

## **24 -- THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES**

### **(Home at Last)**

The Feast of Tabernacles was the last feast in the yearly round of services, and pointed forward to the final act of the entire plan of redemption. It began on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when the harvests were all gathered from the field, vineyard, and olive groves.

The Feast of Tabernacles followed the Day of Atonement, which we learned was symbolic of the judgment, therefore the Feast of Tabernacles must point to an event which comes after the close of the judgment. This feast takes us forward to the great day of final ingathering, when the Lord of the harvest will send forth His reapers to harvest in His beloved children. One day very soon, the ransomed host will journey across the recreated earth to attend the Feast at the Father's Harvest Home. They will then dwell in the New Jerusalem, in the Father's mansions made especially for them. What will it all be like? Will it be a real place? What kind of things will the redeemed of all ages do? Let us study to find out.

#### **1. What did Jesus promise His people?**

*John 14:2* In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

#### **2. What else do we know about this place Jesus is preparing?**

*Isaiah 65:17* For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.

*Hebrews 11:16* ...for He has prepared a city for them.

*Matthew 5:5* Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

*Isaiah 65:21* They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

**Note:** Talk about amazing! God has prepared for His people a new heavens, a new earth, and a new holy city. The righteous will inherit a glorious mansion in the city built by Jesus (John 14:2), plus a fabulous country home on the new earth that they will build themselves (Isaiah 65:21).

#### **3. What more do we know about the holy city?**

*Revelation 21:16* ...The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.

*Revelation 21:2* Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ....

*Revelation 21:10, 12* ...The holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God...had a great and high wall with twelve gates,....

*Revelation 21:18* And the construction of its wall was of jasper ....

*Revelation 21:21* ... the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

**Note:** The holy city is square, and the distance around it is 12,000 furlongs, or 1,500 miles (a furlong is one-eighth of a mile). It comes down from heaven to the new earth and will land where the Mount of Olives now stands (Zechariah 14:4, 5). Each of its 12 gates are made of a single pearl (Revelation 21:21), and the city's jasper walls are 144 cubits (Revelation 21:17) or 216 feet wide (a cubit is 18 inches).

#### **4. What does the Bible say about the city's water and food supply?**

*Revelation 22:1* And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal,....

*Revelation 22:2* In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

**Note:** An inexhaustible, pure river of water flows out of the throne of God, and the tree of life yields a different fruit crop each month. This fabulous fruit and its leaves provide the antidote for death and perpetuate eternal life. In addition, God's saints will raise their own food at their country homes (Isaiah 65:21). The diet of God's people will be what it was before sin entered the world--fruits, grains, and nuts (Genesis 1:29, 31). The taste will be indescribably delicious, and the nutritional value will be perfect.

#### **5. How will living in heaven be different from living here on earth?**

A. *Isaiah 35:5* Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, ...

B. *Isaiah 35:5* ...the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

C. *Isaiah 35:6* Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing....

D. *Isaiah 65:25* ... They [the beasts] shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,....

E. *Isaiah 11:6* The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, ...and a little child shall lead them.

F. *Isaiah 35:1* ...the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;

G. *Isaiah 33:24* And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick;"...

H. *Revelation 21:4* ...there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; ...

#### **6. What kind of bodies will the saints have?**

*Philippians 3:20, 21* ...the Lord Jesus Christ ... will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body....

#### **7. Is Jesus' body real, or is He a spirit?**

*Luke 24:39* Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.

**Note:** Jesus' body after His resurrection was real, with flesh and bones that you could touch and feel. The disciples at first thought He was a spirit when He appeared suddenly to them, but after they felt Him and watched Him eat (Luke 24:40-43), they knew that He was real. Forty days later, Jesus led them out to Bethany and ascended to heaven (Luke 24:50, 51). The angels who appeared to the disciples said to them, "This same Jesus [of flesh and bones] ... shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11. Since His incarnation, Jesus is forever linked with the human race, as well as being divine.

### **8. What other encouraging promise is given?**

*Acts 3:20, 21 ... that He may send Jesus Christ ...whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things ....*

**Note:** Praise God, every glorious thing that was lost by the entrance of sin will be restored in God's new kingdom. The atonement will be complete and all people will genuinely love, trust, and support each other. As a result, there will be no more violence (Isaiah 60:18), and no more betrayal, abuse, disloyalty, dishonesty, backbiting, insecurity, depression, danger, disappointment, or heartache. It will be joyful, happy, contented, abundant living for eternity.

### **9. Will sad or painful memories from this life trouble people in heaven?**

*Isaiah 65:17 ...the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.*

**Note:** The words "come to mind" are better translated "move upon the heart." The Lord is here promising that the sorrows of earth will not bring sorrow to His saints in heaven.

### **10. Will people from earth recognize each other in God's new kingdom?**

*1 Corinthians 13:12 ... then I shall know just as I also am known.*

**Note:** We will indeed recognize each other by our appearance, walk, mannerisms, speech, etc. Our abilities to discern each other will be improved in heaven. Heaven will be an utterly fantastic family reunion.

### **11. What other thrilling promises does God give us regarding His coming kingdom?**

**A. Isaiah 35:10** *And the ransomed of the LORD shall...come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy....*

**B. Psalm 16:11** *... at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

**C. Zechariah 8:5** *The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets.*

**D. Isaiah 40:31** *...They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

**E. Isaiah 40:31** *...They shall mount up with wings as eagles ....*

**Note:** The saints will be able to fly like angels at speeds faster than light. Since they inherit all things (Revelation 21:7), they may visit other worlds, taking only moments to get there. According to Scripture, God has made other worlds that are unfallen (Job 1:6; Hebrews 1:2; 11:3).

### **12. Can we adequately describe God's new kingdom with words?**

*1 Corinthians 2:9 ... eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*

**Note:** You and I in our present state are not able even to imagine the wonderful things God has prepared for His children. No words, thoughts, or even dreams can truly picture the fantastic joys and bliss or the music and colors of heaven. No matter what we may suffer on earth, being in heaven will outweigh all of earth's trials (Romans 8:18).

**13. What is the highest reward of God's new kingdom?**

*Revelation 21:3 ... God Himself will be with them ....*

**Note:** Believe it, and stand in awe! God will actually live in the new earth with His people. Nothing can compare to this for sheer delight and glory.

**14. What will exclude people from God's heavenly kingdom?**

*Revelation 21:27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles.*

*1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?*

**Note:** Sin defiles and cannot be allowed into heaven, or else rebellion might start all over again.

**15. What can I do about sin?**

*1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**Note:** If I ask Jesus to forgive my sins, He forgives me and cleanses me from sin and adopts me as His child.

**16. What did Jesus say is the formula for success in this life and the next?**

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

**17. What is the final invitation of the Bible?**

*Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. And whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

**Note:** God's invitation is open to everyone. Over the past several weeks we have studied through the sanctuary the great truths of Gods plan to save man. We have come face to face with Jesus and have been asked to establish a deep personal relationship with Him through daily Bible study, daily prayer, and a life of faithful service. The only ones who enter the holy city are those who have established this relationship with Jesus. The only way to begin this relationship is by accepting Him as your Savior and Lord today.

***Your Response***

*Is it your desire to develop a beautiful relationship with Jesus through daily Bible study, daily prayer, and a faithful life of service, that you might be among the people who enter the holy city?*

*Answer:* \_\_\_\_\_