

6-25-17
UNDERSTANDING THE JUDGMENT OF GOD
AND FUTURE EVENTS

Text:

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Today I want to talk about God's future plan for mankind. Not a temporary plan, but His eternal plan. Our Scripture song says, our thoughts are not His thoughts and our ways are not His ways. God is looking at the whole picture while we can only see through the narrow window of our lives. We are looking at the temporal, He is looking at the eternal. We have an earthly view he has a heavenly view.

I went to the post office and saw a man that I had tuned 2 pianos for his wife, and years ago sold her an organ. I asked how is your wife, he said she passed away suddenly a few months back. He said we were talking and as we were talking she just had a massive heart attack and died immediately.

How brief this life is. Yet isn't it amazing how we make plans as if we are going to be here a year - two years, 10 years? For some they plan like this life will go on forever.

The Bible says,

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Solomon said our whole purpose in life should be to prepare for this great day.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

We should spend more time making preparation for meeting our God than worrying about the things of this world. It is sad but true, for most people are doing just the opposite.

What are you doing to prepare for your day of judgment? We say we believe it but in our actions we do the opposite.

I First consider, do you believe what the Bible says about the Judgment?

DO YOU BELIEVE IT?

1. ALL MEN SAVED AND UNSAVED WILL HAVE TO STAND BEFORE GOD:

So many would believe that the reality of this truth is based on our faith. No the reality of it is a fact, our faith is what makes us make it a reality in the way we live.

Romans 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

DO YOU BELIEVE JESUS WILL BE THE JUDGE OF EVERY MAN?

2. JESUS WILL BE THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE OF EVERY MAN:

Revelation 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

John 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

3. EVERY MAN SAVED OR LOST WILL STAND IN A RESURRECTED BODY TO BE JUDGED.

This Judgment will be in the flesh. I really don't think people get this. When we think of judgment day, most of us think we are going to be in some sort of dream state of existence. We don't really believe that we will be in a resurrected body.

John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

John 5:27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

I Corinthians 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

I Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

I Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

I Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

Every person in that day will hear His voice.

Every person will be resurrected in their due order.

There are a series of resurrections. The resurrection of the just or saved, and the resurrection of the lost. The resurrection of the just does not just happen all at the same time.

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

I Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

I Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Notice in this verse all those who were buried in the sea will be resurrected. Imagine.. you can't be more mixed up in your material elements than to have been buried at sea, yet the Bible says, the sea shall give up the dead that are in it.

II. FIRST WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE JUDGMENT OF THE JUST.

1. THE RESURRECTION AND JUDGMENT OF THE JUST IS CALLED THE FIRST RESURRECTION:

A. First there will be the resurrection of the New Testament Church.

I Thess Chapter 4:13 through 18 are the famous verses that teach the truth of the rapture of the church. What a marvelous truth we find here!

I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

I Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

I Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

I Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

I Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

I Thessalonians 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

I Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Here we have the important teaching concerning the Judgment seat of Christ. We all shall someday appear before that judgment seat of Christ.

II Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

II Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

II Corinthians 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

II Corinthians 5:3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

II Corinthians 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

II Corinthians 5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

II Corinthians 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

II Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

II Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

II Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

After what we refer to as the rapture of the church. God will bring in what is called the tribulation period. The Bible also refers to it as the 70th week of Daniel the prophet. We are studying the tribulation in Sunday School. This period of time is also called a time of Jacob's trouble. It is a time when God will judge this world in His great wrath.

2. AFTER THE TRIBULATION AND BEFORE THE 1000 YEAR KINGDOM ALL THE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS AND TRIBULATION SAINTS WILL BE RESURRECTED.

This Resurrection is referred to as the first resurrection. The first resurrection takes place in certain segments of time. Jesus was the first to be resurrected. He is the basis of everyone's resurrection. He died for all, so all will be resurrected. The question is where will they spend eternity in that resurrected body. You will spend eternity with the one you serve. This is why the Lord says to that great host of lost people who will be judged in that great day of judgment:

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Note hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. If a person goes there it is because that is who they served.

3. SATAN WILL BE BOUND FOR THE 1000 YEAR MILLENNIAL KINGDOM.

Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Revelation 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.

This is the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Notice, all those who become partakers of the first resurrection will live and reign with Jesus for a 1000 years.

3. AFTER THE MILLENNIUM ALL THOSE THAT CONTINUE WITH THE LORD WILL BE CHANGED AND GO INTO THE ETERNAL KINGDOM .

Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Revelation 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

NOTE: NO UNSAVED PEOPLE WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM. THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN EVERYONE ON PLANET EARTH WILL BE A BELIEVER IN CHRIST.

Matthew 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

Matthew 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Matthew 24:41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

This will be the fulfillment of this passage. This is not the rapture. Those who will be taken away are those who are lost. Just like in the flood, the ones who survived were His people, (Noah and his family) Those who were taken away were the wicked of this planet.

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

II. THE RESURRECTION OF THE UNJUST.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

According to the Bible all the unsaved will be resurrected at one time at the end of the millennium.

III. ON WHAT BASIS WILL THE SAVED AND LOST BE JUDGED?

The basis of the judgment will be our works.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

1. Every unsaved person will be judged on the basis of his works and he will be punished for his acts of disobedience.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Because the unsaved have rejected Christ and His finished work on the cross they will have to pay for their sins themselves.

2. Every believer will be judged on the basis of their good works and anything done in the flesh that was not in obedience to his will.

Now you might think that a person is saved by faith alone. We may be saved by faith but we will be judged by works. True faith will produce good works.

This judgment of the saints of God is often referred to as the Bema seat judgment.

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

The greek word for Judgment seat is the greek word Bema.

This word was taken from Isthmian games where the contestants would compete for the prize under the careful scrutiny of judges who would make sure that every rule of the contest was obeyed (cf. 2 Tim. 2:5). The victor of a given event who participated according to the rules was led by the judge to the platform called the Bema. There the laurel wreath was placed on his head as a symbol of victory (cf. 1 Cor. 9:24-25).

I Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

I Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

I Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Now this is the day that we each should be working for. We should want to please Him.

3. Why then should believers care about pleasing God if they are not going to be punished at the Bema seat judgment:

Why should we care about doing well on an exam or passing an interview for a position in a company?

Why should a student fear failing an exam at school?

Our judgment will determine our standing before the Lord for eternity. Not just for a short time, our eternal job is at stake not our temporal.

People work overtime to excel gain earthly rewards.

OLYMPICS, ETC.. Shouldn't we spend more time preparing for our eternal position?

People work hard to earn a degree to excel in life.

I read a Dallas Theological student once tell the story of how at the seminary office there was a sign that read: YOU ARE SAVED BY FAITH - YOU GRADUATE BY WORKS.

How true, you get to heaven by faith. What you do in heaven for eternity will be based on your works..]

PART II THE MILLENNIUM FUTURE EVENTS

What are the rewards that we should look forward to?

The primary thing on the minds of the disciples when Jesus walked planet earth was the Kingdom. Jesus said pray, THY KINGDOM COME.

The disciples even after the resurrection said to our Lord:

Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

The disciples were looking to rule and reign with Christ on planet earth. They had no concept of a church age, a delay in that Kingdom coming. They had no concept of all this delay that we have had. Now after about two thousand years it would seem we as God's people have lost touch with the idea of God's Kingdom coming down to earth. Even to the point that some people deny it and even think His kingdom has come or is coming through His people on earth. If this is His Kingdom, we are all men most miserable.

There is more to come. In this message we want to look at some of the promises the Lord made to His people.

I. THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WHEN JESUS COMES IN HIS KINGDOM IS TO CLEAN HOUSE AT THE SHEEP GOAT JUDGMENT.

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Matthew 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Matthew 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Matthew 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Matthew 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

Matthew 25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Matthew 25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 25:42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

Matthew 25:43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Matthew 25:44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

Matthew 25:45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

The ones that He gathers together are all the survivors of the tribulation period. Everyone that survived will stand before Him in that day and be judged of Christ.

In that day will come to pass the saying and prophecy predicted in Romans 11:26:

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

II. WHEN JESUS COMES BACK THERE WILL BE A PERFECT GOVERNMENT SET UP IT WILL BE PERFECT BECAUSE THERE WILL ONLY BE PERFECT LEADERS.

1. THAT PERFECT GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIST OF RESURRECTED SAINTS.

I Corinthians 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

I Corinthians 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

In this Kingdom all those who served Him will rule a reign with Him.

Resurrected saints will actually be in authority over the angels of God.

It is like this: A son who is under tutors and governors may someday inherit the whole house and be over the whole household. Servants who directed the children may someday be lead of the very children they governed when those children grow up. God's saints really only grow up after the resurrection.

PSA 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

PSA 8:5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

PSA 8:6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

2. THIS PERFECT GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE RESURRECTED SAINTS APPOINTED BASED ON THEIR SERVICE IN THIS LIFE.

Luke 19:11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

Luke 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

Luke 19:15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

Luke 19:16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

Luke 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, ***have thou authority over ten cities.***

Luke 19:18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

Luke 19:19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

In the Kingdom all we who have served Christ will rule and reign with him for 1000 years based on our service for Him in this life. There will be no fruitless servants in that day. The one servant that came empty handed was cast out. Each of the saints will have some fruit.

JOH 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

3. IN THE MILLENNIUM THERE WILL BE EARTHLY CITIZENS WHO SURVIVED THE TRIBULATION.

These will be the citizens of the Kingdom. These are all those who survive the sheep goat judgment.

Isaiah 65:19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

Isaiah 65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

In that day, there will be fleshly people who inhabit this kingdom. These will be sinners just like us, and those who only live to be an hundred years of age will be rare. It will be a tragedy when that happens. When someone dies at 100 people will mourn as if a child died. Today if someone lives to be a 100 we all say he lived a long and good life. How many of us wish to be able to live to be 100!

4. IN THAT DAY THERE WILL BE GREAT LONGEVITY OF LIFE.

Isaiah 65:21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

Isaiah 65:22 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.

Men shall live to be as old as a tree. Trees left alone can live up to a 1000 years.

The tallest tree in the world is named Hyperion, (it is a redwood) which reaches 379.7 feet (115.7 m). Redwoods can achieve a diameter of 24 feet, and 1.6 million lbs. These giants can live to be 2,000 years old.

Until 2013, the oldest individual tree in the world was Methuselah, a 4,845-year-old Great Basin bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) in the White Mountains of California. Researchers at the Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research Group then announced the age of another *P. longaeva* also located in the White Mountains - this one 5,062 years old.

So it seems feasible that people can live out the whole 1000 year millennial kingdom.

There certainly will be a different diet in that day, and a different environment. Something similar to the pre flood days.

5. IN THAT KINGDOM THE CITIZENS WILL BE GREATLY BLESSED OF THE LORD.

Isaiah 65:23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

Isaiah 65:24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

God will be answering prayers.. in a mighty way. There will be no want in that Kingdom.

Question is how will this all be possible?

Apparently there will be great changes in the environment and eco system of this world.

This whole thing of saving the planet is a bunch of nonsense. The only one that can save the planet is the Lord himself. What is ironic is that most of these same people who want the blessings of a great planet and eco system are the same ones who reject Jesus as Lord and Saviour of this world.

III. IN THE MILLENNIUM THERE WILL BE A RESTORED PLANET ENVIRONMENTALLY.

Isaiah 65:25 The wolf 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.

Amos 9:13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.

Apparently during the tribulation period, the great judgments that are brought upon this planet are all cleaned up by the Lord in a relatively short time.

It is amazing how the Lord has brought self healing to this planet.

When Saddam Hussein plotted to scourge the earth and set fire to the oil fields of Kuwait, environmentalist were crying out that it would be the equivalent to a nuclear cloud over the planet.

United States found the spill did "little long-term damage":

About half the oil evaporated, 1,000,000 US barrels were recovered and 2,000,000 US barrels) to 3,000,000 US barrels washed ashore, mainly in Saudi Arabia.

Carl Sagan and other scientists were predicting a doomsday scenario that would effect the planet for a year. The truth is there was little long lasting effect and a volcano does more to affect our planet than all that Saddam Hussein's scorched earth policy could attempt to do. Sagan later conceded in his book The Demon-Haunted World that his prediction did not turn out to be correct

Truth is when we read about the great judgments that the Lord is going to bring in the book of Revelation to this planet, We can understand how the Anti Christ will send them strong delusion. They will think that this is all that the environmentalists have been predicting in their save the planet campaigns. In spite of all this, the Lord cleans it all up in a short time when He returns to earth and makes this whole world better than it ever has been since the days that Adam and Eve were ousted from the garden of Eden!

What a waste of money, effort, and taxpayer dollars this radical save the planet effort is. It is nothing short of Pantheism disguised as science. If they could not accurately predict the global effects of a known disaster on the planet when they have all the evidence all the facts and every thing laid out clearly, How can they accurately know what the effect of emissions, of coal plants, and other things which they claim will cause globally disaster for our planet in 10-20-30 or a 100 years from now! They couldn't predict what the oil spills of Kuwait would do in a few months!

The only one that will save this planet is the Lord Himself when he comes back to earth and cleans up this mess. Mark it down He is going to return and He is going to bring His kingdom to earth. He also will not need any help to clean up the environment. The greatest cause of pollution to this world is men sinning against the Lord and rebelling against Him. When that is cleaned up the rest will follow. Only God Himself is powerful enough to restore things like they should be. The most filthy town in the world is Washington D.C. and it is not because of pollution it is because of corruption.

IV. IN THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM HOLINESS AND GODLINESS WILL BE MANDATED WORLDWIDE. IT WILL BE A TRUE THEOCRACY.

1. THERE WILL BE NO SECULAR WORLD. EVERYTHING WILL BE POINTING TO THE LORD AND HOLINESS.

Zechariah 14:20 In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

Zechariah 14:21 Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

2. PROPHECY SHALL CEASE AND THERE WILL BE NO NEED OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR THE LORD WILL BE IN THE MIDST OF THE PEOPLE.

Here is an amazing prophecy that I believe will be fulfilled in the Millennium.

Zechariah 13:3 And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the LORD: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth.

Zechariah 13:4 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive:

Zechariah 13:5 But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.

Zechariah 13:6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

Why will there be no need of Prophets, religious leaders and teachers? It will be because Jesus will walk among us and teach us directly. Also, the saints will be the rulers and governors of the land.

Ezekiel 46:10 And the prince in the midst of them, when they go in, shall go in; and when they go forth, shall go forth.

***CONSIDER THE WORSHIP IN THAT DAY PART III
THERE WILL BE A WORLDWIDE MANDATE TO ATTEND THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES***

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that 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.

Zechariah 14:17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

Zechariah 14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Why the observing of the feast?

There were seven feasts but it seems that only one feast will be mandated for every nation of the world to observe..

1. The Feast Of Unleavened bread
2. Passover
3. Feast of First Fruits
4. Feast of Pentacost
5. Feast of Trumpets
6. Day of Atonement
7. Feast of Tabernacles

Consider why our Lord will mandate that everyone Jew and Gentile alike will have to come up and worship at the feast of tabernacles.

I. WHAT WAS THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES?

Leviticus 23:39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath.

Leviticus 23:40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

Leviticus 23:41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

Leviticus 23:42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

Leviticus 23:43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

This was a time that all the men of Israel, were commanded to meet at Jerusalem, and dwell in booths.

The booths were to remind them that for 40 years they dwelt in tents in the wilderness.

1. Why booths?

God did not want them to be too fancy.

A booth anyone could build. All they needed was palm branches the booth only needed to last a week.

2. This feast was mandatory and the dwelling in booths was mandatory.

II. What was the purpose of living in booths?

Leviticus 23:42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

Leviticus 23:43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Booths are temporary dwelling places, little huts. It could be a tent.

But in this case God specifies that the booths are to be made of tree branches.

These booths would be the most primitive of dwellings.

In the Philippines, we saw squatters who lived in little booths and huts. Palm branches, tree branches, etc.

This feast was designed to remind the children of Israel of their humble beginnings.

Deuteronomy 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Deuteronomy 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man

doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

III. OF THE THREE MANDATORY FEASTS, FOR SOME REASON THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT.

Though the gentile church is not under obligation to keep the feast of tabernacles, someday in the millennial Kingdom Jesus will require it of everyone.

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that 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.

Zechariah 14:17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

Zechariah 14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Because of this there would seem to be some kind of Universal lesson that everyone can learn from the feast of tabernacles. Jew and Gentile alike.

This is a feast that is to be celebrated universally in the Kingdom.

IV. WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL LESSONS THAT EVERYONE CAN LEARN FROM THIS FEAST:

1. The spiritual significance of the 7 days of this feast.

Seven is God's number of creation and completion.
All things were created in 6 days and in the seventh day God rested.

The seventh year is the year of rest and blessing.

Israel dwelt in booths for a short time and then they entered into the promise land.

2. Many Jewish and Gentile theologians believe that in the 7th Millennium the Messiah would come and set up His Kingdom.

Methodious wrote in AD 300:

We find the following reference to the feast of Tabernacles.

For since in six days God made the heaven and the earth, and finished the whole world and blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, so by a figure in the seventh month, when the firstfruits of the earth have been gathered in, we are commanded to keep the feast of tabernacles to the Lord, which signifies that, when this world shall be terminated at the seventh thousand years, when God shall have completed the world, He shall rejoice in us. Then when the appointed times shall have been accomplished and God shall have ceased to form this

creation, in the seventh month, the great resurrection day, it is commanded that the feast of our tabernacles shall be celebrated to the Lord.

Methodius, Bishop tyre, Ireanaeus and many other church fathers, believed that the seven days of this feast were symbolic of seven thousand years of History God has planned for his creation the last day being the sabbath day of the Lord.

3. *MANY BELIEVE THAT THERE WOULD BE TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF SPACE BETWEEN THE DISSOLVING OF THE NATION ISRAEL AND THE RESTORATION OF THE KINGDOM.*

Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

Hosea 6:2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Hosea 6:3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

4. *The Dwelling in Booths is a reminder that everything in this life is but temporary.*

II Peter 1:13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

II Peter 1:14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

II Peter 1:15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

II Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

II Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

II Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

II Corinthians 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

II Corinthians 5:3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

II Corinthians 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

The dwelling in booths is significant because we dwell in this tabernacle only for a short time and then on the 8th day of the feast everyone dismantled their little booth and it was all over.

If these early Church fathers were right about that last Millennial reign on earth and this feast being symbolic of this, and the booths in God's creation is this world, then on the eighth day God will tear down this temporary booth.

WHAT DO WE READ IN SCRIPTURE?

Revelation 21:1 And 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.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

II Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

II Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

II Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

II Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

II Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

On the eighth day of the feast everyone took the branches and burned them, and went on and dwelt in their houses.

This is a picture of the fact that we are actually living our lives in temporary booths. On the eighth day God will make a new heaven and a new earth and we shall all have eternal tabernacles to dwell in.

So important was this lesson, that when Jesus comes and sets up His Kingdom on earth He commands that every one of every nation come up to Jerusalem and celebrate this important feast.

1. *God commands His people to assemble together to reinforce in our lives spiritual truth.*

Do this in remembrance of me – communion.
Baptism.

Conclusion:

Leviticus 23:34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

Back in the year 2001 we had started what we now have as a tradition, our week long tent meeting. It just happened that we scheduled by chance that meeting in the seventh month and the meetings started the 15th day of the month. I was studying my Bible when I came across this passage that God was going to mandate that the whole world Jews and Gentiles alike come and celebrate this great feast.

Leviticus says:

Leviticus 23:39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath.

The first day of this feast was to be a Sabbath. The Sabbath was the day that God's Old Testament saints worshipped and the last day was to be a Sabbath.

Years ago when we first started having our tent meetings, it just happened that the dates of our meetings fell on the seventh month the 15th day and went on for 8 days. In the year 2001 we started our meetings on Sunday the 15th, (our Christian Sabbath so to speak) and ended our meetings 8 days later on a Sunday. That is when I read this passage about the feast of tabernacles, and it amazed me that by chance we were having our meetings the 7th month the 15th of the month just as commanded in Leviticus. This set in motion the idea to always try to always have our tent meetings around the 15th of July.

Now that is hard to do this because the Jewish calendar which will be re instituted in the Millennium had uniform days of the week .. So the 7th month the 15th day was always a sabbath. The days & months were set up so the feasts always fell on the right days of the week. Our heathen gentile calendar does not do that. This is why the Bible calls the days we live in as the "Times of the Gentiles".

This year 2017 the 15th of the month is on the Saturday of our meetings, which causes our meetings to be earlier than normal. We start the 9th.

So in our gentile way I thought our tent meeting week could be our feeble attempt to follow the pattern of the feast of tabernacles.

APPLICATION:

All 490 years that Israel was a nation they neglected to keep this great feast, as far as we know they never observed this feast properly.

Maybe they felt it was too inconvenient to dwell in booths for a whole week.

Maybe they thought just as long as they get together, or do some little religious get together that would satisfy the Lord.

In either case.

Leviticus 26:21 And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.

Leviticus 26:32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

Leviticus 26:33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Leviticus 26:34 Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.

Leviticus 26:35 As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.

Jeremiah 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jeremiah 25:12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

Jeremiah 25:13 And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations.

II Chronicles 36:21 To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

God kept perfect records, and after the 70 years Israel was careful to keep the feast days as commanded.

If you want God's blessing you need to follow God's commands.

VI. Note some great events that took place this week.

1. Solomon dedicated the temple on this week.

II Chronicles 5:2 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

II Chronicles 5:3 Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which was in the seventh month.

II Chronicles 7:8 Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt.

II Chronicles 7:9 And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

II Chronicles 7:10 And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the LORD had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

15th - 22 and the 23rd day he sent them away. This was the feast of tabernacles. Though he kept a feast there is no indication that the people dwelt in booths as they should.

2. WHEN THE CHILDREN RETURNED TO THE LAND THEY KEPT THIS FEAST.

Nehemiah 8:13 And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law.

Nehemiah 8:14 And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:

Nehemiah 8:15 And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.

Nehemiah 8:16 So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.

Nehemiah 8:17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

Nehemiah 8:18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

Notice since the days of Joshua they had not kept this feast.

I wonder how many things we neglect to do that the Lord wants us to do?

How sad!!!!

What was the purpose of this feast:

Deuteronomy 14:22 Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

Deuteronomy 14:23 And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.

Deuteronomy 14:24 And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

Deuteronomy 14:25 Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose:

Deuteronomy 14:26 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,

God wanted His feasts to be a time of rejoicing, a time of eating and even notice, He said bring all thy soul lusteth after.

Sometimes some more spiritual people may criticize some of the carnal activities we do at our tent meetings. Giving away gifts, singing, special music, gifts, door prizes, picnics, hay rides, barbecue chicken dinner, and refreshments.

This is that part - all thy soul lusteth after.

God wants us to have a good time that week.

So don't be a dead head, God even allows you to enjoy yourself during that week.

Now we are not in the Millennium but we certainly can try and keep the pattern and in His church keep the pattern. We might as well get used to it, we will be supervising this feast in the millennium for 1000 years.

Let me invite you out to our tent meeting week. Let's let it be our imperfect little feast of the tabernacles in our little gentile church way!