them in Your Truth; Your Word is the Truth."**

Verse 18: "Even as You did send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, so that they also may be sanctified in *Your Truth*. I do not pray for these only..." (vs 18-20).

Here's a prayer of Jesus for everyone who will answer the call through the ministry that He established with His apostles.

"...but also for those who shall believe in Me through their word; **that they all may be one**... [at-one-ment with God: Atonement!] ...**even as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You**; that they also may be one in Us, **in order that the world may believe** that You did send Me. And I have given them the glory that You gave *to Me*... [the Spirit of God] ...in order that they may be one, **in the same way that We are one**: I in them, and You in Me,

that they **may be perfected into one...**” (vs 20-23). That’s the whole purpose of our Christian life and walk, to be perfected:

- every day
- every Sabbath
- every Passover
- every Unleavened Bread
- every Pentecost
- every Trumpets
- every Atonement
- every Tabernacles
- every Last Great Day

“...perfected into one, and that the world may know that You did send Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me” (v 23).

That’s the meaning of the Day of Atonement: ***Satan removed and we will be at one with God!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:26-32
- 2) Leviticus 16:7-10, 16-24, 26-36
- 3) Genesis 3:1-7
- 4) Job 1:6-9
- 5) Revelation 18:24
- 6) Luke 4:1-4
- 7) Deuteronomy 8:3
- 8) Luke 4:5-13
- 9) 2 Corinthians 4:1-5
- 10) 2 Corinthians 2:11
- 11) 2 Corinthians 11:1-5, 13-16, 19-23
- 12) Revelation 20:1-2
- 13) John 17:13-23

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Psalm 37
- Ezra
- Revelation 12
- 2 Corinthians 4
- Revelation 20
- 1 John 5
- 1 Chronicles 21
- Luke 3
- Zechariah 3
- Matthew 4:4
- Revelation 13
- 2 Corinthians 2:17
- Acts 5; 8
- 1 Corinthians 1
- Revelation 2; 3
- Zechariah 13

Also referenced:

Sermon Series:

- *Why God Hates Religion!*
- *Was Peter Ever in Rome?* (churchathome.org)

Booklet: *The Ministry is not the Government of God and the Truth of the Nicolaitans*

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Welcome to the 2016 Feast of Tabernacles

The whole plan of God is centered on dwelling with God

Fred R. Coulter—October 16, 2016

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Feast of Tabernacles! As we say every year, *time* marches on!

Here we are with the Feast of Tabernacles, and as you look at the world today and see how absolutely evil that it is, and all of the terrible things going on remember this: ***the people of God who will be in the first resurrection are the solution to the problems of this world!***

It is evident from everything that goes on that the first and foremost characteristic that is necessary is righteous character, to have the right kind of government and oversight.

2-Tim. 4 is a very important section for us to understand, because as you look around, other than those who have died in the faith, you may have friends, relatives, even those in your own family who have turned their backs on God. ***While there is life, there is still hope!*** They can repent, and we hope that they do; we hope that they come back.

Here is the thing that's important for us to understand and realize with this season of the Feast of Tabernacles. When we come to the Feast of Tabernacles and when we come together, there are many, many things that are blessings, helpful, good, right and help us to understand *the way and the plan* of God and to love each other more. Here's an important part of the Feast of Tabernacles. We are to bring the spiritual food from the inspired Word of God as Paul says, 'In season.'

2-Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture *is* God-breathed and *is* profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work" (vs 16-17). *This is why we are called!*

Most people today, especially the Christianity of this world, pick and choose which Scriptures they want, so they can do the most destructive thing of all: ***take the Truth of God, inspired by God—given to us to learn and understand His way—to change the meaning of things through the exclusion of Scriptures and twisting of interpretations!*** The Bible says *every word*—"ALL..." All means each and every one.

Now, that is important for us who are doing the teaching and preaching, that we:

- serve the brethren
- educate the brethren

- grow in grace and knowledge
- draw close to God
- draw close to each other

That's only possible with the Spirit of God and the Truth of God!

Here's a charge that Paul gave to Timothy, and this was just before he was martyred; 2-Timothy 4:1: "I charge you, therefore, in the sight of God... [you can't get any greater authority than that] ...even the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is ready to judge *the living and the dead* at His appearing and His kingdom." That's what this Feast of Tabernacles pictures:

- the rule of God
- the Kingdom of God
- the reign of the saints

All of those in the first resurrection, as we have covered going down through the plan of God leading up to this time of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Verse 2: "**Preach the Word!**..." the Word here means *all of the words of God*:

- the teachings of Jesus Christ
- the teachings of the apostles
- the teachings of the Prophets
- the teachings of the Law
- the teachings of the Psalms

and our personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ! "Preach the Word!..."

Here's a Scripture that shows that they kept the Feasts of God, "...Be urgent in season and out of season..." (v 2)—all year long:

- always be current
- always be up to date
- always be preaching God's way

at the time God has said it is to be!

"...convict, rebuke, encourage, with all patience and doctrine" (v 2).

We have seen v 3. When you first come into the Church you have no idea that something like this could happen. When we're first called into the Church everything is new, right, good and so forth. 'How could we have missed that in the Bible'—etc.; especially if you were a Protestant or a Catholic.

Verse 3: "**For there shall come a time when they will not tolerate sound doctrine...**" As

we have seen in the report of the *Presbyterians and the Muslims having prayer services together* in a Presbyterian church! Think on that one for a minute!

How do all of these things come about? Listen, brethren, when we're in the Kingdom of God and we have authority over this world to rule and reign with Christ, none of this is going to happen. Look at it. How does this come about?

"...but according to their own lusts they shall accumulate to themselves *a great number of teachers, having ears itching to hear what satisfies their cravings; and they shall turn away their own ears from the Truth*; and they shall be turned aside unto myths" (vs 3-4). The Truth of God is:

- the Word of God
- the commandments of God
- the Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- Pentecost
- Trumpets
- Atonement
- Tabernacles
- Last Great Day

The myths:

- Halloween
- Christmas
- Easter
- New Years
- Sunday

When people turn away and leave those (the Truth of God) then they give themselves over to the 'god of this world' Satan the devil. They harden their hearts by turning away and not listening. "...and they shall be turned aside unto myths."

Verse 5: "But *as for* you, be vigilant... [that's what it has to be with us] ...in all things, endure hardships... [yes, we're going to have hardships coming up and a lot of us are living through them right now] ...do *the* work of an evangelist; fully carry out your ministry. For I am now ready to be offered..." (vs 5-6)—and waiting for the crown and you've got to take over. That's what it was with Paul and Timothy at this point.

Let's see that the whole plan of God is centered around one phrase: ***To dwell with God! To dwell with His people!***

With the creation of Adam and Eve they lived in the Garden of Eden with God. How long they were there with Him we don't know. We're not told, but we see the same thing that we read of in 2-Tim. 4 happen with Adam and Eve even though they

were in the presence of God and spoke with Him on a daily basis.

That's why Satan had to come to test them. The plan of God is so great, God having given us *independent free moral agency* (IFMA) God wants to know *what* we will choose and *how* we will choose, because that is the only way that we can develop the character of God necessary to receive eternal life, live forever and rule the world. And as we will see by the end of the Feast, enter into New Jerusalem.

But the whole thing has been ***to dwell with God!*** When God dwelt with the patriarchs He was with them. He didn't necessarily live with them, but He saw them all the time and taught them directly. They understood His Word. Look at the relationship that God had with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and how that was such a tremendous thing. Everything about us goes clear back to Abraham. We are the *spiritual seed* of Abraham! We are the children of God through that plan and process that God has given.

When God called Israel out of Egypt and brought them to Himself at Mt. Sinai—of course, there are parallels with that, with our calling out of this world, which is called Sodom and Egypt—***the goal was that God would dwell with His people!***

In Exo. 25 is where God began to give them the instructions to make the tabernacle, to make the sanctuary, to make everything with it. All the details there are very interesting. You need to see the sermon on *The Tabernacle of God* based on the book by Moshe Levine that I did showing the depiction of the temple and the Ark of the Covenant and all of the implements and dressing of the priests and Levites.

This shows that God wants our participation with it, Exodus 25: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel that they bring Me an offering. You shall take an offering from every man that gives it **willingly with his heart**'" (vs 1-2). ***That's what God wants with all of us! Our heart! That our heart are right with God and with His Spirit!***

"And this *is* the offering..."—(vs 3-7)

Verse 8—a very important verse: "And let them make Me a sanctuary **so that I may dwell among them.**" God wants to dwell with His people.

After He gave all the instructions and everything, we will see that He summed it up with what He began with.

Exodus 29:42: "*This shall be a burnt offering forever throughout your generations at the*

door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD, where I will meet you, to speak there to you. And there I will meet with the children of Israel...” (vs 42-43)—right there at the door of the entrance to the tabernacle summing up the whole reason of everything for the tabernacle.

Verse 44: “And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar. I will also sanctify both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me in the priest’s office. And **I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God**” (vs 44-45). Think of that!

Go back and think about what happened with Adam and Eve. *They rejected God!* The whole world has suffered because of it. God was dwelling with them! Now we come to Israel and God says, “**I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God.**”

Verse 46: “And they shall know that *I am* the LORD their God, Who brought them forth out of the land of Egypt **so that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.**”

You know the whole story that went because of that. You know the whole history of it. That’s the whole Old Testament. Let’s see some other Scriptures that are important, which show us concerning the Feast; *rightly divide the Word of Truth!*

Psalms 68:18—a prophecy of Christ: “You have ascended on high; You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, yea, among the rebellious also, that **You might dwell among them, O LORD God.**” This is what God wants, and that is the ultimate of the plan of God.

Just as we begin in Gen. 1, when we get to Rev. 21-22 what is the theme of that? *Dwelling with God!*

Verse 19: “Blessed is the LORD; He daily bears our burdens, the God of our salvation. Selah.”

Verse 32—a prophecy of when the Kingdom of God will be ruling on the earth: “Sing unto God, you kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the LORD. Selah.... [stop, think and meditate on this] ...To Him Who rides upon the heaven of heavens which are of old; lo, He sends out His voice, a mighty voice. Ascribe power to God: His majesty is over Israel, and His strength is in the clouds. O God, You are awesome from Your Holy sanctuary; the God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to the people. Blessed be God” (vs 32-35).

That’s the message of the Feast of Tabernacles! Quite an amazing thing.

When you really understand the Bible and

put it all together, it’s all one complete unit describing ‘here a little, there a little,’ here is some more, there is some more from:

- the Law
- the Prophets
- the Psalms
- the Writings
- the Gospels
- the Epistles
- Revelation

All about the plan of God! *A wonderful thing indeed!*

Here is also a prophecy for us because we are the seed of Abraham, Isaiah 51:1: “Hearken to Me...” Listen carefully to God. Doesn’t that sound a little bit like where we began? ***Be diligent! Preach the Word! The time will come when they won’t listen!***

“...you who follow after righteousness, you who seek the LORD: Look to the Rock... [Christ] ...*from which* you were cut, and to the hole of the pit *from which* you were dug. Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah *who* bore you... [we’re called after Isaac] ...for I called him alone, and blessed him, and made him many” (vs 1-2).

That’s what we are now, *many*. Think of what it’s going to be at the resurrection. I can’t help but think and just wonder in my mind: What is Abraham going to say to God when Abraham shows Him all the spiritual children through him, and then shows Him all the other descendants who are still on the earth while we are on the Sea of Glass up there looking down.

What is God going to say? Remember what God promised Abraham: *Your seed shall be like the stars of the heavens, and like the sand that is on the seashores!* There he will see it all! Amazing!

Here is what is going to be *our* job; here’s what we’re going to do during the Millennium:

Verse 3: “For the LORD shall comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness 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.”

Isn’t that something? What a thing that is! It even says that the trees are going to sing! That’s an amazing thing!

Verse 4: ‘Hearken to Me, My people...’ We are the people of God, brethren.

- Listen to God!
- Listen to His Word!

- Drink in of the things that we will have here at the Feast of Tabernacles:
 - ✓ with the fellowship with one another
 - ✓ the fellowship with God
 - ✓ the Spirit of God
 - ✓ the Word of God

All of that together!

“...and give ear to Me, O My nation... [we are a Holy nation of priests] ...for instruction shall proceed from Me, and I will make My justice as a light to the people” (v 4). *My salvation is near!*

Verse 5: “My righteousness *is* near; My salvation has gone out, 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, and the earth shall become old like a garment; and its inhabitants shall die in the same way. But **My salvation shall be forever, and My righteousness shall not be abolished**” (vs 5-6).

Amazing! That’s what we are going to be a part of! We look at this world today and *it is in a mess!* God is going to give us the authority, the strength, the ability to rule and reign with Christ, and fulfill these verses right here that I just read.

Some people will wonder if they will make it. Of course you will! ‘Well, I don’t have much. I’m old. I’m weak.’ Listen, it is the Spirit that gives life! This old flesh is going to get weak and old for every one of us. Has that not been happening right on down through time? *Yes!* And it will continue until the return of Jesus Christ! So, the important thing is that:

- we develop the righteousness of God
- we develop the character of God
- we learn how to make righteous judgment
- we learn how to live by the Truth
- we learn from everything that God has given

so that we can fulfill Psalms 15.

Psalms 14:1: “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God!’.... [you can read all about that] ...They are corrupt; they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.” That’s why God has called us to take over the world!

Verse 2: “The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek *after* God.” Isn’t that amazing? That’s what God is doing right now. We will see that the opposite of the atheists is the one who enters into the Kingdom of God.

Verse 3: “They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is none

who does good, no, not *even* one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, those who devour My people as men eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?” (vs 3-4).

Yes, we’re going to have persecution, those after us. That’s promised; look what happened to Christ. Like He said, ‘If they call the Master Beelzebub, what do you think they’re going to call you? What do you think they are going to do to you?’ This is why He said, ‘Don’t fear those who can only kill your body; *they can’t take your life from you, because that belongs to God!*’ So, we don’t worry about it.

Verse 5: “There they are in great fear, for God is with the generation of the righteous. You have put to shame the counsel of the poor; but the LORD is his refuge. Oh, that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When the LORD turns away the captivity of His people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad” (vs 5-7).

That’s the mission of our work in the Millennium right there! There are atheists in Psalms 14, the true believers in Psalms 15 *dwelling with God!*

Psalms 15:1: “LORD, who shall dwell in Your tabernacle? Who shall dwell upon Your Holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and **speaks the Truth in his heart**” (vs 1-2).

Not double-minded, not doubled-heart, but *single heart! Single purpose!* “...**speaks the Truth in his heart.**” What is the Truth? *The Word of God!* Isn’t that what Jesus said? *Your Word is the Truth! Sanctify them in Your Truth!* That’s how you are made Holy. That’s why this is the Holy Bible. That why these are the Holy righteous and spiritual words of God.

Let’s see that at this time having the Spirit of God, God dwells in us spiritually, and that becomes the focal point:

- of conversion
- of conviction
- of Truth
- of everything that we are to do

1-John 4 tells us another very important aspect of the Feast of Tabernacles. Yes, the first part of 1-John tells us that our fellowship is with God the Father and Jesus Christ, and then with each other. At the Feast of Tabernacles we’re going to have an opportunity:

- to fellowship with each other
- to love each other
- to love God, to learn of His way

- to look forward to the completion of God’s plan

So that during this time, during this eight days of the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day ***we will be strengthened spiritually, mentally, physically*** and after that’s over we have to head back out into the world again, and WOW! what a world it is going to be! So, let’s be encouraged with this and keep our mind on this.

1-John 4:4: “**You are of God**, little children... [that’s what we are, the children of God] ...and have overcome them because greater is He Who *is* in you than the one who *is* in the world.”

- we overcome the evil in the world
- we overcome our own human nature
- we overcome Satan the devil and the demons

We are victorious through Christ!

Verse 5: “They... [the ones in the world] ...are of the world; because of this, they speak of the world, and the world listens to them.” Whereas, *we* listen to God!

- We listen to Jesus Christ!
- We listen to His Word!
- We believe it!
- We love it!
- We live by it!

Also, on the other hand, *we test false prophets*. Do they speak the Word of God, as God wants it spoken? ***or*** Do they follow the deceptiveness of Satan the devil?

Verse 6: “**We are of God**; the one who knows God listens to us...” Why? *Because if anyone knows God*:

- they know the Truth
- they know the Bible
- they will hear the Truth
- they will live by it
- they will follow it

“...the one who is not of God does not listen to us...” (v 6).

I had a man that I communicated with this summer who sent me an e-mail that since he was converted nine years ago he hasn’t sinned, because they take the verse that says: This is the first commandment that *you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and being*, and the second is like unto it, *you shall love your neighbor as yourself*.

So therefore, with this mindset, they go out

and try and make everything that they do in the world the will of God. He could not even be moved from his positions, knowing that Sunday is pagan, that Christmas, Easter, the Lord’s Supper—all of those things—*are not of God! He won’t listen!* Well, his day is going to come! I wonder what’s going to happen on that day?

Verse 5: “They are of the world; because of this, they speak of the world... [the world’s false Christianity] ...and the world listens to them. We are of God; the one who knows God listens to us; the one who is not of God does not listen to us. **By this means we know the Spirit of the Truth and the spirit of the deception**” (vs 5-6).

We have the perception, knowledge, Truth and understanding from the Word of God to know right from wrong, good from evil, Truth from error and deception.

Verse 8: “The one who does not love does not know God because God is love.” After explaining about the love of God and sending Christ to die for our sins, and how much love that involved toward us:

Verse 11: “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also are duty-bound to love one another.” This, at the Feast of Tabernacles, is a great time for fellowship and loving one another.

During this Feast, spend time together, love one another, help one another, enjoy each other, make this a great and a wonderful Feast!

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 2) 2 Timothy 4:1-6
- 3) Exodus 25:1-3, 8
- 4) Exodus 29:42-46
- 5) Psalm 68:18-19, 32-35
- 6) Isaiah 51:1-6
- 7) Psalm 14:1-7
- 8) Psalm 15:1-2
- 9) 1 John 4:4-6, 8, 11

Scriptures referenced, not quoted: Exodus 25:4-7

Also referenced:

- Sermon: *The Tabernacle of God* (2007 FoT)
- Book: *The Tabernacle of God* by Moshe Levine

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Day 1—Feast of Tabernacles Kings and Priests Under Christ

The government of God is on the shoulders of Jesus Christ into the ages of eternity

Fred R. Coulter—October 17, 2016

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles! Time sure marches on!

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures a fulfilling in God's plan to restore the earth and to restore human beings. It involves everything that God has done. Let's see something very important, because there are certain places in the Bible that show us and tell us what God is going to do and how God and His throne, the angels and all of them react.

This is important for us to understand, and this will help us to realize that human beings *cannot*, **absolutely cannot** govern themselves apart from God. God has made us to need:

- His Truth
- His Spirit
- His love
- His commandments
- and all of the things that we know

What's going to happen is God has called us to teach us and train us so that—as we will see through this Feast of Tabernacles—we are to be the teachers, the kings, the priests and the leaders *to bring peace to the world and help fulfill the plan of God!*

Let's see about the Feast of Tabernacles and the command for keeping it. It's very interesting, indeed, as all the Holy Days of God tell what His plan is when put together with the rest of the Bible and other Scriptures, so we can understand what God is doing, how He is doing it and the approximate timeframe in doing so.

One of the most important things that we need to learn in this physical life is that ***we are temporary!*** That's why it's the Feast of *Tabernacles*.

Lev. 23:33—this is today, the 15th day of the 7th month. This year it's considerably later than last year. Why is that? ***This year is unique, it is a leap year with 13 months, plus it is also the last year in a 19-year time cycle!*** That makes this unique, and the plan of God fits around the Holy Days.

Leviticus 23:33: "And the LORD spoke to Moses saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, saying...'" Not only is it for Israel, but it's also for the Church. We find in John 7 that Jesus and His

disciples kept the Feast of Tabernacles.

"...“The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. On the first day *shall be* a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein*.... [that's today, the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles] ...Seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD....”” (vs 34-36).

You go back and read Num. 28 & 29 all the offerings that were to be brought daily, monthly, Sabbath and all of the Holy Days all the way through. Some people have thought that they ought to make their offering the way we do it today every single day. Well, that's not necessary at all!

"...On the eighth day shall be a Holy convocation to you...." As we will see, the eighth day turns out to be the least mentioned in the Bible, but the most fantastic of all in God's plan for the rest of all of mankind. Isn't that something? That's why we have the Last Great Day.

"...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*. 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... [every Holy Day is a Sabbath] ...and besides your gifts, and besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD" (vs 36-38).

We are to take up an offering. What is instructed in Deut. 16:16 tells us about what we are to do as individuals, as it applies to us today.

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. And they shall not appear before the LORD empty." Every offering should be accounted for and planned, something that you bring to God to honor Him!

Verse 17: "Every man *shall give* as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God, which He has given you." So, we are to count our blessings! We are to look at the blessings that God has given us, beginning with

- His Word
 - His Spirit
- add to that:*
- understanding His plan
 - the Holy Spirit dwelling within us
 - our great future to be kings and priests to rule the world

That's what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about!

If you don't see that in the world today that this world needs the Kingdom of God then surely that one doesn't understand very much. This is the blessing that God says that He will give to us. Think of everything that God has:

- given you
- promised you
- intervened for you

when you come to bring an offering to God!

(pause for the offering)

Let's see that the earth and everything that God has created on it is the central focal point of His plan in eternity for His family. That all of the creation of God is centered around that plan.

In Rev. 4 & 5 we find a vision given to John concerning the throne of God, God Himself and Jesus Christ. Jesus as the Lamb of God was the One, the *only One*, to open the seals. But this is such a tremendous event when this takes place, what happens when He took the book. I want you to think about this, and we will also see that it happens at the resurrection, and when the Kingdom of God is established. Quite a fantastic thing!

Revelation 5:8: "And when He took the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having harps and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints." So, they administer our prayers directly to God the Father and Jesus Christ. Think about that! That's quite an amazing thing!

Verse 9: "And they sang a new song, saying..." Think about the song we're going to be sing, concerning the new and song and the marriage of the Lamb, and coming down to take over the earth.

"... '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.'" God has done that because He wants all the nations to be under His kingdom, authority and government. Remember: *the government is on the shoulders of Jesus Christ, Who is the King!*

We will what happens also when absolute authority is given to Jesus. Notice how everything in heaven around the throne of God, everything *on* the earth, and *in* the earth, *under* the earth and in the sea praises God for this moment.

Verse 11: "And I saw and I heard *the* voices of many angels around the throne, and *the* voices of the living creatures and the elders, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory and blessing.' And every creature that is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and those that are on the sea, and all the things in them, I heard saying, '**To Him Who sits on the throne...** [God the Father] **...and to the Lamb, be** blessing, and honor, and glory, and sovereignty into the ages of eternity'" (vs 11-13).

See, brethren, God has called us to a marvelous and awesome eternal plan! His plan is so absolutely perfect that the whole creation praises God because of what He is doing.

Verse 14: "And the four living creatures said, 'Amen.' And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped *Him Who* lives into the ages of eternity."

Let's see what happens when the seventh trumpet is blown—we've already covered this for Pentecost—but the same thing occurs.

Revelation 11:15: "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.'" Tremendous! Yes, indeed! That includes us!

Notice again what the 24 elders do, v 16: "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'" (vs 16-17).

That's when the Kingdom of God begins; begins with the resurrection of the saints from the dead, and those who are alive and are changed. We're all carried to the Sea of Glass on that last Pentecost. There the business of learning of what we are going to do will take place for the four months between Pentecost and Trumpets and then on into Tabernacles.

Verse 18: "For the nations were angry... [we're going to have to really deal with some things] ... and Your wrath has come, and the time for the

dead to be judged, and to give reward to Your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to *all* those who fear Your name, the small and the great; and to destroy those who destroy the earth.... [so fantastic was this event that]: ...And the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the Ark of His Covenant was seen in His temple; and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunders, and an earthquake and great hail” (vs 18-19). Sounds an awful lot like Rev. 5.

Now we come to the marriage of the Lamb, and us coming back to the earth on Trumpets. Notice what a celebration that is here, what an event that this is. This is done in preparation for that final battle, the rest of Rev. 19, and then, as we saw for Atonement, the putting away of Satan and the demons. That has to be, then the setting up of the Kingdom of God.

Brethren, *we* are going to be the principle ones from Abel all the way to the last two witnesses, all the patriarchs, all of the prophets, the apostles and the saints. This is a tremendous event, and then the marriage supper of the Lamb takes place.

Revelation 19:1: “And after these things I heard *the* loud voice of a great multitude in heaven... [all the resurrected saints on the Sea of Glass] ...saying, ‘Hallelujah!.... [Think of the celebration that is going to be] ...The salvation and the glory and the honor and the power *belong* to the Lord our God.’”

Notice that every time there is a major fulfillment in the plan of God, there is this going on at the throne of God in heaven, and really in the whole creation.

Verse 2: “‘For true and righteous *are* His judgments... [and we’re going to carry them out] ...for He has judged the great whore, who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and He has avenged the blood of His servants at her hand.’ And they said a second time, ‘Hallelujah!....’” (vs 2-3).

We are going to be so happy when all evil is destined to be put down and bring *true peace, true righteousness, true love* to this world. Think of that! That’s what we are called to do!

Verse 4: “...‘Amen. Hallelujah!’”

Verse 6: “...‘Hallelujah! For *the* Lord God Almighty has reigned. Let us be glad and shout with joy; and let us give glory to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready” (vs 6-7).

Fantastic thing! Notice what it says here, v 9: “And he said to me, ‘Write... [God wanted this written down so that we would know] ...Blessed *are*

those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘**These are the true words of God.**’” Then we all come down with Christ to fight in that last battle!

This is the very purpose of our calling and what God wants us to do. He has such a fantastic plan that it is going to be so marvelous. Like Jesus said, ‘the one who is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than John the Baptist.’ Think of that!

Rev. 20—this is after Satan is put away, because you have to get rid of Satan the devil. There can never be any true righteousness without him being gone.

Revelation 20:4: “And I saw thrones; and they that sat upon them, and judgment was given to them; 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.**” *Amazing!*

Verse 6: “**Blessed and Holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection;** over these the second death has no power. But **they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**” *And on into eternity from there!*

Let’s see another view of how the Kingdom of God comes to take over the earth, and we’re going to be there with Christ. How that Jesus will be King over all the earth. This is quite an event:

- the return of Christ coming to Jerusalem
- the resurrection of the saints
- the fulfilling of the plan of God
- the setting up of the Kingdom of God

It’s going to be so marvelous and great! There is nothing, *nothing, nothing* in this world compared to it. We’ll be part of this:

Zechariah 14:1: “Behold, the Day of the LORD comes, and your spoil shall be divided in your midst, ‘For I will gather all nations to battle against Jerusalem...’” (vs 1-2). We know what that is about, we covered that on the Day of Trumpets.

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). That’s where Jesus ascended into heaven to be with the Father at the right hand of God.

So fantastic is this event, so powerful is this; think of this compared to when God came down on

Mt. Sinai. This is even greater.

“...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” (v 4). It’s going to re-construct the whole face of the earth beginning right there in Jerusalem. Quite a marvelous thing!

Then it says, v 5: “...And the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with You.” There we are coming back to the earth; quite a thing!

- What’s going to be the first message that goes out to all the world?
- After all the wars, all the killing, all the destruction, all of the upheaval, everything destroyed and damaged?
- *The psyche and emotion and heart of every man and woman who survives is going to be really traumatic!*

We will see that one of our first jobs is helping them to understand that now it’s all over, now it has come to an end. ‘We have been sent by God to bring you this message, that God has returned to the earth.’

Psa. 97 is going to be our message; we’re going to be able to help people, to serve them, to bring them to understanding about God. This carries right on with what we have covered in the Scriptures before:

Psalm 97:1: “The LORD reigns...” That’s the message! The government of God is here! The government of the saints of God, who are the kings and priests, are going to rule all nations. We’ll have love, strength, Truth, but full authority and power. God is going to have to deal with human beings, and we’ll see how that is. But that will be through us.

“...let the earth rejoice... [Rev. 4; 5, 11; 19] ...let the multitude of islands be glad. Clouds and darkness are all around Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne” (vs 2-3).

That’s what we are going to bring to the world! No more troubles, wars, killing, looting, lying, cheating, stealing, adultery, drugs; all of that will be gone!

Here’s how He comes, v 3: “A fire goes before Him and burns up His enemies round about.” That’s what took place when we came down from the Sea of Glass.

Verse 4: “His lightnings light up the world; the earth saw and trembled. The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the people see His

glory” (vs 4-6). That’s going to be quite a thing! *Yes, indeed!*

Then all of those who have been sinners, v 7: “All those who serve graven images are ashamed who boast themselves in idols; **bow down to Him**, all you gods. Zion heard and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of Your judgments, O LORD, for You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted high above all gods” (vs 7-9).

That’s probably referring to us, because we’ll be the sons and daughters of God. It also applies to the idols that are going to be destroyed. They’re all going to be obliterated. There won’t be anymore idols.

Verse 10: “You who love the LORD, hate evil!... [this is what we are to do to get there] ...He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous and gladness for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous ones, and praise His Holy name” (vs 10-12).

That’s what we are going to be teaching and doing. Think about what we’re going to be able to do.

Psalm 98:9: “Before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth; with righteousness He shall judge the world and the people with equity.”

Psalm 99:1: “The LORD reigns; 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. 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. Exalt the LORD our God and worship at His footstool, for He is Holy. Moses and Aaron were among His priests, and Samuel” (vs 1-5)—and all of us will be there, too.

Verse 8: “You answered them, O LORD our God; You are a forgiving God to them, though You took vengeance for their deeds. Praise the LORD our God and worship at His Holy mountain, for the LORD our God is Holy” (vs 8-9). This is what we are going to be teaching, and this is what we are going to administering.

God has His part that He has to do. We’ll see that in just a minute.

Psalm 100:1: “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.” This recalls what we read in Rev. 5: all the earth, everything in the earth.

I don’t know how all of these different

animals are going to do it, those that are in the sea and all the birds and everything that there is. But it's going to happen!

Verse 2: "Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. 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" (vs 2-3).

That's talking about all of those in the first resurrection. Understand that everyone who comes into the Kingdom of God during the Millennium and during the Great White Throne Judgment will not be a part of the intimate Family of God as those who are in the first resurrection. *Think on that!*

- that's why it's so important
- that's why we need to value everything that God has given us

So that we can prepare and be ready. We have the opportunities that people in the past have not had.

When we come before God—and that's going to be quite a thing—v 4: "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 4-5). Quite a thing!

When we come before God it going to be quite a tabernacle there.

Isa. 4 gives us a glimpse of what it's going to be like in Jerusalem. Remember how we saw that there's going to be a great valley; it's going to be absolutely something! Then there's going to be a great canopy over Jerusalem. There isn't going to be a physical temple that will be built. Whatever different ones that Ezek. 40 onward is the Millennial temple, it's not; that's the second temple.

Isa. 4 is all we know; God doesn't tell us anymore. Sometimes He gives us just enough information so that we see that, yes, this is going to be amazing; this is going to be quite a thing when we go to Jerusalem.

Isaiah 4:5: "And the LORD will create over every dwelling place of Mount Zion... [where the throne of God will be] ...and over her assemblies..."

How many will be there serving Him? *144,000, some from the great innumerable multitude!* They will be serving right there at the throne of God. It is going to be an active powerful place. It's not going to be some little building; it's going to cover the whole area.

"...a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the

glory *shall be* a canopy. And there shall be a tabernacle... [God is going to live in a tabernacle] ...for shade by day from the heat, and for refuge, and for shelter from storm and rain" (vs 5-6).

It's going to be quite a place there. When we come up before God to Jerusalem, that's going to be something, *yes, indeed!* Let's keep that in mind.

Let's see what God has to do for the people. Something has to happen to change their hearts and minds and their attitudes. We have to really understand Isa. 2 because this is going to be the parameters around in which we serve the world.

Isaiah 2:2: "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, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it."

In other words everything concerning the worship of God, the government and the individual lives of every human being. Everything is going to flow out of Jerusalem to all of us who are kings and priests, and we will administer it. It's not going to be directly controlled right there in Jerusalem where everything goes there. No! It flows *out* and flows *in!*

Verse 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."

That's how it's going to go: it's going to come from God then down to the us, to the people and the people coming back. It's really going to be a great and a marvelous system.

Verse 4: "And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people..." Not all are going to submit willingly. Some are going to fight and war. That's another topic that I've covered in past Feasts of Tabernacles about Gog and Magog and how they submit. But it takes seven years to get the whole world under control. God is not going to make it happen immediately.

- He's going to give them the chance to repent
- He's going to give them the chance to come to Him

If not, then He'll have to rebuke them!

"...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" (v 4). Isn't that what we teach our children from crib to the grave.

Pray tell, when has there not been war? *It's in the nature of men and Satan!* They have to learn no more war, no more killing, no more war-games for children. ***Not going to learn it anymore!***

Let's see how God is going to bring this about. Let's see what needs to take place, and it begins first of all with the tribes of Israel. Then those nations that come up to Jerusalem and say, 'We are here and we are the representatives of our nation and we want you to send your kings and your priests to come with us back to our nation and teach us your way, teach us your laws and help us.' The first thing that they're going to be told to do is get rid of every weapon, every sword, every spear, every gun, etc.

So, He begins with Israel, 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.'" ***All 12 tribes!*** That's going to be quite a marvelous and wonderful thing to behold, and ***God is going to do it!***

(go to the next track)

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***'" (vs 1-2). That's what the Millennium pictures:

- Rest!
- Peace!
- Love!
- Joy!
- Truth!
- Righteousness!
- Goodness!
- Health!

All of the things that people crave and want.

Verse 3: "The LORD has appeared to me from afar, *saying*, 'Yea, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, with loving kindness I have drawn you.'" Quite a message to Israel!

Verse 4: "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!' 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!"'" (vs 4-7).

It shows what they're going to do, v 9: "They shall come with weeping, and with prayers I will lead them.... [through us] ...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."

Then what is He going to do? Let's see how this is going to work.

- How long has the world wanted peace?
- How many wars have been fought to bring peace?

Yet, none of them can do it ***because they leave God out!***

God is going to come and they will come to God. We are going to serve them and help them. Notice what He's going to do:

Verse 11: "For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of the one stronger than he. 'Therefore, they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and the herd. And their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not pine away anymore at all'" (vs 11-12).

Think of what kind of society that we are going to be a part of in bringing it to the whole world beginning here with Israel.

Ezek. 36 is quite a chapter and brings a lot of good things to mind about the Millennium. But it also shows something very important that one of the things that is necessary first is that the curse from Adam and Eve has to be lifted from people. What is that curse? *The severity of the law of sin and death!* That has to be chained, and God shows that *He* has to do it.

When Israel comes back, He has a message for them, because He sent them off into captivity because of their sins. Now they have learned their lesson.

Ezekiel 36:22: "Therefore, say to the house of Israel, "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My Holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.'" ***God is going to carry out His Word and His Truth.*** He is going to bring it.

Verse 23: "And I will sanctify My great name, which was profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. And the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD,' says the Lord GOD, 'when I shall be sanctified in you before their

very eyes.” So, Israel is going to be saved *first*.

Verse 24: “For I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of all countries, and will gather you into your own land.” God is going to straighten out the distribution of Israel, and the distribution of all people, because He’s given certain lands to certain people, and they will be there.

Here’s what God needs to do to change the nature of men and women so that we’re not hostile by nature against God:

Verse 25: “And I will sprinkle clean waters upon you, and you shall be clean. I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from your idols. And **I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you.** And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh” (vs 25-26)—back to what it was before Adam and Eve sinned.

That has to be not only for Israel, but for all people. We’re going to be a part in bringing that about.

Verse 27—conversion: “And **I will put My Spirit within you...** [an opportunity for conversion] ...and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My ordinances and do *them*. And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers. And you shall be My people, and I will be your God” (vs 27-28).

- that’s the reason for the Feast of Tabernacles
- that’s the reason why we are here

We have to now be trained so that we can be the kings and the priests, and we can help bring this about. God says that He will do it, but He’s going to work through us to carry it out.

Verse 29: “I will also save you from all your uncleannesses, and I will call for the grain, and will increase it, and will lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruits of the tree and the increase of the field, so that you shall never again receive the curse of famine among the nations” (vs 29-30). Quite a tremendous thing!

This reminds me of the parable of the prodigal son who took his inheritance and went to a land and ended up there in famine. Finally, he came to his senses and said, ‘I’m going back to my father.’ His father accepted him back—didn’t he? Well, this is what’s going to happen on a massive scale with the children of Israel.

Verse 31—repentance; there must be repentance: “And you shall remember your own evil ways, and your doings that *were* not good, and shall

loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.” That’s going to be really quite a change, *yes, indeed! God is going to grant that repentance!* That means He’s also going to grant them also salvation.

This is quite a thing, God’s plan with the Feast of Tabernacles and what He’s going to do to the world and for the world and the people through us. It’s an amazing thing, hidden within all the pages of the Bible! Quite astounding—*isn’t it?*

Verse 32: “‘I do not do *this* for your sake,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘be it known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.’ Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘In the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also cause *you* to dwell in the cities, and the waste *places* shall be rebuilt. And the wasteland shall be tilled, instead of being desolate before all who pass by’” (vs 32-34).

Verse 36: “‘And the nations that are left all around **you shall know that I the LORD build** the ruined *places and* planted that which was desolate. I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it.’ Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘I will yet be sought by the house of Israel to act for them. I will increase them with men like a flock. As a Holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her appointed feasts, so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men. And **they shall know that I am the LORD**’” (vs 36-38).

Tremendous things are going to happen! It’s amazing when you go through and analyze all the verses and see how much is in the Bible. Think of the tragedy of those who reject the Bible, those who say that the Old Testament has been fulfilled. Well, has any of this been fulfilled? *No!* Remember what Jesus said: everything, the Law and the Prophets, are going to be there ‘until everything has been fulfilled.’ When He said that, not everything to be fulfilled had yet been revealed. There was none of the New Testament written, nothing known about New Jerusalem and the new heavens and the new earth.

Let’s see how Israel is going to react; let’s see how they will do. Then we will see what we need to do to become the kings and priests that’s God wants us to be. Everything we read here of what God says He’s going to do, He is going to use all the resurrected saints to do it. That’s why we need to learn to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and being. That why we need to understand the commandments of God. Let them be in our heart and mind, because we’re going to be the teachers of these people. That’s going to be quite a new experience, as well.

Listen, the whole future of God’s plan lays

before us and it's a fantastic and wonderful thing. Don't worry about the difficulties going on in the world. *They aren't going to be solved by men; you can't put your trust in any man!* God is going to take care of it, and *you have been called* to be a part of it.

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. 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'" (vs 1-2). That's the way we need to approach God, as well.

Verse 3: "And **with joy you shall draw water out of the wells of salvation.**" Think of that! Tie that in with John 4 where Jesus was talking to the woman at the well, the woman from Samaria, and He said, 'I have living water to give you.' She thought that had to do with the well that was there. *NO!* "And **with joy you shall draw water out of the wells of salvation.**" That is a fantastic verse; think of how awesome that will be.

Verse 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).

This is talking about the Millennium and the salvation of people. I love that! "...**draw water out of the wells of salvation.**" How fantastic is that! It is absolutely amazing how much there is in the Bible about the Millennium and the Kingdom of God on earth. It is staggering!

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. And they will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors. And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give you rest..." (vs 1-3).

This is part of what we are going to do, *rest*; that means *relief, calm down, get your emotions squared around*:

"...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... [Satan the devil] ...and say, 'How the oppressor has ceased! How his fury has ceased! 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; they break out into singing**" (vs 3-7). That is the Lord reigning!

Let's see how we get there. First of all, look at one of the basic requirements that was given to the king. If we're going to reign as kings and priests, we need to know the Word of God, we need to understand the Word of God; we find in Heb. 8 & 10 that God is going to write them in our heart and mind. How do we get them written there? *It takes work! It takes study!*

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.'" Of course, in the Millennium that's going to be done away.

- God is going to set the kings
- God is going to set the priests
- God is going to establish everything that there is
 - ✓ *through* His Spirit
 - ✓ *through* His Word
 - ✓ *through* His Family
 - ✓ *through* us

to bring it to all the nations!

Verse 15: "You shall surely set a king over you, whom the LORD your God shall choose...."

- Are we chosen? *Yes!*
- Are we going to be over them? *Yes!*
- Are we going to teach them? *Yes!*
- Are we going to bring rule and love of God? *Yes!*

Everything about it, *and salvation!*

Verse 16: "Only he shall not multiply horses to himself...."

Verse 17: "Nor shall he multiply wives to himself...."

Verse 18: "And it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom..." We're preparing to sit on that throne.

Didn't we read *thrones* (Rev. 20) and they that sat on them? *Yes, indeed!*

"...he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book from that which is in the custody of the priests the Levites" (v 18). We've got more than just the Law today. We're going to need the Law,

because the laws that are here are going to be the laws of the whole world; so, we need to know them, as well.

Verse 19: “And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life...” Even though we’re going to be kings and priests, we have to be as Jesus was. How was Jesus? *He was a servant!* That’s what we’re going to be, servants, though we are exalted by God. We’re not going to exalt ourselves.

“...he shall read it all the days of his life...” this is what we need to be doing now in preparing to be kings and priests.

“...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... [here is the reason]: **...his heart may not be lifted up above his brethren, 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” (vs 10-20).

- that’s why we’re here
- that’s why we need to learn righteous judgment
- that’s why we need to learn the things concerning God’s way

In order to help people we’ve got to have:

- the love of God
- the knowledge of God
- the faith of God
- always the Truth of God

All of those things so we can help and teach. This is how we qualify. Now let’s see something else that is going to be as we teach them. We’re going to be teachers. This is going to be a tremendous thing. In teaching them we are going to have an advantage that we do not have today. We will see what that is in just a minute.

Isaiah 30:19: “For, O people, who dwell in Zion at Jerusalem... [this will be to the whole world, because out of Zion and Jerusalem goes the Law] ...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, yet, your teachers shall not be removed into a corner anymore, but **your eyes shall see your teachers**” (vs 19-20). That’s us! They will see us!

Verse 21: “And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This *is* the way, walk in it,’ when you turn to the right hand and when you turn to the left.”

Very interesting. What is this that we will know? *We will be able to know what people are thinking!* God is a heart-knowing God. He knows the hearts.

There are not going to be anymore of devising of evil plans and schemes, and people getting away with sin. It won’t happen! They will be given a chance to repent if they start. How all of that is going to work out we’ll have to see a little later.

Psalms 44:20: “If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god, shall not God search this out? **For He knows the secrets of the heart**” (vs 20-21). Think on that! God knows the secrets of the heart; you can’t keep anything from God! Let’s see how this is going to work.

You’re going to have to understand why being converted and loving God, and being true and faithful to His Word, His righteousness and His ways now is so important. We are going to be given the ability to know what’s in the hearts and minds of people. So, if they start going to the right hand or the left hand, we can say, ‘No, no, no, that’s not the way to do it.’

Notice that when we come before God—and think of us today:

- Can we hide anything from God? *No!*
- Can we have any secrets that other people don’t know about, yet, God doesn’t know about?
- He who created mind, doesn’t He know the mind?
- He who created the tongue, doesn’t He know the language?
- He who created the ear to hear, does He not hear?
- The eye, do they not see? *Yes, they do!*

Now, we are going to be administering the Word of God. Are there going to be a lot of things that are going to be supplemented to uphold the Word of God? Have everything in society related to the Word of God? *Yes, indeed!* No more death; no more destruction. Those things won’t be tolerated.

We’ll talk about what will happen to those who do try some of those things, but here is how it’s going to be.

Hebrews 4:12: “For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...” Because the Word of God is:

- spiritual
- active

- always in force

“...piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, *and* of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern *the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart” (v 12).

Now then, if we are going to rule and reign with Christ, we are going to have that ability... Maybe not to the extent that God Himself has, but we’re going to have to have it so we can tell that that ‘this is the way to go.’ That they’re not going to have anything that they’re going to be able to hide; there will be no secrets from God.

Verse 13: “And there is not a created thing that is not manifest in His sight; but all things *are* naked and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account.”

That’s how it’s going to be with us in teaching the people. That’s going to be an amazing thing! Is that going to stop a lot of crime? *Yes, indeed!* Is that going to stop a lot of lying? *Yes, indeed!* When we enter into the Kingdom of God and we are carrying out the government of God, the rule of God, the Truth of God and the worship of God, it is going to be a spectacular thing.

These things may be hard for us to grasp, because we don’t live in such a world today. No, we don’t! with the people who are in charge and Satan the devil ruling the world, isn’t it a good thing that it doesn’t work that way now? *Yes, indeed!* So, we will have that ability, as well; *we will know.*

Psa. 47 is really and amazing and tremendous Psalm; let’s think of it now that if we come before God as spirit beings around the throne of God.

Psalm 47:1: “Clap your hands, all you people; shout to God with the voice of triumph.” Didn’t we read that back Rev. 19—hallelujah?

Verse 2: “For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.” That’s what the Millennium pictures. And King over all the universe, as well.

Verse 3: “He shall subdue the people under us...” Those born into the Kingdom of God through the first resurrection.

“...and nations under our feet. He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom He loved. Selah. God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a horn. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises” (vs 3-6).

- What’s it going to be like to sing praises to

God?

- What’s it going to be like to all of those of you, who in this lifetime can only make a joyful noise?
- *Now you’ll be able to sing on tune!*

That’s going to be really a fantastic thing. Just picture in your mind if you can what it will be like when we come before God. What are services going to be like when we come before Jesus Christ sitting on His throne?

Verse 5: “God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a horn. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises **for God is King of all the earth**; sing praises with understanding” (vs 5-7). No more pentecostal gibberish!

Verse 8: “God reigns over the nations; God sits upon the throne of His Holiness. The rulers of the peoples are gathered together...” (vs 8-9). That is *us!*

- this is why we’re here
- this is why we keep the Feast of Tabernacles
- this is why we keep the Sabbath
- this is why we keep the Holy Days
- this is why we do the things that we do

We have a great calling! Fantastic and marvelous! Eternal life to live forever, and to help God bring people:

- to Him
- to salvation
- to Truth
- to righteousness

That is an amazing thing!

“...the people of the God of Abraham for the shields of the earth are God’s; He is greatly exalted” (v 9).

Listen! When we fully understand it and we fully grasp it and we realize it more and more to the very depths of our being, to the very core of our heart, mind and soul, and our very existence, of the great calling that God has given to us. That’s why we have the book: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?*

- What fantastic purpose!
- What a tremendous and awesome plan!

That we would be the children of God and help Him rule this world and bring millions and millions into the Kingdom of God. Listen!

Look! The heavens are out there and there

are trillions of stars and trillions of galaxies out there. God's plan has to be so great and so marvelous that He can't even reveal the fullness of it, or the magnitude of it, until we come to the completion of the Last Great Day and then down comes New Jerusalem and the new heavens and the new earth. What is that going to be like? *What a fantastic thing that is going to be!*

Psalm 50:1: "The mighty God, God, the LORD, has spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun to its going down. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shined forth. Our God shall come, and He shall not keep silent; a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous all around Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, so that He may judge His people: 'Gather My saints unto Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.'" (vs 1-5). ***That's us, brethren!***

Verse 6: "And the heavens shall declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge. Selah."

Have a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:33-38
- 2) Deuteronomy 16:16-17
- 3) Revelation 5:8-9, 11-14
- 4) Revelation 11:15-19
- 5) Revelation 19:1-4, 6-7, 9
- 6) Revelation 20:4, 6
- 7) Zechariah 14:1-5
- 8) Psalm 97:1-12
- 9) Psalm 98:9
- 10) Psalm 99:1-5, 8-9
- 11) Psalm 100:1-5
- 12) Isaiah 4:5-6
- 13) Isaiah 2:2-4
- 14) Jeremiah 31:1-7, 9, 11-12
- 15) Ezekiel 36:22-34, 36-38
- 16) Isaiah 12:1-5
- 17) Isaiah 14:1-7
- 18) Deuteronomy 17:14-20
- 19) Isaiah 30:19-21
- 20) Psalm 44:20-21
- 21) Hebrews 4:12-13
- 22) Psalm 47:1-9
- 23) Psalm 50:1-6

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Numbers 28; 29
- Revelation 4
- Ezekiel 40
- John 4

- Hebrews 8; 10

Also referenced: Book: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* by Fred R. Coulter

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Day 2—Feast of Tabernacles God's Plan for Man

God delights in giving us the Kingdom and our delight is in His Way

Fred R. Coulter—October 18, 2016

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the second day of the Feast of Tabernacles! *Time* marches on!

When we look at the world the way that it's been, and especially this summer and everything that has happened, and as we look forward to the election in November, let's look at a couple of things that are really important for us to understand and to really keep our mind focused on.

1. What does God want for us?
2. What is He going to do for us and the world?

Actually, this is a summary of the whole plan of God! Matthew 5:48: "**Therefore, you shall be perfect...**" This is in the future, showing that it is a process. But, how perfect?

"...even as your Father Who is in heaven is perfect" (v 48)—*the perfection of God!* That's what God wants for us. Of course, as we know, He wants our full participation in it.

Matthew 6:33: "But *as for you*, seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

We're going to see the kingdom that we're going to inherit is first going to start as a colossal mess! That's why we need to grow in grace and knowledge and be perfected.

Matt. 11 is an astonishing Scripture when you come to understand it, though we have gone over it many, many time. This tells us some more about the plan of God, and how He's choosing some here and some there, and what God is revealing to us. As we will see, the Bible is literally filled with information concerning the Kingdom of God and how it's going to be on earth and all of that.

Isn't it astonishing when you stop and think about that the Christianity of this world in the main believes in going to heaven, when the Bible shows that God is going to bring it? Talk about having everything backward!

Matthew 11:25: "At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I praise You, O Father... [the One Who is perfect, and we are to be perfect like Him] ...Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to babes.'" *That's us!*

As far as the world is concerned not a single

one of us is worth anything to them, because we belong to God. To be babes means that we have to be:

- open to the teachings of God
- yielding to God
- using His Spirit

Verse 26: "Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing in Your sight *to do this*."

Isn't that an amazing thing, that the world is so upside down and backward, has so many things going wrong for it—and it seems to be multiplying and increasing in severity all the time, which it will, because that's what Jesus said was going to happen. But God is going to give us the kingdom!

Verse 27: "All things were delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son personally chooses to reveal *Him*." That's an amazing thing in each one of our lives! That God would:

- call us
- open our mind
- lead us to repentance
- give us His Holy Spirit
- help us and teach us through His Word
- prepare us to receive the kingdom

That is revealed to those who answer the call of God, not to the world. Let's see what else Jesus said along this same line.

Luke 12:22: "And He said to His disciples, "Because of this, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat; nor about your body, what you shall put on. The life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing. Consider the ravens..." (vs 2-24). Look out at the creation of God, He provides for everything.

"...for they do not sow, nor reap; neither have they a storehouse or granary; but God feeds them. **Of how much greater value are you** than the birds?" (v 24). Yes, we're going to be His very sons and daughters; think of that! Isn't that not valuable?

Verse 25: "And which one of you, *by taking careful* thought, has the power to add one cubit to his stature?" It shows that self-improvement will never get you off the ground.

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... [consider the grass] ...how they grow..." (vs 26-27).

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" (vs 29-30).

God will take care of us; that's how we walk by faith, trust in God. Ask Him to help us, especially in the time now when there is so much abundance and so many things. We're going to reach a time when we're going to have to prove to God that, yes, Your kingdom and Your calling is greater than our physical lives.

Notice why, v 31: "But seek the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you." When for us? *The greatest abundance of it is going to be with all the saints in the Kingdom of God!*

Verse 32: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father delights in giving you the kingdom." *Giving us the Kingdom of God!* That's an astonishing thing when you think about it. Look at the governments of this world, look at everything that's going on, and God is going to say to His Family, 'You're going to straighten it up; I'm going to be here to help you, and we're going to get it done!'

As a astonishing as this may seem, the first and second Psalm tell us an overview of God's plan for each one of us who are seeking righteousness and the Kingdom of God And for the world, the wicked and the rulers. So, this is quite an astonishing thing!

Psalm 1:1: "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked..." How are we to walk? *In the paths of God! In the Truth of God!*

"...nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. But his delight..." (vs 1-2). We just read the Father delights in giving us the kingdom. We're to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and being, and we are to *delight in God's way*.

Verse 2: "But his delight is in the Law of the LORD..." Today we could just say is the whole Bible, because it is. It comes from God—doesn't it? *Yes, it does!*

"...and in His Law does he meditate day and night" (v 2). That's the first thing in our lives, and isn't that what Jesus said: *Seek first the Kingdom of God!*

Notice that spiritually speaking... This can

be, at times, physically speaking as well. But whenever blessings come, be sure and thank God for them, and use them properly, and don't get complacent. We'll talk about complacency a little later.

Verse 3: "And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water that brings forth its fruit in its season..." We're to bring forth:

- the fruits of righteousness
- the fruits of truth
- the fruits of growing and overcoming
- the fruits of the Spirit

All of those things come in their time and in their way with the Spirit of God. We are like a tree; the water is God's Spirit, and through God's Spirit we grow and develop and bring forth these things:

- each in its own time
- each in its own way
- each in its own season

The plan of God is revealed in *its seasons, the appointed times!* But here's an outline for us.

"...and its leaf shall not wither, and all that he does shall prosper" (v 3). Even in the troubles and difficulties that you may go through, those are prosperous for us to learn lessons of spiritual growth and understanding.

Here's the world, v 4: "The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff, which the wind drives away." In other words, their lives bring forth nothing.

Verse 5: "Therefore, the wicked shall not stand in the judgment... [some may repent] ...nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous."

Stop and think about this for a minute; this is why we have to walk in the way of God, the commandments of God, the Truth of God—everything about what God has—being led by the Spirit of God. All of these things are necessary for us to receive the kingdom. *God delights in giving it to us!* Think on that. But the wicked won't be there!

Now, the ultimate of the wicked is found in Rev. 20, the Lake of Fire. They won't be in the Kingdom of God.

Verse 6: "For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish." *Be gone!* Not just die, but *be gone!* No longer existing!

Now let's read about the world today, and it's been this way through history. Stop and think: When was there a time when there was no war.

There may have been some times when there was no war in certain areas, but think about the whole world. Everybody is fighting, arguing, shooting, killing, bombing and looting. Before they had explosives they had knives, spears, swords, bows and arrows, axes, clubs, hammers, and all of these were used to kill people.

There's always been war, and here's why, and this is really quite a prophecy especially for the end-time with bringing in the one-world government, the one-world rule and all that we know as defined by Rev. 13.

Psalms 2:1: "Why do the nations rage and the people plot in vain?" What scheme, what plan of men, for whatever endeavor, for whatever project, for whatever thing to be done...

We've got a lot things. We're sitting in a room and we have lights, chairs, tables; God has provided the Bible for us. We can record like we're doing right now—audio, video and all that sort of thing. All of those things are there, but unless there is the central purpose of the Kingdom of God, all of these things are in vain.

Verse 2 is exactly what's going on in the world today: "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Christ..." You can read Rom. 1 and how they do that:

- change the Truth
- ignore the Truth
- worship Satan
- worship physical things

If you have idolatry there are always evil spirits behind that.

"...and against His Christ..." What is the world going to do at the return of Christ? *We know! They're going to fight Christ! and we are going to have to fight!* Guess who is going to win? *We are!* Then, under Christ, establish the Kingdom of God. Here's what they want:

- no God
- no control
- we'll make up our own laws
- we'll make up our own ways
- we'll do whatever we want to do

"...saying, 'Let us break Their bands asunder and cast away Their cords from us'" (vs 2-3). What does God think about that?

Verse 4: "He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD scoffs at them. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and in His fury He terrifies them.... [Rev. 16] ... 'Yea, I have set **My King** upon

Zion, My Holy mountain'" (vs 4-6)—*that's Christ!* That's in Jerusalem! That's what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about.

Verse 7: "I will declare the decree of the LORD. He has said to Me, 'You are My Son; this day I have begotten You.'" Showing the physical birth of Christ, everything about what God did in Christ's coming. All of that is contained here; it's amazing what's in the Bible when you come to think of it!

Verse 8: "Ask of Me, and I shall give the nations for Your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Your possession." Is that not true. 'In that day Christ is coming to the earth' (Zech. 14). All the saints with Him will come from the Sea of Glass:

- we'll take over the world
- we'll bring everything that God wants for the world to have
- we will introduce the Millennium

What a time that is going to be! We'll see that as we go through the Feast of Tabernacles.

Verse 9: "You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Note: Isa. 2; Micah 4. If they don't want to cooperate when Christ comes to the earth, oh, oh, oh, look out! You better not do that. He's going to have to rebuke nations afar off!

Verse 10: "Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be admonished O judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish in the way, for His wrath can flame up in a moment. **Blessed are all who take refuge in Him**" (vs 10-12).

That's us! That's quite a thing! Let's look at how this world is. Let's see what it's going to be like. It's going to be everything upside down:

- earthquakes
- wars
- chaos
- dead bodies
- broken hearts
- broken lives

of those who survive. There will be those who survive. This is going to be something, brethren! Think of it! When God says that 'I'm giving you the kingdom' the rest of the story is that 'you're going to have to make it right.' Think of that!

We are going to inherit the greatest mess from the greatest war, from the most damage that

could possibly happen to the earth, and *that's how we start the Kingdom of God!*

If you want to do a very interesting study, think of this: go through the Psalms and ask: How many of these things apply to the Kingdom of God? *Write down the Scriptures!* Then go through the Prophets one by one. This is a long study-project.

- What are we to do?
- What are we to learn?
- Are we to not seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? *Yes, indeed!*

Well, that how we can do it. Here's another one of these *the Lord reigns* Psalms:

Psalms 93:1: "The LORD reigns; He is clothed with majesty..." We're going to have a lot of 'one-ups' on the people in the world, that none of the rulers of the world today have. We're going to be able to read their minds; we're going to be able to appear and disappear.

God "...is clothed with majesty..." We're going to have a bit of that given to us, as well. We're going to have a lot of authority over the people to teach them, to help them.

"...the LORD is clothed with strength. He clothed Himself and the world also is established; it shall not be moved" (v 1). Guess who's going to do the establishing? *We are!* How?

- with the Truth of God
- with the love of God
- with everything that needs to be done

Verse 2: "Your throne is established... [Psa. 2] ...of old; You are from everlasting." That's quite thing! What is it going to be like to live *forever*? How is that going to be? *I don't think we can understand it very well, but we can understand it somewhat!*

Psa. 147 is quite a Psalm; this is going to be good. Here is how God is going to solve the problems using us. We know that there are going to be multitudes of those in the first resurrection. God has been working this ever since Abel, and especially since the first coming of Christ. What a thing that is going to be.

Psalms 147:1: "O praise the LORD, for it is good to sing praises to our God, for praise is pleasant and becoming." What is it going to be like when sin is removed? Satan isn't here? *People are going to learn! They're going to enjoy life!*

Verse 2: "The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (vs 2-3). We are going to be doing that. Think of what a

great plan that is. That's why we suffer through the things that we do. Notice coming from God...

- we praise His goodness
- we praise His glory
- we praise His Word
- we praise His Son

Verse 4: "He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by their names.... [Fantastic!] ...Great is our LORD and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite" (vs 4-5).

Stop and think about it just for a minute. How much do we really, *really* know? Got and eyedropper with a wee, little, teeny point? *One drop! That's about all we know! But His understanding is infinite!*

Verse 6: "The LORD lifts up the meek; He casts the wicked down to the ground. Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praises upon the lyres unto our God, Who covers the heavens with clouds, who prepares rain for the earth, who makes grass to grow upon the mountains. He gives the beasts their food and to the young ravens which cry. He delights not in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. **The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, who hope in His steadfast love**" (vs 6-11).

That will be the whole mission of the Millennium!

Verse 12: "Glorify the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion." Notice what God is going to do, because what we have to do we must have God initiating everything first.

Speaking of Jerusalem, v 13: "For He has made the bars of your gates strong..." This time Jerusalem is never going to be done away. Added on top of that, He's going to replace it with New Jerusalem. Talk about mind-boggling!

Notice that all of these are what God does and we carry it out, v 14: "**He makes peace** within your borders and fills you with the finest of the wheat. **He sends forth His commandment** upon earth; His word runs very swiftly" (vs 14-15). The knowledge of God is going to cover the earth like the sea.

Verse 16: "He gives snow like wool; He scatters the hoarfrost like ashes. He casts forth His ice like crumbs. Who can stand before His cold? **He sends out His Word**... [the seasons, the laws and everything] ...and melts them; He causes His wind to blow, and the waters flow. **He declares His Word unto Jacob**, His statutes and His ordinances unto Israel. He has not done so with any *other* nation; and

as for his ordinances, they have not known them. O praise the LORD!" (vs 16-20).

We're going to have to do that for all the world! The first thing He needs to do is bring Israel, in order for all of this to happen. Let's see what God is going to do. We've covered some of this in Day 1 and how it's going to be with Israel:

Jeremiah 32:17: "Ah, Lord GOD! You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and stretched out arm. **Nothing is too great for You.** You show loving kindness to thousands, and repay the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them. The great, the mighty God, the LORD of hosts, *is* His name, great in counsel and mighty in work..." (vs 17-19). That sure is going to be true in setting up the Millennium.

"...for Your eyes *are* open on all the ways of the sons of men, to give every one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings" (v 19). Yes, we're going to be there teaching them, helping them, making all of this possible.

Verse 27: "Behold, **I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"** *Think about that!*

Here is what God is going to do, and we'll be part of this, v 37: "Behold, I will gather them out of all the lands where I have driven them in My anger, and in My fury and in great wrath...." Going to bring back Israel first.

"...And I will bring them again to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely.... [**no more war**; think of the prosperity that is going to develop from that] ...And they shall be My people, and I will be their God. And I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for their good and for the good of their children after them" (vs 37-39).

Just think how many children are going to come during the Millennium. What a thing that is going to be!

Verse 40: "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them..." Give them the opportunity of receiving eternal life. Those of us in the first resurrection will always be in a different category than they, because we will be the firstborn, the first Family of God. Christ is the First of the firstfruits. We are the firstfruits. ***This is why that everything that we do is worth everything that we go through!*** Never forget that when the going gets tough.

"...that I will not turn away from them, *rather*, to do them good. But I will put My fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from Me. Yea, **I will rejoice** over them... [rather than dish out

wrath] ...to do them good, and I will truly plant them in this land with all My heart and all My whole soul" (vs 40-41).

Look at what God is going to do! That is something! God is going to make this the most wonderful thing that there is, starting out with Israel and Judah. Then the nations that see this will come to Jerusalem and say, 'Show us what we must do.' *We'll be there to help them!*

Here's what's going to happen; we must do this first; 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." You can take one verse and multiply that over and over again. Take that one verse and look at the world news on television, look at the lives of people. Think what it's going to be, this kind of health; this kind of healing.

Think of that the next time you watch on television one of those ads for some kind medicine, which is the most wonderful thing in the world to take if you don't die from taking it. "**...I will heal them and will show them the riches of peace and truth.**"

Verse 7: "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."

Now then, here's what also has to come along with it. And what we're describing here is what we're going to be doing. God is going to do it ***through us***, who are the kings and priests, the city rulers, county rulers, administrators and teachers, and He's going to do all of this through us.

Verse 8: "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." Think of that! Add to that the next layer of salvation, the Last Great Day. Just plant that seed there and think on that.

Verse 9: "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...." This is why God delights in giving to us the kingdom.

- Think of what we are going to bring to the world!
- Think of what salvation is going to be like for them!

Then we go down 50 years, 100 years, 150 years, 300 years, 500 years 600 years, 700 years, 800 years and on down to the completion of the

Millennium. Amazing!

“...And they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the peace that I bring to it.’ Thus says the LORD, ‘Again there shall be heard in this place, which you say *is* a waste without man and without beast, *even* in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate without man, and without inhabitant, and without beast... [here’s what you’re going to hear] ...the voice of joy...” (vs 9-11)—rather than sadness and crying and wretchedness from all the ways of man.

“...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”...” (v 11). Think of that! Think of what Sabbath services are going to be like during the Millennium everywhere in the world!

“...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. Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Again in this place which is a desert without man and without beast, and in all its cities, there *shall be* a home of shepherds causing *their* flocks to lie down. In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the places around Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, shall the flocks pass again under the hands of him who tallies them,’ says the LORD. ‘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’” (vs 11-14).

Think of that! That’s going to be something! We are going to be there teaching, training, administering, helping in every way as the spirit sons and daughters of God to make the Millennium a fantastic and wonderful success for God!

(go to the next track)

Let’s see the great and fantastic work that God is going to give us, because He delights in giving us the kingdom. We will be able to accomplish the greatest tasks in helping this world come:

- to know God
- to understand why they’re here
- to live in love and in truth
- to rejoice in the goodness of God

Let’s apply Psa. 126 to every single one that lives through the Tribulation and into the establishing of the Kingdom of God. Just a short, little Psalm, but what a message that is there:

Psalm 126:1: “When the LORD brought back the exiles, those who returned to Zion, we were like those who dream.” It’s going to be something! It’s going to be so fantastic! It’s just like dream.

- Is this really happening?
- Is this really true?
- Is this really taking place?

Verse 2: “Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; then they said among the nations...” All around the world. Just to give you an idea what this will be like. We’ve got a globe right in our meeting room

Take this Psalm 126 and think about it for all nations of the world, everywhere on earth, all people everywhere. It’s going to be our job to bring this to them so they can:

- have happiness
- have joy
- have love
- have truth
- understand about life
- understand about God

This is what God has given us to do. I just wanted to show you this globe and think about the big picture of what we are talking about here.

“...‘The LORD has done great things with them.’ The LORD did great things for us and we are glad. Turn back our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south. Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy” (vs 3-5)—especially that first generation. What a time that is going to be. All of those who live through the Tribulation, the horrible and terrible times that they have to go through.

Verse 6: “He who goes forth and weeps, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come home with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”

Psalm 96:1—we’ve got this song in our hymnal: “O sing to the LORD a new song...” I don’t think we have a clue as to what kind of real singing there’s going to be in the Millennium. Especially with all the spiritual sons and daughters of God. What is the heavenly choir going to be like.

“...sing to the LORD, all the earth...” Think about the globe. When Sabbath starts at one part of the earth and goes around the whole earth, think what that’s going to be like:

- everyone keeping the Sabbath
- everyone honoring God
- everyone coming to church
- everyone being taught the way of God
- everyone being taught the Word of God

If you think the Bible is great—which it is—it's fantastic, it's marvelous, it's eternal; it has the words of life and spirit; think of what's going to be added to it.

Verse 2: "Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all people" (vs 2-3)—everyone from the least to the greatest are going to know God, and God has called us to do that, brethren! That's why we're here!

Verse 4: "For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods." No more gods of the nations. **No! No!**

Verse 5: "For all the gods of the nations are idols... [they'll all be destroyed; there won't be anymore of them] ...but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Ascribe to the LORD, O you kindreds of the people; give to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name; bring an offering and come into His courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth" (vs 5-9).

That is going to be something! Think what it's going to be like in keeping the Feast of Tabernacles during the Millennium.

Verse 10: "Say among the nations, 'The LORD reigns, and the world shall be established; it shall not be moved; He shall judge the people with righteousness.' Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fullness of it. Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD; for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth; He shall judge the world with righteousness and the people with His Truth" (vs 10-13).

That's why we're here, brethren! That's an amazing thing. All of this is in the Bible! Think of that! Think of how God is going to take, as it were, each one of these verses and expand it out with understanding all during the Millennium. That is going to be something! This is quite a study!

Psalms 122:1: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.'" What's it going to be like during the Millennium and we're out here in this country or that country—whatever it is—and it's time for us to go up to Jerusalem where Christ is, where the patriarchs are, and all of those who serve around the throne of God. What a wonderful thing that is going to be!

Verse 2: "Our feet shall stand within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built like a city that

is all joined together as one where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD" (vs 2-4). We will bring those offerings and those things to Jerusalem, to God. Amazing!

What are we going to see? Verse 5: "For there were set the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David."

Think of what Jesus told the apostles when they said, 'Lord, we left everything, what is there for us?' And He says, 'You'll each be sitting on thrones judging the tribes of Israel.' So, there they are, all the apostles. What a time that's going to be.

As we look forward to it, v 6: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May those who love you prosper. Peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces.' For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, 'Peace be within you.' For of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good" (vs 6-9). *Can hardly wait to get there!*

Let's see some things in the book of Isaiah; there are some really great Scriptures. You can do the same thing with every one of the books of the Old Testament: How much does it talk about the Kingdom of God?

Isaiah^[transcriber's correction]59:20: "The Redeemer shall come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," says the LORD."

We're going to help administer this. Think of what God is going to have us to do. We're just like an teeny, little drip or drop of something for what we know compared to what God is going to reveal to us. Since we're going to live forever, don't you think that we're going to be learning forever? *That's hard to contemplate!*

Verse 21: "As for Me, this *is* My covenant with them," says the LORD, 'My spirit that is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, nor out of the mouth of your seed, nor out of the mouth of your seed's seed,' says the LORD, 'from now on and forever.'"

Other than just a little brief time with Satan the devil at the end of the Millennium, it's going to be all God's way!

Isaiah 60:1: "Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you." This world right now as it is, is in darkness; ...for behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness *the* people... [v 3]: And the Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising" (vs 1-3). ***That's us!***

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).

We're not going to do this for nothing! That's amazing to understand! Think about that! I tell you, that's something!

Verse 9: "Surely the isles shall wait for Me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, to the name of the LORD your God, and to the Holy One of Israel because He has glorified you. And the sons of strangers shall build up your walls, and their kings shall serve you; for in My wrath I struck you, but in My grace I had mercy upon you" (vs 9-10).

Grace to the whole world! That's going to be an amazing thing! Notice that there is still going to be some correction that's going to have to come. God is not going to tolerate any rebellion. He's not going to put up with any way of living in sin. This is talking about us and our authority over the world under Christ:

Verse 12: "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you will perish. Yes, *those* nations will be completely wasted." I'm sure that goes on into the Great White Throne Judgment and so forth.

Verse 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 talk about being exalted, isn't that going to be something? *Yes!*

Look at this, v 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.... [notice the prosperity that is going to be brought]: ...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" (vs 16-17). *That's us! We're the rulers and overseers!*

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).

We'll still have the sun and moon, but

compared to what God is going to give us, it's going to be an amazing thing, indeed!

Verse 20: "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 20-22).

How is that going to be? *On down through the Millennium, then on down through eternity! Amazing! Amazing, the things that God has here for us!*

Think of this for a minute: No wonder the Protestants don't know anything, and the Catholics don't know anything. They says, 'Well, the Old Testament is all done away or fulfilled.' You might ask anyone who says that to you:

- Is the Kingdom of God established on the earth?
- Did you know that the Old Testament talks an awful lot about this?
- Did you know that's why Christ is returning?
- Did you know that you 'ain't a gonna go to heaven'?

Heaven is going to come to the earth, so you better get yourself ready!

Isaiah 61:1: "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me..." This is Christ's prophecy. This is what He spoke in Luke 4 when they brought Him the scroll of Isaiah. This is talking about Christ.

"...because the LORD has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor..." (v 1).

- How is He doing that? *Through His Church!*
- How is He going to do that during the Millennium? *Through His kings and priests to whom He has given authority over the earth!*

Remember the big globe that we looked at; it's a big place with a lot of land, and a lot of ocean. After the shaking of the heavens and the earth and so forth, we don't know what it's going to look like, but it's going to be something! Notice that this also tells us what we are to do:

"...to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted... [at the beginning of the Millennium that will be just about everybody] ...to proclaim liberty to the

captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to preach the acceptable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn" (vs 1-2).

"...he day of vengeance..." does not mean just executing everybody. How about 'good' vengeance? *Making everything right!* Have you ever thought about that?

Verse 3: "To appoint to those who mourn in Zion, giving to them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the mantle of praise for the spirit of heaviness; so that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified."

Showing conversion to the world and all the people and the things that they go through. That's going to be quite a job! Can you imagine the histories, accounts and everything? How we're going to gradually put all of that in the past? Right at the beginning it's going to be quite a thing to rehearse it, but as we go down through the Millennium we will see that things will change a bit.

Verse 4: "And they will build the old wastes, they will raise up the desolations of former times. And they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations."

You talk about a work project. Remember what they said after WWII and the Marshall Plan how we were going to fix up Europe? *We did a pretty good job with that*, but look, there they are right in the middle of fighting again. Human beings just cannot get along. It is an amazing thing! Here all of that is going to be taken away.

Verse 5: "And strangers will stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the stranger *will be* your plowmen and your vinedressers. But **you...**" (vs 5-6)—that's us! Here is a prophecy for us; tie this in with Rev. 20 where it says that we will be priests of Christ.

This applies to all who are in the first resurrection, v 6: "But **you shall be called the priests of the LORD**; it will be said of you... [put your name there] ...'The ministers of our God'; you will eat the riches of the Gentiles, and you will boast in their glory. 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" (vs 6-7).

That is going to be for those in the first resurrection. Then as we administer this to the people during the Millennium in all nations, it will come to them.

Verse 8: "For I the LORD love justice..."

[that's what He's going to bring and we will administer it] ...I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth..." Through us. That's why we need the Truth of God, *the Truth of God, the Truth of God!*

"...and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.... [because they will enter into the Kingdom of God, as well] ...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" (vs 8-9).

Stop and think of the promise given to Abraham: *your seed shall be like the stars of heaven!* That will be all of those in the first resurrection. Will that be a blessing to be in the first resurrection? *Yes, indeed! Never again to be repeated!*

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, He covered me with the robe of righteousness like a bridegroom adorns *himself* with ornaments, and like a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels." That's how we are going to be clothed! Imagine that! Look at these promises!

Brethren, this is a mighty, fantastic and wonderful thing that we have, so that we can understand these prophecies and promises, and see that those have been given so that we can have *inspiration, hope, joy* and know that we are doing the things that are right before God by:

- loving Him
- keeping His commandments
- keeping His Holy Days
 - Why would anyone not want to keep the Holy Days?
 - Why would anyone not want to keep the Feast of Tabernacles?

If they're never taught what is right, if they're never taught these things, they won't understand why, and they make it a burden.

Verse 11—talks about our work: "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."

I want you to think about that. I want you to think how great that that is. I want you to take whatever problems you have and put them aside, get them resolved and concentrate on the blessings and promises that God has given us and why we keep the Feast of Tabernacles and the great, fantastic spiritual

everlasting promises of being His sons and daughters. Because when these people are done with their physical life, they're going to enter into the Kingdom of God. What is that going to be? That's why the heavens are so vast! There is so much out there that God has done in preparing for us!

God isn't going to give that to us until we learn, know and understand His way, the way that He wants it to be.

Isa. 11 is one of my favorites. Take a look at the world the way that it is today, and everything that's going on. How many suicide radical Islamic terrorist attacks have we had? *Hundreds!* That's only just a start. What is it going to be like just before the return of Christ? *It's going to be absolute madness and mayhem!* Compare that with:

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). That was Jesus in His physical life. Not only that, magnified as He came back and regained being God.

"...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" (vs 2-3). *Neither will we!*

Verse 4: "But with righteousness He shall judge the poor..." Isn't that what is needed today? *Without a doubt!*

"...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" (v 4). Not going to tolerate it! *No way!*

Verse 5: "And righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins."

There's going to be a change in the whole earth, not only in human nature, as we saw that God is going to give them a heart of flesh, but also in the environment, in the animals. Look at what goes on in the animal world; same thing is going on in the human world:

- fighting
- warring
- quarreling
- squabbling
- taking
- stealing

That's all going to be changed! These things are going to be so fantastic it's hard for us to believe it.

Verse 6: "Also, the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the cub lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."

Who will want plastic toys? *Nobody!* And no more war games, sorry about that. That's where they learn war, and you're not going to learn war anymore!

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 behold, a grass-fed lion. How is that going to work? *I don't know, but that's going to be something!*

This is the one that gets me, v 8: "And the suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the viper's den." Quite a contrast to what it is in some places in the world. Today in the America they tell children to be careful in Florida because of the pythons eat little children. Look at this, it is completely changed!

Verse 9: "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." That's something! That is going to be really great!

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." That's the part that we play in, the glory of the Lord of God!

- That's why we are here!
- This is why we have been called!
- This is why we need to grow in grace and knowledge!
- This is why we need to keep the Feast of Tabernacles!
 - ✓ to be uplifted
 - ✓ to be inspired

Especially this year, because one week after everything is all over and we get home, BAM! Halloween puts its presence right in the middle of things. We need to be strengthened:

- spiritually
 - mentally
 - emotionally
- and *uplifted* with
- the Word of God
 - the Spirit of God

And let it dwell richly within us!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 5:48
- 2) Matthew 6:33
- 3) Matthew 11:25-27
- 4) Luke 12:22-27, 29-32
- 5) Psalm 1:1-6
- 6) Psalm 2:1-12
- 7) Psalm 93:1-2
- 8) Psalm 147:1-20
- 9) Jeremiah 32:17-19, 27, 37-41
- 10) Jeremiah 33:6-14
- 11) Psalm 126:1-6
- 12) Psalm 96:1-13
- 13) Psalm 122:1-9
- 14) Isaiah 59:20-21
- 15) Isaiah 60:1-5, 9-10, 12, 15-22
- 16) Isaiah 61:1-11
- 17) Isaiah 11:1-10

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 20; 13
- Romans 1
- Revelation 16
- Zechariah 14
- Isaiah 2
- Micah 4
- Luke 4

FRC:bo
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Day 3—Feast of Tabernacles

How will Society Work During the Millennium

The world is needing and waiting for the Kingdom of God
Fred R. Coulter—October 19, 2016

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Day 3 of the Feast of Tabernacles! As we say, time goes on, time marches on, and there are still a lot of things to happen in the world. But what the world is waiting for is the Kingdom of God to be brought on earth by Jesus Christ and the saints. We are the saints. We will see today what it is that God will do, what it is that we will do, and how will life be during the Millennium.

Micah 4—I know we've been here before, but let's read it again because this is really the keynote of how the Millennium begins and then we will move into the things that God has planned for us.

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... [in this case symbolic of governments and nations] ...and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it." Everything is going to be coming *to* Jerusalem and *out of* Jerusalem.

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...**'" They will be taught and we will be the teachers. We will be the ones who will be instructing the people, leading and guiding them, at various different levels in the government of the Kingdom of God.

"...and we will walk in **His** paths'..." (v 2). No more many different ways for people to go. We're still going to have independent free moral agency (IFMA); people will still have that. We will see what happens probably a little later on how that's going to be handled.

But know for sure that this is what the world is needing and waiting for, and they don't know it because of all the trauma, trouble and difficulty that they are going through today. "...walk in **His** paths..." ***This is the way, walk in it!***

"...—for the Law shall go forth out of Zion, and the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (v 2). It's going to cover the whole earth!

Remember that we read that 'the knowledge of the Lord as the seas that cover the earth,' which tells us that at this time, even with the Bible, how much do we really know? Even if we knew

everything in the Bible? How much are we ourselves going to learn from God?

Verse 3: "And He shall judge among many people, and will rebuke strong nations afar off..." All the nations are going to learn. They're going to have to *choose* to come to Jerusalem. Some will come willingly. Others won't! Let's see what happens when they don't.

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."

That's going to be really quite a thing! Can you imagine what it's going to be like when the whole world is keeping the Sabbath? The whole world being taught by the sons and daughters of God? ***The saints today! The whole world from the least to the greatest is going to know God!***

Here's what will happen if they don't come, and we'll see later some other consequences that will probably happen.

Verse 17: "And it shall be, whoever will not come up from all the families of the earth to Jerusalem..." Everybody is not going to get to Jerusalem, because they're going to have to send their representatives. Of course, we will be the ones who will rule over the nations, and we will oversee the cities. We will see teaching people directly. They will send representatives up to Jerusalem, and not only will we be there, but the physical human beings who are the leaders under us over the people will be there.

"...to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.... [God is going to have to intervene to punish them] ...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" (vs17-18).

Sidebar: there is always a relentless attack against the Sabbath and against the Holy Days, and even from Sabbath-keepers who don't keep the Holy Days. We'll have to get into some of those things, because we need to be armed with the knowledge and understanding of what we need to do.

Verse 19: “This shall be Egypt’s punishment, and the punishment of all the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. In that day there shall be on the bells of the horses, ‘HOLINESS TO THE LORD.’ And the pots in the LORD’S house shall be like the bowls before the altar” (vs 19-20). So, the proper worship of God. We can just summarize the last two verses that way.

Now we have all nations and all families. Of course, there is going to be a great production of children at that time, because God wants many in His kingdom.

- How many is it going to take to rule the universe?
- How big, really, is the universe?
- *We’re just like a little speck of a germ here on the earth!*

Micah 4:3: “...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares...” Here’s the ban of all guns, all swords, all spears used in warfare. There will be **no more war!** Not only that, but:

“...and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (v 3). That’s an amazing thing! That’s starts with childhood.

As you view television and you see things that are going on, look at all the fighting, warring, rebellion and everything against God. God has called us out of this world so that *we* will be able to be converted, trained, taught, learn, know and understand God’s way to teach and rule this world. That’s quite a thing!

We’re not here coming to church to join a church so that we can have friends; it’s good to have friends and have people that think like we do; it’s nice to around people who think like we do. But we are being trained to *rule the world!* That’s what we’re going to look at.

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; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.” Understand that **every single word of God will be fulfilled!**

Verse 6: “‘In that day,’ says the LORD, ‘I will gather the lame, and I will gather the exiled ones, and those that I have afflicted. 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’” (vs 6-7). *The Kingdom of God is going to go on forever!*

It’s very interesting that when you go through the Bible and you search out the things in the Bible, what you find is that the Old Testament has to do with the physical nations. There are prophecies concerning Christ, there are prophecies concerning the Church, so it’s for all the physical nations on the earth just like we read here, even on into the Millennium.

However, when you read the New Testament and begin to analyze that, you see that that is designed for those who are going to be in the first resurrection and in the Kingdom of God as kings and priests to fulfill the prophecies that have been given in the Old Testament about the Millennium and the physical nation.

Now, here’s a whole story of the Bible encapsulated in these few verses; Isaiah 9:6: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and **the government shall be upon His shoulders...**” The government of the Kingdom of God, the rule of God over all the earth. Right now Christ is the Head of the Church. We are all the children of God.

“...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God...” (v 6)—God come in the flesh; now this is a hard one who don’t believe in the New Testament to understand. That’s why you need the Old Testament and the New Testament together.

“...The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 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” (vs 6-7).

Remember, God says it’s going to be done, and if He says that He’s going to do it zealously, *He will!* What is going to happen while we’re on the Sea of Glass right after the resurrection, before we come back to the earth? *There’s the marriage of the Lamb and the Church and the wedding supper!*

Now then, all the children that come into the Kingdom of God through the Millennium, through the work that we will be doing under Christ, will be the children of Jesus Christ and the Bride. That’s when Jesus becomes an *everlasting Father*. With the Church today, the Father is *God the Father, and we are His children!* So, at that time those coming into the Kingdom of God during the Millennium will be the children of Christ and the Church. That’s how that’s going to be fulfilled.

You look at these verses and look at the long term fulfillment of many, *many, many* of the things that are briefly reviewed here in these verses. Christ

is going to return and we will be with Him. We're going to bring peace to the whole world. Satan will have been bound; that's what the Day of Atonement pictures. Notice what's going to happen:

Isaiah 59:20: “‘The Redeemer shall come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,’ says the LORD. ‘As for Me, this *is* My covenant with them,’ says the LORD...” (vs 20-21). He did not make this covenant with them during the time of Israel.

“...‘My spirit that is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, nor out of the mouth of your seed, nor out of the mouth of your seed’s seed,’ says the LORD, ‘from now on and forever’” (v 21).

So, all the children who come into the Kingdom of God, it's going to be something! We'll talk about what that's going to be like. We're going to have a society nothing like it is today; *absolutely nothing like it is today!* Isn't it interesting to note that most of the descriptions of the Millennium are found in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 49:7: “Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, his Holy One, *to Him* whom man despises, *to Him* whom the nation hates, the Servant of rulers... [that's what it is right now] ...‘Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship because of the LORD Who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, and He shall choose You.’.... [Israel] ...Thus says the LORD, ‘In a favorable time I have answered You, and in a day of salvation I have helped You; and I will preserve You, and give You for a covenant of the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the wasted inheritances’” (vs 7-8). That's talking about Christ's coming, preparing, death and resurrection and coming back to the earth.

Verse 9: “That You may say to the prisoners, ‘Go out!’ To those who *are* in darkness, ‘Show yourselves!’....”

Remember how the earth is going to be shaken, the heavens and the earth and mountains are going to be lowered, and the valleys are going to be raised. So, here's part of our work, go out there and find the people. Of course, we'll be able to find them, and we'll tell them to show themselves.

“...They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst; nor shall the heat nor sun strike them... [in an evil way] ...for He who has compassion on them shall lead them; even by the springs of water He shall guide them. And I will make all My mountains into roads, and My highways shall be exalted. Behold, these shall come

from far; and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.’ Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break out *into* singing...” (vs 9-13). The whole environment and everything restored the way that God wants it to be.

“...O mountains; for the LORD has comforted His people, and will have compassion upon His afflicted” (v 13).

You might look this on your computer: How many *Thus says the Lord* are there? *I think you're going to find a lot of them!*

Verse 22: “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I will lift up My hand to the Gentiles, 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. 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**’” (vs 22-23).

No, we're going to show them the way of God, the Truth of God. Also, it's going to show... Remember the parable of *the unrighteous mammon*. If you're not faithful in that, who is going to give you the true riches? What is it going to be for us as spirit beings ruling in the Millennium? *Here's part of it right here!*

It's quite amazing how much is in the book of Isaiah about the Millennium and what's going to take place here. Who's going to be one of the most exalted? *Christ will be!* The fulfilling of the beginning of the Millennium:

Isaiah 61:1: “The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me...”—first coming, Verse 2 is His second coming, with vengeance to destroy the enemy and put away Satan.

Verse 3: “To appoint to those who mourn in Zion, giving to them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the mantle of praise for the spirit of heaviness...” That's also for all of those who are resurrected and become the priests and the servants to serve the people.

“...so that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.’ And they will build the old wastes... [what a waste it's going to be; everything literally turned upside down] ...they will raise up the desolations of former times. And they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations” (vs 3-4). Don't worry about full employment; we're going to be busy helping build

and make it right, make it good; not like the cities that we have today.

Verse 6: “But you shall be called the priests of the LORD; it will be said of you, ‘The ministers of our God’; you will eat the riches of the Gentiles, and you will boast in their glory. 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” (vs 6-7). This is really quite a thing!

Let’s see something else that is important for us to realize in this; Isaiah 52:6: “‘Therefore, My people shall know My name, thus *it shall be* in that day, for I *am* He Who speaks; behold, *it is I.*’ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace; who brings good news, who publishes salvation; who says to Zion, ‘**Your God reigns!**’” (vs 6-7).

That’s how we’re going to go out and teach the people. God is in Jerusalem, the world is going to be all straightened out and repaired. Here’s how we’re going to do it, here’s what we’re going to teach, and you’re going to be able to see your teachers. They’re going to be able to talk to you. You’re going to be able to know the way that you need to go.

Isaiah 60:15: “Instead of being forsaken and hated, so that no one passes through, **I will make you an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations.**” That’s how it’s going to be down through the Millennium! No more war! No more killing! No more stealing!

What’s going to happen if people sin? *We’ll cover that a little later*, but what we want to cover right now is **how we are going to serve the world!**

Verse 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.”

In order to have these kinds of blessings, you must have the rulership of the sons and daughters of God under Christ, Who will be King of the whole world.

- What happens when people get too much?
- What happens when they have so many blessings?

Well, they corrupt themselves! Look at the world today. Look at all the blessings that we have had in the world today, and what has happened? People have corrupted themselves. That’s why we have so much trouble right now. However, during the Millennium, look at the prosperity that will be there.

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 is us!***

Verse 18: “Violence will no more be heard in your land...” Isn’t it true? Isn’t this what everyone wants down deep inside of them? *Yes, indeed!* But how to achieve it? *Human beings cannot do it, but we can!*

“...neither wasting nor ruin within your borders; but you will call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise” (v 18).

Verse 21: “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 21-22).

Think of the continuing things that will be going on during the Millennium, all during that time. Now let’s come to the New Testament, Matt. 25, and let’s see what God is now preparing us for and to do in the Millennium.

Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25:14: “For *the Kingdom of Heaven is* like a man leaving the country... [Christ came and went back to heaven] ...who called his own servants and delivered to them his property.... [serving and helping the Church] ...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” (vs 14-15).

Here’s what’s important. Remember how we said with riches and wealth that people get corrupted very easily? *Yes!* Likewise with us, here is what we are to do: ***We’re to always be working and zealous!***

And remember Rev. 2 & 3, what do we find? *We are judged according our works, what we produce in our lives!* What we are to produce is *Holy and righteous character!* That’s what’s so important, because kings and priests cannot rule and reign properly unless they do it *righteously!*

Verse 16: “Then the one who had received five talents went and traded with them, and made an additional five talents.” This shows that we are to work and we are to produce. What are the talents that we are to have?

In some areas the Church is more like the *works of the flesh.* Today, many churches are in turmoil, being taught doctrines that are not true,

being misled. That's not developing the talents. That is not teaching and training the brethren with the Word of God, as the elders and ministers should be doing. Too many ministers think that they are rulers over the brethren. God says that we are to help and serve, and teach.

Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is **love...**" That is the keynote of everything that we do. We're to:

- love God with all our heart, mind, soul and being,
- love our neighbor as ourselves
- love the brethren as Christ has loved us
 - the love of God
 - the Truth of God

All of that combined together, and we need to cherish it as talents given from God that we are develop and grow. Our responsibility as being kings and priests, we must first develop the character in this life. That's what's important. We're going to see a little later what happens to people who don't do that. They were given many things and did not do what God expected them to do.

"...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control..." (vs 22-23). All of these things are character development. God is interested in converting our heart and mind with His eternal Holy Spirit. Then at the resurrection He's going to give us a *spiritual body* and a *spiritual mind* so we can live forever.

"...against such things there is no law" (v 23). Today in the world, look at what the world is today. This is an apt description of everything in the world, the works of the flesh.

Verse 19: "Now, the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, strifes, jealousies, indignations, contentions, divisions, sects, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such things as these; concerning which I am telling you beforehand, even as I have also said in the past, that those who do such things shall not inherit *the Kingdom of God*" (vs 19-21).

Why? *Because they did not take the talents and produce the fruits of righteousness!* Since He gave to each one according to their abilities. Whatever our abilities are, brethren, we are to work, develop and this comes through:

- prayer
- study
- living
- being at peace with the brethren
- being at peace with one another

All of those things are profoundly important for us to grow and develop in the way that God wants us to. That's why this Feast of Tabernacles is so tremendous and fantastic that we are together and we are able to:

- love one another
- be with one another
- help one another
- grow in grace and knowledge
- enjoy the company of one another
- talk with one another

All of the things that go with the feasting during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Matthew 25:17: "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 return of Christ is a long time from His first coming] ...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).

What we're talking about here is that when we're to work for someone to develop *their money, their property*, we are called *stewards*. Stewards don't do this for their own profit. They do it for the owner's profit. Likewise with us, we do this and develop these talents and grow, change and overcome so that we can serve God in the way that He wants us to. We can be His literal sons and daughters and serve and help run the whole Millennium with all the people.

"... 'Lord, you delivered five talents to me; see, I have gained five other talents besides them.' 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. **Enter into the joy of your lord**'" (vs 20-21). ***Eternal life!***

- Are there not many things to run a society?
- Are there not many things to serve and help people?
- Are there not many things to teach them the way of God?
- Are there not many things to teach them to grow and overcome?
- *Yes, indeed!*

Likewise with two talents, He said the same thing to him. The one who did not go out and develop the character was rejected. Let's see the parallel account in Luke 19. Let's see what the reward is there, which helps us to understand concerning what we will be

doing in the Millennium.

Luke 19:15: “And it came to pass that when he returned after receiving the kingdom, he directed that those servants to whom he had given the money be called to him, in order that he might know what each one had gained by trading.” We can compare trading to working, living producing and all of those things.

Verse 16: “And the first one came up, saying, ‘Lord, your pound has produced ten pounds.’ Then he said to him, ‘Well *done*, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, you shall **have authority over ten cities**’” (vs 16-17). That’s rulership!

Likewise with the one who had five pounds, *five cities*. Likewise the one who hid the pound and buried it and said, ‘Lord, You’re a hard person.’ The Lord said, ‘you should have at least done something with it.’ But he didn’t.

(go to the next track)

We know that in Rev. 20 that we are going to be priests of God and of Christ and reign with Him a thousand years.

Let’s see what it is also said of us and we’ll investigate how we will rule. ***We rule with God’s laws and His commandments!*** What do we teach? *The Word of God!* Plus everything that is going to be known of God and revealed during the Millennium, which is going to be quite a thing. This also tells us that we, as the sons and daughters of God being spirit beings are going to learn, as well.

Now let’s see another description of what we’re going to do, 1-Peter 2:1: “Therefore, having put away all wickedness, and all deceit...”

This is what we are supposed to be doing in overcoming human nature, and this is going to be a basis of how we’re going to work with people to help them. We, as the spirit sons and daughters of God—being once flesh—know what it’s like to overcome and change. We know what it’s like to overcome human nature. We have to put away *all*, and this is the process. Of course, their conversion will be a process, also.

However, they won’t have to fight against Satan the devil, so it’s going to be somewhat different, although they will still have human nature even though it’s not quite as intense as what we have now, because of the situation with Adam and Eve and what has been passed down to us as real carnal human nature. So, we have a more difficult nature to overcome living in a world ruled by Satan the devil.

So, this is how we qualify; these are our works, using the Spirit of God, called talents, to put

away evil. You can put it another way: ***Fighting against human nature internally with the sword of the Spirit!***

“...all deceit and hypocrisies and jealousies, and all slanders, as newborn babes” (vs 1-2). We haven’t been born, yet, but what does a newborn baby desire? *Food, and lots of it!* That’s how we are to desire overcoming, changing and growing.

“...yearn after the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow” (v 2). Let’s see what it says about us today as we’re growing and overcoming now, and that we’re able to receive ‘the strong meat.’ Paul is writing to those who are relatively new Christians telling them what we need to do.

Hebrews 5:12: “For truly, by this time you ought to be teachers, *but instead* you need to have *someone* teach you again what *are* the beginning principles of the oracles of God...” That’s what he’s talking about in 1-Pet. 2, because we haven’t been going in grace and in knowledge. That’s the difference in producing five talents or five pounds vs two vs none.

“...and have become those in need of milk, and not of solid food. For everyone who is partaking of milk *is* unskilled in *the* Word of Righteousness because he is an infant” (vs 12-13). We’re to grow in grace and knowledge constantly. We’re to be learning constantly, regardless of how long we’ve been in the Church.

Verse 14: “But solid food is for those who are fully grown... [fully mature spiritually] ...who **through repeated practice...**” This is how we put out all of the sins, repeated practice of living and applying the Word of God through the Spirit of God to us, so we can develop the character necessary to be teachers, priests, kings, mayors, governors and rulers in the Kingdom of God.

“...who **through repeated practice** have had their senses trained to discern between good and evil” (v 14). God is preparing His family, His people, to rule and reign with Jesus Christ. That’s why we’re here.

- yes, we’re to have good lives
- yes, we are to be kind to our neighbors
- yes, we are to love one another
- yes, we are to love God
- But for what purpose?
- Just so we can say to the world, ‘I’m good and you’re evil’? *That will never work!*
- Just so we can feel good about ourselves? *No!*

God has given us the greatest goal of all: *to be in His kingdom and to help Him bring many sons*

unto glory! That's something!

1-Peter 2:2: "...pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow... [in the fruits (Gal. 5)] ...if you yourselves have indeed tasted that the Lord is gracious. To Whom coming, *as to* a living Stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God, *and precious*" (vs 2-4). Think about that! That's us, too.

Verse 5: "You also, as living stones... [being molded by the Spirit of God] ...are being built up *as a spiritual house—a Holy priesthood—...* [that's what we are being built up to] ...to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." This is what we are to be doing. The world has rejected Him.

Verse 9: "But **you are a chosen stock, a royal priesthood, a Holy nation, a people for a possession of God,** that you might proclaim His *excellent* virtues, Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once *were* not a people, but now *are the* people of God; who had not received mercy, but now have received mercy. Beloved, I exhort *you*, as strangers and sojourners, to restrain yourselves from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (vs 9-11).

Showing to overcome, the same message that I am bringing today, which is what the Apostle Peter wrote.

Rev. 2—here we find the message to the Church of Thyatira, but this is to *all* of the churches; Revelation 2:25: "But hold fast what you have until I come. And **to the one who overcomes and keeps My works unto the end, I will give authority over the nations**" (vs 25-26).

- think about that
- think about the way that this world is
- think about how upside down and backward the world is
- think about how they are all deceived by Satan the devil
- think about what a task it's going to be to bring all nations to God

It's going to be quite a task, it's not going to be just BING! BAM! BOOM! everything is perfect. *No!* that's why we have to help them work

- to build the waste places
- to build up the world
- to build up their lives

Who is going to supervise the destruction of the weapons? *We are! They're going to melt them down!* What authority will we have?

Verse 27: "And he shall shepherd them with an iron rod..." We're going to have *absolute*

authority. In order to have absolute authority, ***you need the character of God!*** That's why we need to develop that now.

"...as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces; as I have also received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.... [eternal life] ...The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (vs 27-29).

For the Church of Philadelphia, where will they be? You read Rev. 7 & 14 that there will be those who will be right at the throne of God serving right there. That means at New Jerusalem. As we covered briefly, a very quick description of it, in Isa. 4. That's going to be quite a thing.

Revelation 3:10: "Because you have kept the Word of My patience... [the Word of God, every bit of it] ...I also will keep you from the time of temptation, which *is* about to come upon the whole world to try those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly; hold fast that which you have so that no one may take away your crown" (vs 10-11).

That ties in with Matt. 25 and Luke 19, that for those who don't produce, what they have is going to be taken and given to the one who produced. Same principle here.

Verse 12: "The one who overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall not go out anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven from My God; and *I will write upon him* My new name. **The one who has an ear, let him hear...**" (vs 12-13).

Now to the Church of the Laodiceans; this is something! This is describing what we will be doing during the Millennium. God has such a fantastic and mammoth plan of salvation that is going to be instituted, and He could not institute it until after His plan and the first resurrection takes place and we are the trained sons and daughters of God sent out to help and teach the whole world under Christ, under the apostles, under Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all of the great Prophets that God had.

Verse 21: "To the one who overcomes will I give *authority* to sit with Me in My throne... [judging] ...even as I also overcame, and sat down with My Father in His throne. The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (vs 21-22).

I'm going to do this a little differently this year, rather than save Isa. 65 for days seven and eight, I'm going to bring it right now on day three. Some of this are some thoughts, trying to piece

things together, this is speculation. There may be more improvement on what I bring out. There may be some things that are absolutely correct and some things that may need some further improving.

I want you to picture that here we are on the Sea of Glass, we're all prepared, taught, ready to go and have our assignments. We all have our white horses and we're ready to come down to the earth with Christ. The war continues on to get rid of all the armies, and we're going to help do that. Satan is bound and the Kingdom of God is setup, and it become operable. But think about how terribly ruined the earth and the atmosphere—or heaven around the earth—is. Does it need to be renewed?

Because this talks about human beings, this new heaven and new earth does not refer to the *spiritual* new heaven and earth (Rev. 20-22).

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. But be glad and rejoice forever *in that* which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy” (vs 17-18). That’s the layout and plan for all the Millennium.

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.” We’re going to be able to be teaching, helping people grow in grace and knowledge and understanding having the Law of God.

We’ll be there to help them, to teach them and to supervise them. But they’re going to have to be making choices themselves. Remember—and this is important for us to understand:

- When God created Adam and Eve, did He give them independent free moral agency (IFMA)? *Yes!*
- Are the people, during the Millennium, going to have independent free moral agency? *Yes!*

Let’s see how we’re going to handle it.

Isaiah 30:20: “And though the LORD gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet, your teachers shall not be removed into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers”—*and that will be us!*

As spirit beings we will be able to appear and disappear, just like Jesus did after He was resurrected and appeared to the disciples.

Verse 21: “And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘**This is the way, walk in it**’....” What does this tell us? *There’s free moral agency! They have to choose!* When they go too far,

they’ll be corrected.

“...when you turn to the right hand and when you turn to the left” (v 21). “...*This is the way, walk in it...*”

This is why we know that this is *not the spiritual* new heaven and new earth, Isaiah 65:20: “There will not be an infant who lives but a few days... [during the Millennium] ...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. And they will build houses and live *in them*; and they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit” (vs 20-21). We can apply this all during the Millennium, and during the period of the Great White Throne Judgment; it applies in both cases.

Verse 22: ““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 22-25).

With free moral agency and people being given the choice, the choice to serve God will be overwhelmingly the majority of what is going to happen. But you cannot give independent free moral agency without making it *independent free moral agency*. In other words, ***everyone is going to have to choose!*** It’s going to be just like Deut. 30: ***set before you life an death, blessing and cursing, therefore, choose life that you and your seed may live!*** That will be an ongoing thing all during the Millennium. Most of the people will choose *life*.

- What happens if someone really sins?
- Yet, they have not sinned an *unpardonable sin*, but they haven’t yet repented?
- What’s going to happen to them?
- What happens to those who do not repent?
- How is that going to be handled?

Because with independent free moral agency people are going to have to choose. That’s something that we need to look at realistically, and let’s see how God will handle it from what we already know from the Scriptures.

How do we know that what I just said is true? *Rev. 20 shows that at the end of the*

*Millennium there's going to be something take place for those who chose not repent! Remember that **repentance is a choice!** There's not going to any fooling, because we will be able to know their thoughts, know how people will react and the final judgment will rest with God.*

Revelation 20:7: "Now, when the thousand years have been completed, 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. 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" (vs 7-9). At the end of the Millennium what does this tell us?

1. there are unrepentant sinners
2. they are in the area of Gog and Magog

That could be the area of what is Siberia today. If we take this, we know that they're not going to live but a hundred years. So, let's see how this may work. This is speculation, and we are discussing a possibility.

Gen. 3—beginning with Adam and Eve, what happened when they sinned? There they were created of God, first man and woman, created with an intelligence and language already in their mind. They talked directly with their Creator, the One Who became Jesus Christ later. He set before them the choices. He said, 'Here's the Tree of Life and here's the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and don't eat of that tree, because in the day that you eat thereof, in dying you shall surely die.' *The wages of sin is death!*

Adam and Eve sinned. They used their independent free moral agency to choose to go against God. Will that happen during the Millennium? *Yes, indeed!* What happened to them when they sinned? What did God do to them? *He removed them from the Garden of Eden!* They were still on earth. They couldn't get back into the Garden of Eden, but they could meet God at the east entrance where the cherubim were. They were removed, but they still had contact with God.

- Will this be what will be during the Millennium when people sin a sin not unto death?
- Will they be removed somewhere, given a chance so that they can repent?

Let's think on this for just a minute. Let's read a little more and understand what it's telling us. Because we all sin and because sin results in death,

and we have within us *the law of sin and death*. So therefore, all humans must die. *As in Adam we all die!* What happens when there's a sinner who will not repent during the Millennium? We'll talk about what happens if you're righteous in a little bit.

Isaiah 65:20: "...but the sinner *who is* a hundred years old shall be accursed."

- What is the accursed? *Cut off from God!*
- What is the ultimate accursed? *The Lake of Fire!*

This shows the unrepentant sinner could live as long as a hundred years.

- Where are they going to live?
- Are they going live in the cities of the righteous?

OR

- Will they be removed?
- Could it be that those who sin a sin that is a forgivable sin, but they haven't yet repented, will they go to someplace like what we call today a rehabilitation center?

give them time

- ✓ to pray
- ✓ to study
- ✓ have instructors there to help them overcome their sins

then if they repent

- ✓ be brought back

Yes! Can't have them living within the righteous cities. With free moral agency they're going to have to choose. So, if they commit a crime or sin that is not unto death, they'll be given an opportunity to repent. But they cannot live within the community, but have to go to 'a repentance center' where they'll be given every opportunity to repent and come back. Very possible, because the alternative of this is that the unrepentant are sent to Gog and Magog. There will be a place on earth that by free moral agency and choice, those who will not repent will be removed from society.

At the end of the Millennium we read *the number of the sands of the sea*. How strong then is independent free moral agency? *Very strong!* Why will people choose to live in sin? *We'll cover that on Day 4!*

- How does that happen?
- What happens to people?

We even see some of this today within the Churches of God.

- How many are willing, even with the Spirit of God, to choose to reject some of the teachings of the Bible because they don't

think that they ought to do it?

- *A lot of them!*
- How many people even with the Spirit of God choose to put up with sin, rather than repent of sin?
- *Don't know! All we can do is look and see the fruits!*
- How many Churches of God are there today?
- *I suppose if you go to the Bible Sabbath Association you will find out there are near or maybe over 1000 organization that have had some connection with the Churches of God!*

Look at Rev. 2 & 3 and what it says to the seven churches; how that independent free moral agency is there. Yes, Satan the devil is still on the earth today; he won't be on the earth during the Millennium, but there will be people at the end of the Millennium—thousands—who have chosen not to repent. They will die accursed and will await the resurrection to the Lake of Fire.

- What if they repent?
- What if those in the 'repentant centers' repent?
- *Then they can come back!*

Those who are in a repentant center who do not repent, what will happen to them? Go back and read the account of Cain and Abel. Cain killed Abel. Remember, they were the sons of Adam and Eve, and they were already removed from the Garden of Eden, but they still had access to God at the east gate. Now Cain sins, kills his brother, does not repent, does not take any ownership of *his choice* of killing his brother. So, what does God do to him? *He removes Cain even farther and sends him to the land of wandering! Cut off from God!*

Will there be such a place during the Millennium? *There has to be if you're not going to have sinners living among the righteous!* We know they're going to sin because it says 'if you go the right hand or the left hand you're going to be told that here's the way, walk in it' (Isa. 30). What if someone says, 'I don't want to walk in it?' All right, send them off the 'repentant center.' Help them, counsel them, help them to see what they need to do, give them time to use their free moral agency to repent. It's a choice that they have to do.

If they repent, bring them back. Isn't that what God does to us? Even today? *Yes!* If they refuse to repent, they can't stay in the 'repentance center' because the 'repentance center' is there so you can repent. If they refuse to repent then they will

be exiled, without a doubt, to some other place way off, like Siberia. *There they die accursed!*

I don't know how else we're going to be able to handle things during the Millennium if there is not some kind of operation like that.

We'll talk about tomorrow what it is with human nature. *How could it possibly be* with the sons and daughters of God teaching the people, having the laws of God, commandments of God, blessings of God and everything, *that some people will choose no, and will not repent?*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Micah 4:1-3
- 2) Zechariah 14:16-20
- 3) Micah 4:3-4, 6-7
- 4) Isaiah 9:6-7
- 5) Isaiah 59:20-21
- 6) Isaiah 49:7-13, 22-23
- 7) Isaiah 61:1, 3-4, 6-7
- 8) Isaiah 52:6-7
- 9) Isaiah 60:15-18, 21-22
- 10) Matthew 25:14-16
- 11) Galatians 5:22-23, 19-21
- 12) Matthew 25:17-21
- 13) Luke 19:15-17
- 14) 1 Peter 2:1-2
- 15) Hebrews 5:12-14
- 16) 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-11
- 17) Revelation 2:25-29
- 18) Revelation 3:10-13, 21-22
- 19) Isaiah 65:17-19
- 20) Isaiah 30:20-21
- 21) Isaiah 65:20-25
- 22) Revelation 20:7-9
- 23) Isaiah 65:20

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Isaiah 61:2
- Revelation 7; 14
- Isaiah 4
- Revelation 21-22
- Deuteronomy 30
- Genesis 3

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Day 4—Feast of Tabernacles Teaching the People and Nations

Everything that God does is based upon His love;
you cannot have eternal life without *love, law, service and truth*
Fred R. Coulter—October 20, 2016

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to day four of the Feast of Tabernacles! After today, we will be halfway through the Feast. During the Millennium, it will mark the 500 years of the reign of the Kingdom of God. This is why God has called us, this is why Jesus came the first time; so that He could prepare a way for all of those whom He would call to help Him rule and reign over all human beings when He returns in His second coming. What a glorious thing that is going to be.

In fact, this is one of the first things that the apostles preached right after the Day of Pentecost. This is why the early church thought that Christ was going to return in their lifetimes. Many of those who have come down through the years have thought that, yes, it's going to happen in their lifetimes. We have thought that how many times?

Let's see what Peter preached concerning the Millennium. In Acts 3 we find this account where Peter and John were going into the temple and here was a man who had been born lame. He had been there many years at the Gate Beautiful asking for alms. This is important because what is happening here is preparing the way for the witness to the leaders.

Let's understand something in our day; there has to be a witness to the leaders of the world, and that is going to be accomplished mostly by the witnesses.

Acts 3:6: "But Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have; but what I do have, this I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean, rise up and walk.'" So, he was healed, legs strengthened, got up and was jumping up and down praising God, walking into the temple. And all the people came together to see what this was.

Verse 12: "And when Peter saw *it*, he answered to the people, 'Men, Israelites, why are you wondering at this? And why are you looking upon us so intently as if by *our* own power or Godliness *we* have made him to walk?'"

Notice where this comes back to, and everything concerning salvation comes back to Abraham. We are called 'Abraham's seed' (Gal 3). We are called 'the seed that will be as the stars of heaven.'

Verse 13: "The God of Abraham and Isaac

and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Son Jesus, Whom you delivered up, and denied Him in the presence of Pilate, after he had judged to release *Him*. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and requested that a man *who was* a murderer be granted to you" (vs 13-14).

Isn't that the way that human nature is? I mean, just look at what has been going on in this election. Think about all the corruption, all the sins, all the bodies scattered behind those who run for office. You know particularly which ones I'm referring to.

That's the way that human beings are, easily deceived! Where does the deception really start? *Right here in the mind!* This is why we are going to rule and reign with Christ and help bring countless millions of people into the Kingdom of God.

Verse 15: "And you killed the Author of life Whom God has raised from *the* dead, whereof we are witnesses." They just saw Him some 50-plus days before for 40 days of that 50-plus days; they saw Him resurrected from the dead, and they *knew!* Think about the kind of conviction and think about the zeal and the strength that they had in preaching this. Remember the sermon that Peter gave on Pentecost.

Verse 16: "And through faith in His name, this *man* whom you see and know was made strong in His name; and the faith that *is* through Him gave this complete soundness to him in the presence of you all."

- this is what we also need to concentrate on
- this is why we keep the Feasts of God
- this is why we have the Sabbath every week

Every week we need to be refreshed *spiritually!* Spiritual things do not stay in a carnal mind. It has to be constantly nourished with the Word of God:

- through prayer
- through study
- growing in grace and knowledge

This is how we develop the character so that through a lifetime we will be able to enter into the Kingdom of God. This is what we're going to teach the people in the Millennium.

Verse 17: “And now, brethren, I realize that you acted in ignorance, as *did* your rulers also; but what God had before announced by *the* mouth of all His prophets, *that* Christ should suffer, He has accordingly fulfilled. Therefore, **repent and be converted...**” (vs 17-19).

That’s going to be everything that we’re going to be teaching in the Millennium. Repentance, as we will see as we progress through the Feast, will be harder and harder for people to come by.

“...in order that your sins may be blotted out, so that *the* times of refreshing may come from *the* presence of the Lord” (v 19). That time of refreshing is when they receive the Holy Spirit.

Verse 20: “And *that* He may send Him Who was before proclaimed to you Jesus Christ.” They were expecting Christ to return at any time. This is a good message for us.

Verse 21: “Whom *the* heaven must indeed receive **until the times of restoration of all things**, of which God has spoken by *the* mouth of all His Holy prophets since the world began.”

That’s what we’re going to do today: look at the Prophets of God and see how it’s going to be restored, and see how God is going to fulfill His plan with human beings and bringing countless numbers of people into the Kingdom of God.

However, understand that it’s going to take each and every one of us, and all that God will call and convert that will be in the first resurrection between now and His return. This is a fantastic plan that God has, and a fantastic way of working it all out. It’s really quite a marvelous thing, indeed. The whole earth is going to be transformed.

Daniel said of the vision that Nebuchadnezzar had, that the stone was cut out of the mountain smashed the whole image on its feet (Dan. 2), and everything collapsed and it consumed everything. So, there’s going to be a complete redo of the whole world! It is going to be an absolutely fantastic, mammoth and wonderful thing indeed!

We will see very clearly that God has planned that He is going to use *us* to help complete and fulfill His plan. That’s why we’re the firstfruits, that’s why we’re in the first resurrection, which is called *a superior* resurrection, and we’ll be in a *superior status* through all eternity. So, this is why we need to be zealous and faithful, and loving and serving God, because this is exactly what we need to be teaching them.

Dan. 7 talks about the conflict that has been between the world, the government, the churches

and the religion against the people of God. Go through the whole history of the Church, we are living right now in a fantastic and unusual age where the things of men are going to rise technologically to their highest pinnacle since the days of Noah.

But *human nature has never changed*. Satan is the ‘god of this world,’ and he is the one who is behind all of this. This Beast Power at the end-time is empowered by Satan. People worship him as ‘god,’ and goes into the temple of God saying and proclaiming that he is ‘God.’ Here’s what he’s going to do:

Daniel 7:25: “And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change the set times and the laws....”

Of course, what is this system called? *The Mystery of Lawlessness*, everything against God, and setting up and establishing lawless laws. That’s the way that human nature is. So, brethren, we need to understand that as we’re dealing with people in the Millennium and we’ll be given spirit bodies, spirit minds and have insight in order to understand what they’re doing, how they’re thinking, and all of that.

However, we need to understand what human nature is like. Living in this world, this is how it is. As we have covered in some sermons, all the lawlessness starts with the religious leaders, then all of those who are the civil leaders. And look at the mess that the world has gotten itself into as a result of that.

“...And they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and one-half time” (v 25). So, there’s persecution coming; it’s closer than ever before, just around the corner.

Verse 26: “But the judgment shall sit... [tie that in with Rev. 20] ...and his dominion shall be taken away...” Yes, all the rule, when the judgment of the saints comes, all the dominion and all the rule “...**shall be taken away...**”

“...to be consumed and to be destroyed unto the end” (v 26). This is a prophecy clear to the end of this physical earth, right up to New Jerusalem and the new heavens and the new earth.

Notice this promise; think about what God has promised us and what He is going to give to the saints and what we are going to do. This is awesome, brethren! Think on this:

Verse 27: “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...**” That is marvelous and fantastic

to understand! We need to thank God that we have a part in it. We need to thank Him for His goodness, His Truth and His mercy, and that He is teaching and training us through His Word, through His Spirit, so that we can be prepared and assist Him in this great plan. Think about it!

God has created the heavens and the earth and all the heavens out there. What is that for? Well, as yet, we don't know! But we will know when we're raised from the dead and understand more of God's plan.

Notice about this kingdom, "...Whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom. And all kingdoms shall serve and obey Him" (v 27). What a fantastic time that is!

Let's understand this concerning the plan of God: It is so great, it is so marvelous, that there cannot be any rebellion and lawlessness. We are all going to love and obey God, and that's what we are going to teach the people. This is a marvelous and wonderful thing for us to understand.

Isa. 12 is a very interesting and very short chapter. What this does is it tells us what we are going to do, how we are going to reign over the people, what the condition of the people will be. This very short six verse chapter is really very interesting when you understand about the Millennium. This shows that there will be repentance, the people will repent, and this is talking about Israel and all of those who come into the Millennium.

Isaiah 12:1: "And in that day you shall say, 'I will give thanks to You O LORD; though You were angry with me... [yes, went through the Tribulation and all those difficulties] ...Your anger is turned away, and You do comfort me.' That's what the Millennium is called:

- the comfort of God
- the rest of God
- the righteousness of God

We'll see that!

Verse 2: "Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid..." Isn't that what it says; everyone is going to be 'sitting under his fig tree and vine, and no one is going to make him afraid.' No one is going to declare war or have war *anymore!* That's something!

Look at the world today, war everywhere! Fighting everywhere! Hate everywhere! Well, don't let it get you down. When you start getting drugged out by the thoughts of some of those things, and seeing these things happening on the news, just think

to yourself how much you need to grow and overcome. God has called you and me—all whom He has called—to solve this! That's going to be something! There won't be any election. *No!* We are already selected for that, and God is going to appoint us—each one of us—to a perfect job, a perfect life! Keep that in mind:

- don't get discouraged
- don't get down
- don't worry about what's going to happen
- don't worry if Trump is going to make it into the Presidency

or

- is Hillary-Billary going to be there

What is going to be like? *We don't know!* So, what we have to do is trust in God and look forward to the future, what God has promised us.

"...for the LORD God is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation" (v 2). He's going to bring salvation to the whole world.

Verse 3: "And with joy you shall draw water out of the wells of salvation." This is an overflowing of the Holy Spirit of God. It will just like drawing water out of a well.

Sidebar: I saw a special some time ago on Petra. Petra has been said, in the past—and still may be true—may be 'the place of safety.' But what we haven't realized is that all through the years the Bedouins have been excavating and finding caverns and rooms, and finding that there is a perpetual running spring of water in Petra! I'll just let you think on that.

Verse 4: "And in that day you shall say, 'Praise the LORD! Call upon His name; declare His doings among the people... [everything God is doing] ...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)—because we will be teaching the people of the world. Christ is going to be reigning from Jerusalem.

I'm sure that He's not going to just sit there on the throne. There is the whole earth to take care of. I wonder what it's going to be like when Jesus, the King of the Earth, comes to visit this country, that country, or the other country and inspire the people? and teach them Himself? *Think of that!*

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

Let's see something really important, talking about Christ. Notice the foundations of everything that is going to be taught.

Isaiah 11:2: “And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him... [on Christ and every one of us] ...the spirit of wisdom and understanding...” How do we gain wisdom and understanding?

- by studying the Bible
- by living with God’s laws and commandments
- by understanding how things work and function

That is according to the will of God! That’s the most important thing! Mechanical things, buildings, and things like that can all come later. We need wisdom and understanding. If you want to grow in wisdom and understanding, study the book of Proverbs; that is fantastic! That shows you how to get wisdom, how to seek these things.

“...the spirit of counsel and might...” (v 2)—will help people with their problems, help them with their emotions, help them to overcome, especially at the beginning of the Millennium. I mean, nearly everyone is going to be a ‘basket case.’

“...the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD” (v 2). Think of this: Since the Kingdom of God there is going to be no end, as far as we know is there an end of knowledge of God? *No!* Think what we’re going to be learning all during the Millennium. If you think that is great, I don’t know if we can even contemplate it. What is it going to be like to be growing in grace and knowledge for all eternity?

That just leaves me blank! I don’t know what to say about that! So, don’t worry. You might say, ‘I haven’t been educated.’ *Well, in some ways you’re really blessed!* A lot of those who have been education have had a false education, a false way, and they, in fact, have more to learn and overcome than you do.

Besides, when we’re spirit beings, everything is going to be changed. That’s going to be a fantastic thing for us.

Verse 3, talking about Jesus’ first coming: “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...” (vs 3-4). We saw that in John 4. A lot of people think that that was an act of forgiveness. *No!* That was an act of judgment.

Sidebar: How can you catch a woman in adultery and you don’t catch the man? How can you have a judgment to stone her to death—as the Pharisees and the priests wanted Jesus to assure them that should happen to this woman—if you don’t bring the man? The Law of Moses says that

both would be judged! *Both* would die! If Jesus would have done anything other than He had done, that would have been an unrighteous judgment.

Verse 4: “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”—get rid of them all.

What’s going to happen to the wicked? *We’ll talk about that a little later!* We covered it yesterday somewhat, but we’ll expand upon that and see many different things concerning the wicked. *But you cannot have the wicked living among the righteous!*

Verse 6: “Also the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the cub lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear...” (vs 6-7).

Verse 9: “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.**” We need to think on that!

- How deep is the ocean? *There are certain places that go down 17,000 feet, even more some say, down to 5-7 miles!* We don’t know!
- How much water is there? *Plenty! That’s in all the oceans and the seas!*
- Did you know that there’s a part beneath that where there is locked-in water?

Sidebar: Men have just discovered that and they don’t know what to think about it, nor what to do about it. That tells you: Where did God get all the water to flood the earth? *It was here all the time, plus He caused it to rain!*

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.”

We’re going to see tomorrow that for Israel there were only two times when they had *rest*. Isn’t it interesting that the Millennium has more to do with all the physical people and nearly 80-90% of what we teach concerning the Kingdom of God and the Millennium is found in the Prophets of the Old Testament for physical people.

For the New Testament, that is for the training of those who will be the kings and priests and rulers. We find not very much concerning the physical aspects of the Kingdom of God there. Rather, we find the emphasis on:

- spiritual training
- spiritual teaching
- spiritual understanding
- growing in grace and knowledge
- having a relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ
- the Spirit of God the Father and Jesus dwelling in us

All of that is in the New Testament! In the Old Testament there are a few prophecies concerning that, but isn't it interesting the way that God has designed the Bible.

Isaiah 25:6: "And in this mountain the LORD of hosts shall make a feast of fat things for all the people... [the best of everything] ...a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of refined wines on the lees. And He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering, which covers all people, and the veil that is woven over all nations" (vs 6-7).

Going to remove the worldwide deception of Satan the devil, who operates spiritual wickedness in high places, in the rulers of this world. That's why God is training us and calling us. This is why we all need to maintain, as we covered before the Feast, our relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ through prayer and study all the time. God is doing a wonderful and marvelous work to prepare us to rule with Christ and to be with God the Father, as well. What a wonderful thing that is!

Verse 8: "He will destroy death forever..." That has not yet come, nor will it come until the very end. What is the last death? *The Lake of Fire!* This is a prophecy. Down through all human history there will come a time when God will do that. For us, we die in Adam but are raised in Christ. Will He destroy death for us? *Yes!*

"...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" (v 8).

What a glorious time that is. You compare that with what Jesus said in Luke 21 and Mark 13 about how the world is going to have the greatest Tribulation and upset, that if Jesus didn't return there would be no flesh saved. But here He says that He is going to save them.

Verse 9: "And one shall say in that day, 'Lo, this *is* our God. We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This *is* the LORD; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.' For the hand of the LORD shall rest in this mountain..." (vs 9-10). That's going to be quite a

thing. The mountain of the Lord spoken of there in Isa. 2 and Mal. 4.

In the Psalms there are good number of things concerning the Kingdom of God, being like God; we're even called gods in Psa. 82. Here's how it's going to be:

Psalms 47:1: "Clap your hands, all you people; shout to God with the voice of triumph, for the LORD Most High is awesome; **He is a great King over all the earth.** He shall subdue the people under us... [a prophecy of ruling with Him. Think of that!] ...and nations under our feet" (vs 1-3). That tells you that

- we're going to have a lot of authority
- we're going to have a tremendous job to do

Verse 4: "He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom He loved. Selah." Think on that in relationship to the New Testament:

- we are the spiritual seed of Abraham
- we are the spiritual Israel of God
- we are the spiritual Jacob of God

Isn't that something? He's going to do that; He's going to make it possible.

When you read the different Psalms and the different prophecies, there's going to be one thing that's going on during the Millennium all the time. There's going to be a lot of singing. That's going to be something indeed to really contemplate and behold. And I hope at that time we all have good singing voices so that we don't have to make any 'joyful noises' any longer.

Verse 7: "For God is King of all the earth; sing praises with understanding." There's going to be a whole different aspect of living, existence, love, joy and power. It's going to be something! I don't even think we're going to recognize—viewing from today, looking toward that—what it's going to be like for human beings then. I think they're going to be so much greater than we are. Look at what they're going to be taught, and what they're going to be doing.

Verse 8: "God reigns over the nations; God sits upon the throne of His Holiness. The rulers of the peoples are gathered together, the people of the God of Abraham for the shields of the earth are God's; He is greatly exalted" (vs 8-9).

That's talking about our administration of running the world. That is going to be a tremendous and fantastic thing.

Isa. 14—what is interesting here is that many things that talk about the Millennium also

relate back to the end of the Babylon the Great rulership of the world. And here it does at this particular point.

Isaiah 14:3: “And it shall come to pass in the day...” Whenever you see *in that day* and then it talks about the Millennium that’s talking about what we are going to do and the people that we are going to serve, etc.

“...that the LORD shall give you rest from your sorrow...” (v 3). Straighten out all lives, emotions and everything like that.

“...and from your fear, and from the hard bondage, which was imposed on you” (v 3). And we know from other prophecies that that is coming.

Verse 4: “You shall take up this song against the king of Babylon... [the power behind that was Satan the devil] ...and say, ‘How the oppressor has ceased!...’” What’s going to happen? *We’re going to be continually understanding* where we have come from; look back and see that that’s not the way to do it and here’s God’s way and how to do it.

“...‘How the oppressor has ceased! How his fury has ceased!’” (v 4). Think about all of those who will be resurrected who had their head cut off. Isn’t it interesting what happened this past summer in France. There was a priest of Catholic Church that an ISIS terrorist went in and cut his head off.

Well, you read Rev. 20 and it says, ‘those who were beheaded for the witness of Christ.’ So, this would be a wonderful song to sing then: ‘Oh, you cut my head off, but look at what God has done for me.’ That will quite a song!

Verse 5: “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” (vs 5-6). This tells us what it is going to be like just before the resurrection.

Then the Millennium is instituted and, v 7: “All the earth is at rest... [Isa. 11] ...*and* is quiet; they break out into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice at you, the cedars of Lebanon, *saying*, ‘Since you have fallen, no woodcutter will come up against us.’” (vs 7-8). Isn’t that something? That’s talking about coming after people as though they are wood or trees, and cutting them down.

(go to the next track)

This talks about Christ, about His throne Psalm 45^[transcriber’s correction] 1: “My heart overflows with a goodly matter; I speak of my works to the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.” Isn’t that how we got the Gospels? Didn’t they have ready

writers? Remember the sermon that I gave: *Jesus’ Stenographers*.

Verse 2: “You are more excellent than the children of men; grace is poured upon Your lips; therefore, God has blessed You forever.”

Speaking of Christ, His first coming and second coming and what He’s going to be eternally, all contained in this one Psalm.

Verse 3: “Gird Your sword upon Your thigh... [that is what Christ is going to do when He returns] ...O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty. And ride victoriously in Your majesty in behalf of truth and meekness and righteousness...” (vs 3-4). That’s quite a thing! That’s how it’s going to be during the Millennium: ***Truth, righteousness, meekness!***

Amazing! The Word of God has so many things for us that it’s quite something! Think about all those poor atheists who don’t know anything, saying it’s full of lies. *No! It’s full of Truth against all of their lies!* That’s what’s in the Bible.

Verse 6: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of justice is the scepter of Your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness...” (vs 6-7)—or iniquity (Heb. 1); this is a prophecy of Jesus, and in Heb. 1 He is called ‘O God.’ Here is a prophecy of Him and we know that He was God Who came in the flesh.

We’ve already covered that, but one of things that people are trying to do today is to take away the fact that Jesus Christ was ***God manifested in the flesh!*** There are also some people trying to say that the Holy Spirit was the father of Jesus. What comes around, goes around and all of these things... It’s just like it says in the book of Ecclesiastes, ‘that which has been is that which shall be.’ So, we’re faced with the same thing today.

“...therefore, God, Your God... [God and God the Father] ...has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your fellows” (v 7). And He’s going to be King of all the earth, as we have already seen.

Psalm 48:1: “Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised in the city of our God, in His Holy mountain.”

Isn’t that what it talks about? ‘The mountain of God shall be exalted above the mountains, and many nations shall flow to it. They shall say, *come, let us go up to the house of God and learn of His ways and learn of His laws, for out of Zion shall go forth the Law.*’ And those nations, which will not submit at first when the Millennium begins, will in time. God is going to make it happen as we have

seen.

Verse 2: “Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of all the earth is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.”

We know that when Christ comes back and puts His feet on the Mt. of Olives everything there geographically is going to change. So, Mt. Zion is actually going to be in a new location. The great tabernacle that is going to be over Jerusalem is going to be awesome, indeed! Then you read Rev. 7 and 14 about all of those who will be administrators right there in the headquarters of Jerusalem serving Christ. That’s something! Think about that!

Verse 3: “God in her palace has shown Himself to be a fortress, for lo, the kings assembled themselves; they advanced together” (vs 3-4). They’re going to be all in awe concerning God and what He does and how it’s going to be handled.

Verse 8: “As we have heard, so we have seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God. God will establish it forever. Selah.” That means stop and think on this.

Ask yourself: For the time being, it appears that people can sin and prosper and get away with things, but in the final analysis, can anyone truly go against God? *No! Nor can they! Nor have they! Nor will they, ever succeed!* We need to think about that in relationship to our lives, in relationship to how we are preparing to rule in the Kingdom of God.

Verse 9: “We have thought of Your loving kindness, O God, in the midst of Your temple. As is Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is full of righteousness. Let Mount Zion rejoice! Let the daughters of Judah shout for joy because of Your judgments! Walk around Zion, and go all around her; count her towers” (vs 9-12). We don’t know what New Jerusalem is going to look like. We don’t know how fantastic that is going to be. But here it tells us to go look.

Verse 13: “Consider her ramparts, go through her palaces...” Won’t that be nice? We come into Jerusalem. Are we going to go their for seminars and lectures? *Could be! We’re going to constantly learn, aren’t we? Yes, we are!* So, we will go up to Jerusalem from time-to-time, meet Christ, talk to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses, the 12 apostles who will be sitting 12 thrones. That will be something! Think about that!

“...so that you may tell it to the coming generation...” (v 13). We have to teach the people. We have to tell them of God, and we are going to be helping the parents really teach and train their

children.

Verse 14: “For this God is our God forever and ever; He will guide us even unto death.” Guide us so that we’re resurrected and become like Him.

What I want you to do is think about this for just a minute:

- What is going to be needed to run a city?

Think about how it’s not going to be run like the cities of this world all crowded together.

- How would lay it out?
- How would you administer it?

We’re also going to have people working with us and for us, so think about how that would be. It’s going to be something! We will look at the mainstay of what we’re going to be teaching, but here is what’s going to happen during the Millennium.

Psalms 85:10: “Mercy and Truth have met together...” Always going to be mercy and Truth, and we’re going to be able to help those who sin, because they will sin. Help them to repentance. Help them really learn and understand what they need to do.

“...righteousness and peace have kissed each other” (v 10). Think about this as the foundation of what is going to be taught throughout all the earth in every city, in every village and in every nation.

Verse 11: “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 11-13). That last one tells that we’re going to be continually learning from God.

- What is going to be basis for everything that we’re going to teach the people?
- What is the greatest thing?

We are told in 1-Cor. 13 that there is *faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love!*

Matt. 22 is what we need to be doing so that we can attain to the Kingdom of God, and this is what we are going to be teaching the people to do. Nothing can be done in a right way without the love of God.

We heard this summer Donald Trump relating to us all how he’s the ‘law and order candidate.’ We’ll see if that’s going to happen. But here there’s always the argument:

Matthew 22:35: “And one of them, a doctor

of the law, questioned *Him*, tempting Him, and saying, ‘Master, which commandment *is the* great commandment in the Law?’” (vs 35-36). Which one is the greatest?

Verse 37: “And Jesus said to him...” This is very important because *they* rejected the commandments of God. How did they do it? *With their own traditions!* This is why we have changed the name of our website to **truthofgod.org** The Truth of God is based upon the love of God.

We saw in Psa. 85 how all of these things mix together, and what it’s going to be like teaching the people those things. It’s all going to be based on this. Didn’t God give this as a command to the children of Israel at Mt. Sinai? *Yes, He did!* And again just before they went into the ‘promised land?’ *Yes, He did!*

Here it is, and this is how we are going to attain to the Kingdom of God, mercy and Truth, love and righteousness all together.

“...‘You shall love *the* Lord your God **with all your heart...**’” (v 37). We’re going to be able to teach and train people this way: We will be able to know their heart; the Bible talks about ‘trying the reins.’ Today it’s awfully hard to tell what is really in the mind of a person, what they’re really, really thinking. At that time, we will be able to know. “...all your heart...” means everything about your emotions and your learning.

“...and **with all your soul...**” is just merely the physical life that we have; everything that you do in your physical life you do for the love of God.

“...and **with all your mind**” (v 37). This is the key and the most important thing. There can be no conversion without the Spirit of God and loving God, and having the laws and commandments of God written in their hearts and minds. Today, *we* have to learn that so that we will be able to teach people to do that.

Let’s just be honest, too many Churches of God have become rulerships and fiefdoms of a minister, instead of the *property of Christ!*

- How much love of God is there?
- Can there be the love of God when we’re all fighting? *No there can’t!*
 - ✓ it’s true that we need to fight for Truth
 - ✓ it’s true that we need to stand for righteousness

Isn’t it a shame that the Churches of God, who are to be teaching and preaching this and will be teaching this during the Millennium, are themselves today not learning this lesson? *And this is the greatest!*

Verse 38: “This is *the* first... [Greek: ‘protos’—primary, most important] ...and greatest commandment.”

The second one we’re going to enforce. There isn’t going to be any war during the Millennium, except at the end and we’ll cover that on Day 7.

Verse 39: “And *the* second *one is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Verse 40 is perhaps the second most important verse in the Bible. The first most important are vs 37-39.

Verse 40: “**On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**” Everything that God does is based upon His love, *even destroying the wicked*, because you cannot have eternal life without **love, law, service and Truth**—all of these things together. That’s what’s so important concerning it.

Let’s see the parallel account, because there is just a little bit more added here to it:

Mark 12:28: “And one of the scribes who had come up *to Him*, after hearing them reasoning together *and* perceiving that He answered them well, asked Him, ‘Which is *the* first commandment of all?’” This is what we need to live by today, and this is what we—all of us who are teachers, minister and elders—need to teach the brethren.

Do you think that it’s remotely possible to enter into the Kingdom of God unless you do this? live this? teach this? Think about it?

Verse 29: “Then Jesus answered him, ‘*The* first of all the commandments *is*, “Hear, O Israel...”—just put your name there. What is the most important thing you need to learn and hear from God? This will give you, by far, the most important thing that you need to enter into the Kingdom of God.

“...“Hear, O Israel Our one God is *the* Lord, *the* Lord. And you shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” This *is the* first commandment. And *the* second *is* like this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these” (vs 29-31).

At this point, talking of the Ten Commandments, that is true. But what is the greatest love of neighbor? *Jesus said that you should ‘love each other as I have loved you!’* What did He say concerning that? *By this all men*—all men and women—will know that **‘you are My disciples.’**

- yes, we are to know the Truth of God
- yes, we are to know the other laws of God
- yes, we are to keep the Sabbath
- yes, we are to keep the Holy Days

All of those are parts of the laws of God! All of it has to be because it's hung from these two commandments; this has to be the motivation behind everything that we do. Think on that!

Verse 32: "Then the scribe said to Him, 'Right, Master. You have spoken according to Truth that God is one, and there is not another besides Him; and to love Him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love *one's* neighbor as oneself, is more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices'" (vs 32-33).

Notice what Jesus said to him; it's very interesting. I want you to use this as a guide. Think about this: Here's a scribe who knew all the laws of God and also was sitting in Moses' seat to make judgments when people came to give them out of the judgment out of the Word of God, so he knew it.

How much do you know? *You may know quite a bit! You may understand a lot of the Bible!* But remember that ***whatever understanding we have comes from God!***

Here's this scribe and he had all this understanding, and at this point Jesus hadn't mentioned about the *traditions*. But notice what Jesus said:

Verse 34: "And Jesus, seeing that he answered with understanding, said to him..." Come on in, friend, it's a great deal, enter into the Kingdom of God. ***NO!***

He said, "...You are not far from the Kingdom of God.'" (v 34). He was getting close. He had the formulation of it. Think about that in relationship to us. We are brought under the jurisdiction of the Kingdom of God through baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit, and we are to grow in grace and knowledge. Everything that we do is based on these two commandments, plus the third one that I mentioned of loving each other *as Jesus loved us*. So that's quite an important thing to understand.

Verse 38—He gives a warning: "And He said to them in His teaching..."—right after answering the question...

Let's see what Jesus said in v 35: "And while teaching in the temple, Jesus answered and said, 'How can the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David? For David himself said by the Holy

Spirit, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.'" Now then, *if* David himself called Him Lord, how can He be his Son?'..." (vs 35-37).

They have never understood that. Why? *Because they didn't love God with all their heart, mind, soul and being!* What is possible for God is impossible for man, so they couldn't answer it. To this very day there are those, even some who claim affiliation with the Churches of God who do not understand.

Verse 38: "...Beware of the scribes, who take pleasure in walking around in robes, and in salutations in the marketplaces.'" Yes, 'Rabbi, O scribe, Pharisee, look at all of your phylacteries, my you have such broad lapels for your phylacteries, look at how many good deeds you have.'

Just like these generals who have all these ribbons affixed to their uniforms, and the more they have and the more stars they have, the more important they are. Well, God is not looking to the exterior, He's looking to the interior.

They were not interested in Truth, love and righteousness, they were interesting in power, position and control.

Verse 39: "And in *the* chief seats in the synagogues and *the* chief places in the feasts; Who devour the houses of widows, and for a pretext make long prayers. These shall receive *the* greater condemnation" (vs 39-40). Quite a thing!

This is why we need to focus in on this as the foundational for what we are doing. Remember, ***we are in training to serve the people of the world when Christ returns!*** Any exaltation must come from God. But we are to learn, grow in grace in knowledge and have our lives put together and look forward to the coming Millennium.

Let's see if we can get a real focus on where we're going. It doesn't matter how young you are, how old you are. It doesn't matter if you have weakness of body or weakness of vision or even weakness of mind because of age. That's because ***you're progressing toward the resurrection!*** The current body is wearing out and you need the new one, which comes with the resurrection. Here's what we need to do in our lives:

Psalms 85:10: "**Mercy and Truth** have met together... [always keep that] ...**righteousness and peace** have kissed each other." That's quite a very poetic saying!

Verse 11: "Truth shall spring out of the earth... [we're going to be the ones who will make it

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” (vs 11-12)—as we have seen how God is going to make the world during the Millennium.

Verse 13: “Righteousness shall go before Him and shall set us in the way of His steps.” ***Walk in the footsteps of Christ!*** This is why we are here!

Tomorrow we’re going to begin to look at and answer the questions:

- What is one of the greatest difficulties of human nature?
- How will that affect people in the Millennium?

Scriptural References:

- 1) Acts 3:6, 12-21
- 2) Daniel 7:25-27
- 3) Isaiah 12:1-6
- 4) Isaiah 11:2-4, 6-7, 9
- 5) Isaiah 25:6-10
- 6) Psalm 47:1-4, 7-9
- 7) Isaiah 14:3-8
- 8) Psalm 45:1-4, 6-7
- 9) Psalm 48:1-4, 9-14
- 10) Psalm 85:10-13
- 11) Matthew 22:35-40
- 12) Mark 12:28-34, 38, 35-40
- 13) Psalm 85:10-13

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Galatians 3
- Daniel 2
- Revelation 20
- John 4
- Luke 21
- Mark 13
- Isaiah 2
- Malachi 4
- Psalm 82
- Hebrews 1
- Revelation 7; 14
- 1 Corinthians 13

Also referenced: Sermon: *Jesus’ Stenographers*

FRC:bo
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Day 5—Feast of Tabernacles

What We Will Be Teaching in the Millennium

Proverbs provides the stated educational and foundational goals for all human life
Fred R. Coulter—October 21, 2016

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Day 5 of the Feast of Tabernacles! *Time* marches on! Here we are, figuratively, a little past halfway of the Millennium, year 500. That's something to think about and contemplate!

Setting up the Millennium and being part of the Family of God to rule with Christ, to save the world and bring millions, perhaps billions, into the Kingdom of God, and that's almost beyond our comprehension to grasp. That's why the book *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?*

During the Millennium, everyone is going to know why they were born, why they're here, where they're going. But think about it for just a minute: we all get up in the morning, regardless of our age, and we clean up and get ready for the day and we look in the mirror and there we are, whether good, bad or indifferent. The older you get the more wrinkles that are there and the more gray hair you get or the less hair you have, whatever the case may be.

When you really stop and try to wrap your mind around it, each of us began as an invisible speck of dust. Look at the fantastic things that God has put into the human body, the human mind and every part about us is really a tremendous miracle the way that He has made us.

Look at the world and there's nothing to compare with human beings, and it's just exactly like God said, 'have dominion over the earth.' Since mankind has failed, He has given that to the saints.

What we are going to do is look and see how the Millennium began and then we'll jump forward just a little bit and see:

- what is that we are going to do
- what we are going to teach people
- what will be the most important thing that there is

I think we're also going to see that in spite of whatever knowledge we have today, it's just like that little speck of dust that we ourselves began with.

God brings the people out of captivity and brings them to their inheritance. We're going to have a part in this, and that's going to be something! To come back with Christ on the earth, the earth is all in

great destruction and upheaval, and we are going to help rebuild it. All the people will be working. All will know God from the greatest to the least. And the knowledge of God is going to cover the earth as the seas cover the earth.

We don't know what that's going to do to the Bible, but just think about how much more is going to be added to the Bible. There will be a thousand years with no war! That's going to be fantastic! Let's read what God says:

Jeremiah 30:24: "...He has fulfilled the purposes of His heart. In the latter days you shall understand it."

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.'" That's also talking about *us*, because we are *spiritual Israel!* There will physical Israel, and there will be all of the other nations.

Verse 2: "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.'" Of course, *rest* is another word for peace from war and the Millennium.

Verse 3: "The LORD has appeared to me from afar, *saying*, 'Yea, I have loved you with an everlasting love...'"

Sidebar: God's love is everlasting, but for those whom He is dealing with it is conditional based upon our choices. One of the greatest false doctrines is that God's love is unconditional, 'you can do anything you want to do and God still loves you.' I don't think they ever read about the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20).

Verse 4: "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" (vs 4-5).

There's going to be plenty of everything! Just imagine! It says, '*They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My Holy mountain.*' That means God's government on the earth.

Verse 11: "For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of the one

stronger than he. ‘Therefore, they shall come and sing in the height of Zion...’” (vs 11-12). There’s one thing we’re going to be doing during the Millennium, there’s going to be a lot of singing, and it’s not going to be music like we have today, the modern music, which is nothing but satanic demonism. It’s going to be beautiful, wonderful and awesome. *They will sing for joy!*

“...and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and the herd. And their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not pine away anymore at all” (v 12).

Abundance, no end! Love, joy and singing! Children that will not be raped or kidnapped. Children that will be taught the will of God. Parents knowing the plan of God to bring forth many children. I just imagine that there’s going to be the greatest population boom ever during the Millennium. God’s plan is so great that reaching out beyond the Millennium, beyond New Jerusalem and the new heaven and earth, *out beyond into the ages of eternity!* What will that be like?

Just like it’s hard for us to comprehend that each one of us began less than a speck of dust, almost invisible. As a matter of fact, couldn’t see you unless there was a microscope. Of course, they didn’t have those going back many years in human history. So, it’s quite a miraculous thing that we can even talk about it and understand it. But think about what God is going to do.

Verse 13: “‘Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together; for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them and make them rejoice from their affliction. And I will fill the soul of the priests with fatness, and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness,’ says the LORD” (vs 13-14).

That doesn’t mean that since we’re going to be priests and kings of God that we’re going to be fat. That means that *God will give to us the best of everything!* The cream of the crop! In French they call it *crème de la crème*. That’s why we have to be spirit beings in order to handle it. It’s going to be quite a different thing.

Verse 17: “‘And there is hope for your future,’ says the LORD...” Everyone is going to know:

- why they’re here
- who God is
- who we are
- how we teach and instruct them

They are going to have great projects that they can build, because by the time we get to the end of the

Millennium, a very strange thing happens, and that will all be rooted in free choice. We’ll look at that on Day 7.

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...’” We’re going to have cities; I wonder what they are going to be like? Think of all the things that men have done; think of the cities that they have built. Do you not suppose that:

- what Christ and the saints will build
- the cities that we will be in charge of
- the people that we will teach
- the education that we’re going to bring them

will be so fantastic and on a level beyond what we even have a clue of today. That’s going to be something! Yet, 4,000 years.

“‘...when I shall bring them back from their captivity: ‘The LORD bless you, O habitation of righteousness *and* mountain of Holiness.’” (v 23). Think of that! A society where sin is very minor, and where sin is repented of, and where people fulfill their purpose and they’re able to learn and grow.

We’re going to see some things of what they’re going to learn and what they’re going to grow in knowledge and understanding of. It’s going to be an amazing thing. No sickness; if there’s sickness there’s healing. We’re not going to have doctors like we have today.

- We will be the ones who will help them.
- We will be the ones who will raise them up if that happens.

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...” (vs 24-25)—so **full** of goodness and righteousness, the best of the physical things, the best comforts of what it is for living. *The best of everything!*

It’s going to be hard, because there will still be some human nature there, and it’s going to be so absolutely marvelous that the great things will be ordinary, and the marvelous things will become commonplace. The knowledge, understanding and learning is going to be absolutely beyond what we can think of.

Think of it today. We have the knowledge of God in the Bible. We have some knowledge concerning scientific things, some knowledge concerning building things. What is it going to be when the knowledge of the Lord covers the earth as the seas cover the earth?

I want you to think on that. I want you to really grasp as much as you can how great that is going to be. We will be the ones to administer it. Think of that!

Verse 25: “For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.” *No doubt about it!*

Verse 31: “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”—so they can fulfill their purposes, and with all the nations of the world. Isn’t that going to be a great thing?

Men have had slogans:

- we’re going to end war
- the war to end all wars, WWI
- the war for democracy for the world, WWII

all the wars since then, all the wars going clear back to the beginning of war with Cain killing Abel. Think of the trail of death and destruction and misery that men have caused.

Now, with all the saints, with Christ as King ruling the world. A New Covenant, and it’s going to have the same laws, statutes and judgments that’s in the Word of God today. Those are spiritual and eternal, and that’s what they’re going to learn, and that’s what we’re going to teach.

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...**” (vs 32-33)—become a very part of their being; that’s exactly what God is doing to us today:

Hebrews 10:16: “**“This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,**” says the Lord, “**I will give My laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds.**”” That’s the best place to have the laws and commandments of God.

All human beings operate on how they think and what they have learned. This gives us a basis for making the right choices. We’re going to see that God is not going to take away human choice.

Jeremiah 31:33: “**“...and write it in their hearts; 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).

- What does God say about removing sins?
- How far does He remove it?
- *As far as the East is from the West!*

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).”

Here’s the promise. This is why we can trust God in everything, v 37: “Thus says the LORD...”

- the Word of God is true
- the Word of God is right
- the Word of God is Holy
- the Word of God will always be in effect

“...‘If the heavens above can be measured...’ (v 37). Men haven’t been able to measure it even with the greatest telescopes that they have going out to the furthest reaches of space with some of the pictures that they’re able to take.

“...and the foundations of the earth below can be searched out...” (v 37). We still don’t know very much about the earth. If those things can be done...

- God has spoken it
- God cannot lie
- God will not lie
- God has given this promise and it will happen exactly as He has said

He said that if that can happen, if human beings can do that, “...I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done,” says the LORD” (v 37). Quite a thing! It’s going to be an amazing time!

Just think about how we’re going to be able to, with the restoration of the whole earth... Remember what we read in Day 4, *the restoration of the whole world!* Human nature is going to be tamed way down. It’s going to be something!

Psa. 145 talks about what God is going to do. It’s a marvelous and wonderful Psalm. This tells us the attitude that we are going to have toward God, not only us, but all the people. We’ll be:

- the teachers
- the priests
- the kings
- the administrators

- the ones running what ever bureaucracies there will be

because there will have to be some. It's all going to be a great and glorious thing. This Psalm gives us a good indication of what that is going to be like. When you read Psa. 145, you're going to see this has never really happened.' It's saved for the Millennium.

Talk about worshipping God, it's really going to be a thing. Remember, Satan the devil is restrained, he's not around; *no evil!* Think of this on an individual basis. Think of it as each of us, after we're resurrected from the death, and we worship God, go Jerusalem, or we work there—whatever it may be—and it's going to be a wonderful thing, whatever it's going to be. Yes, we will worship God, and the people will worship God.

Think what it's going to be like on the Sabbath Day with all the singing, the praise and the glory that goes to God. People who love God, serve God, love each other.

Psalm 145:1: "I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever." Going out into the ages of eternity. You think on that for a minute. That is going to be an absolutely marvelous and wonderful thing. We'll see God face-to-face, we'll talk to Him. That's going to be a great and marvelous thing. Remember, there's no restriction on time.

Verse 2: "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. One generation shall praise Your works to another... [that's what's going to happen down through the Millennium] ...and shall declare Your mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty and of Your wondrous works" (vs 2-5).

Think what this is going to be. When we go to Jerusalem we will see Jesus Christ, and we will come back and explain that to the people and tell them we just came from Jerusalem. Wait until you're a *spirit* being_[transcriber's correction] and you can see God! That's going to be something else!

Verse 6: "And men shall speak of the might of Your awesome works; and I will declare Your greatness. 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 6-8). Think of the whole world operating on love:

- the love of God
- the love of those in the first resurrection

- our love for God
- our love for the people
- the people loving each other
 - ✓ husband or wife
 - ✓ father and mother
 - ✓ children and parents

All together! *That's our goal!* I want you to think about it, because here in a few days we're going to be through the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day, and we're going back to wherever we live and that's back into the world. In one week, here comes Halloween; Satan out there in full blast and glory.

That won't be in the Millennium! No occult holidays there. The whole world and society will be based upon the Sabbath and the Holy Days, and what God wants us to learn. I think we're going to find out that the potential really gave to human beings is so much greater than we have ever supposed! ***But because of sin we are where we are!***

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" (vs 9-10).

Think what that's going to be like. I myself can hardly wait. I don't know what I'm going to be doing, you don't know what you're going to be doing, but the day is going to come when we're going to go to Jerusalem and here's this great tabernacle that has the pillar of fire by night and the bright in the day time. We're going to go to Jerusalem and have Sabbath services with Jesus Christ, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, all the prophets, the 12 apostles, and we'll be gathered together in assembly. I don't know what kind of songbooks we're going to have, and I don't know what kind of instruments that there will be, but there will be the greatest sound and noise, the greatest singing to God:

- to praise Him
- to exalt Him
- to sing of His love
- to sing of His power
- to sing of His Truth

and what a marvelous thing that He has done and we are a part of that, part of the very Family of God, the Church of the Firstborn forever.

Verse 13: "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD upholds all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down" (vs 13-14). Yes, everyone will be successful ***if***—we'll get to IFMA later—they choose what is right.

Verse 15: “The eyes of all wait upon You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing” (vs 15-16). Think about the next time you watch National Geographic showing whatever part of the world, whatever animals or sea life that there is, and God feeds them all. God has worked it out that they are all fed. That’s a fantastic thing!

Verse 17: “**The LORD is righteous in all His ways and loving in all His works.**” Look at that! Think of that! I don’t think our minds can grasp even the smallest amount of what it’s going to be like to be a spirit being and administer this and help the people. Think about that.

Verse 18: “The LORD is near unto all who call upon Him, unto all who call upon Him in Truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry, and will save them. The LORD watches over all who love Him...” (vs 18-20). Think of that:

- in your life now
- in relationship to all the brethren
- in relationship to all the brethren around the world wherever they are
- of what it’s going to be during the Millennium

This is something! That’s why Jesus told the scribe that the greatest commandment is ‘to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being,’ because God wants to love us back and to be a spirit being, to see God and experience that love back to us. We are to give that love to all the people under our charge for whatever we do.

“...but all the wicked He will destroy” (v 20). At the end of the Millennium, we’ll find out why that is necessary to do again.

Verse 21: “My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His Holy name forever and ever.” A perfect picture of what the Millennium will be like. That is awesome indeed when we come to understand that and see that.

What will be teaching the people during the Millennium? As we saw in Day 5, all those who are righteous are going to live a hundred years in the flesh. We’ll talk about what happens when they reach the hundredth year a little later, probably tomorrow and Day 7.

We also know that the righteous are going to be blessed. We also know that those who sin, and if there’s repentance—probably in ‘repentant centers’: where they can go and recover, where they can overcome their sin and problems, repent of it and be

in the society, and then live out their life and serve God in the way that they should. We are going to have a great, great project of:

- teaching
- helping
- showing God’s way

It’s still going to be a fact that when children are born that there’s nothing in the mind. Everything that they’re going to learn they will be taught by us and their parents through the Word of God. We will be busy teaching, as a basis of learning, the things that are contained in the book of Proverbs. How much more expanded, how far out will that reach, what are the ramifications of all the things that will be taught, will all be based on the foundations of what we find in the book of Proverbs, expanded over and over and over again beyond what we can even comprehend.

Let’s look at the things that we are going to teach. We can’t list all of them, but here are the important ones:

1. **Knowledge**

- knowledge of God
- knowledge of life
- knowledge of things
- knowledge of building

All of those things; whatever knowledge, a vast array of knowledge!

2. **Understanding**

As we will see, you get knowledge up to a certain point, then you have understanding.

3. **Wisdom**

*When we have those three, **then** we can have:*

4. **Judgment**

All of those are combined into:

5. **Righteousness**

- the spirit of Truth
- the spirit of love
- the spirit of knowledge
- the spirit of understanding

All working together!

I think we’re going to have the most marvelous kind of civilization, that we’re going to look back on this one that we have, even living in this age that we’re living in now and all the things that we have. That civilization is going to be vastly superior to this one, it’s going to require a completely different way of thinking.

However, important thing: *it's based on the Word of God!* Here are the principles for learning and what we're going to be doing. Here is what we will be teaching them, probably much more expanded than what we find here:

Proverbs 1:1: "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel." What is the lesson of this, because we will be talking about Solomon in Day's 6 & 7.

- **IF** you have the knowledge, understanding, wisdom, judgment and righteousness
- **IF** you do not continue in that way
- **IF** you do not continue to love God

Look what happened to Solomon!

Another Truth: *It's not how you start out! It's how you finish!*

Let's continue on and see the things that we are to be teaching:

Verse 2: "To **know** wisdom and instruction; to **perceive** the words of understanding; to **receive** the instruction of wisdom, righteousness, and judgment, and equity" (vs 2-3). There it is!

The stated education goals for all human life, the foundational stones of it!

Let me just say that we're going to cover in the rest of sermon a good number of Proverbs, but we also have the Proverbs study, which you can download to your iPhone, listen to the audio reading of it, study it yourself. {truthofgod.org} If you do that you will be amazed at how much knowledge, wisdom, understanding, information and righteousness that you will be able to obtain just from going over the Proverbs again and again and again!

Verse 4: "To give prudence to the simple..." the uneducated. That's what newborn children are, simple; very simple. The only thing they know how to do is to nurse, sleep, to nurse and sleep. Then mom has to take care of all the rest. All the bodily functions are working and that has to be all cleaned up.

"...knowledge and discretion to the young man.... [and woman; remember the word *woman* ends with *man*] ...A wise man will hear and will increase learning, and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsel" (vs 4-5). That's the whole purpose in it.

- What is your purpose in life?
- Where are you going?
- What are you doing?

- How are you going arrive at the ultimate of the resurrection?

Verse 7: "**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...**" No one can really understand anything about:

- life
- why we're here
- where we're going
- God's purpose
- Who is God

unless they fear the Lord! Of course, we'll have a lot of things around to demonstrate to them!

Imagine that if you were a teacher and you have a classroom and you come to your class. Since you're a spirit being you just walk through the door unseen and there you are at the front of the class. How would that be for an entrance?

"...but **fools** despise wisdom and instruction" (v 7).

(go to the next track)

God is still going to set before every person *choices!* Every human being is going to have to make up his or her own mind and *choose!*

When people are taught the right thing from infancy up through adulthood, generally speaking they will choose the right things most of the time. But human nature is still self-serving, self-centered and wanting to be what it wants to be without being told.

To give you an example, here in California we've got about four major fires burning and there are some people who were told to evacuate. Nearly all of them did, but there was one man whose property was right in the middle of where the fire was coming and he chose to not to evacuate.

They talked to him about it and said, "The fire is coming here, why don't you evacuate?" *I don't want to, I'm going to stick it out. I think I can make it.* I don't know if they showed the results of that later, but human beings have to choose. And even in spite of the fact that what they've been told is the truth, every human being has to choose as to whether to:

- believe it
- accept it
- act upon it
- live by it

That's the challenge! Let's look at the different levels that these Proverbs can apply to. First of all, it applies to all human beings, male and

female. From a very young age, through the teens, through adulthood the Proverbs is the book that is for everyone of every age, all the time, everywhere. Not only that, it's for the *unconverted* and the *converted*.

Now let's apply it to one more level. When we are spirit beings and in the Kingdom of God, and as teachers, priests, rulers and administrators over the Kingdom of God under Christ, we too can have the principles of Proverbs apply in learning spiritual things way beyond what we're able to comprehend now.

However, it will be based on the same principle that the book of Proverbs has been based upon. This is why I've asked you—because we can only cover so much in a sermon or half sermon—to do an in depth intense study of the book of Proverbs. We have the audio and the video so you can play it, listen to it, read it and you can do this over and over and over again. What it will do—and this is why it's so important—is the human brain at birth needs to be programmed, and that programming is teaching and learning, and gaining knowledge and understanding.

There is the spirit of man, as we know, and there's also the Spirit of God that joins with it for conversion, so it applies at all levels. Here are the conditions, and there will always be conditions.

Proverbs 2:1: “My son, **if**...” I want you to notice the *Ifs*. I've gone over them before covering them in the past and I'll cover them again in the future, because what is the most important thing in learning? *Repetition! Repetition! Repetition!* Everything that we read is written with the same alphabet that we learned in kindergarten or first grade. From the same basic understanding of things to the more complex things, and then you add into that all the math and everything that goes along with it. There's a lot!

Verse 1: “My son, **if** you will receive my words and treasure up my commandments within you.” That's what we're going to be doing in teaching people. That's what God is doing with us. This is a choice we have to make.

Verse 2: “So that you **incline your ear** to wisdom and **apply your heart** to understanding.” Wisdom and understanding comes after you receive knowledge, because it goes this way:

- knowledge
- understanding

putting facts together from the knowledge

- wisdom

able to have the mental acumen because of what you

have learned to be able to make a wise decision

That's what this starts out with here. But you have to “...incline your ear...apply your heart...”—those are choices! They take action!

Verse 3: “Yea, **if** you cry after knowledge and lift up your voice for understanding.” What did Jesus say with the blessings, the beatitudes? *‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,’* which is:

- the knowledge of God
- the knowledge of Truth
- the knowledge of His Word

‘They shall be filled’!

Doing a little Proverb, reverse it: *cursed is the one who does not hunger and thirst after knowledge, for they shall never understand, never learn and never be filled with the Truth!* That's how the Proverbs work, all the way through:

- right and wrong
- good and evil
- righteousness
- Truth and error
- deception, lying, wickedness

vs

- honesty, understanding, truth

That's why the Proverbs are so great.

Verse 3: “Yea, **if** you cry after knowledge and lift up your voice for understanding. **If** you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures” (vs 3-4).

Look at all the work and everything that people do to find silver: silver mines, gold mines, diamond mines, emerald mines—whatever it is—hidden treasure. People put their lives, their fortune and everything into it to learn it. ***This is what we need to do with the Word of God and Truth!***

Notice that we have *if, if, if!* Verse 5: **“Then you shall understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.”** All of those conditions have to be met.

- What did Paul write to Timothy? *Diligently study and rightly divide the Word of God!*
- Why? *So he would understand it better!*

That applies to everything. This is going to apply to the method that we teach the people during the Millennium. However it is, whatever it is, it's going to apply the same way.

Verse 6: “For the LORD gives wisdom...” Everything comes from God! ***You have nothing that***

you did not receive! (1-Cor. 4:7). Everything every human being has comes from God. Maybe through other people, but it's from God originally:

- from our lives
- to the food we eat
- to the clothes we wear
- to the thoughts we think
- to the things we see

It's all been given!

- Did you create anything out of nothing? *No!*
- Did you make anything happen without any power from God? *No!*
- Who gives you life and breath? *God!*

And everything that goes with it!

Verse 7: "He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous... [those who love and obey God] ...*He is a shield to those who walk uprightly.*" He will bless and protect you now, He will keep you from harm and things like that.

Verse 8: "He keeps the paths of *right* judgment..." God is perfect and you can never go wrong following God. That's why it is such a damnable thing—and why I pick on them so much—that the Sunday preachers, though they may speak some things from the Bible, actually keep people from knowing the Truth, ***because they will not repent of their Sunday-keeping! And holiday-keeping!***

Think of it this way: I've got a little bottle of water—H₂O, the chemical makeup—which is two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen makes water. Hydrogen alone is very flammable, and oxygen alone is very flammable. But together as water it can put out a fire.

If you make this H₃O by putting in there an extra atom of hydrogen, what do you have? Something you can drink? *No! You have hydrogen peroxide!*

You have something entirely different! That's exactly what Sunday-keeping 'Christianity' is! It is the wrong thing, using the wrong combination of Scriptures, or lack thereof, to create their doctrines and they fall short and don't come up with the Truth, because even though they are good, they are not righteous because ***they don't keep the commandments of God as God has said!***

Verse 8: "He keeps the paths of *right* judgment and preserves the way of His saints."

Notice the *if, if, if, then!*

Verse 9: **Then** you shall understand

righteousness and judgment and equity, every good path. Wisdom shall enter into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasing to your soul" (vs 9-10).

- you will love the Word of God
- you will enjoy the Word of God
- you will understand the Word of God

Living on a spiritual level, think of what that's going to be like, because it says in Rev. 22 that those who keep the commandments of God will have the right to eat of the Tree of Life and the Tree of Life is that which shows how we are going to be living for all eternity.

Please understand—and we will learn this on Day 7 and Day 8—that God is never again going to have any rebellion. Not because He's just going to exercise His authority, *which He could do*, and make people do it, *which He won't*, but ***because eternal life is going to be so fantastic and so great that there cannot be any room for rebellion!*** That's why we need to learn here! Notice all the conditions *before* you get wisdom.

Verse 11: "Discretion shall preserve you and, understanding shall keep you, to deliver you from the way of the evil *man*, from the man who speaks wicked things, those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, who rejoice to do evil *and* delight in the perversities of the wicked, whose ways *are* crooked, and *are* devious in their paths" (vs 11-15). *Wisdom is going to keep you from all of that!*

What's going to happen to those who believe it? *Fast forward to Day 8, the Lake of Fire!*

Prov. 4:

- this is what it has to be with us
- this is what it has to be when we're teaching the people in the Millennium
- this is what it has to be with the children today growing up in the Church

You need to learn God's way, and you need to learn the Proverbs first. The most important thing you need to protect is *your mind* and *your heart!* That's what Satan wants to destroy, and he's got a lot of people working to do that, especially in entertainment and media. It's very important for everyone to understand this:

Proverbs 4:13: "Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; keep her, for she *is* your life.... [you can expand that out for all eternity] ...Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not into the way of evil *men*. Avoid it; do not go in it; turn from it, and pass on!" (vs 13-15).

Satan comes with a benefit for you, and

says, ‘your parents don’t know anything, your teachers don’t know anything, here you follow this. Rebellion is the way to live.’ *No! It’s not!* The way that this society is going ought to be ample evidence that that is true.

Verse 16: “For they do not sleep except when they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away unless they cause *some* to fall, for they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence” (vs 16-17). *That’s the way of the world!*

Today our choices are much more extreme. During the Millennium, the choices will be less in degree, but nevertheless, the same principle is going to apply.

Verse 18: “**But the path of the just is as the shining light...**” Who is the Light of the world but Jesus Christ? Who is the One Who justifies us to God? *Jesus Christ!* So, you see how much is contained in some of these verses that apply way beyond just the obvious superficial meaning of it as you read it.

“...that shines more and more to the perfect day” (v 18). From the time we’re born until the time of the resurrection, and from the time of the resurrection on into all eternity. Yes, indeed, that’s how important that is.

Verse 19: “The way of the wicked *is* as darkness; they know not at what they stumble. My son, **attend to my words...**” (vs 19-20).

- *listen* to God
- *listen* to His Word
- *listen* to His Truth
- *let it penetrate* into your heart, mind and soul

because that is what is going to help you grow in grace and knowledge and be ready for the return of Christ, to be resurrected in the first resurrection, to help rule the world.

Verse 21: “Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart, for they *are* life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh” (vs 21-22).

Likewise with us now, this is true, but what’s it going to be like when we’re spirit beings. Is that not also true? *Yes, indeed!* This is why our choices are so very important today.

Verse 23 is the most important verse in the life of every human being to understand:

- right from wrong
- good from evil
- righteousness from wickedness

and to be able to live God’s way and have your life be fulfilled the way God wants it to be fulfilled so that you become a son or daughter of God and rule and reign with Jesus Christ.

Verse 23: “**Above all...**”—everything that there is. Here you are as a human being; you have your mind, your eyes, ears, nose, every part of your body working, and all of that. You can take care of it and eat and everything else like that. But what is the most important thing for you to do? All of us? Every one of us?

Sidebar: How many of those who were supposed to ministers of God turned out to be agents of Satan the devil because they did not do these Proverbs and make them an active part of their lives?

Verse 23: “**Above all guard the door of your mind...**” That includes your heart and your emotions. You also think with your heart emotionally and you think with your mind, so they’re both combined together. “Above all...”—everything else in life.

“...**guard the door of your mind with diligence...** [you don’t do it haphazardly] ...**for out of it are the issues of life**” (v 23). The life that is here now and the life at that resurrection and all eternity.

Think on that! This is what’s so important. This is why I wanted to go through this and cover this, because this is where we are. Let’s read some more Proverbs and see how this will help us. We’re going to look at:

- knowledge
- understanding
- wisdom
- judgment
- righteousness
- good/evil
- truth/error
- lies

WISDOM:

Proverbs 5:1: “My son, attend to my wisdom; bow your ear to my understanding; that you may keep discretion, and that your lips may keep knowledge” (vs 1-2)—because things will come along. Then it talks about the wanton woman. There are other things that come along.

Prov. 8 is about wisdom. Everyone wants to be smart—isn’t that true? *Yes!* Who wants to be dumb? Anyone want to be dumb? *Of course not!* God has it right here and it’s in a spiritual sense,

because you don't get wisdom without thinking and understanding, without learning, knowing and applying what you learn. With the spirit of man you're able to do that to a great degree as a human being. With the Spirit of God you're able to do even more. But as a spirit being, with a spirit body, a spirit mind and a spirit existence, this becomes even more important.

Like I said, you can apply these Proverbs at many different levels.

Proverbs 8:1: "Does not wisdom call? And does not understanding put forth her voice? She stands in the top of high places, by the place where the paths meet. She cries in the gates, at the entrance of the city, *at the doors.*" (vs 1-3). Don't we need wisdom and understanding just to live, just to take care of life the way it should be? *Yes!*

Verse 4: "To you, O men... [add women] ...I call; and my voice *is* to the sons of men. O you simple ones..." (vs 4-5)—those not yet educated.

- I want you to learn
- I want you to know
- I want you to grow

"...understand wisdom..." (v 5). Remember, you have to have:

- knowledge
- understanding
- wisdom

Wisdom is the right use of knowledge and understanding, which must come first.

"...and, you fools, be of an understanding heart. Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips *shall be* right things... [from God] ...for my mouth shall speak truth..." (vs 5-7). That's what's important. That's why we've changed the name of our website *from cbcg.org to truthofgod.org*

We have many subsidiary URL domain names, which if people do a Google search will bring them to our website. So, it is truthofgod.org sponsored by the Christian Biblical Church of God. That's what people need. Literally, because of the Internet and through all of the technology and waves that that goes on, isn't it true that it's in the air? *Yes!*

Verse 6: "Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips *shall be* right things, for my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; there is nothing twisted or perverse in them" (vs 6-8).

That's how we need to learn to think now so

that we can live a decent life in this world today, and do things that uplift us, but also to prepare us for eternal life. This is what we are going to be doing and teaching all during the Millennium. An amazing thing, yes, indeed!

Verse 9: "They *are* all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge." It all works out. In other words, we can put it a different way: *Truth proves Truth!* This Truth over here and this Truth over there put together can bring understanding of the Truth of how everything works. But Truth and error doesn't work.

Try this: Put water in your car engine, and put oil in your radiator. How is that going to work? You might say that is *stupid*; another word is *foolishness*. But if you follow *Truth, knowledge and wisdom* they're all plain and right to those who find knowledge, and of course, that's the knowledge of God, the knowledge of life, the knowledge of why you're here.

Verse 10: "Receive my instruction... [a choice; you must choose to receive it] ...and not silver... [silver can't buy that] ...and knowledge rather than choice gold." It's all a choice!

Verse 11: "For wisdom *is* better than rubies, and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. I, wisdom, 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 11-13).

That's how we change, grow and overcome. This is why the Proverbs are so important for us to realize and what we do. This is how our lives operate. Isn't that something? Think about it, now; we have to take it at every level.

Proverbs 9:9: "Give instruction to a wise one, and he will be still wiser..." Isn't that interesting? Why? Because he knows how to handle knowledge and understanding and put it together. Who is the most wise but God?

"...teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning" (v 9). We're to always be learning. I'm still learning, and I'm happy to learn. The only one who understands everything is God! He's going to bring us up to His level through all eternity.

Verse 10: "**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...**" Why have fear? *It says that perfect love casts out fear!* Well, there are two kinds of fear. There is *fear of God* because you're in awe of Him and how right and Holy He is. There is the *fear because you don't have wisdom and*

understanding, any of those things, and that's more like what you would call a phobia today in English. Though in Greek *phobia* and *fear* are the same.

It's the beginning of wisdom because you begin obeying God!

"...and the knowledge of the Holy *is* understanding" (v 10). That's why we study. That's why we pray. That's why we need to go over and over these things. You can't take the Bible like an ordinary book and say, 'Okay, I've read it from cover to cover, I don't need it anymore.' *NO!* Because all the words we have in the Bible are Spirit and Life, they are to teach us and give us understanding, wisdom and all this sort of thing.

Proverbs 10:13: "In the lips of him who has understanding, **wisdom is found**... [this is what we are to grow to] ...but a rod *is* for the back of him who is without understanding. Wise ones store up knowledge..." (vs 13-14). We learn, *learn*, **learn** continually! That's the whole process of growing and overcoming and preparing for eternal life:

- to know the Scriptures
- to know how to apply them to ourselves
- to know how to think
- to know how to reason
- to know how to perceive

To be able to have all of these things we grow in that! It all comes from God; it doesn't come from us!

As I said, I want you to go through all the Proverbs. Just think, you can take each one of these verses in the book of Proverbs and you can go

- application #1 to children
- application #2 to youths
- application #3 to adults
- application #4 to those who are converted
- application #5 to us as spirit beings when we're in the Kingdom of God

An amazing thing! The Word of God is just infinite and continues to expand. This is what we're going to be teaching the people in the Millennium. Think of what that is going to be!

Verse 29: "The way of the LORD *is* strength to the upright, but destruction *shall be* to the workers of iniquity." What is the Lake of Fire but the destruction of the wicked?

Verse 30: "The righteous shall never be moved..." Steadfast because of the Spirit of God. What does God say? *I, the Lord, change not!*

"...and the wicked shall not remain in the land. The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom..." (vs 30-31).

- this is what we are to do
- this is how we are going to teach
- this is how we are going to run the cities, the villages, the administration things that we will do

Isn't that going to be amazing? Think of what kind of cities are going to be built. Think of how those will operate. We think today that we have something really slick. We can walk up to a building and the doors open for us and they close after us. We get in an elevator and we go up. All of those are interesting, but what is it going to be like with the cities in the Millennium? How are you going to run your cities?

Verse 32: "The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked speaks perversity." Get rid of those things that are not good in your life.

Here's one; there are the choices; Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way, which seems right to a man..." You can think about it, you can analyze it, you can philosophize it, you can put it together, but if you are missing any of the things of God you're going to get it wrong, even at the very best.

I've mentioned many times before, look at the television program on the American Heroes Channel: *I Almost Got Away with It*. Human beings think they're right, even in the most disastrous situations.

"...but the end thereof *is* the way of death" (v 12).

Verse 22: "Do not those who devise evil go astray?..." Yes, and there will be those in the Millennium who will do that. If they go to the right hand or the left hand, what do we do? *We say here is the way, walk in it!*

This is what is so good about the Proverbs; one sentence tells you a whole chapter when you expand it out.

"...But mercy and truth shall be to those who think of good" (v 22). Isn't that amazing? The difference between v 12 and v 22?

Proverbs 15:12: "A scorner does not love one who corrects him... [Isn't correction hard to take? *Yes, indeed!* But what happens if you listen and change?] ...nor will he go unto the wise."

Verse 14: "The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge.... [that's what we are to do; that's what it means to grow in grace and in knowledge] ...but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness."

Proverbs 12:1: “Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.” *Self-evident!*

Here’s a description of what we’re going to be doing in the Millennium, Proverbs 15:7: “The lips of the wise spread knowledge...” To teach, *to teach!* The earth is going to be filled with the knowledge of God as the seas cover the earth.

I’m going to end in Psalm 85, again. I think this describes exactly how it’s going to be during the Millennium.

Psalm 85:9: “Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, so that glory may dwell in our land.” That’s what we want, the glorious reign of Jesus Christ, of which we are a part of over the whole world.

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).

This is what we’re going to be doing for the Millennium! Come back for Day 6 because there’s a whole lot of learning that we have for the Feast of Tabernacles. Don’t forget to be really studying the book of Proverbs over and over again, so you get *wisdom, knowledge, understanding and righteousness!*

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 20
- 1 Corinthians 4:7
- Revelation 22

Also referenced: Book:

From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born? by Fred R. Coulter

FRC:bo
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Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 30:24
- 2) Jeremiah 31:1-5, 11-14, 17, 23-25, 31-33
- 3) Hebrews 10:16
- 4) Jeremiah 31:33-35, 37
- 5) Psalm 145:1-10, 13-21
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- 9) Proverbs 5:1-2
- 10) Proverbs 8:1-13
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- 12) Proverbs 10:13-14, 29-32
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- 14) Proverbs 15:12, 14
- 15) Proverbs 12:1
- 16) Proverbs 15:7
- 17) Psalms 85:9-13

Day 6—Feast of Tabernacles The Lessons of Solomon

It's not how you start, it's how you finish!

Fred R. Coulter—October 22, 2016

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Day 6 of the Feast of Tabernacles!

We have an example in the Bible of what happens to people when they have *everything!* All during the Millennium people are going to have the best that there has ever been for all humanity for a thousand years. Many will be brought into the Kingdom of God during that time. But there will be those who will not go God's way.

As we read in Isa. 65, the sinner shall 'die accursed.' How could it be, when you have everything so good—everything you ever need, everything you ever want—that you could possibly go wrong, that you could possibly—having known God—knowing God, leave Him? How does that happen? And it gets down to the same thing, like we've mentioned before: *it's not how you begin, it's how you finish!*

Let's look at the example of Solomon, the son of David, who is made king over Israel after David died. Yes, he had to put down a revolt by his brother Adonijah and get everything all lined up. He was blessed to build the temple. God gave the plans to David to give to Solomon, and he gave him many charges on how he should keep the commandments of God, seek God and do what is right.

So, let's come to the book of 1-Kings, and after all the good things that God did for Solomon, providing the things so that Solomon could build the temple: he finished his own house and then:

1-Kings 3:3: "And **Solomon loved the LORD...**"

- Do you love God?
- Do you know people who did love God?

But are no longer with Him!

- How did that happen?
- How could that be?

"...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, for that was the great high place...." (vs 3-4).

That's where the tabernacle was. Remember that during the reign of Saul, the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant for a while. Then it was returned and David got it and he had it put in his house. He had a special place in his house for the

Ark of the Covenant.

But the tabernacle was up at Gibeon and there they offered the sacrifices, so you had a split priesthood. You had most of the Levites offering the sacrifices at Gibeon, and then in David's house you had Asaph the priest and the different priests that were there administering to the Ark of the Covenant.

So, here we have the picture, "...Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings upon that altar" (v 4). Notice how Solomon started out:

- he was loved of his father and mother
- heir to the throne
- received all the plans for building the temple
- his heart was young and tender when he began

Verse 5: "In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night. And God said, 'Ask what I shall give you!'" I want you to notice Solomon's attitude:

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...**'" David was called 'a man after God's own heart.' Why? *This is how he walked before God!*

Solomon continues answering God: "...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" (v 6). Notice how he expressed that. *He didn't say, 'I was chosen to sit on the throne.'* Notice the humility.

Verse 7: "And now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of David my father.... [giving God all the credit] ...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). Notice what he asked for: *the right thing in the right attitude*, and directly to God. That's something!

"...to discern between good and evil, for who is able to judge this, Your great people?" (v 9).

Now, notice God's response—how God responds to us—and His response is in accord with our response to Him.

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 you have asked this thing and **have not asked for yourself** long life ...'" (vs 10-11)—not interested in self.

We're going to see that that is the key and the answer to *how* Solomon went wrong, and how people can, during the Millennium, go wrong and end up rejecting God.

"...and have not asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to judge justly, 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**..." (vs 11-13).

- Does God want to bless us with more than we ask?
- How should we ask?
- What is the purpose of asking?
- Why should we do it?

"...**you have not asked**... [but I'm going to give you]: ...both riches and honor, so that there shall not be any among the kings like you all your days. Therefore, **if**..." (vs 13-14). There it is *choice*—IFMA—*independent free moral agency*, and the **if** is conditional always upon us, not upon God.

"...**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" (v 14). God has given Solomon everything that everyone would want in life.

Verse 15: "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."

Then his first judgment—we won't go through that—he was able to handle quite well. We find in 1-Kings 6 that Solomon finished the house of God. Then he dedicated it and it was quite a thing.

Solomon brings the things from Gibeon down to the temple, has the Ark put into the temple by the priests and the Levites, had them bring and setup the altars and everything was done for the house of the Lord (1-Kings 7:51).

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."

So, they brought it and had a great ceremony, and actually, this apparently started on the first day of the seventh month—the Feast of Trumpets—and the dedication of the Feast lasted seven days. Then there was a pause for the Day of Atonement. After that they had the Feast of Tabernacles, then all the people went home.

- God was pleased with the whole affair!
- God was pleased with the prayer of Solomon!

You can read that in all of 1-Kings 8, so read all of chapters 7 and 8. Let's see the real pinnacle of Solomon with his relationship with God. How did it go so wrong? You would think that if you were that close to God, that God appeared to you and told you what He was going to give you.

- all accomplished
- the temple is finished and everything is set in order
- great feast to dedicate it
- great Feast of Tabernacles
- everyone is happy and joyful
- God is with you
- the angels are protecting you
- everything is righteousness, goodness, joy and happiness

Let's see that even God was really pleased. Can we please God? Can we do those things that please Him? *Yes (1-John 3)!* That's how are prayers are heard; when we do the things that please Him and keep His commandments. This is exactly what Solomon had done here.

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" (vs 1-2).

Notice these words; He heard the prayer, a wonderful prayer; v 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.'"

That's something! What greater blessing from God could you possibly receive? Think about us:

- God has called us
- God has given us understanding of His Word
- God has given us knowledge of His Truth
- God has given us His Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit of God the Father and Jesus Christ, the two aspects of the Holy Spirit, **We will make Our abode with!** Think of that!

Verse 4: “And **if** ...” There is that word again. Why does God do that? *Because we are to choose!* Everything that we do is a *choice!*

- to love God
- to serve Him
- to keep His commandments
- what we think
- where we go
- what we eat

These are all choices! The most important choices are those choices between us and God. This is important for us to realize so that we can know and understand how it is that we stay consistent and not make the mistakes of Solomon.

Verse 4: “And **if** you will walk before Me as David your father walked...” How is your walk with God? As we go through I want you to ask yourself these questions.

“...in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you; and **if** you will keep My statutes and My judgments, **then**...” (vs 4-5). *If* and *then*; exactly the same thing for the New Testament, exactly the same thing for those during the Millennium.

IF, and you’ve got a hundred years to live, how are you going to live that? What’s it going to be? He says:

Verse 5: “**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.’”

Now, God gives him another choice, just like with us, just like with the people during the Millennium.

Verse 6: “**If you shall at all turn from following Me...**” How are we to have a relationship with God? *To love God with all our heart, mind, soul and being!* How long should we do that? *Our entire life long!*

For Pentecost we covered what it was with the seven churches. Did they have to be corrected because they didn’t do what God wanted? *Yes, they did!*

Here is another *if*, v 6: “**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.” Think about that!

That is true today. Like today, everyone wants to know what’s happening in the world. **Well, the world has turned its back on God!** That is the great apostasy of 2-Thess. 2. Not just something within the Church, but the *whole world* against God. That’s why Christ is coming back the way He’s coming back with all power, signs, wonders, and the earth and the heavens shaking, the armies fighting against Him.

Verse 7: “**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...**” Did God do that? *Yes, He did! Twice!*

“...And Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people” (v 7). Did that happen? *Yes, it did!* **How was it then that Solomon got to where he ended up?** That is the question, and that is the lesson. That’s going to be something that’s going to be answered by the people all during the Millennium:

- How was your relationship with God?
- What is it?
- What do you do?
- How do you maintain it?

First, we’re going to see *what was it that Solomon did that he turned from God!* Let’s see what God said that the king was to do all his lifelong. Here are some very tremendous instructions for the king. Also, we can take this as parallel for us. Are we not going to be kings and priests and rule in the Kingdom of God? *Yes!* What should we do? *We have been called to prepare for that task right now!*

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. 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...** [which Solomon did] ...nor cause the people to return to Egypt... [the first think he did was marry the daughter of the king of Egypt] ...so as to multiply horses because the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again’” (vs 14-16)—and Solomon multiplied horses!

Verse 17: “**Nor shall he multiply wives to himself... [Solomon did] ...so that his heart does not turn away. Nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold to himself.**” God gave Solomon all he needed!

Here was the smartest man in the world, the richest man in the world, the greatest king that could possibly be. **God gave warning**—didn’t He?

Verse 18: “And it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book from that which is in the custody of the priests the Levites.”

Solomon was to go to the temple, he was to have a scroll, and he was to copy from the scroll, the copy that the priests and the Levites had. The original was in the Ark of the Covenant. He was to copy it. Why copy it? *Because the way you learn is to write it out!*

Verse 19: “And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life...”

Sidebar: What do you hear preached all of the time? *Prayer and study!* This is what the king was to do 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, 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” (vs 19-20).

- Did he not have all the Psalms of David? *Yes, he did!*
- Did he not also collect thousands of Proverbs? *Yes, he did!*
- Did he not also compose many songs? *Yes, he did!*

Here are some of the lessons that Solomon should have learned from his father David, who wrote these Psalms. What did God tell Solomon to do?

- **IF** you do all these things rightly, **THEN** I will bless you!
- **IF** you do not do what I say, **THEN** I will even destroy this house and get rid of it!

Psalms 39:1—David writing: “I said, ‘I will take heed to my ways so that I do not sin with my tongue; I will keep my mouth with a bridle while the wicked are before me.’ I became dumb, keeping silent; I said nothing good, and yet, my sorrow grew worse. My heart was hot within me; while I was musing, the fire burned; then I spoke with my

tongue: ‘O LORD, make me to know my end and the measure of my days, what it is...’” (vs 1-4). What it is to understand the frailties of human nature.

“...**that I may know how short lived I am.** Behold, You have made my days as a handbreadth...” (vs 4-5). We’re going to see the mistakes of Solomon in just a little bit. He was humble to start, but he was not humble at the end.

“...and the span of my days is as nothing before You. Surely every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah” (v 5). It’s very interesting. We’re going to see some very interesting things. Solomon learned the lesson of vanity to a great degree, but he didn’t apply it to himself the way he should have.

He was the most intelligent man the world has ever known; you would think that he would have done that. God appeared to him twice; blessed him and told him what He would do. Everything was laid out clear as could be. He did understand about the vanities. He pointed them out: this is vain, that is vain, the other thing is vain. But as we will see, **he did not do it to himself!**

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.**’ What profit does a man have in all his labor, which he labors under the sun? One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the earth remains forever. The sun also arises, and the sun goes down, and hurries to its place where it arose. The wind goes toward the south, and it turns around to the north; it whirls around continually; and the wind returns on its circuits. 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. 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” (vs 1-9).

So, Solomon was really philosophical in everything that he was thinking about here.

Verse 10: “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. 12: I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem” (vs 10-12).

I want you to start measuring and counting:

I, me, my and myself. We will see **the way that Solomon started drifting away from God was looking to himself!** Yes, still giving God some credit. Yes, still acknowledging that we need to keep the commandments of God; that's what he said at the end. But we can see from what he wrote here, *how he began to drift away from God, by concentrating on himself!* Have you heard of that before? *Yes, indeed!*

We will see that Solomon became philosophical and self-centered rather than God-centered and humble. It's all right here in the book of Ecclesiastes. There are 41 **I_s** in the first two chapters. There are 16 **my_s**, two **me_s** and 8 **myself_s!**

- Do you think that that is self-centered?

Listen, too many people take the blessings of God for granted!

- Has this happened in this nation?
- Has that happened to other people?
- How do their lives get cutoff when they turn their back on God?

Or, if they don't know God, turn their back on doing what is right and end up destroying their lives with various things, especially thinking of the entertainment industry and all of these 'great musicians' that die of drug overdoses: vanity and self. People just worship them as idols.

Let's see what Solomon did, all recorded for us. Instead of writing the Law of God so he could study that and live by that, *he wrote about himself!*

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 God has given to the sons of men to be exercised by it." He's looking out and seeing all these things.

Verse 14: "**I** have seen all the works that are done under the sun... [really not quite] ...and, behold, all *is* vanity and striving after wind." He had that point correct.

Verse 15: What *is* crooked cannot be made straight; and *what is* lacking cannot be numbered. **I** spoke within **my** own heart, saying... [instead of praying to God about it; 'God, give me wisdom and understanding'] ...'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'" (vs 15-16)—*me, myself and I!*

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).

Quite a thing! Let's see what he did. Instead of loving and serving God the way he should have, he became exactly like the men that David wrote of concerning what happens to important people. All Solomon had to do was read the Psalms of his father David. There's some really good Psalms.

Psalm 62:7: "In God is my salvation and my glory..." Did God not give all the glory to Solomon? *Yes!* Think about it with us; God is going to glorify us and He is going to give us the rule of His kingdom. Think of what a great thing that is. We need not get caught up in the foolishness that Solomon got caught up in.

"...the Rock of my strength; my refuge is in God. **Trust in Him at all times,** you people..." (vs 7-8). That's what Solomon forgot to do. He began to trust in himself and in his wisdom, and in his philosophy while giving some acknowledgment to God. "Trust in Him at all times..." Not part of the time, not some of the time, but *all times!*

"...pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah. Surely **men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie...**" (vs 8-9). That's what Solomon turned out to be, *a lie*, because God appeared to him twice, and he went against everything that God had told him to do.

"...when weighed in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity. Trust not in oppression, and do not take pride in stolen goods; if riches increase, do not set your heart upon them. God has spoken once; twice I have heard this: that power belongs to God. Also to You, O LORD, belongs mercy; for You give to every man according to his work" (vs 9-12).

Just think of what it would have been like if Solomon had lived by that. Let's see how:

- Solomon experimented
- how he thought
- how he acted
- what he did

Ecc. 2 is very profound! This tells you how, if you analyze it, Solomon got away from God. He got his mind on himself and what he was doing. He used *his own* wisdom and *his own* intelligence, rather than keep coming to God, rather than remembering and learning that in God *we live, move and have our being! That as human beings we have nothing we didn't receive!* All of it comes from God!

We will see the seeds of Solomon's own destruction were sown beginning in Ecc. 2, *because*

he turned his heart and mind from God to himself!

(go to the next track)

As we begin Ecc. 2, remember there were 42 **I_s** in chapters 1 & 2. Would you say that was self-centered? Would you say that was God-centered? *No!*

Ecclesiastes 2:1: “**I** said in my heart, ‘Come now, **I** will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.’ and, behold, this also *is* vanity.” Because only real good comes from God.

Verse 2: “**I** said of laughter, ‘*It is* madness,’ and of mirth, ‘What does it accomplish?’ **I** sought in my heart to give **myself** unto wine... [see what it’s like to get drunk] ...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 2-3).

Did not God already tell us what was good? *Yes!* That’s what Solomon should have sought out. You talk about a colossal Laodicean attitude—rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing—that’s Solomon!

Verse 4: “**I** made great works for myself; **I** built houses for myself; **I** planted vineyards for **myself**.” Remember Pasadena (WCG)?

Verse 5: “**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 5-7). ‘How great was **I**?’

He ended up by saying that this is all vanity, but he never really got to the point of complete dedication to God the way that he should have.

Verse 8: “**I** also gathered silver and gold to **myself**...” It’s said of Solomon that there was so much silver that it was counted like gravel in the streets. Quite different from what it is today!

“...and the treasure of kings and of the provinces. **I** got men singers and women singers for **myself**, even the sensual delights of the sons of men, and many women” (v 8). Oh yes, we will see that. How did that go?

Remember that God said, ‘**IF** you will love Me and serve Me, I’ll bless you. **IF** you will not, **then** I will even destroy this house.’

Verse 9: “So, **I** was great and increased more than all that were before **me** in Jerusalem; also

my wisdom remained with **me**. And whatever **my** eyes desired **I** did not keep from them; **I** did not withhold **my** heart from any pleasure...” (vs 9-10).

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Is that not true? *Yes, indeed!* Who is going to know it? When you search into yourself for the answers to life, you’re never, never going to find it. Notice that this was over a period of time, a period of years. This was not something that happened immediately. This is a summary of what he did for years.

- he had plenty of time to return to God
 - he had plenty of time to come back to God
 - he had plenty of time to repent of this
1. there is no place where it says that Solomon repented
 2. there is no place that says that he was totally cast away as Saul was

So, what happened to Solomon? *We don’t know!* We’ll have to await the resurrection to find out.

Verse 11: “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.”

Did it really turn him to God? *or* Did he just become more philosophical? What did this do?

- we will see what this did
- we will see where he went
- we will see what God did

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” (vs 12-13). God already knows that.

Verse 14: “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 14-15). *NO!* It should have been used for a wise purpose. So you’re smart; you know everything!

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!.... [poof, his last breath] ...Therefore, **I** hated life...” (vs 16-17). Why? *Because he was leaving God!*

“...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). What was his son Rehoboam? *No wonder he was upset with 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.”

He couldn't get over the fact that one day he was going to die and leave it all. That's what happens to everyone. There has been no one ever who took everything, or anything, with them. When you die, you leave it all behind; left for the heirs to fight over it. That is vanity!

Verse 20: “And **I** turned to cause **my** heart to despair of all the labor, which **I** had done under the sun.... [he had gotten into a really bad attitude] ...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” (vs 20-21).

So, he got not only self-centered, but very possessive. ‘How am I going to keep this?’ *You're not! Not a bit of it!* What is his son going to do with it? *If you do what is right, then the blessing of God will come to him, as well!* If you do not do what is right, then the blessing will not come to him. Solomon didn't think of that. He moaned and groaned over all of this.

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?” What is life all about? Just vanity, POOF and you're gone? *No!*

Verse 23: “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. There is nothing better for a man... [now he comes to a little bit sense] ...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. For who can eat, or who can enjoy it, more than **I**?” (vs 23-25). Boy! Was he self-centered!

Verse 26: “**For God gives wisdom, and knowledge, and joy to a man who is good in His sight.**... [he got that right] ...But to the sinner He gives labor, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to *him who is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and a striving after wind.”

He didn't get it right, because if you heap up all of these things, and they're good and right like David, his father did for him to build the temple,

then that is good! So good that God appeared to Solomon twice and blessed him, and gave him the choices to do what is right. Here we've covered some of them; this is really something! Look at what Solomon did!

He gets really philosophical in Ecc. 3, a lot of good true things. There's a lot of truth that people can find in life about a lot of different things. But to find the Truth of God and our purpose here on earth—why we're here and where we're going—and what God has created for what purpose we can only find from God through His Word and through His Truth.

Stop and think: I wonder what it would have been if Solomon would have been wholehearted and dedicated to God all his life? How would that have been with Israel? As we will see in a little bit, as the king did, so did the people.

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...” (vs 1-2). All that is here is all self-evident, understanding and wisdom. God wants us to have:

- *His* wisdom
- *His* understanding
- *His* way
- *His* Word

This is written for a lesson for us, and to show that we can understand certain things that are true through human living, human wisdom and human philosophy. This is what Solomon was doing, rather than concentrating on God.

“...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; 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, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace (vs 2-8).

All the exercising of man, what he does, how he lives, where he goes. Stop and think about your life. I don't know how old you are, how young you are, but I can tell you that what he said here is absolutely true, and life goes by *whoosh!* So, the question becomes:

- What are we going to do with our lives?
- How are we going to learn the lesson of

Solomon?

After all, we are living in the Laodicean age! What is happening to us as a nation? as a world? *It's being taken away because of sin!* That's something that we really need to think about, and talk about the vanity of that. And out of that, God has called us, because He is preparing a kingdom to rule this world.

Let's learn the lesson here, the lesson that Solomon lays out for us. The key lesson is that ***you begin leave God when you focus on yourself!*** That is because, like with Solomon, ***he became his own idol!*** Yes, he acknowledged God, that's true, but let's see how far that he left God. What happened to him?

1-Kings 10[transcriber's correction]—here's the account of the Queen of Sheba heard of everything that Solomon had, the house that he had built, and she came to see it. She was 'blown away' with the beauty, pageantry, the wisdom, the satiation of everything. It was something. Solomon had a worldwide trading combine that went out with the Phoenicians from the Mediterranean Sea and out from the Red Sea down near Eilate, which is practically the name of it today.

Every three years they would come back. He was so important and so mighty, and all the kings of the world came to him to hear his wisdom. Look what we were just reading, what happened to him when he became self-centered.

When you become self-centered and begin to forget God, you begin to compromise. So, the Queen of Sheba came and she was 'blown away' and saw his throne and everything that there was. Silver was counted as nothing. She went back to her country just absolutely impressed.

Remember what the king was to do: *to copy and study for himself the Word of God!* Plus he gathered many Proverbs, many songs and he had all the Psalms of David all written down. If he would have given himself over to studying those things, rather than what we're going to read. It's interesting to note that when Ezra wrote about Solomon in 2-Chronicles, he did not include what is written in 1-Kings 11. Why he didn't do it, I don't know. But let's see what happened.

- How far would self and philosophy take you away from God?
- How much justification of sin and transgression can you come to?

Look at it from this point of view:

- How about the Christianity of this world?
✓ they claim to follow Christ

✓ they claim to know the way to eternal life

Yet, because they do not love God and keep His commandments—the way God says to do it—and especially rejecting the Sabbath and the Holy Days, ***they are completely ignorant of the way of God, though they claim Christianity!***

This is a parallel of what happened to Solomon. What has happened to Christianity? *It has come to the point that it is embracing those abominations and sins that God says you are to never to do!*

- abortion
- homosexuality
- so-called homosexual marriages

The book of Leviticus says that if you cause your daughters to be whores, the land will be filled with violence; all the while we are claiming to be Christian. So there's a parallel, and we can see that follows what Solomon did. Let's learn some lessons and let's learn it in our lives:

- What are we to do with our lives?
- How are we to continue to grow and overcome?
- What do we really need to do so that we can always yield ourselves to God and not get in a situation like God has said to the Laodiceans?

That He has to correct us and stands at the door and knocks and says, 'If you open I will come into you.' The same thing has happened to the Laodiceans that happened to Solomon:

- I'm rich and increased with goods
- I have more than I know what to do with
- look at these buildings
- look at these schools
- Look at all of this that I have

1-Kings 11:1: "And King Solomon loved many foreign women, even the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, Hittites; 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*" (vs 1-2).

We witness how his heart was being turned in the book of Ecclesiastes. Notice how wholehearted he was in this, instead of being wholehearted to God. Where does it say of Solomon that he loved the Lord his God with all his heart, might, strength and being? *It doesn't!*

- What did he do as a replacement?
- What did he philosophically justify what he did?

Verse 3: “And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines. And his wives turned away his heart...”—that’s from God!

Solomon never really recovered, v 4: “For it came to pass when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods....” First commandments is *you shall have no other gods before Me!* That’s the last half of it. The first part of it is *I am the Lord your God Who has brought you out of the land of Egypt, you shall have no other gods before Me!*

He told him, wrote them, and if Solomon had written the Law as commanded, and

- if he would have studied it
- if he would have applied it to his life
- if he would have loved God

What did Solomon do with his *independent free moral agency* (IFMA)? *He chose to walk away from God!* Let’s see what happened.

“...And his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God as *was* the heart of David his father, for Solomon went after Ashtoreth...” (vs 4-5). Remember this: *as the king does, so do his...*

Sidebar: A young man comes up to his father and he has an attractive young woman from the tribe of the Ammonites and he says to his father, ‘I want to marry her.’ His father says, ‘No, God says you’re not to do that.’ *Well, the king does!*

Isn’t that the way people operate? *Yes!* So, the land became filled with sin; not filled with the blessings of God.

“...after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom, the abomination of the Ammonites” (v 5). [it got so bad that later the children of Israel were actually offering their children as live offerings to the fire god of Molech.

Verse 6: “And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD...” How did he get that way? *By starting to focus on himself! I, me and my!* Just in the first two chapters, 42 **I!**

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, and burned incense and sacrificed to their gods” (vs 7-8). Can you imagine that!

The true God speaking to you in a dream and blessing you with every possible blessing that you could have: wisdom, wealth, power, authority, worldwide influence. He took in 666 talents of gold as tribute from the world leaders, bringing it to him to hear his wisdom. ***And he turned his back on God!*** They burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. I wonder what he thought when he brought the offering to Molech and the priest of Molech was there, and he gave the offering and then burned incense and bowed down and prayed.

- I wonder what was in his mind?
- I wonder how he justified that?

Remember, it’s not how you start, it is how you finish! That’s going to be the whole story during the Millennium.

- Will God allow people to get self-centered?
- Will God allow people to being to leave Him?
- Will God allow people to not repent and come back?
- Will they reach a point where they will have to go to the ‘repentance center’?
- Will they repent?

Tomorrow we will talk about if they don’t repent when they are there. We do know that ‘the sinner shall die accursed.’ That means that there’s no more hope. That means that in his next waking moment he’ll be looking at the Lake of Fire.

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.” You see the process! *I, me, my, myself!*

Verse 10: “And [God] had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; and he did not keep that which the LORD commanded.” Notice that God gave the sentence of His punishment against him.

The sentence of our punishment, if we don’t succeed—that’s why it’s important for us always have God first, to always remember that the most important thing for you to always remember is ***everything that you are, that you have, that you will be, and that you will have comes from God! Everything!*** That’s why God says that we are to love Him with ***all our heart, mind, soul and being!***

Do you want God to love you? *He’s already expressed it and shown it through Jesus Christ!*

- don’t worry about the things that you have to go through because of this wicked world
- don’t worry about the troubles you may

have to face because you serve God

- God is with you
- God loves you
- God wants you in His kingdom

So that we can serve what God is going to do for all people during the Millennium!

Verse 11: “And the LORD said to Solomon... [God spoke to him] ...‘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.... [Isn’t that amazing?] ...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. Only, I will not tear away all the kingdom, *but* I will give one tribe to your son for David My servant’s sake, and for Jerusalem’s sake which I have chosen.’” (vs 11-13).

Think about this; here’s a parallel with our countries today, as the modern descendants of Israel. Take these verses that we just read and apply it to the whole of this nation, and of Britain, Europe, and those people who should be serving God! ***Because you have not obeyed My voice and kept My things!***

Verse 14: “And it came to pass the LORD stirred up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite....”

- Does that sound a little familiar?
- Are we not having the same thing today?
- *Yes, indeed!*

“...He was of the king’s seed in Edom” (v 14)—terrorist attacks!

Verse 18: “And they arose out of Midian and came to Paran. And *they* took men with them out of Paran and they came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house and appointed food for him and gave him land.” The story is that he then had a terrorist army and came and afflicted the people of Israel with terrorist attacks! Does that sound familiar? *Yes, indeed! It’s right before us today!*

You can read the rest of the story. You can read the rest of everything here in Ecclesiastes to understand what Solomon did. And you can see how *self-deceptive* he was by *turning to himself!* He didn’t learn the lesson that ***the carnal mind is enmity against God, and that the heart of man is desperately wicked and evil!***

This is why these things are here for us, that we learn not do those same things. This is going to be a good lesson for us to be able to be kings,

priests, servants and administrators in the Kingdom of God when Christ returns, and as spirit beings. This is what we are going to teach the people. This is why today, right here at this Feast of Tabernacles that we are keeping, the very fact that we keep the Feast of Tabernacles shows that we understand that we are physical, we’re temporary and everything in this life is going to come to an end!

God has called us to eternal life, *to love Him eternally. to serve Him eternally*, and as we will see on the Last Great Day, to be given the greatest blessing of all: ***to live in New Jerusalem with God the Father and Jesus Christ!***

If we have that as our goal, if we have that as what is set before us by God, then we can set aside all of these physical things that give us problems in this life and bring them to God and ask Him to help us change and overcome. ***That is the lesson of Solomon!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 Kings 3:3-15
- 2) 1 Kings 8:1
- 3) 1 Kings 9:1-7
- 4) Deuteronomy 17:14-20
- 5) Psalm 35:1-5
- 6) Ecclesiastes 1:1-18
- 7) Psalm 62:7-12
- 8) Ecclesiastes 2:1-26
- 9) Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
- 10) 1 Kings 11:1-14, 18

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1 Kings 6; 7:57
- 1 John 3
- 2 Thessalonians 2
- 1 Kings 10

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Day 7—Feast of Tabernacles The End of the Millennium

Find out what the people will choose will be the most important decision of their lives

Fred R. Coulter—October 23, 2016

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to day seven of the Feast of Tabernacles! There's one more day called *the eighth day!*

As we come down from the time beginning with the Passover through all the Holy Days, God's plan unfolds. The Apostle Paul said that this was 'His eternal plan' and His plan is absolutely marvelous. However, it cannot be understood just by reading the Bible.

As we have seen in 1-Cor. 2, we need the Spirit of God! We need to love God, answer His call, obey Him and serve Him, *then He grants us understanding!* Yes, a good understanding have all of those who do—practices and lives by—His commandments.

In the book of Revelation, we find that Jesus said, 'I am the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last, the Alpha and Omega.' Then He says so at the end. So, it shows the complete plan of God, starting at the beginning and coming to the ending.

Rev. 20 has quite a few things in it. It discusses the beginning of the Millennium and also the ending of the Millennium. As we have covered on the Day of Atonement, Satan the devil is bound.

Revelation 20:2: "And he... [the great angel] ...took hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is *the Devil and Satan*, and bound him *for* a thousand years. 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..." (vs 2-3).

Here on the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles, we are at the fulfilling of the seventh day, the end of the Millennium. Then it talks about those who will be in the first resurrection who will be judging, reigning and ruling with Christ all during the Millennium (v 4).

Verse 5: "(But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed.)..." We'll cover that tomorrow, but what we want to focus on...

Verse 6: "Blessed and Holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection; **over these the second death has no power**. But they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

Now, "...the rest of the dead..." (v 5). Let's talk about the dead for just a minute. The first one resurrected is Jesus Christ (1-Cor. 15) the Firstfruit; afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. We have already covered that pictured by Pentecost, and ruling and reigning with Christ "...a thousand years" (v 6).

Verse 7: "Now, when the thousand years have been completed, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison." Why will he be loosed? All during the Millennium we have seen that people will be coming into the Kingdom of God just like when Christ returns, 'those who are alive will be changed in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump.'

Likewise, all during the Millennium, as covered by Isa. 65, when they come to the end of their life and have been righteous, then there will be what I like to call *a transformation Sabbath*. Everyone will come to Sabbath services wherever you are and those who are righteous who have lived to be 100-years-old, there will be a *transformation Sabbath*. They shall be transferred instantly from flesh to spirit.

Since it's given to all once to die, as in Adam we all die, therefore, this transformation has to be an instantaneous death and resurrection. That's why it's called *transformation!* **You are transformed from being a physical human being to a spirit being and a son or daughter of God!** This will go on all during the Millennium.

We have covered how people will obey God, people will love God, people will serve God, and we've also touched on the fact that the sinner who dies a hundred-years-old is accursed. We've also covered that there will be sin, people will have to repent, and if they sin grievously enough, they are removed and sent to a 'repentance center.'

Just like today, the Church only has the power of disfellowshipment for those who do wrong. If they sin in society, God has given civil laws to the society and the officials that are there to carry out their judgments and executions of the law according as they see.

However, all during the Millennium, that power will reside in *us* through Christ to every individual on earth.

- to those who *seek* God

- to those who *love* God
- to those who *obey* God

at the end of their lives they will enter into the Kingdom of God as a spirit being. Let's see that:

Psa. 25 gives us a summary of how people come to God and then they will enter into the Kingdom of God because they have:

- been righteous
- loved God
- kept His commandments
- grown in grace and knowledge

They have lived a hundred years showing that they are righteous and ready to enter into the Kingdom of God. Of course, we'll be the ones to teach them, to train them, to help them, and always remember that *everyone has to choose!* Remember what I've said about IFMA: *independent free moral agency!* Remember what happened to Solomon, that we covered on Day 6, that will be very important in understanding today and tomorrow.

Psalm 25:1: "To You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You; do not let me be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me."

There won't be any enemies around during the Millennium, but what is the greatest enemy that everyone carries right within them? *Human nature!* At that time it's going to be *how to overcome human nature.*

Granted, it won't be as intensely evil as it is today, however, there has to be choice, and they *must choose God's way!*

Verse 3: "Yea, let none who wait on You be ashamed; let them be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause." What happens to those in the Millennium who refuse to repent?

Let's cover the *last* generation as pictured by Day 7. How is God going to handle that? Especially when they won't have time to die? *But they will have time to be exiled!* We'll pick that up in a little bit.

Verse 4: "Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your Truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You do I wait all the day long... [that's right] ...Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindness, for they have been of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions..." (vs 4-7).

Everyone is going to sin and make mistakes. *It's how it is handled and what they do!* Obviously,

if they repent their sins will be forgiven and they'll be reinstated. Their sins will be covered and forgotten, and they will be removed as far as the East is from the West.

Here's what's going to happen at the 'repentance centers,' v 8: "Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, He will teach sinners in the way." They will be taught God's way so they can come back. But still remember that there's *free moral agency!*

Verse 9: "The meek He will guide in judgment; and the meek He will teach His way. All the paths of the LORD are mercy and Truth **to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies**" (vs 9-10). That's the key! That's how it operates with us today. That's how it's going to operate with them at that time during the Millennium.

Let's examine a little more concerning Day 7. Remember that all during the Millennium Satan is not around! So, independent free moral agency and what people choose becomes the most important decision in their lives. After 900 years of:

- peace
 - prosperity
 - love
 - understanding
 - building
 - producing
 - making
 - having the greatest physical human society that the world has ever seen
- What will be the main problem?
 - Why will there be some people who will not repent?
 - What happens to them?
 - ✓ They can't live in the society!
 - ✓ They won't repent at the 'repentance center'!

So, just like Cain was exiled further away from Adam and Eve, *they will also be exiled away!* How do we know that?

Remember that we covered that Satan is going to be loosed at the end of the Millennium for a 'short season.' How long that is, we are not specifically told.

Revelation 20:7: "Now, when the thousand years have been completed, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison."

- What for?
We've had a thousand years without him!
- What is the need for him?

- What will his job be?
- Why did God do this?

Well, at the end of the thousand years there comes a time when you have to stop human production. There comes a time when there is no time for them to live a hundred years and die if they are convinced sinners and refuse to repent.

- What are you going to do with them?

You can't keep them at the 'repentance center' because they won't repent! So, you send them further away.

- Where do they go?

We can understand from v 8: "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." Now, there's a lot in that verse.

- Is God a respecter of persons? *No!*

We know that at the beginning of the Millennium Gog and Magog are going to come and fight against the resettlement of the children of Israel in the Holy Land. They will be beaten back.

Gog and Magog is that great area north and way east, probably somewhere near Siberia, which is a wasteland. It is habitable, but it is difficult living. If God does not offer salvation to Gog and Magog during the Millennium then He's a respecter of persons—is He not? *Yes, He would be!* So, how do we answer the question of Gog and Magog?

Let's look at how God uses the word *Israel*. He uses it for *the people* of Israel, and He uses for the *geographical area* of where they live. Based on that, we can conclude that somewhere in Gog and Magog is a place of permanent exile for the unrepentant sinners who do not want to go God's way.

You would think: With all the evidence there and 900-plus years of fantastic living for human beings and people entering into the Kingdom of God all the time; **why would people choose to reject the salvation of God?** It says, "...of whom the number *is* as the sand of the sea..." So, at the end of the Millennium they're going to be a lot of people who will not repent, nor is there time for them to die accursed to await the resurrection to the Lake of Fire.

- What happens? *The sinners, unrepentant, will be sent there!*
- Why would they sin?
- Why would they refuse salvation?

They're looking at a fully developed civilization of human beings, and strength, beauty, peace, righteousness and goodness for all people, but they still have *free moral agency!* Let's answer the question this way:

What did we learn concerning Solomon yesterday (Day 6)? *He chose to focus his mind on himself, instead of God. And to seek His way, His pleasure, His plans!* What happened? *We saw that Solomon left God!* He even went to the point of building temples and incense centers and sacrifice centers for other gods, just across the valley from to the west from where the temple of God was.

After all, he had all those wives and concubines. We don't find a place where Solomon repented. Maybe he did at the end, I do not know. That's all in God's hands! But we can learn a principle here. These people who come into the last generation, there has to be a cutting off of childbearing somewhere along the line. We could pick a year, say 950, and from then on no more children. Those who are born up to that time and choose God's way will enter into the Kingdom of God at the end of this battle we find in Rev. 20.

- How is it that they reject God? *They think they don't need God because they're so good, and they have such intellect!*
- Was there a man like that at one time?
- Was he protected from Satan the devil? *Yes, indeed!*
- How did he react?

Let's see that! Because not only are the people at the end of the Millennium going to be not repentant of their sins, but they are going to be persuaded, in their own minds and deceptions, that they are as good as the rest of those people, and ***they don't need God!*** *In fact, in some ways, they are going to think they're better than God!*

- Can you think of a man who was like that?

Before we get there let's add in something that everyone has to do: *independent free moral agency!* Everyone has this in life. It's not going to be changed during the Millennium. They won't have Satan around to tempt them as we do today. Satan is the 'god of this world' and as you know he became the 'god of this world' when Adam and rejected God's instruction and chose to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge and Evil instead of the Tree of Life and the other fruits.

Adam and Eve had the best human nature possible, because God had just created it. It was neutral, but human nature and the ability to think and

reason and having independent free moral agency, God let them choose. This is the same thing it's going to be all during the Millennium. People are going to have to choose God's way. If not, and they don't repent, they're going to die accursed, which means they are awaiting the resurrection to the Lake of Fire.

So, *independent free moral agency—IFMA—is the most important thing for every human being!*

Deut. 30—here is what is going to be laid out to the people, this is what we're going to teach them, and most of them at that time will enter into the Kingdom of God. But there are some people who become so stubborn and so self-righteous that they won't repent.

In the case of those during the Millennium, they are going to harden their hearts so hard that even in the presence of the sons of God they're going to refuse to repent. That's why they'll be exiled to Gog and Magog in the last half of that last 100 years. We'll just use that as an arbitrary figure.

They will have failed this test; and this is important for us to understand. This is talking about God bringing the children of Israel into the 'promised land' and if they would obey Him here's what He would do:

Deuteronomy 30:9: "And the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in every work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, and in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your land, **for good**, for the LORD will again rejoice over you **for good** as He rejoiced over your fathers." This is going to be very similar to the covenant that the people during the Millennium will be given. Here's the choice:

Verse 10: "**If**..." This choice laid before all human beings; it is a choice that everyone must make. Look what happened to Solomon when he chose to go against God! That's what happened to Solomon, and it will happen to them during the Millennium. When you choose to be stubborn and refuse to repent and **do not believe God**:

- What happens to your own mind? **You justify why you are right!**
- Is that not what Solomon did?
- Focusing on himself?

Verse 10: "**If**... [conditional] ...you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes, which are written in this Book of the Law, *and* if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all

your soul."

That's going to be all during the Millennium. It's going to be all there: the knowledge of God will cover the earth like the seas cover the earth. Everything this going to be known; it is going to be marvelous indeed, beyond anything we have ever imagined or expected. And we are going to help administer that! That is going to be a great, wonderful thing that we're going to be doing.

Verse 11: "For this commandment which I command you today *is* not hidden from you, neither is it far off." It's right here on earth, right where you are; everything is right here.

Verse 14: "But the Word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may do it. **Behold, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil**" (vs 14-15).

Everyone is going to have that choice. ***Choose God's way and His righteousness, mercy, understanding!*** Are you going to live God's way? That's what it's going to be.

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 enter into the Kingdom of God] ...And the LORD your God shall bless you in the land where you go to possess it. But **if**... [because there's free moral agency (IFMA)] **...your heart turn away...**" (vs 16-17)—a decision you make; everybody has to make it.

Remember that *no one, at any time, anywhere can fool God!* Not like with human beings: You can fool some of the people some of the time; you can fool all the people part of the time, but ***you can never, never fool God!***

- He's our Creator!
- He has made us!
- He knows our hearts!
- He tries the reins!

Verse 17: "**If your heart turn away so that you will not hear**, but shall be drawn away and worship other gods and serve them." They won't worship other gods because there won't be any around at that time, but they're going to want to serve themselves, and where will the other gods be? ***The idols in the mind! What they have chosen to believe!***

This same thing is going to happen to them, v 19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you *that* **I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing**. Therefore, **choose life**,

so that both you and your seed may live, 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).

And the greater kingdom was *the spiritual seed as the stars of heaven!* That is all of those who enter into the Kingdom of God.

Let’s look at a man called *Job*. Let’s see what he did. Let’s see what he thought. The parallels here are not exactly complete. It’s interesting when you read about Job, especially in the first chapter.

First, God was protecting Job from Satan up to a certain point. The choices that Job made and the thoughts that he came to were not inspired by Satan; they were from himself. It’s going to be very much like the people in the Millennium. Remember what happened to Solomon when he got his mind on himself.

Job 1: “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job. And that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and turned aside from evil.” Just like we read, he chose to do what was right. If you choose to do what is right...

What was the one thing that Job missed in all of his obedience to God? *We’ll see about that in a little bit! I want you to think about that!*

It talks about all the possessions that Job had, everything that he did, and how he was trying to keep his sons from sinning against God, and if he would offer sacrifices, perhaps that God would forgive them their sin.

Will all the people during the Millennium, the last part of that thousand years, have been protected from Satan the devil? *Yes, he’ll be bound in prison, the abyss!* Everything that they do will be based on what they choose and what they think. Of course, we will be instructing them. But remember, ***there is always free moral agency!*** And this is why—just projecting ahead—God is going to release Satan the devil out of his prison to gather them together to be destroyed in the final war, *because they chose their own way!*

Now, with everything so good, with everything so great, with everything that human beings could have, do you suppose that they might even become more self-righteous than Job?

Verse 6: “Now, there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD.... [the angels of God] ...And Satan also

came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.’ And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil?’” (vs 6-8).

- Is fearing God enough?
- What about the fact that Job wasn’t sinning?
- What if these people (in the Millennium) come to the point that they get their minds on themselves and they do not recognize their own sins?

and

- They do not fear God, because you must *first* love God?
- Can you keep the things of God, to a certain point, on your own strength, but not love God? *Yes, indeed!*

That’s called ***self-righteousness!***

Let’s see what happened to Job, v 9: “And Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, and around his house, and around all that he has on every side?...’” (vs 9-10). *God, you’ve kept me away from him! You haven’t let me get in there to get him!*

“...You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land” (v 10). Think about that in relationship to the Millennium. Isn’t that true? Won’t that be so? Satan will be removed! He won’t be there! God will bless them in everything that they do!

Yes, but if they start getting their minds on themselves, as Job did, that’s a key, important thing, because when you do that, and it’s all *your* righteousness—even though you’re doing what God commanded to do—this is the conundrum that people cannot understand. You ask the average person:

- Are you a good person? *I’m a good person!*
- Do you deceive yourself? *No!*
- Do you tell lies? *Well, occasionally, but I’m a good person!*

So, we don’t know what it was with Job.

Job had to *choose!* After all that he went through—and God put him through misery, short of taking his life—he was so righteous that even his three closest friends—even though they said many things concerning right and wrong, good and evil—

they couldn't see what it was that Job was actually doing.

- What was that?
- He was upright and blameless, didn't God say that was so? *Yes, indeed!*
- What happened to Job?
- Could this be the sin that those in the Millennium—the last half of the Millennium—will commit *by free choice*?

(go to the next track)

Before we continue in the book of Job and find the answer, let's remember several Scriptures:

2-Tim. 3—perilous times shall come in the last days because men shall be *'lovers of self rather than lovers of God'*! In between that it talks about all the horrible characteristics of human nature cutoff from God.

Now then, during the Millennium the people we're talking about now will be exactly in the same situation as Job and Solomon. Remember that Solomon, as we covered yesterday, got his mind on himself and on his wives and concubines, and off the true God. He even made the temples and so forth and sacrificed to the gods of his wives. That is because he got his mind on *himself*, rather than *on God*! He forgot the first lesson: *you have nothing you didn't receive!* Everything physical and spiritual comes from God.

Let's see how God is going to do the judging. At the end of the Millennium people will be in greater shape than Job was, and thinking that all of this is coming because of *them*. Even when some of the children and the elders of Israel were sent off into captivity, they still did not learn the lesson.

Ezekiel 14:1: "And some of the elders of Israel came to me [Ezekiel] and sat before me. And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. **Should I at all be inquired of by them?**'" (vs 1-3). *No!*

What was the idol of Job? *Though he was righteous, he worshipped himself instead of God!* We'll see that. He may have had the sacrificed that he offered. There's no account that the Spirit of God was *within* him as conversion until way at the end of the book of Job.

Here's going to be the sin of those during the Millennium, the last generation that refuse salvation and are exiled to the geographical area of Gog and Magog. They have refused to love God, to obey Him because He is God, and *all of their*

obedience should all be credited to God, not to themselves!

Verse 4: "Therefore, speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Every man of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face..."' Notice what he is doing:

- It is to the self!
- Loving self!
- Concentrating on self!
- Looking to his or her own human ways rather than coming from God!

"...and comes to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him according to the multitude of his idols" (v 4).

We will see that Job makes mention of God, just like Solomon did—hear the conclusion of the matter, keep His commandments—that's what we should do. But how should we keep them?

- knowing that they all come from God
- praise God and give Him the glory for everything
- that we are thankful for God giving us the knowledge of it
- giving His Spirit so that we can love Him and obey Him!

It's also interesting that, in this case, remember that Solomon loved his foreign wives more than God. So, here with Job, he loved himself and he was the idol in his mind, not really giving credit that all of these things came from God! *That will be the quirk of human nature that will take place at the end of the Millennium!*

Job gives some credit to God, but not the way he should, Job 31:1: "I made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I look upon a virgin? For what *is* the portion from God above? And *what is* the inheritance of the Almighty from on high? *Is* not destruction for the wicked..." (vs 1-3)—instead of repentance and salvation, God is just going to destroy the wicked, that's it!

"...and calamity to the workers of iniquity? Does He not see my ways..." (vs 3-4). There are 38 *me*, *my* and *myself*; 25 *I*s in this one chapter! Do you suppose that *that Job was loving himself* more than God? While at the same time giving a little credit to God?

"...and count all my steps? If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot has hurried to deceit, let me be weighed in an even balance so that God may know that I am blameless" (vs 5-6)—*I have never*

sinned!

IF you have that attitude, what is there to repent of? When it comes to that point, they will be exiled! Job says, "...I am blameless."

Verse 7: "If **my** step has turned out of the way, or **my** heart has walked after **my** eyes, and if any spot has cleaved to **my** hands; then let **me** sow, and let another eat; and let **my** harvests be rooted out. If **my** heart has been enticed by a woman, or I have laid wait at **my** neighbor's door, then let **my** wife grind for another, and let others bow down upon her. For that *would be* a heinous crime; yea, it *would be* an iniquity to be punished by the judges. For it is a fire that devours to destruction, and it would root out all **my** increase" (vs 7-12).

He's saying, 'No, I didn't do that.' And some of his three friends said that 'you did this, you did that.' *No! No, I didn't do it!*

Instead of thinking that everything that he has comes from God, and that even the ability to love... Let's put it this way: *It doesn't show very much love of God here if any.* What is the first and greatest commandment? **You shall love the Lord your God with all heart, with all your mind, with all your soul and with all your being!**

What is the second commandment? *You shall love your neighbor as yourself!* We're going to see that Job left off that first commandment.

- yes, he took care of his neighbors
- yes, he took care of the poor
- yes, he had a perfect life in the letter of the Law

But he loved himself and his idols were in his mind! He worshipped himself!

Verse 13: "If I despised the cause of my manservant or of **my** maidservant, when they complained against **me**; what then shall I do when God rises up? And when He calls **me** to account, what shall I answer Him? Did not He who made **me** in the womb make him *also*? And did not one fashion us in the womb? If I have withheld the poor from *their* desire..." (vs 13-16). Yes, I was born of God, but...

"...or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail, or have eaten **my** morsel **myself** alone, and the fatherless has not eaten of it—for from **my** youth he grew up with **me**, as *with* a father, and from infancy I guided her—if I have seen any perish for lack of clothing, or there was no covering for the needy; if his loins have not blessed **me**, and he warmed himself with the fleece of **my** sheep; if I have lifted up **my** hand against the fatherless when I watched

over **my** help in the gate; then let **my** arm fall from the shoulder blade, and let **my** arm be broken from the elbow. For calamity *from* God is a terror to **me**, and by reason of His majesty I could do nothing" (vs 13-23).

Couldn't stop the calamity! Here he was all himself. *He* was doing this, and God had to answer to him!

Verse 24: "If I have made gold **my** hope, or have called fine gold **my** confidence; if I rejoiced because **my** wealth was great, and because **my** hand had gotten much; if I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness, And **my** heart has been secretly enticed, or **my** mouth has kissed **my** hand; this also *would be* an iniquity for the judges to punish; for I would have lied to God who is above" (vs 24-28). He didn't do any of that! But he didn't see that he was worshipping himself!

Verse 29: "If I rejoiced at the destruction of him who hated **me**, or exulted **myself** when evil found him; verily I have not allowed **my** mouth to sin by wishing for a curse on his life; if the men of **my** tabernacle did not say, 'Who can find one who has not been satisfied with his meat?'" (vs 29-31).

Look, I fed everybody; I took care of everybody. Look how good I am! Can't you see that? *Yes, he gives some credit to God*, but he doesn't understand that the great sin is *self-worship* even though these were the commandments of God! 'If I've done this and that and the other things, God shouldn't be angry with me. Look at all these good things I have done.

Verse 32: "The stranger did not sleep in the street, for I opened **my** doors to the traveler. If I covered **my** transgressions like Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom, then let **me** tremble before a great multitude, and be terrified by the scorn of families; and I will be silent and not go out the door" (vs 32-34). *I will stand there and take it!*

Verse 35: "Oh, that I had one to hear **me**!... [you three friends aren't worth anything] ...Behold, **my** desire is that the Almighty would answer **me**, and the indictment that my adversary had written." *Yes, let God talk to me, and I will tell Him a thing or two!*

He said in one place that he wanted to take God to court, and that there would be umpire between him and God so that God would see how good Job really, really was!

Verse 36: "Surely I would carry it on **my** shoulder... [yes, I'll let that be known] ...and bind it like a crown upon **my** head. I would declare to Him the number of **my** steps; like a prince I would come

before Him” (vs 36-37). How’s that for repentance? *That’s not very much repentance!*

Think what it’s going to be like with all the people in that last generation that don’t have time to live a hundred years and die accursed. They refuse to repent, so they are exiled to Gog and Magog. They’re going to be there talking with one another, that God just doesn’t understand! Just like Job. They are going to think that they are right. Then we’ll see when Satan is let loose upon them.

Verse 38: “**If my** land cry against me, or its furrows weep together; **if I** have eaten its strength without paying for it, or have caused its owners to lose their life, let thorns come forth instead of wheat, and weeds instead of barley.’ The words of Job are ended” (vs 38-40).

We’re going to look at some things here that are very important to understand. Unless there is repentance, and they didn’t repent... What did it take to repent? *Well, God came and told him!* We’ll see that in a little bit.

- Didn’t these people who were exiled living under the Kingdom of God? *Yes!*
- Were not all the sons and daughters of God there to teach them? *Yes, indeed!*
- Did they not see these people transformed from flesh to spirit and enter into the Kingdom of God? *Yes, indeed!*

They did not want to recognize the sin within. Instead of repenting and understanding that God alone knows everything, like Job finally came to see, ‘O Lord, no thought can be withheld from You.’ They were given chances to repent and they didn’t repent. Just like Job, what do you do?

Job 32:1: “And these three men ceased to answer Job, because **he was righteous in his own eyes.**” Isn’t that something?

The youngest one there, Elihu the son of Barachel said, ‘I didn’t really want to speak but I had to understand that great men are not necessarily wise.’

Job 33:1: “Wherefore, Job... [Elihu says to him] ...please hear my speech, and hearken to all my words. Behold, now I have opened my mouth, my tongue has spoken in my mouth, my words *shall be* from the uprightness of my heart, and my lips will clearly speak knowledge. The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. If you can, answer me; set yourself in order before me, stand up. Behold, I *am* according to your wish in God’s stead; I also am formed out of the clay” (vs 1-6).

Now, I will leave it up to you to read all the rest of the book of Job, from that place until the end. Here is the heart and core of it.

Job 34:35: “‘Job has spoken without knowledge, and his words *were* without wisdom.’ My desire *is that* Job may be tried unto the end because *his* answers *are* like those of wicked men.... [What is that?] ...**For he adds rebellion to his sin; he claps his hands among us, and multiplies his words against God**” (vs 35-37).

The first part of Job 35 is the most important thing, because this defines Job’s sin and rebellion, which will be the same as those during the Millennium, toward the end of the Millennium, when there’s not time that they live to be a hundred and die accursed, the unrepentant. Their sin will be that they will think that they are as good as God, or better than God. That’s what Job thought! He thought, as I mentioned earlier, that if weighed in the balance, he would be better than God!

Job 35: “And Elihu answered and said, **‘Do you think this to be right, you that say, “My righteousness is more than God’s”?’**” (vs 1-2). Is that not an unpardonable sin? *If there is no repentance, it is!* That’s what these people will do toward the end of the Millennium.

Verse 3: “For you say... [God]: ...’What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than *if* I had sinned?’ I will answer your words, and your companions with you” (vs 3-4). *Then Elihu tell them all about God, what He does and so forth!*

God answered Job directly. Didn’t Job say, ‘O would God talk to me?’ *Yes, indeed! He sure did!* You read all the rest of what Elihu said. He said, ‘My knowledge comes from God, my words are from God, this is for you to understand.’

Job 38:1: “Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, ‘Who *is* this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now gird up your loins like a man; for I will demand of you, and you shall answer Me’” (vs 1-3). Then He declares everything that He has done.

Let’s see God’s final words to Job, and this becomes the sin of Job; this is his sin, his rebellion and this is going to be the sin and rebellion of those people toward the end of the Millennium. Maybe even all the way through and they die accursed at a hundred. We don’t know for sure, but here is God’s final answer to Job, after explaining to him everything that He had done in creating, everything that He had made, all of these things.

Job 40:1: “And the LORD answered Job and

said, ‘Shall he who contends with the Almighty instruct *Him*? He who reproves God, let him answer it.’” Here’s the difference between Job and those who will be exiled. *They do not repent! Job did!*

I wonder what kind of sessions we will have with those whom we lay before them the things they need to do to repent, because God is not anxious that any die, but come to salvation, come to repentance. That’s a choice, *independent free moral agency!*

Notice Job’s answer, v 3: “And Job answered the LORD and said, ‘Behold, I am vile! What shall I answer You? I will lay my hand on my mouth. Once I have spoken; but I will not answer; yea, twice, but I will proceed no further.’” (vs 3-5). *Job finally got the point! That’s what God wants with all of us:*

- that we finally get the point
- that we don’t exalt ourselves above God in our mind
- that we don’t think that we are sufficient unto ourselves

Then gradually come to think that God is not right like Job did!

Verse 6: “And the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, ‘Gird up your loins now like a man. I will demand of you, and you declare unto Me. Will you even annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me so that you may be righteous?’” (vs 6-8).

That will be the unpardonable sin. Unless repented of by these people during the Millennium, having lived under the Kingdom of God: God’s servants, His sons and daughters, everything spiritual and everything there for them, and then they accuse God! Why? *Because they get their minds on themselves!*

Verse 9: “And *have* you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?” Then God challenges Job: *If you think you’re sufficient unto yourself, and if you think that your righteousness is going to bring you something greater than me, think on this; this is a challenge to all human beings; I’ll summarize it this way:*

- Job, can you transform yourself into a spirit being?
- Job, can you make yourself have the glory that I give to My saints? *Of course not!*

Verse 10: “Deck yourself now with majesty and excellency, and array yourself with glory and beauty. Cast abroad the rage of your wrath; and behold everyone who is proud, and abase him. Look on everyone *who is* proud, *and* bring him low; and

tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together; *and* bind their faces in darkness. **Then** I will also confess to you that your own right hand can save you” (vs 10-14).

No human being can save himself! That’s going to be the great sin of those toward the end of the Millennium! They will have had every chance to repent. They will be given every opportunity to turn back. **But since they steadfastly refuse, they will be exiled!**

Revelation 20:7: “Now, when the thousand years have been completed, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.” For the purpose of gathering together the mass of unrepentant people, probably from many places on earth, exiled to the area of Gog and Magog where they will be all together.

They will still be living in the flesh. None of them will see any reason to repent. None will be brought back out of exile, because they’re unrepentant and self-righteous, and know that they are ‘better than God.’ Was that not the original sin of Satan the devil? *Yes!* He didn’t repent of it—did he? *No!* that was the sin of Solomon. We don’t know if he repented or not, we’re not told. The sin of Job was the same thing. **We know that he repented!** He repented in sackcloth and ashes, and said, ‘Now my eye sees You!’ So, during the Millennium if people come to the point that they repent, they’re not going to be exiled.

But since they—those who don’t repent—can’t live out to be a hundred years-old, the Millennium has to come to an end, God uses Satan to gather them together.

Verse 8: “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.”

He’s going to be loosed and he’s going to tell them that, ‘Yes, I’m finally out of prison. This God down there in Jerusalem didn’t know what He was doing when He got rid of me and put me in prison, but I have gotten out and I have come to you.’

All the demons will be there with him, as well. Think of what supposed glorious miracles that they will do. We don’t know how long it will be to get them ready for battle, but they are going to further harden their hearts, harden their minds, and be absolutely adamant against any kind of repentance.

Verse 9:” Then *I saw* them go up upon the breadth of the earth and encircle the camp of the saints...” Is this during the time of the Feast of

Tabernacles? *Don't know!*

“...and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven and consumed them” (v 9). This is their *first* death! That’s why they were exiled.

1. they didn’t repent
2. there wasn’t enough time for them to live to be a hundred years old and be accursed and be in the resurrection for being cast into the Lake of Fire

So, God used Satan the devil to bring them to this battle to fight, to be killed and to end their first life. Because you cannot have a second death unless you have die twice, and you can’t have a second death unless you die the first time and are resurrected again so that you can be cast into the Lake of Fire; *all the wicked together!*

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*; and they, *Satan and the demons*, shall be tormented day and night into the ages of eternity.” Satan is thrown in there with all the demons, and the Lake of Fire does not destroy them. They are tormented while they’re in the Lake of Fire.

Now then, Satan the devil and the demons will be removed because of the Last Great Day and God’s further plan for salvation. They will end up, as we see in the book of Jude. These are ‘*wandering stars to whom is reserved the blackest darkness forever!*’ That’s where their torment will continue.

They will be locked into this place of imprisonment, and that will be a spot in the universe where we will all know there will *never ever, ever, ever* be any rebellion against God! *Never again!* The reason is because God’s plan is so great, and so fantastic, and so awesome—which he has displayed with the universe that we can see.

- where there is no room for rebellion
- where there is no room for any self-willedness

But to love and to serve God and to do as He shows us and teaches us and gives us of the power and understanding to do so! Way beyond what anything we can ever think or do on our own! Think of that!

What a wonderful calling that God has given to us; that we can participate in this and participate in His goodness! That we will dwell with God forever and ever and ever!

So, come back tomorrow for day #8, the Last Great Day!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 20:2-3, 5-7
- 2) Psalm 25:1-10
- 3) Revelation 20:7-8
- 4) Deuteronomy 30:9-11, 14-17, 19-20
- 5) Job 1:1, 6-10
- 6) Ezekiel 14:1-4
- 7) Job 31:1-40
- 8) Job 32:1
- 9) Job 33:1-6
- 10) Job 34:35-37
- 11) Job 35:1-4
- 12) Job 38:1-3
- 13) Job 40:1-14
- 14) Revelation 20:7-10

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1 Corinthians 2
- Revelation 20:4
- 1 Corinthians 15
- Isaiah 65
- 2 Timothy 3

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Last Great Day God's Eternal Plan

Beyond this earth, beyond this world, into the ages of eternity

Fred R. Coulter—October 24, 2016

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Last Great Day! The *great day of the Feast!* And a great day it is going to be! It is so important that God has not revealed it except to those who have His Spirit because:

- they have repented
- they have been baptized
- they have love Him
- they keep His commandment
- they have a relationship with Him through fellowship with the Spirit
- they properly put the Word of God together; rightly dividing the Word of God

Like everything else, God has hidden it within the pages of His Holy Word. Some things are easy to understand, and some things are difficult to understand. But this Last Great Day answers the question: How on earth is God going to solve all the problems of human death.

As you know, all of the Holy Days are listed in Lev. 23, and they're listed there for a very specific purpose. We find them in various parts of the Bible, plus the meaning of them in the Bible.

Let's just review a little bit here concerning the Feast of Tabernacles and then the Last Great Day. The Last Great Day is one of the most important in the plan of God, but the least mentioned, and the hardest to find the answers to.

Leviticus 23:34: "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.'" We just finished that at sunset last night.

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."

Verse 37 is a summary of everything leading up to these Feasts: "These *are* the Feasts of the LORD..."—*all of them!*

Verse 36: "**On the eighth day** shall be a Holy convocation to you. And you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD..." That's today, the eighth day, and eight is the number of perfection and God's plan cannot be perfected without this day.

"...It *is* a solemn assembly. And you shall

do no servile work *therein*. "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" (vs 36-37).

Then Num. 28 & 29 show beginning with the morning and evening sacrifice, the Sabbath sacrifice, the monthly sacrifice and then it goes right on in to all the Holy Days of God with their sacrifices.

Verse 38: "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."

As you know, because everyone participates in tithes and offerings—and you should be—because that's your response back to God. God has made it so that we can give freely. Jesus said to *freely give because you have freely received*. This is why God does not like the brethren to be merchandized and to have fear put upon them. God does say to tithe and to give offerings.

Today, since we don't have the animal sacrifices, these offerings are monetary sacrifices. We should have these monetary sacrifices giving to the Church, and we use that to *preach the Gospel and feed the flock*.

As you know we don't charge for any of the material that we have. The only request we have with *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*—because of the expense of it—is that an offering be made. That is all! That has to be done all *free will*. We choose!

This way we can offer the books free, the information free, and then people can receive it, God can work with them, send His Spirit to be with them, and they can understand and come to repentance. They have something to work with for God to bring them to understanding and repentance and baptism.

All of these offerings are used to serve the brethren, serve the people, take care of the expenses that we have. We report to you, as you know, every year at the end of the year when we send an annual receipt.

- we thank you for it
- we thank you for your continuous tithes

and offerings

- we thank you for your Holy Day offerings

We ask God to bring a blessing upon you because you do so!

(pause for offering)

Let's begin in 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. The **one who believes in Me**, as the Scripture has said, 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 37-39).

Living waters pictures the Spirit of God, just like it says right here. It says that *anyone* "...who believes..." in Him.

What if they never had a chance to believe in Christ? Are they lost? Of course, *that would be the majority of people*, because by the time we get here we're about 4,000 years of human history and the Holy Spirit had not yet been given. It was to the prophets and certain of the kings in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament that's the whole of the New Testament and the reason for it.

We're going to see something that God did that looks like it's an absolute contradiction to what we just read: *that if any would believe*. To believe also means *to continuously believe; understanding that there has to be repentance in order to receive the Holy Spirit*.

God deliberately did not want people to know about this day and the meaning of, and yes, even about Jesus Christ and God's plan the way God wants it understood. He was going to give to those who would answer the call and become His spirit-begotten sons and daughter awaiting the first resurrection, as we know in God's plan down to this time.

Let's see what Jesus Himself said, John 12:37: "Although He had done so many miracles in their presence, they did not believe in Him, so that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled who said, 'Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of *the Lord* been revealed?' For this *very* reason they could not believe because again Isaiah said" (vs 37-39).

This is what God did, and we will look at some verses that makes this verse appear to be a contradiction of what we read in John 7 and other Scriptures, *but it is not when you understand the plan of God!*

Verse 40: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts so that they would not see with *their* eyes and understand with *their* hearts, and be converted, and I would heal them." That's quite a statement!

How is God going to make it possible for people who did not believe in Him, yet, had not committed the unpardonable sin? What's going to happen to them?

Verse 42: "But even so, many among the rulers believed in Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory of men more than the glory of God. Then Jesus called out and said, '**The one who believes in Me does not believe in Me, but in Him Who sent Me.**'" (vs 42-44).

- How can you believe if you've been blinded?
- How can you believe if you've been blinded and lived your life and have died?
- What is going to happen then?

Verse 45: "And the one who sees Me sees Him Who sent Me. I have come *as* a light into the world so that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. But if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world... [at that time] ...The one who rejects Me and does not receive My words has one who judges him; the word which I have spoken, that shall judge him **in the last day**" (vs 45-48).

There it is again, *the last day*. What does he mean with this? *We will see in just a minute!*

Verse 49: "For I have not spoken from Myself; but the Father, Who sent Me, gave Me commandment Himself, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life.... [How is that going to happen?] ...Therefore, whatever I speak, I speak exactly as the Father has told Me" (vs 49-50).

That's quite a thing for us to understand! Let's see something else that Jesus said. Not only does He blind them, but He also hides things in His Word, that even though they may read it, they won't understand it. But those who have the Spirit of God, love God and keep His commandments, *and have been called to the first resurrection will understand!*

God has a plan and He has a purpose, and it's all laid out through the structure of the Sabbath and Holy Days, and putting the Word of God together, *rightly!*

Matthew 11:25: "At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I praise You, O Father... [the One Who sent Jesus, also the One we are to believe in] ...Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from **the wise and intelligent...**' Isn't it interesting that God has done this? When they are wise and intelligent:

1. they reject God
2. they reject Jesus Christ
3. they refuse to love and obey God and can't understand the things that are written and hidden in the Scriptures

"...and have revealed them to babes" (v 25)—spiritual babes; *that's us!* Yes, we're to grow in grace and knowledge and become spiritually mature as we grow and overcome in our lifetime, that is true.

Verse 26: "Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing in Your sight *to do this.*" God has done this for a purpose and a reason. We will see what that is in a little bit.

Verse 27: "All things were delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father except the Son, and **the one to whom the Son personally chooses to reveal Him.**"

Why would God want that when we're going to read some Scriptures that show that God wants all men saved? That would seem like a contradiction. What does He use to *blind* people.

Of course, you don't understand about Satan the devil, and God's plan for him, unless you keep the Day of Atonement. You may be aware that Satan is around. You may be aware that he is deceiving the world, or that something is wrong with the world, but to understand how God does this... Just like with Adam and Eve, they didn't believe God, so who did they follow? *Satan the devil!*

Now let's see what Paul writes concerning the Gospel; 2-Corinthians 4:3: "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 3-4). So, Satan comes along and takes away what people understand (Matt. 13).

"...lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is *the* image of God, should shine unto them" (v 4). Why would God want that?

Let's see some Scriptures that are really quite astounding. God doesn't reveal everything to everyone. How many people are willing to love and obey God?

Romans 11:25: "For I do not wish you to be

ignorant of this mystery, brethren, in order that you may not be wise in your own conceits: that a partial hardening *of the heart* has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in." That will not be complete until the return of Christ.

Verse 26: "And so **all** Israel shall be saved..." All means *all*. How is that going to be? *God dealt with Israel all the way to through time of Christ!* Did God not send them off into captivity because of sin? *Yes!* The ten tribes of Israel and the house of Judah.

"...according as it is written: 'Out of Sion shall come the Deliverer, and He shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. for this *is* My covenant, which I will make with them **when I have taken away their sins**'" (vs 26-27).

- When is that going to be?
- How is that going to be accomplished?

He says that *all Israel will be saved!*

Let's continue and we will see that what we understand now, Paul didn't understand in his time because the book of Revelation had not yet been written, which is the key that unlocks all the Scriptures to answer:

- What is God going to do to all of those whom He didn't call?
- To all of those whom He blinded?
- To all of those whom He gave to be under Satan the devil? Israel and the Gentiles?

It's an amazing thing! It's a great and glorious thing! It's going to glorify God fantastically when we understand how this is going to be, and then understand our part in it!

Verse 27: 'For this *is* My covenant, which I will make with them when I have taken away their sins.' On the one hand, concerning the Gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes; but on the other hand, concerning the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes" (vs 27-28).

What was the promise to Abraham, the father of the faithful as well as the father of Isaac and Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel)? What was the promise given to Abraham? *God told him that his seed would be 'as the stars of heaven' and 'as the sand that is on the seashore.'*

The stars are the *spiritual seed*. The glory of those who will enter into the Kingdom of God when Jesus returns at the first resurrection. The physical seed are the physical children of Israel that have been blinded and hardened. But they still the elect because of their father's sake.

Verse 29: "Because the gifts and the calling of God *are* never revoked." Israel is still Israel, God is still God, the Father is still their Father, and His calling, promises and gifts are never revoked. But the question is *when* does He give it? What is the gift that we received? *The gift of the Holy Spirit!*

Paul begins to explain as much as he knows, v 30: "For just as you once did not believe God, but have now been shown mercy through their unbelief, in the same way also, they have not believed at this time in order that through the mercy shown to you, they also may have mercy shown *to them*.... [When?] ...For God has given them all over to unbelief **in order that He might show mercy to all**" (vs 30-32).

Paul understood that much of it. Had he had the book of Revelation he would have been able to put the Scriptures together and understand it. Because we have that and because God has given us of His Holy Spirit, and has opened our minds to understand His Word—because we love and obey God—we are able to understand. Christ reveals that through His Word. ***We understand things hidden from the foundation of the world!***

Verse 33: "O *the* depth of *the* riches of both *the* wisdom and *the* knowledge of God! How unfathomable *are* His judgments and unsearchable *are* His ways! For who did know *the* mind of *the* Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who first gave to Him, and it shall be recompensed to him again? For from Him, and through Him, and unto Him *are* all things; to Him *be* the glory into the ages of eternity. Amen" (vs 33-36)

That's as far as Paul understood. Quite an interesting thing as we go along here.

2-Peter 3 tells us something about God. This is interesting because when you die the Bible calls that *sleep*. When you perish that is *the Lake of Fire*.

2-Peter 3:10: "However, the Day of *the* Lord shall come as a thief in *the* night in which the heaven itself shall disappear with a mighty roar, and *the* elements shall pass away, burning with intense heat, and *the* earth and the works in it shall be burned up."

How are all going to come to repentance? I want you think about that for a moment. How is it possible? Does *all* mean *all*? That He doesn't want any to perish?

1-Timothy 2:4: "Who desires all men to be saved..." That's what God desires! What is the limiting factor of that? That's God's desire, *He wants them all to come to repentance! He desires all to be saved!* What is the limiting factor on that? *The*

independent free moral agency He's given to all of us!

- We must all choose!
- We must all repent!
- We must believe!

All of those things fit into that.

- Can men reject salvation? *Yes!*
- Can they commit the unpardonable sin? *Yes!*

"...and to **come to the knowledge of the Truth**" (v 4).

- How can they come to the knowledge of the Truth
 - ✓ if they have been blinded?
 - ✓ if the Scriptures have been hidden?
 - ✓ if God did not give them understanding?
 - ✓ if God did not reveal it to them?
- How is God going to solve that problem?

That's what this day is all about!

Let's see what Jesus said about life and resurrection. Then we will go to the book of Revelation and see what those Scriptures can add in understanding so we can know what is going to happen, and how that will take place.

John 5:25: "Truly, truly I say to you, *the* hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God..."

- Did not Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead? *Yes, He did!*
- How did He raise him? *He said, 'Lazarus, come forth!'*
- Was he raised? *Yes!*

You read the account in John 11 and everyone was astonished! That was a fantastic thing that happened, and it really was quite a time. John 11 spends quite a bit of time talking about that resurrection.

"...when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live. For even as the Father has life in Himself, so also has He given to the Son to have life in Himself; and has also given Him authority to execute judgment because He is *the* Son of man. Do not wonder at this, for *the* hour is coming in which **all** who are in the graves shall hear His voice **and shall come forth: those who have practiced good unto a resurrection of life...** [the first resurrection] **...and those who have practiced evil unto a resurrection of judgment**" (vs 25-29). What does that mean? *We'll put some other Scriptures together and see it!*

Rev. 20:4 talks about those resurrected to the *first resurrection* and received eternal life and thrones, and judgment was given to them, and they ruled and reigned with Christ a thousand years as we read in the last part of:

Revelation 20:5: "...This *is* the first resurrection. Blessed and Holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power..." (vs 5-6). What does that mean? *That those in the first resurrection will be spirit beings, immortal (1-Cor. 15).*

Now let's read the first part of v 5: "(But the **rest of the dead...**" Who are the "...rest of the dead..."? 1-Cor. 15 says that Christ is the Firstfruit. *Afterwards, those who are His at His coming!* This also tells us a lot, as well. This tells us very clearly that souls don't go to heaven. The resurrection to eternal life doesn't take place until Christ returns.

Christ has not yet returned, but 'everyone in his own order.' Why would it say that? *Because Paul didn't realize that John was going to fill in the missing blank!* Here is the order:

"(...the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed.) The "...rest of the dead..." are all of those who were blinded, not called and had not committed the unpardonable sin.

We know that the Scriptures tell us that those who commit the unpardonable sin will be cast into the Lake of Fire and they will be burned up, which is the second death, *and they perish!* Now, when person dies the spirit of man goes back to God. If they are converted, have the Spirit of God and are faithful till the end they will be raised to glory, *to shine like the sun, shine like the stars of heaven, as promised to Abraham.*

Here we're talking about the "...rest of the dead..." we will find that there are two categories of the "...rest of the dead...":

1. those who were blinded and never committed the unpardonable sin
2. those who have committed the unpardonable sin

Let's cover #1 first:

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 the dead? "...rest of the dead..."!

Remember that Jesus said that *all* would hear His voice and will come forth. Some to everlasting life and some to judgment. The book of

Daniel says 'some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Verse 12: "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God..." We will see that this begins with Israel and goes to all of the Gentiles. They've lived their life, but were never afforded an opportunity for salvation. They lived their life under Satan the devil. That's why Satan is *first* cast into the Lake of Fire, and removed before this resurrection takes place.

Isn't living under Satan the devil for one lifetime sufficient enough? *Yes, indeed!* So, God is going to deal with them for salvation. That's how *all* who believe can receive the Holy Spirit, *all* can come to repentance and receive salvation, but they need a second physical life. Some people get all upset and say that this is a 'second chance.' *No!* Because:

- *if* you're blinded by yourself and Satan the devil
- *if* you lived in a time when Jesus had not yet come
- *if* you lived a decent life without committing the unpardonable sin
- *then* you would fit into that category

That's most of the people who have ever been from the time of Adam and Eve down to our time. What about all those people who died in the Flood of Noah? *Yes, they were sinners, but Christ was not there to offer them salvation!*

We find in Gen. 3:15 that the Savior was promised, that He would come and conquer Satan. But He didn't come for another 4,000 years! All of those people before the Flood were blinded by Satan! Let's see the answer to the question. It says "...the rest of the dead..." How do we know that is going to happen. Paul writes that *all Israel shall be saved!* (Rom. 11).

How is that going to happen? *Paul didn't know how, but he knew*—according to the Word of God—*that it would happen!* We saw that all the dead will be raised.

Matthew 12:30: "The one who is not with Me is against Me, and the one who does not gather with Me scatters. Because of this, I say to you, **every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men...**" (vs 30-31). That's a blanket category. He doesn't say just to the Jews or to Israel.

"...**except the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit; that shall not be forgiven to men**" (v 31). What is the blaspheme against the Holy Spirit?

- the rejection of God

- the rejection of His Spirit
- the spirit of hatred toward God
- the spirit of inability to repent because 'my mind is made up'

as the saying goes!

Are there some who have committed the unpardonable sin who have never been converted? *Well, that's a judgment that only God can make! Only God knows the heart!*

But for those sins that are forgivable sins, and you go back and look at how God forgave Manasseh, God forgave Ahab, God forgave David. Look what David did with Bathsheba and the whole affair with that, and God forgave it!

Some will say, 'What do You mean by that, Jesus?' He answers it:

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...** [this age ends with the return of Christ] **...nor in the coming age.**"

What is the coming age? *The Millennium, and then what is called the Great White Throne Judgment!* We understand from Isa. 65 that people will live approximately a hundred years. This shows that **if**:

- they weren't forgiven, because they weren't called
- they weren't forgiven because Christ wasn't here
- they weren't forgiven because they didn't know enough to repent of it

They shall be forgiven! When? In the coming age! This is fantastic!

Verse 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).

Now, notice what Jesus says relating back to Jonah and his prophetic message to the people of the city of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrians:

Verse 41: "***The men of Nineveh shall stand up in the judgment...***" What did we read? *Judgment was set and the books were opened!*

"...with this generation..." (v 41)—and

there was about a thousand years separation of Nineveh and Assyria, and the time of the ministry of Jesus Christ.

"...and shall condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah; and behold, a greater than Jonah *is here*" (v 41).

"...stand up in the judgment..." means *to be raised from the dead!*

Verse 42: "*The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation and shall condemn it... [again, well over a thousand years] ...because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*" That's very interesting and very profound!

We're going to see a key chapter in the book of Ezekiel, which is going to tell us how this is going to be.

(go to the next track)

Ezek. 37 is talking about Israel, the whole house of Israel, which means all of them in all generations down through time who have not been called, who were never a part of the Church of God. They lived their lives blinded, not called, and all of those who have not committed the unpardonable sin will be raised in the first part of the second resurrection. The second part will be for the incorrigible wicked.

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."

If you see bones you know that there was life, and you know that there was death. Otherwise, there wouldn't be any bones. In order to show a future resurrection, God had to do it this way.

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 going back years and years and years.

God asked Ezekiel a question. Just picture yourself out in the desert someplace and you come across the skeleton of a man who died. He probably died a terrible death, probably died of lack of water and the heat and no food. There are his bones, poor guy. And someone asks you, 'Can those bones live again?' You might say, 'I doubt it!' at best. You probably would say *no!*

Verse 3: And He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' And I answered, 'O Lord GOD, You know.' Again He said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them...' (vs 3-4).

How powerful is the Word of God, even though a man speaks it? *It's still the Word of God!* Think about that as you study the Bible. Think about what God inspired them to write. Think about that in relationship to the Word of God is a *living Word of God*, and the words that have been spoken are Spirit and Life as Jesus said.

He told him what to say, "...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).

That's really quite a thing to understand! Stop and think about it! What does this tell us? *This is a second physical life!* This is also saying that at this time, in this second physical life, you will know me. That means that in their first physical life they didn't know God.

What does it mean to know God? *That doesn't mean just to acknowledge that there is a God! You know Him because you receive His Spirit, because you become converted and you know and understand God!* That's what the New Testament teaches us.

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. 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*" (vs 7-8). So, here are all these bodies out there.

Verse 9: "And He said to me, 'Prophecy 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 9-10).

What did it say in Rev. 20? *There were so many there was hardly any room!* Think of all the children of Israel down through history who were not called, who were never converted, who just lived their lives.

Think about all the other nation of the world, as well, because we saw what Jesus said in Matt. 12, that those people would be raised with the generation of Noah and with the generation of the Queen of the South, who lived at different times.

This shows that the Gentiles will also be raised, all nations, all people, but to Israel *first!* Remember what it said in 1-Cor. 15? *Everyone in his own order!* Here's the order for Israel, then there will be the order for the Gentiles—their nations and an exceeding great army. Imagine what these people were thinking.

Obviously they don't have any clothes on, and I imagine they're thinking: I wonder what this is? Is this heaven? What is going on? Look at all these people! Hey, there's grandma, grandpa, Uncle Joe and Aunt Martha. Look at these people here, these were my servants at one time. They're alive! What is this?

- we'll be there to help them
- we'll be there to clothe them
- we'll be there to teach them

This is going to be greatest surprise of all, because God is going to take care of all Israel and all other people, as well.

Verse 11: "And He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.... [that's who they are, all 12 tribes] ...Behold, they say, "Our bones *are* dried and our hope is lost; we ourselves are completely cut off.'"" They lived and died without the knowledge of salvation!

- God blinded them
- God closed their eyes
- Satan the devil blinded them
- they didn't have the Scriptures

We have the Word of God today and we know as much as we know, because of the Spirit of God and rightly dividing the Word of God, and because we love God and keep His commandments and have His Spirit.

What is it going to be like after the thousand years when all of these people are raised from the dead and the books are opened? Think what the knowledge of God is going to be at that time. Then you will understand why they have to live a hundred years. They have to live a hundred years so that when they're resurrected they've got to come to the point of repentance, baptism and receiving of God's Holy Spirit. This is really quite something!

- How does God do this resurrection? *When anyone dies, even if they're not converted, the spirit of man goes back to God!*
- What does He do with it? *It's called a sleep! It's stored!*
- Where does God store it? *Probably right close to His altar!*
- How big were you when you were

conceived?

- When the spirit goes back to God, how much space does that take up? *Very little, indeed!*

So, here they are!

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.”’.... [a resurrection to a second life of flesh] ...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, and you shall live...” (vs 12-14). An opportunity for salvation that they never had in their first life.

“...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 14). That’s quite a thing!

That’s going to really be something for these people to know, for them to understand, for them to come to conversion. Think of all the teachers that they will have: all of us in the first resurrection, all of those who came into the Kingdom of God through the thousand-year period. Of course, the last generation of the Millennium, they’re going to have to be building houses and making clothes and things like so that when the second resurrection takes place, they’re going to have a place to live, they’re going to have clothes to wear, they’re going to have food to eat. That’s really something when you understand it.

Remember that Satan the devil has been judged, cast into the Lake of Fire and removed. Here they’re going to have an opportunity for salvation. There are going to many different people of many different ages. Who is going to be resurrected? There will be a lot of little children in addition to all the people who have lived their lives to the full.

Also remember that when you were conceived, at the instant you were conceived, everything that you would become was there. The only difference between that conception and you being born, and then living a life after that, was that you had to grow in your mother’s womb.

Do you think that since God is going to do this great fantastic resurrection of those who have been dead and in the grave, that He is going to bring back all of those who have been aborted. Think on this: Could He bring them back as babies at birth, full term babies? *Yes, He could!* No problem at all!

Why is that important that we understand that that is going to happen? *From this point of view:*

IF that were not possible then Satan would have victory over God! Satan isn’t going to have one victory over God! None! Think of what a time that is going to be; God is going to give to mothers the children that they had aborted. That’s going to be a magnificent undoing of one of the greatest sins of mankind. How about all those little children who were offered in sacrifice to the gods of this world? *They’ll be raised back!* I just imagine that a lot of people who died, because we’re going to see that the sea gave up the dead, how about those who drown in the ocean? A lake? A river?

They’re all going to be raised! God is going to undo *death!* The last enemy is *death!* God knows that He needs all of these people and wants all of them for His new heaven and new earth, because that is going to be a fantastic and wonderful thing, indeed! Virtually barely imaginable for us today.

Revelation 20:11: “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.

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*....” First time it is opened for them. Their names were never written in the Book of Life for eternal life during their first physical life. So, here it’s open for them.

“...And the dead were judged out of the things written in the books, according to their works” (v 12). Well, since the wages of sin is death, if they’re judged according to the works they had in their first life, which did not include the unpardonable sin, they had a life of sin. So, if they’re judged according to those works, then they would have to be executed immediately. This shows and verifies Isa. 65 of

- living a hundred years
- having time to choose
- to grow in grace and knowledge
- to understand
- to overcome the sins that they had in their first life
- to learn to love God
- to learn to keep His commandments
- be ready to be changed from flesh to spirit

That’s going to be a wonderful time for them; absolutely fantastic!

Verse 13: “And the sea gave up the dead *that were* in it, and death and *the* grave gave up the dead *that were* in them; and they were judged individually, according to their works.” The same

process of salvation for them as was for us.

Doesn't Jesus tell us that He judges us according to our works (Rev. 2 & 3)? *Yes, indeed!* They have to have the same spiritual works that we have.

Verse 14: "And death and *the* grave were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death." The second death is that you *perish!* To die, Jesus said, 'Anyone who believe in Him shall not taste of death forever.' Here in this second life they have a chance to believe on Him, just like we have the opportunity now. All of these things get down to what we've covered before: *independent free moral agency!*

- Will you choose God?
- Will you choose His Way?
- Will you love Him with all your heart, mind, soul and being?

That's what's going to be their life, and if they have those works they'll be changed from flesh to spirit. But those who committed the unpardonable sin will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

Verse 15: "And if anyone was not found written in the Book of Life, he was cast into the Lake of Fire."

Let's see how Jesus talked about this in relationship to those who are the enemies of God as pictured by the terrors (Matt. 13).

Matthew 13:37: "And He answered *and* said to them, 'The One Who sows the good seed is the Son of man.' That is what will be sown during the 100-year period and the second resurrection for those who are brought back to life to receive eternal life.

Verse 38: "And the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one.*" Those who commit the unpardonable sin.

Verse 39: "Now, the enemy who sowed them is the devil; and the harvest is *the* end of the age, and the reapers are the angels." It comes right up to where the Lake of Fire is (Rev. 20); the enemy, Satan the devil.

- they are raised back
- they have committed the unpardonable sin
- they have refused any chance of repentance
- they will be cast into the Lake of Fire

—because their names were never written into the Book of Life.

Verse 40: "Therefore, as the tares are gathered and consumed in the fire, so shall it be in

the end of this age. The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all the offenders and those who are practicing lawlessness; and they shall cast them into the furnace of fire; **there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**" (vs 40-42).

When that happens 2-Peter 3 shows that the Lake of Fire is going to consume the whole earth, and the atmosphere around the earth. All of this is in preparation for the new heavens and the new earth.

Let's see the great and marvelous promises that are given to those who enter into eternal life. All those in every age, the first resurrection, the second resurrection and the wicked will be no more! They will be burned up and consumed! That's why it says that 'the righteous shall walk on the ashes of the wicked.'

Rev. 21—here is the beginning of God's plan for all eternity.

- What is that going to be like?
- What is it going to be like to live forever?
- Have a spirit mind?
- Have a spirit body?

That's something!

We need a new heaven and a new earth, different than what we have now, because as spirit beings we need things completely changed and having things composed of spirit.

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."

That shows no more physical human beings because the ocean is needed to provide oxygen, a cooling of the temperature and so forth of the earth, to keep it constant.

Verse 2: "And I, John, saw the Holy City, *the* New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.... [beautiful beyond description] ...And I heard a great voice from heaven say, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men...'" (vs 2-3)—the whole meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles, and that goes all the way back to Adam and Eve, that God wanted to dwell with them. They could have lived with God in the Garden of Eden. Now here's God's plan complete: "...the tabernacle of God *is* with **men...**" The Greek there is 'anthropos' which means *men and women*, and of course, *made perfect spirit beings!*

"...and He shall dwell with them, 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 3-4)—gone, over and done!

That's going to be a marvelous time. Think of what that is. This is what Jesus meant when He said, 'Enter in the joy of your Lord.' That's something!

Verse 5: “And He Who sits on the throne said, ‘Behold, **I make all things new.**’....” For all the spirit sons and daughters of God: first resurrection, second resurrection.

“...Then He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful’” (v 5). They are going to happen! What a magnificent thing this is going to be!

Verse 6: “And He said to me, ‘It is done....’” God's plan is finished, completed for this phase of it. But what is God's plan from this time on into all eternity, which we are going to be participating in?

If you think that this is wonderful that we have now, it's almost beyond even the greatest imagination to understand what it's going to be like to be a spirit being and live forever and live in New Jerusalem. Those in the first resurrection will live in New Jerusalem; that's where we will live. Jesus said to the Church of Philadelphia, ‘I will write upon you the name of My city, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of God from heaven.’ We're reading it here.

“...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” (v 6). Remember where we started in John 7? *Rivers of living water!* Here it is, eternal life!

Verse 7: “The one who overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.” That's an amazing thing! Think of it, brethren:

- this is our calling
- this is our hope
- this is why we're here
- this is why we keep the Feast of Tabernacles
- this is why we love God and keep His commandments
- this is what he holds out for us

On the other hand, wherever He relates a blessing *He gives a warning!*

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.”

- That's final!
- No resurrection from that!
- Completely destroyed!
- Gone!
- Perished!

Here comes a beautiful vision of New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven. Made of the finest of everything!

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.’” That's where she's going to live. Christ isn't going to marry New Jerusalem, the Bride is going to live in New Jerusalem.

Verse 10: “And he carried me away in *the* Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, Holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. And her radiance *was* like a most precious stone, as crystal-clear *as* jasper stone...” (vs 10-11). Isn't that profound to understand how this is going to be.

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. On *the* east *were* three gates; on *the* north *were* three gates; on *the* south *were* three gates; on *the* west *were* three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and written on them *were* *the* names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb” (vs 12-14)—built on *the* prophets and the apostles; *Christ Himself the Chief Cornerstone!* There you have the fulfilling of it right here.

Verse 15: “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” (vs 15-16). I can't imagine that, but whatever that is, it's something!

Verse 17: “And he measured its wall, one hundred *and* forty-four 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). I can't imagine looking through pure gold as if it's glass. You've got to be a spirit being in order to understand that. Then it lists all the foundational stones and the gates, each had a great pearl, a single pearl. I'm sure that wasn't by a great

oyster.

Verse 22: "And I saw no temple in it; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." Isn't that an amazing thing? The Family of God living together!

Verse 23: "And the city has no need of the sun, or of the moon..." It doesn't mean they no longer exist. It doesn't need it because it has the light and the glory of the Lamb and of the Father.

"...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). Here is the first resurrection, those living in New Jerusalem. The rest of the nations live on the rest of the earth.

- What is that going to be like?
- What are we going to do?
- What will be the purpose of that?

That's what God is saving until the coming of New Jerusalem. Then we will understand. All we can do is look at that and say, like Paul did when he wrote Rom. 11, 'O the depths, the unfathomable riches of God.' The wisdom and righteousness of God! What is that going to be like?

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. And nothing that defiles shall ever enter into it..." (vs 25-27).

This is a warning! Just like we have in Rev. 16 about the seven last plagues. It says, 'The one who has an ear, let him hear.' So, we hear; this is a warning for us now. You're not going to receive eternal life if you're wicked, abominable, or if you are a liar.

"...nor shall *anyone* who practices an abomination or *devises* a lie; **but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life**" (v 27).

I love the music that goes with Rev. 22 on the reading of the book of Revelation (truthofgod.org) That's just beautiful, beautiful music! We can thank Randy Vild for selecting all of that and putting it together. It just pulls it all together. We can only imagine what this is like.

Revelation 21:1: "Then he showed me a pure river of *the* water of life, clear as crystal, flowing out from the throne of God and of the Lamb.... [the thrones will be right there together] ...*And* in the middle of *the* street, 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..." (vs 1-2). That shows that the moon has to be there in order to have a month. But

New Jerusalem doesn't need the light of it.

"...and the leaves of the tree *are* for *the* healing of the nations" (v 2). The Greek there is 'therapeian' that means the *maintenance of the nations*. How does that work? *We don't know!* So, the best way to find out is to ***be there!***

Verse 3: "And there shall be no more curse; 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). That's is going to be a wonderful and fantastic time.

What is it going to be like to see Jesus Christ and God the Father face-to-face? *That's going to be a special wonderful thing!* And I'm sure that we will be able to do that on whatever occasion we come before God. Think of that!

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." Whatever God's plan is on into the ages of eternity.

- Who knows what it is?
- How unfathomable is the universe?
- How unfathomable is it that there are trillions of galaxies?
- What does all of that mean?

It has to be part of it here. *They shall reign into the ages of eternity!* Even if we can't comprehend it, ***we can have faith that this is so!***

Verse 6: "And he said to me, 'These words *are* faithful and true... [they will take place; God is a God of Truth; these are the words of Truth] ...and *the* Lord God of the Holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things that must shortly come to pass.' Behold, I am coming quickly..." (vs 6-7).

For our lifetime that is true! However long we have to live, ***He's coming quickly!*** And all of those who have died and are in the grave—which is every Christian up to this point—when they're resurrected out of that grave, that's going to be something! That will be the next thing that they will see and think of!

"...Blessed *is* the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book"—and everything that is in it. Go back to Rev. 1 and it says, 'Blessed is the one who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy of this book.'

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**” (vs 8-9). Brethren, that's what it's all about, right there!

Verse 10: “And he said to me, ‘Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book because the time is near.’” That applies to the time that we are living in right now; “...the time is near...”

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.” The contrast! The wicked will never be there. But if they want to be wicked and stay that way now, they are left out! Here's why:

Verse 12: “And behold, I am coming quickly; and My reward is with Me, to render to each one according as his work shall be.” That's why it's important for us to:

- love God with all our heart, all our mind, all our soul and all our being
- to trust in Him
- to believe His Word
- to apply it to our lives
- to let nothing come between us and God

Verse 13: “I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.... [ties together Rev. 1 and 22] ...**Blessed** are those who keep His commandments...” (vs 13-14). Every Protestant needs to read that and understand that they are living a lie if they don't believe that.

“...that they may have the right to eat of the Tree of Life, and may enter by the gates into the city” (v 14). **That's the ultimate plan of God!**

Here again is a warning, v 15: But excluded... [left out] ...are dogs, and sorcerers, and fornicators, and murderers, and idolaters, and everyone who loves and devises a lie.” Only pure faithful Truth! That's why it's so important for us to overcome this human nature. That's why it's a job to work, change and overcome, but:

- look at the blessing
- look at the reward
- look at what God holds out for us

Here's how He concludes the book of Revelation, and we'll read this to conclude the Last Great Day, because it will be a *great last day!*

Verse 16: “I, Jesus, sent My angel to testify these things to you in the churches.... [of all the brethren of God] ...I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star.’ And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’.... [we need to keep preaching the Gospel, teaching the Word of Truth]

...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, God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book. 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. 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 16-21).

Brethren, that's why this is called *The Last Great Day!* It pictures the unfolding of **God's eternal plan beyond this earth, beyond this world, into the new heavens and the new earth, and we shall reign into the ages of eternity!**

Remember these words as we leave the Feast and have a safe trip home!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:34-35, 37, 36-38
- 2) John 7:37-34
- 3) John 12:37-40, 42-50
- 4) Matthew 11:25-27
- 5) 1 Corinthians 4:3-4
- 6) Romans 11:25-36
- 7) 2 Peter 3:10
- 8) 1 Timothy 2:4
- 9) John 5:25-29
- 10) Revelation 20:5-6, 5, 11-12
- 11) Matthew 12:30-32, 38-42
- 12) Ezekiel 37:1-14
- 13) Revelation 20:11-15
- 14) Matthew 13:37-42
- 15) Revelation 21:1-18, 22-27
- 16) Revelation 22:1-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Numbers 28; 29
- Matthew 13
- John 11
- Revelation 20:4
- 1 Corinthians 15
- Genesis 3:15
- Romans 11
- Isaiah 65
- Revelation 2; 3; 16; 1

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Christian Biblical Church of God Offices:

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Australia

United Kingdom

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La Verdad de Dios

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