

# Feast of Tabernacles

Lesson Six

When the  
whole world  
will celebrate  
before God

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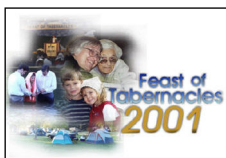
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And it shall come to pass, every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

GOD is not in competition with Satan! He is not trying to save the whole world now! Long ago Jesus Christ announced that His message, the good news of the Kingdom of God, would be preached in this age merely as a witness to all nations--not to convert them (Matt. 24:14). When God sets His hand to save the world, He will save it!



## When The World Will Be Saved

God's seven annual festivals picture the steps in God's Master Plan of salvation for all mankind.

The first three festivals, which occur during the spring in the Northern Hemisphere, picture great events leading to the first spiritual harvest of Spirit-begotten human beings into God's Family.

From previous lessons we learned that the Passover is a memorial of Christ's sacrifice for our sins. The Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures our putting sin away and our constant need to obey God. Pentecost pictures the spiritual begettal and the maturing of the firstfruits of God's plan.

Then, during the fall in the Northern Hemisphere, come the last four festivals. They portray tremendous events yet to occur in God's plan. The Feast of

Trumpets, the first of these four, pictures the return of Jesus Christ to raise the firstfruits to immortality and to set up God's government on earth. The Day of Atonement pictures the deposing, removal and binding of Satan for 1,000 years. With Satan's sinful influence gone, mankind can then be reconciled--made at one--with God.

Then 1,000 years of peace and prosperity will follow. Those who are the firstfruits of God's spiritual harvest--first born into God's Family and co-inheritors with Jesus Christ--will join Him in ruling the earth. The Spirit-born saints will be

given the opportunity of bringing the spiritual knowledge of salvation to every human then alive and to those born during the Millennium.



This happy Millennium is pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles--the sixth of God's seven annual festivals Picturing His plan of salvation.

# Early Theologians Acknowledged the Millennium

The New Testament Church taught the meaning and observance of God's festivals and Holy Days throughout the Roman Empire. Even many in the early Christianity that fell away from the truth retained for some time the doctrine of the Millennium--the 1,000-year rule of Christ and the Spiritborn saints (Rev. 20:1-6). The fact of the Millennium was commented on for hundreds of years--long after the death of the apostles.

Notice the testimony from the writings of theologians of the second and third centuries:

In the second century, Papias of Hierapolis (in Asia Minor) is quoted as having said: "There would be a certain millennium after the resurrection, and that there would be a corporeal reign of Christ on this very earth" (Ecclesiastical History, Eusebius, translated by Isaac Boyle, book 3, chapter 39).

Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons, France, wrote in the latter half of the second century: "For in as many days as this world was made, in so many thousand years it reaches its consummation."

Then, after quoting several Old Testament passages referring to the Millennium, he continues: "All such things refer not to heavenly matters, but to the times of the kingdom, when

the earth has been restored by Christ" (Against the Heresies, translated by F. R. Montgomery Hitchcock, book 5, chapters 28, 35).

The early third century produced the same testimony. From Carthage, North Africa, Tertullian acknowledged the possibility of a promised Millennium on the earth (Against Marcion, book 3, chapter 25). Later writers, too, could be cited.

## Truth Later Rejected

In the fourth century the book of Revelation was removed from the general reading list of the established Christian church. Why? Because it plainly referred to the Millennium. "Thus the troublesome foundation on which chiliasm [a Greek word for the doctrine of the Millennium] might have continued to build was got rid of" (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 11th edition, article "Millennium").

Writing about this period of time, Edward Gibbon, in his book The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, states: "The doctrine of Christ's reign upon earth was...considered by degrees as a doubtful and useless opinion, and was at length rejected [by false Christianity] as the absurd invention of heresy and fanaticism" (chapter 15).

During and after the reign of Emperor Constantine, who ruled from A.D. 306-337, leaders in the established Christian church began to look upon the Roman Empire as the Kingdom of God. They began to view the millennial rule of Jesus Christ as having already begun!

Some professing Christian leaders of the 20th century have even gone so far as to claim that the doctrine of the millennial rule of Christ is not to be found in either the New Testament gospels or epistles, or even in the traditions of the apostles (The Question Box, William N. Emch, p. 380).

But, now, let's turn to the Bible, the source of truth, and learn what it reveals about the Millennium, as pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles.

## God's Harvest--the Feast of Ingathering

God's annual festivals, as we learned in previous lessons, began to be made known to the congregation of ancient Israel--God's Church in the wilderness (Acts 7:38)--when the nation was first formed in Egypt.

Let's notice God's instructions regarding the observance of the sixth annual festival and how it pictures the coming Millennium, when the whole world will be converted and given an opportunity for salvation.

1. Does the Feast of Tabernacles begin five days after the Day of Atonement? Lev. 23:33-34; Deut. 16:13-15.

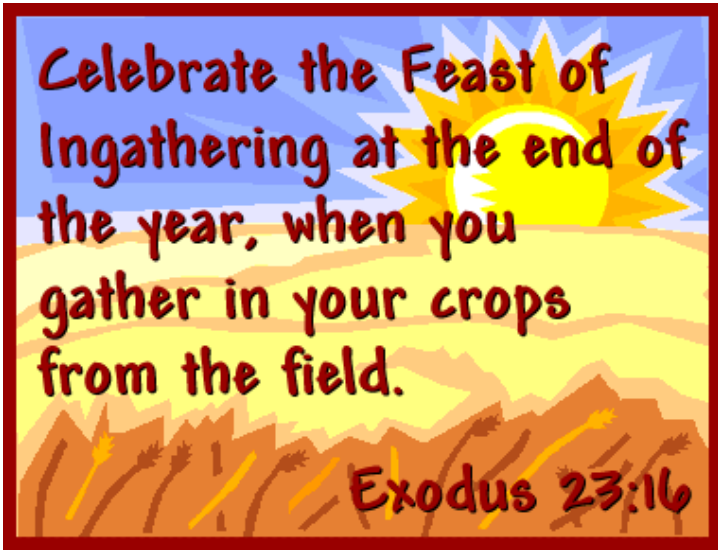
2. Does the Feast begin with a Holy Day on which all ordinary work is forbidden, and on which people are to gather before God? Lev. 23:35.



Did God command that this annual festival be kept forever? Verse 41.

COMMENT: The Feast of Tabernacles was also called the Feast of Ingathering (Ex. 23:16; 34:22) because it celebrated the late summer-early autumn harvest (Lev. 23:39).

This harvest festival was to be a time of great rejoicing and thanksgiving for God's abundant blessings. Today, God's Church makes known to the world that it pictures the future ingathering of the great harvest of Spirit-begotten human beings into God's Family during the 1,000-year period known as the Millennium.



3. Does the annual Feast of Tabernacles last for more than one day? Lev. 23:34; Deut. 16:15.

COMMENT: As we learned in previous lessons, God used the two yearly harvest seasons in the Northern Hemisphere to picture the future spiritual harvests of mankind into His divine Family.

The spring grain harvest is small compared to the great fall harvest. The first harvest is represented by a single day--the Festival of Pentecost. It pictures the spiritual firstfruits, the relatively small number of people whom God has called into His Church before Christ's return, when they will be born into God's Family.

But the Feast of Tabernacles lasts a full seven days. This shows that God's great second harvest of mankind will take a long period of time to be reaped. People will be born physically, called of God and, after fulfilling their life's purpose of growing in God's character, born spiritually into His Family all during the 1,000 years.

4. Who would decide where the Feast of Tabernacles was to be observed? Deut. 16:16.

COMMENT: Only God, working through His chosen servants, chooses the place (or places--Ex. 20:24) where the Feast is to be observed, and only He changes the location--as circumstances warrant.

In ancient Israel, God chose where His people were to keep the Feast. Today, God works through the government He has placed in His Church. God leads those in charge to select appropriate Feast sites around the world to accommodate the members of His Church worldwide. Tens of thousands of God's people and their families travel to these sites to observe this great Feast.

## Ancient Israel Failed to Keep the Feast

Even though God revealed His festivals to the children of Israel and commanded that these festivals be kept forever, the people soon rebelled. Many finally refused to keep the Feast of Tabernacles on the days God ordained, eventually failing to keep it altogether. Let's learn what happened, and what the results of their disobedience were.

1. Where was the place that God originally set His name--designating it as the place the Feast of Tabernacles was to be kept? Josh. 18:1. Were some of the children of Israel obedient at that time in keeping the Feast? Judg. 21:19. And in rejoicing? Verse 21.

2. Did the parents of Samuel, who became one of God's greatest prophets, keep this Feast every year? I Sam. 1:3, 21; 2:19.

COMMENT: The yearly sacrifice mentioned in these verses refers to the Feast of Tabernacles.

3. Did God later change the location for the Feast of Tabernacles and, in the early years of King Solomon, have a temple built there? I Kings 8:1-2, 10-11. Did Solomon call the people early to the Feast to spend a week in dedicating the newly finished Temple? Verse 65.

COMMENT: The Israelites observed the Feast of Tabernacles in the days of Solomon. But even then, the nation did not fully observe it in the way or manner God commanded (see 8:17).

4. What did wicked King Jeroboam do after he and the northern 10 tribes rebelled against Rehoboam, Solomon's son? I Kings 12:32-33.

COMMENT: Jeroboam assumed that where and when God's Holy Days were kept didn't really make any difference to God. His action was normal for a carnal-minded person who knows little about who or what God really is.

Jeroboam's concept of how to worship God was merely his own human idea (verse 33).

Be sure to read the whole passage from I Kings 12:26 to the end of chapter 13. The 13th chapter reveals how God mercifully gave Jeroboam further admonition--backed up by miracles (verses 3-4, 6)--and a further opportunity to repent.

But Jeroboam did not repent of changing the date the fall festivals were to be observed (verse 33), and as a result he suffered a terrible penalty (verse 34).

5. Why did God finally allow the people of Israel and Judah to be militarily defeated and then deported to foreign lands? Ezek. 20:13- 16, 19-21, 24, 34.

COMMENT: Notice that in these verses the word "sabbaths" is plural, meaning the annual Sabbaths as well as the weekly Sabbath. The Bible usually speaks of the weekly Sabbath in the singular.

Because of their continued disobedience--chiefly their utter disregard of God's weekly and annual Sabbaths--the Israelites, and later the Jews, were transported into slavery.

6. Had the small remnant of Jews who returned from Babylon under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah learned that God is the Lord? Neh. 8:1.

COMMENT: After 70 years of subservience to Babylon, God had become real to those few Jews, as well as to those who remained in the lands of their captivity. They now knew He was really God.

7. Did they immediately begin to keep God's Holy Days, including the Feast of Tabernacles? Verses 2, 14, 17-18. And did they immediately set about learning God's laws that, if kept, lead to peace, happiness and prosperity? Compare Nehemiah 8:18 with Deuteronomy 31:10-11.

8. Did the remnant of Jews find the Feast of Tabernacles a time of "very great gladness"? Neh. 8:17-18.

COMMENT: The Holy Days now held vivid meaning for the few thousand Jews who returned from captivity. Their eyes were open--symbolic of what will occur to humanity after the Second Coming of Christ.

## Jesus Kept the Feast

1. During Jesus Christ's human life, were the descendants of the Jews who returned still keeping the Feast of Tabernacles? John 7:2.

COMMENT: The Apostle John called the celebration the "Jews' feast" because he wrote

primarily for the Gentiles. Before conversion, the Gentiles saw the feasts only as a part of the "different" religion of the Jews. The nation Israel had lost the knowledge of God's Holy Days, but Judah had preserved the Old Testament Scriptures and the festivals of God and God's calendar.

2. What unmistakable command did Jesus give His brothers and sisters? Verse 8.

3. Did Jesus, Himself, keep the Feast? Verse 10. Did everyone know that Jesus always kept God's feasts and therefore naturally expected Him to be in Jerusalem to observe the Feast of Tabernacles? Verse 11.

COMMENT: Note that Jesus' purpose in going to Jerusalem was not merely to preach to and instruct people. He had numerous opportunities to address the multitudes who followed Him continually.

4. Did Jesus have every reason not to go up to Jerusalem? Verses 1 and 10.

COMMENT: Jesus had been present at the Feast from the first day, although He did not stand up to teach until near the middle of the seven days (verse 14). He had arrived secretly and remained out of the limelight because certain of the religious leaders were seeking--out of jealousy--to kill Him.

5. Was Jesus merely following an Old Testament practice or was He setting a New Testament

example? Matt. 28:19-20; I Pet. 2:21;  
I John 2:4-6.

COMMENT: With such dangerous circumstances, if ever there was an excuse not to attend one of God's feasts, surely this was one. But Jesus was there--boldly setting us an example that we should do likewise.

Jesus condemned the errors in the "tradition of the elders" (Matt. 15:2-3, 6, 9). He always made it clear that God's laws were still binding, and went on to magnify them. Notice His words in Matthew 5:21-22: "Ye have heard...but I say." Christ kept every one of God's commandments, including all of God's Holy Days.

## All Nations to Keep the Feast in the Millennium

1. In the Millennium, will Israelite tribes in addition to Judah keep the Feast of Tabernacles? Hos. 12:8-9. Will all Gentile nations join them in keeping the Feast? Zech. 14:9, 16.

COMMENT: After returning to earth in power and glory, Christ will start immediately to reeducate the people of the world through His annual festivals. The world will come to know that Christ is the Lord, and that God's Master Plan pictures the way to physical blessings and spiritual salvation.



2. What will happen to those nations that at first refuse to keep the Feast of Tabernacles and thus refuse to be reeducated to God's way, in their ignorance refusing salvation? Verse 17.

COMMENT: Christ will at first have to rule with "a rod of iron" (Rev. 12:5), symbolizing absolute authority, until the nations are convinced that their fathers' ways--their "old-time religions"--do not lead to salvation.

3. What will happen if nations still refuse to obey? Zech 14:18-19.

COMMENT: Those with this attitude, who stubbornly refuse to obey, will suffer from drought. If they still do not change their attitudes, plagues will afflict them until they submit to God. There are some who think God doesn't mean they should keep His feasts today. They say: "Well, I'll keep the days God made holy when I have to, but I won't keep them now." God allows them to refuse. But only those who obey Him now will be protected through the time of trouble just ahead.



## Time of Great Physical and Spiritual Rejoicing

1. What is the divinely set theme for the annual observance of the Feast of Tabernacles? Deut. 16:14-15. (Notice the words surely rejoice in verse 15. Other translations, such as the Revised Standard Version, render this "be altogether joyful.")

2. Does God intend for everyone--regardless of age, social class or economic level--to rejoice during the Feast? Read verse 14 again. Does God intend for a husband to take his wife and children with him to rejoice together at the Feast? Deut. 16:14; 12:5, 7, 12.

3. Does God say that good food should be eaten to increase one's joy and happiness during the Feast? Deut. 14:26.

COMMENT: The Feast of Tabernacles is a time of great rejoicing. For ancient Israel, it was a time of rejoicing because the abundant winter's food supply was taken in just before the Feast.



But the Feast has far greater significance for God's Church today. It pictures--is a foretaste of--the prosperity, happiness, joy and universal peace that will exist worldwide under the righteous rule of Jesus Christ. Universal adherence to God's laws and revealed way of life will make the world tomorrow a supremely happy place--a utopia!

4. Does God command His people to save a second tithe (10th) of their income throughout the year to be spent in traveling to and attending the Feast? Deut. 14:22-26.

COMMENT: The Feast of Tabernacles gives God's people the opportunity to live joyfully for one week--to live above what they would normally be able to afford--that they may experience a foretaste of the wealth the whole world will enjoy.

5. When the Holy Spirit is poured out freely during the Millennium, what will happen to the basic attitude or nature of humans? Ezek. 36:26-27; Will there also be a change in the nature of animals so that all creatures will be peaceful and harmless? Isa. 11:6-8; 65:25.

COMMENT: Once God places His Spirit within repentant mankind during the Millennium, people will begin to express outgoing love and concern for others and will obey God. This coming change in the very nature of humans is the chief reason why the Feast of Tabernacles previews this time with such great rejoicing!

# What Christ's Government Will Be Like

The coming government of God will not be a democracy, or any other form of human government. In the world tomorrow Christ will rule supreme from world headquarters in Jerusalem (Rev. 19:16; Jer. 3:17). Ruling with and under Him will be the Spirit-born saints (Dan. 7:14, 27).



Christ will be over the saints. His position will be that of the Husband. The saints--then immortal children of God--will constitute the Bride of Christ. They will be in the position of a wife, subject to her Husband--Christ.

1. In the Millennium, how will Christ's supreme government be administered in all parts of the earth? Luke 19:17-19.

COMMENT: Christ was showing through the parable of the pounds that those who develop their abilities will be rewarded with positions of rulership. There will be local administrative districts--some larger, some smaller--that will be administered by the Spirit-born children of God!

2. Does Luke 13:28 reveal the names of several faithful servants of God who will be given high positions under Christ in the Kingdom of God? Who will rule over the modern descendants of Jacob? Jer. 30:7-9; Ezek. 37:24-25.

COMMENT: The patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and other men of God such as Joseph, Job, Moses and David, will be brought back to life, immortal, in glorified power, to occupy high executive positions in the new world government.

3. Will Christ have certain other chief assistants, each ruling over a major nation? Luke 22:29-30; Matt. 19:28.

4. How will the immortal spirit rulers serve the people? Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 1 Cor. 6:2.

COMMENT: To help curb the possibility of tyranny, many governments in the world today are divided into separate branches. For example, in the United States of America, the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government are separate. Then there is the teaching field, which, in democratic countries, is separate from

(though in most cases overseen by) the government.

In God's coming Kingdom on earth, however, these four functions will be united. The Head of the God Family establishes the laws (the legislative function). The God Family will enforce the laws (the executive function). It will also interpret those laws and judge cases concerning them (the judicial function). And the God Family will be responsible for the educational function--it will faithfully teach the people God's law.

Each divine ruler will serve his subjects in genuine love and concern (I John 4:16), never acting selfishly (Matt. 20:26-27).

5. How much power will each ruler exercise, under Christ, in his own area? Rev. 2:26-27.

COMMENT: Absolute and definite authority will exist on the spot in all parts of the world. Yet all governmental policies will be based on the pattern laid down from world headquarters by Christ Himself, and each ruler under Christ will be responsible to Him. God's government will be perfectly organized, devoid of useless red tape and excess baggage bureaucracies.

6. Will this divine government be permanent? Dan. 7:14- 18.

COMMENT: No time or money will be wasted on campaigning and elections. There will be no

politicians to cater to special organized groups or classes. In the world tomorrow God will appoint His resurrected saints as the rulers and educators, and no lobbyists or other pressure groups will be able to corrupt them.

There will be no insurrections, no rebellions--God can't be overthrown. Satan's failed coup proved that! Nor will any member of the God Family ever turn into another adversary (I John 3:9). All members will have been proved in advance during their mortal lifetime.

7. Will the Spirit-born teachers in God's Family take a personal part in bringing about a full comprehension of God's law, and in directing people to take right action? Isa. 30:20-21.

COMMENT: The sudden appearance of the spirit rulers, or a voice, as if from nowhere, will cause potential lawbreakers to freeze in the act. With proper guidance from Christ and with Satan's sinful influence restrained (Rev. 20:1-3), violence and crime will be stamped out.

8. How successful will the priest-teachers be in teaching the knowledge of God's way to the world? Jer. 31:34; Hab. 2:14; Isa. 11:9.

9. Will God do more than merely make knowledge available? Compare Isaiah 25:6-7 with Isaiah 29:10-12 and Romans 11:7-8. (Notice the words "spread over all nations" in Isaiah 25:7.)

COMMENT: "And in this mountain"--the government of God--He will make the Millennium one great feast of rejoicing. The Feast of Tabernacles is the antitype!

God will destroy the covering of spiritual blindness that has hidden the truth from all nations. No religious confusion will long exist because Satan will have been restrained. Humans will then be teachable--their minds will be opened to God's revealed truth.

People will begin to live God's way of love--the way of giving and outgoing concern for others--the way of the true values--the way of peace, of happiness, of well-being, of joy and, ultimately, spiritual salvation.

## A World Free from Fear!

In the millennial world pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, people will no longer have the influences of Satan and the false glitter of "this present evil world" to distract them from overcoming their human nature.

God's way will become the popular and broad way. It will be the way society will be going. People will want to follow God's way of life

because of the happiness and joy they know it will bring.

Pressures in society that now urge people toward conformity with this present evil world will then be changed to working toward conformity with God's standard, toward overcoming human nature and building perfect, holy and righteous character.

1. When Christ has forcibly put down those who fill the earth with violence, will He abolish the fear of war? Isa. 2:4. Will He do so by exercising supreme authority to rebuke many nations? Same verse.



COMMENT: Imagine! Never again any destruction of the fruit of years of labor! No more waste of human life! No young men drafted from their homes, their lives upset, to have their minds warped with hate!

2. Will there be any reason to fear that Christ will be a tyrannical ruler? Ps. 72:1-4, 8, 12-14; Isa. 11:5. Will He make perfect decisions? Verses 2-3. Will the poor receive righteous judgment from Him? Verse 4.

3. Will there be any fear of wild animals? Hos. 2:18, first part; Isa. 11:6-8; Ezek. 34:25. What about wars--will the weapons of war be abolished from the earth? Hos. 2:18, last part.

COMMENT: There will be worldwide peace and people will convert their weapons of war into farming tools. The Millennium will be a time of peace that will extend even to the animal world.

4. In the secure, rejuvenated world tomorrow, will it be said to the fearful: "Be strong, fear not...God will...save you"? Isa. 35:4.

5. Will God liberate people from the fear of sickness and disease? Isa. 33:24; Jer. 30:17. Will the handicapped--both physically and mentally--be miraculously healed? Isa. 35:3-6.

COMMENT: Education about true health and the miraculous healing of all sickness and disease will mean radiant health for everyone in the world tomorrow!

6. Will there be fear of accidents in the Millennium? Notice the principle of personal responsibility in Exodus 21:29, 33-34 and 22:6.

COMMENT: When God's law goes forth from Zion (Isa. 2:3), the principle of personal responsibility will be taught worldwide. People will be concerned about the welfare of others and will be their "brother's keeper"!

There will be few accidents. But if someone should occasionally be careless--and God

sometimes does allow an accident to teach a lesson--the miraculous healing power of Christ will be ever available.

7. Will fear and worry exist in the cities of tomorrow? Or will they be filled with radiantly happy families? Jer. 33:10-11; Zech. 8:4-5.

COMMENT: People will no longer be afraid of their neighbors. They won't have to worry about living next door to someone who is mentally unbalanced, a pervert or a killer. The old won't have to fear being attacked and brutally beaten by some juvenile delinquent out looking for fun.



8. Will the fear of food shortages--a spectre that constantly haunts many areas of the world today--be gone? Ezek. 34:26; Isa. 30:23-24; Amos 9:13; Jer. 31:12. Will the old waste places be made fertile, and will beautiful forests spread in the Millennium? Isa. 41:14-20; 35:1-2, 6-7.

COMMENT: Most of the earth's land surface will become productive during the millennial age. Forests, agricultural areas and fish-filled lakes and streams will be found all over the world, with no more polluted rivers or ravaged landscapes.

9. Confusion of languages is one of the major barriers to cooperation between peoples. Will God give the whole world a pure language so all can serve Him with one accord? Zeph. 3:9.



Mountains be brought low, Deserts made fertile, Polar caps melted and land under the sea reclaimed to make beautiful farmland.



through a pure language. People everywhere will speak, read and write that same language.

10. What about the lack of confidence that plagues so many? Will those who really "know the Lord" dwell with confidence? Ezek. 28:26.

COMMENT: Reeducation will take care of that. People won't be taught self-confidence, but confidence in Christ dwelling in them through the Holy Spirit.

11. What kind of fear will remain? Isa. 59:19; Jer. 32:39-40.

COMMENT: This fear is not terror and misery, but the mature, sound-minded realization that disobeying the laws God has set in motion for our good leads to nothing but wretchedness, filth and deprivation.

The Feast of Tabernacles was given that we might learn to fear God always (Deut. 14:23). People will fear to disobey God, a right kind of fear that most people do not have in today's world.

## How God's People Keep the Feast Now

1. Will Jerusalem again be chosen as the center of worship in the Millennium? Zech. 2:12. Is Jerusalem not now the primary place for all people to keep the Feast of Tabernacles? John 4:21.

COMMENT: Jerusalem was rejected in the autumn of A.D. 66 and turned over to the Romans. God withdrew His name. But in the Millennium Jerusalem will again be the place where God's people will keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

2. Does God intend for His people to be free from this world's system and its ways? Rev. 18:4;

II Cor. 6:14-18. Also notice Exodus 10:7 and 15:1, last part.

COMMENT: God intends the Feast of Tabernacles to separate and free His people from the world and its evil influences. This great festival gives them a special time and setting, in which they are free from the routine cares of the world, to think more about God's purpose for life and how to attain it.

Living in temporary dwellings for an entire week--away from their everyday surroundings, jobs and most negative influences--God's people picture by their observance of these seven days the universal freedom and peace that will exist when Satan is gone and the Spirit of God is available to every human (Joel 2:28, 32).

3. Is the Feast of Tabernacles a time of rejoicing for the entire family? Deut. 12:5-7, 12; 16:13-14.



COMMENT: Tens of thousands of God's people and their families enthusiastically look forward annually to observing the Feast at dozens of sites around the world. It is the highlight of the entire year!

These are days of continuous, genuine Christian fellowship. Members and their families participate in various exciting, fun-filled Church-sponsored activities, as well as sight-seeing and other special attractions unique to each site. The sincere concern and fellowship, the spiritual nourishment and just plain good fun whets one's appetite for the next year's Feast, making the ordinary "vacations" of the past seem humdrum by comparison!

But just as the Feast of Tabernacles is a physical feast filled with rejoicing, it is also a spiritual feast of education and preparation. Members of God's Church receive instruction from God's ministers through inspiring sermons to help them further prepare to rule and teach with Christ during the Millennium.

God's people at the Feast demonstrate now, by the way they live together in harmony, what this entire world could be like if everyone followed God's laws.

## A Glimpse of Tomorrow's World

"The lion and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord." ISAIAH 65:25

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." ISAIAH 35:1

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that 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 unto it." ISAIAH 2:2

"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, 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." ISAIAH 2:3

"They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." ISAIAH 65:22

"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 sorrow." JEREMIAH 31:13

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." ISAIAH 2:4

"For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent." ZEPHANIAH 3:9

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh" EZEKIEL 36:26

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." REVELATION 3:21

"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, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." DANIEL 7:27



"And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them."

EZEKIEL 34:27

"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." ISAIAH 9:7

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."

ISAIAH 11:6

"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." ISAIAH 11:9

"And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof."

ZECHARIAH 8:5

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

"Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the

wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. "And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes." ISAIAH 35:5-7

## TEST

This multiple choice test is designed to help you review the preceding lesson. It's an enjoyable way of putting to use some of the vital knowledge and understanding you have gained through this lesson.

Select one of the four choices given under each question or incomplete statement. The other three are incorrect--unless stated or indicated otherwise.

1. After Christ has returned to earth and deposed Satan,

- A. the 1,000-year reign of the Kingdom of God on earth will begin.
- B. the firstfruits of God's spiritual harvest-- pictured by the festival of Pentecost--will join Christ in ruling the earth.
- C. the great spiritual harvest of humans will begin.
- D. All of the above.

2. The Feast of Tabernacles

- A. begins seven days after the Day of Atonement.
- B. is the sixth of God's seven annual Festivals picturing His plan of salvation.
- C. concludes the spring harvest season in Palestine.
- D. pictures the 1,000 years of desolation of the earth after Christ returns.

3. The New Testament Church of God taught

- A. throughout the Roman Empire the truth about the restoration of the government of God over the earth.
- B. that God's Master Plan was complete when the Church was established.
- C. that the Roman Empire was the Kingdom of God.
- D. nothing about the rule of Christ and the Spirit-born saints.

4. Which one of the following statements about the Feast of Tabernacles is FALSE?

- A. The Feast begins with a Holy Day on which all ordinary work is forbidden.
- B. It was also called the Feast of Ingathering.
- C. The Feast lasts for one days.
- D. It pictures the future ingathering of the great harvest of Spirit-begotten humans during the Millennium.

5. Who decides where the Feast of Tabernacles is to be observed?

- A. Individual members, who vote once a year.
- B. God, who works through the government He has placed in His Church, leads those in charge to select appropriate sites.
- C. Nothing is mentioned about this in the Bible.
- D. None of the above.

6. Which one of the statements below is FALSE?

- A. King Jeroboam, without God's approval, changed the date the Feast was to be observed.
- B. The Israelites, and later the Jews, were transported into slavery because of their failure to keep the weekly and annual Sabbaths.
- C. After their return from captivity, the remnant of Jews began to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
- D. The ancient Israelites throughout their history faithfully kept the Feast in the way and manner God commanded.

7. The account in John 7 shows that

- A. Jesus kept the Feast of Tabernacles, even though faced with dangerous circumstances.
- B. the Jews did not expect Jesus to be in Jerusalem to observe the Feast.
- C. New Testament Christians do not need to keep the Feast.
- D. Jesus' brothers and sisters did not keep the Feast.

8. In the Millennium,

- A. Gentile nations will not be required to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
- B. observance of the Feast of Tabernacles will be optional.
- C. nations that refuse to keep the Feast will first suffer from drought, and later plagues, until they submit to God.
- D. Christ will abolish God's annual Holy Days.

9. God intends for His people to

- A. rejoice during the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles.
- B. save a second tithe (10th) of their income throughout the year to be spent in traveling to and attending the Feast.
- C. experience during the Feast a foretaste of the prosperity, happiness and peace the whole world will enjoy.
- D. All of the above.

10. When God's Holy Spirit is poured out freely in the Millennium,

- A. humans will have little desire to learn God's way of life.
- B. people will begin to express outgoing love and concern for others.
- C. there will be little change in the basic attitude or nature of humans.
- D. None of the above.

11. The coming government of God will

- A. be a democracy similar to that in the United States today.
- B. rule only over the 12 tribes of Israel.
- C. be administered by Christ and the Spirit-born saints.
- D. be only temporary.

12. The resurrected saints will

- A. have little to do with education in tomorrow's world.
- B. educate as well as rule over people.
- C. rule, but not educate in the Millennium.
- D. always conduct their duties mysteriously and invisibly.

13. Worldwide obedience to God's law in the world tomorrow will

- A. result only in material blessings.
- B. have no effect on world peace.
- C. result only in spiritual blessings because God's law is spiritual.
- D. result in universal peace, prosperity and happiness for 1,000 years.

14. The Spirit-born leaders in the Millennium will

- A. be appointed by Christ.
- B. not have been tested and proved in advance during their mortal lifetime.
- C. Be elected to their positions.
- D. be susceptible to influence by lobbyists and special interest groups.

15. In the millennial world pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, people will

- A. be faced with many pressures to compromise with God's law.
- B. worry about their physical needs.
- C. no longer have the influence of Satan to contend with.
- D. convert their farming tools into weapons of war.

16. Christ's government will

- A. provide true justice for all.
- B. create fear and unhappiness.
- C. enforce harsh laws.
- D. not abolish the fear of war.

17. How will mankind be liberated from fear of sickness and disease in the Millennium?

- A. Through doctors, who learn medicine through experimenting on animals.
- B. Through miraculous healing and obedience to God's health laws.
- C. Christ will suspend the laws governing health.
- D. Through "miraculous" drugs that will prevent illness.

18. Cities in the world tomorrow will be

- A. governed according to God's law.
- B. safe to walk in at night.
- C. filled with radiantly happy families.
- D. All of the above.

19. During the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, God's people

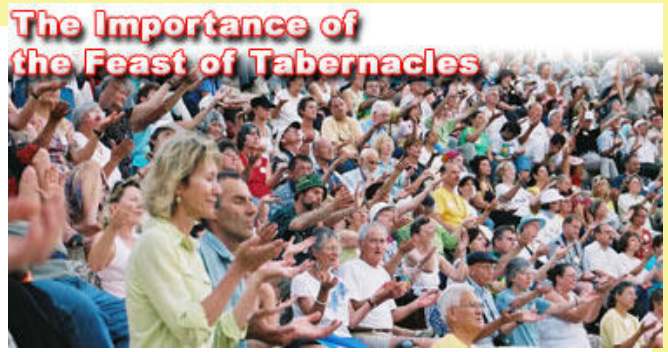
- A. are to live in temporary accommodations such as motel and hotel rooms.
- B. rejoice greatly, thus picturing the universal happiness and joy that will exist during the Millennium.
- C. receive instruction from God's Word to help them further prepare to rule and teach in the Millennium.
- D. All of the above.

20. God intends the Feast of Tabernacles to

- A. separate and free His people from the evil influences of the world.
- B. give His people a special time and setting to think more about the purpose of life and how to attain it.
- C. be a time of rejoicing for the entire family.
- D. All of the above.

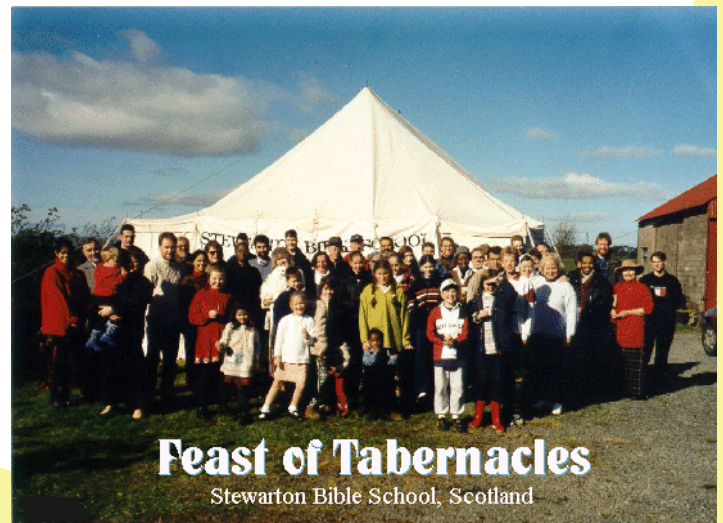


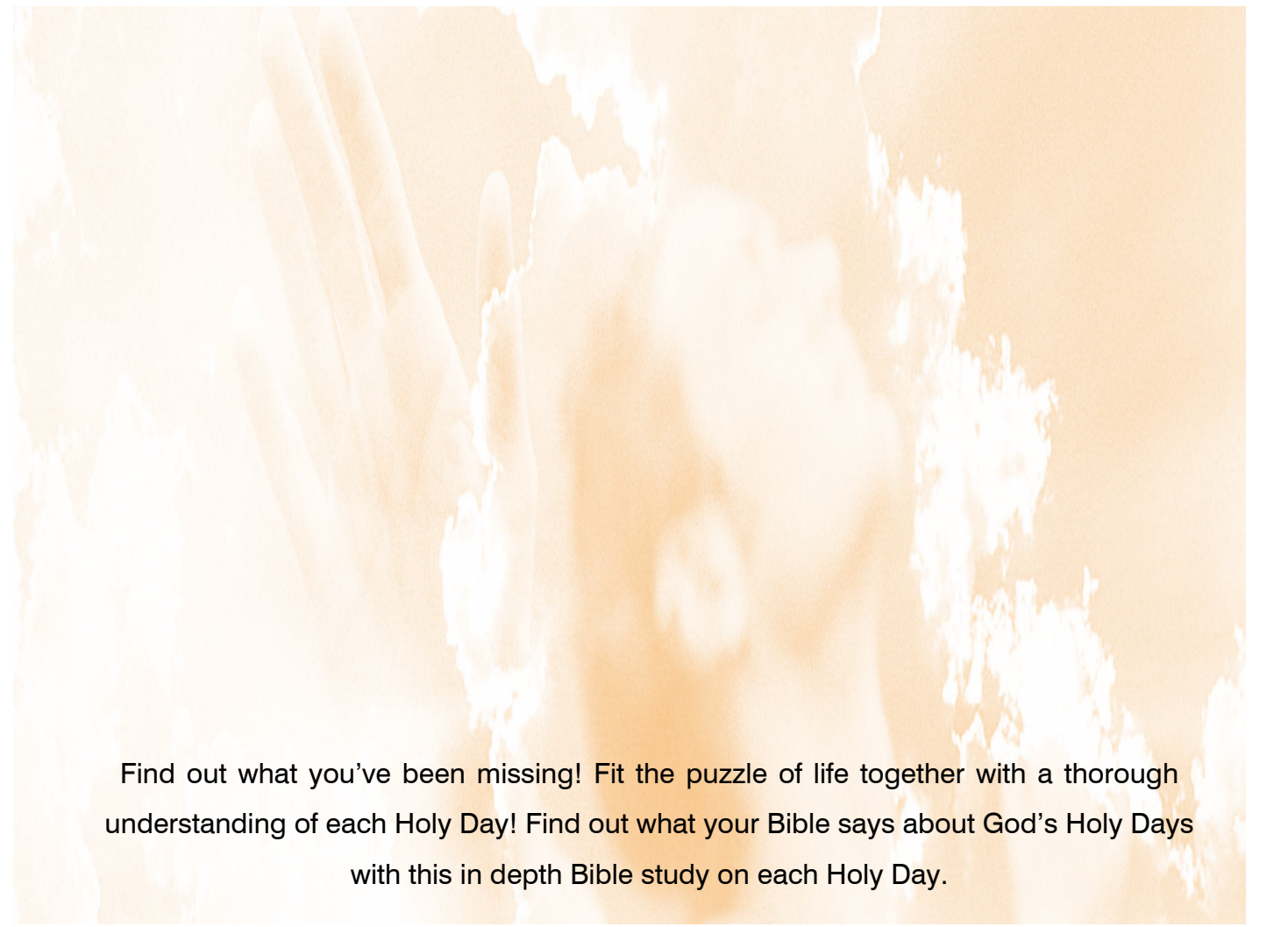
The Importance of the Feast of Tabernacles



The  
Celebration of  
God's Holy Days  
Around the  
World

A large image of the Earth from space, showing the continents and oceans. The text is overlaid on the image.





Find out what you've been missing! Fit the puzzle of life together with a thorough understanding of each Holy Day! Find out what your Bible says about God's Holy Days with this in depth Bible study on each Holy Day.

ANSWERS TO TEST:

1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C, 5-B

6-D, 7-A, 8-C, 9-D, 10-B

11-C, 12-B, 13-D, 14-A, 15-C

16-A, 17-B, 18-D, 19-D, 20-D

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