

The Feast of Tabernacles

When Jesus is King!

The passages of scripture that have been quoted are part of the story flow and should be read aloud as part of the lesson. The other referenced scriptures are for your information.

Every year in the autumn (or fall), God's people pack their bags and travel somewhere to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And for most of us, it's an exciting time - especially if we are going to fly on an airplane and travel to a different country! But why do we do it?

Well, it's because God tells us to! Most people today don't keep the Holy Days. That's because they think they are Jewish holidays. But God tells us that these are HIS Days. We can read about this in Leviticus 23.

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the people of Israel; 'You will announce the Lord's appointed feasts as holy meetings. These are MY special feasts'" (Leviticus 23:1-2, *International Children's Bible, New Century Version* throughout unless otherwise noted, emphasis added).

So these aren't the Jews' Feasts, or even OUR Feasts! These are GOD'S Feasts and He wants EVERYONE to keep them (see Deuteronomy 16:16 and 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 for example). So that's what we do! God wants us to keep His Feasts because they teach us about His wonderful plan for mankind. They teach us about the things that have to happen before we can become part of God's Family¹ and live forever in His Kingdom.

The seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles are very special because they show us what the world will be like during the Millennium - the time when Jesus Christ sets up God's Kingdom on this earth and rules for 1,000 years.

Let's look at some scriptures that show us what this world will be like when Jesus is King.

¹ The Bible reveals that God is creating a "family" and that His Plan is to make us part of that family. You can find more information about this in "The Holy Days and God's Plan" lesson in this series.

The Feast of Tabernacles

When Jesus is King!

In the last days the mountain on which the Lord's Temple stands will become the most important of all mountains. It will be raised above the hills. And people from all nations will come streaming to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord. Let us go to the Temple of the God of Jacob. Then God will teach us his ways. And we will obey his teachings." The Lord's teachings will go out from Jerusalem. The Lord's message will go out from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-3).

So when Jesus is King, many people will WANT to learn about God's Way of Life. And they will obey His teachings! This means that MANY people will be living the same way of life that we do now! In time, EVERYONE in the world will learn to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days. And EVERYONE will learn to obey God's Ten Commandments, which teach us the right way to live.

When Everyone Obeys God

What a difference it will make when everyone obeys God! Families will be happy and parents won't get divorced. We won't need to lock our doors because no one will steal our things. And because people won't steal, no one will ever have to worry about being mugged. No one will be afraid of being murdered either, because people won't kill each other. There won't be any more wars because Jesus will settle all the arguments between nations. So we won't need any soldiers! And instead of training for war, men will turn their weapons into gardening tools!

Then the Lord will settle arguments among many nations. He will make decisions for strong nations that are far away. Then the nations will make their swords into ploughs. They will make their spears into hooks for trimming trees. Nations will no longer fight other nations. They will not even train for war any more (Isaiah 2:4, see also Micah 4:1-3).

Everyone will live in peace among his own vineyards and fig trees, and no one will make him afraid. The Lord Almighty has promised this (Micah 4:4, *Good News Bible*).

The Feast of Tabernacles

When Jesus is King!

Even the animals will be different in the Millennium!

Then wolves will live in peace with lambs. And leopards will lie down to rest with goats. Calves, lions and young bulls will eat together. And a little child will lead them. Cows and bears will eat together in peace. Their young will lie down together. Lions will eat hay as oxen do. A baby will be able to play near a cobra's hole. A child will be able to put his hand into the nest of a poisonous snake. They will not hurt or destroy each other on all my holy mountain. The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the sea is full of water (Isaiah 11:6-9).

Can you imagine living in a world like this? Where people won't hurt each other and where it will be safe for children to play with wild animals? Well, this is what the Bible says it will be like when God's Kingdom is on this earth! But there's more!

Peace, Happiness and Good Health for All

When Jesus is King, people who are sick will be healed. Blind people will be able to see, deaf people will be able to hear, and the Bible says that people who are crippled or disabled will leap around like deer! There will be plenty of water in hot, desert countries like Africa, so there won't be any famines where millions of people starve to death. There will be plenty of food to eat and no one will ever go hungry! (Isaiah 35:5-7).

The Bible also tells us that:

A road will be there. This highway will be called "The Road to Being Holy." Evil people will not be allowed to walk on that road. No fools will go on it. No lions will be there. No dangerous animals will be on that road. They will not be found there. That road will be for the people God saves. The people the Lord has freed will return there. They will enter Jerusalem with joy. Their happiness will last for ever. Their gladness and joy will fill them completely. Sorrow and sadness will go far away (Isaiah 35:8-10).

The Feast of Tabernacles

When Jesus is King!

There will be a wonderful time of peace and happiness on this earth when Jesus is King. No one will feel sad any more. And the world will be a SAFE place. We won't have to worry any more about bad people who do wicked things - because they won't be there!!

Our Role in the Millennium

But what will WE be doing during the Millennium? Well, the Bible tells us that God's people - those grown-ups who are baptized - will be changed into spirit beings when Jesus Christ returns (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). We will live in Jerusalem with Him (Zechariah 8:3) and help rule the world (Revelation 5:10; Revelation 20:4). We will teach everyone about God's Way of Life and help Jesus turn this world into a beautiful place (Isaiah 61:4; Ezekiel 36:33-36).

But children won't be changed into spirit beings when Jesus returns. That is something that will happen later, at the time God chooses especially for them! So what will happen to you if you are still a child when Jesus returns? Well, you will continue to live as a human being. And because families are important to God, you can be sure that you will stay with your parents until you grow up - and they will look after you and love you just as they do now!

Growing Up in the Millennium

Growing up in the Millennium will be wonderful. Wild animals will be tame so you might be able to have a lion or tiger as a pet! And you'll be able to play safely outside wherever you want.

This is what the Lord Almighty says; "Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem...[and] the city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there" (Zechariah 8:4-5).

The Bible tells us that God will give you and your parents many blessings (Isaiah 65:23-24) and that everyone around the world will know who you are!

The Feast of Tabernacles When Jesus is King!

Everyone in all nations will know the children of my people. And their children will be known among the nations. Anyone who sees them will know that the Lord blesses them (Isaiah 61:9).

So everyone will know that you and your parents are God's special people and that you have been blessed for obeying God. And by watching us, people will learn that the only way ANYONE can really be happy is by living God's Way of Life. This is what the Millennium is all about and it's what the Feast of Tabernacles pictures.

Teaching the World

During the 1000 years when Jesus rules on this earth, we will teach the whole world that God's Way is the ONLY way to live. And we will prepare the earth for what the next Holy Day, the Last Great Day, pictures; the time when ALL of the dead² will be brought back to life and have their chance to learn about God's Way of Life too.

And who will teach them? We will, of course - along with all of the people that we taught during the Millennium! Together, we will help Jesus Christ teach EVERYONE who has EVER lived about God's Way of Life, so that they have the opportunity to become part of God's Family too - and live forever and ever with us in His Kingdom. What a wonderful day it will be when it all comes true!

² All those who have lived and died, from the time of Adam to Christ's return, who weren't called to understand God's truth in their lifetime. More information about this can be found in "The Holy Days and God's Plan" and "The Last Great Day" lessons.