

The Feast of Tabernacles

When Jesus is King!

Read through this lesson with your parents, including the passages of quoted Scripture. The highlighted referenced scriptures support the text - and you can prove this material for yourself and increase your understanding by taking the time to study these scriptures in your own Bible.

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 travel by plane 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 because they think they are Jewish holidays, but God tells us that these are HIS Days. We can read about this in the first two verses of Leviticus 23, one of the main chapters in the Bible that lists all of the Holy Days:

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.

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

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 "[The Holy Days and God's Plan](#)" lesson in this series.

The Feast of Tabernacles

When Jesus is King!

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 any more. There won't be any wars because Jesus will settle all the arguments between nations that lead to war. In fact, soldiers won't even train for war any more - there will be no need. Instead, they 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*).

Even the nature of animals will be different in the Millennium. Wild animals will be tame - and will live peacefully together with farm animals.

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

The Feast of Tabernacles

When Jesus is King!

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 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).

There will be a wonderful time of peace and happiness on this earth when Jesus is King - no one will feel sad any more. The world will be a SAFE place and we will never have to be afraid of people who do wicked things - because they won't be there!

A Time of Great Trouble

But it won't be like this at first! Just before Jesus returns there will be a time of great trouble on this earth. It will be filled with wicked people and the Bible tells us that Jesus will return just in time to save this world from destroying itself! Of course, WE will be happy when Jesus comes to save us, but the rest of the world won't be. Many nations will send armies to Jerusalem to fight against Jesus as He returns, but of course no one can fight against God's Son and win!

The Feast of Tabernacles When Jesus is King!

Jesus and the heavenly armies that follow Him will win the battle, and many of the wicked people will be killed (see **Revelation 19:11-16**). Then Jesus will become the King of the earth and He will begin to teach everyone about God's Way of Life. We don't know how long it will take before the whole world decides to obey God, but it won't happen overnight! The Bible tells us that some nations will still be following their own gods even after Jesus returns (see **Micah 4:5**), but He will gradually teach them to obey God and keep His Holy Days.

This is what will happen to the nations who refuse to worship God and refuse to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles - or Shelters - as it is also called:

All of those left alive of the people who came to fight Jerusalem will come back to Jerusalem year after year to worship the King, the LORD All-powerful, and to celebrate the Feast of Shelters. Anyone from the nations who does not go to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD All-powerful, will not have rain fall on his land. If the Egyptians do not go to Jerusalem, they will have no rain. Then the Lord will send them the same terrible disease he sent the other nations that did not celebrate the Feast of Shelters. This will be the punishment for Egypt and any nation which does not go to celebrate the Feast of Shelters (Zechariah 14:16-19**, *The Youth Bible, NCV*).**

In the Millennium everyone will learn to worship God and keep the Feast of Tabernacles - and if they don't they will be punished! So before long the whole world will be keeping the Holy Days and, as they do, they will begin to learn about God's wonderful plan for mankind. Then they will have their chance to decide whether or not they want to obey God and live forever as part of His Family.

Our Role in the Millennium

But what will WE be doing during the Millennium? Well, the Bible tells us that God's people will be changed into spirit beings when Jesus returns (**1 Corinthians 15:21-23**; **1 Thessalonians 4:15-17**). We will become kings and priests and help Jesus rule the world and teach people about God's Way of Life! (**Revelation 5:10**; **Revelation 20:4**; **Isaiah 61:6**). We will live in Jerusalem with Him (**Zechariah 8:3**; **1 Thessalonians 4:17**) and help Him turn this world back into a beautiful place (**Isaiah 61:4**; **Ezekiel 36:33-36**). There will be a lot of work to do, but those of us who have been changed into spirit beings will become part of God's Family and have God's supernatural power to help us!

The Feast of Tabernacles

When Jesus is King!

But children won't be changed into spirit beings when Jesus returns. That will come later, at the time God chooses especially for them! So what will happen to you if you haven't grown up by the time Jesus returns? Well, you will continue to live your life as a human being. And because families are important to God, you can be sure that you will stay with your parents until you do 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 it will be such a different world from today that you'll be able to play safely 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 many blessings because you obey Him and live His Way of Life.

All my people will be blessed by the Lord. My people and their children will be blessed. I will provide for their needs before they ask. I will help them while they are still asking for help (Isaiah 65:23b-24).

During the Millennium everyone around the world will know who you are. They will know that you and your parents are God's special people and that you have been blessed for obeying God.

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).

By watching us, the whole world will learn that the only way ANYONE can really be happy is by living God's Way of Life. And that's what the Millennium is all about.

Teaching the World

During those 1000 years, pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, when Jesus Christ establishes God's government on this earth, we will teach the nations that

The Feast of Tabernacles

When Jesus is King!

God's Way is the *ONLY* way to live. And we will prepare the whole world 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 (*Revelation 20:5, 11-13*).

What a *WONDERFUL* time it will be when God's Plan for mankind has been completed and *EVERYONE* who has *EVER* lived has the opportunity to become part of God's Family and live forever and ever with us in His Kingdom!

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.