

**7-10-16**  
***Assembling Ourselves Together As Seen In***  
***The “FEAST OF TABERNACLES”***

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:  
Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

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.

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.

In this text, we read about what the will of the Lord will be for the nations and peoples of the world who survive the Great Tribulation. In that day all the nations of the world who have been deceived by the Antichrist will come against the Lord and fight against Him.

Imagine the audacity of the peoples of the world to think they can fight against God. People really think that if you get a crowd of people together—and if all in that crowd agree, that makes it right. As if there is power in the vote of the majority. How foolish!

Satan is using opinion polls and census polls to manipulate people into thinking that they are in the right. People are so foolish. We even see this antichrist mentality working today.

A while back, Channel 16 had an opinion poll about the issue of homosexual marriage. They set up a website so you could express your opinion. I tried to go on the site, but they wouldn't let me leave a post because I didn't have a Facebook account. I called my buddy Ken and asked him to leave a post expressing his disagreement with gay marriage, and he left the post. Then I went on to see his post, but they had removed it. The poll said they had something like 75% of the people in agreement that gay marriage should be legalized. I was upset, so I signed in using my wife's Facebook account and left a post saying I was upset that they removed my friend's post, and asked how their poll can be accurate if they remove peoples' posts. I submitted my comment, and they removed my comment, too! Public opinion is being manipulated by our liberal media and liberal political structure.

How is it that Satan is going to get the armies of the world to agree to fight against God himself? I think he will do it the same way that our nation is buying into this Sodom and Gomorrah mentality today. He will get everyone to believe they are in the right because they all agree. It's like 25 years ago our nation sought to wipe out hunger by joining hands across America. Thirty-five million dollars was raised, and over half of what was raised was paid out to the group for

promoting the event. World hunger and the homeless are still with us.. As if joining hands together will change anything! So Satan will convince the people of the world to join hands and fight against the Lord of Lords, and it will be their destruction.

According to Rev. 19:19:

Revelation 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

When Jesus comes down to this earth the Bible says:

***Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.***

Jesus is going to rule this planet with a rod of iron.

I had a fellow come the church last week asking about some of the founders of the Elkdale Baptist Church. He wanted to know if I had any of the records going back to the start-up of the church in the 1800's. I found records dating back to 1889, but could not find anything earlier. He said he had heard that the Elkdale Baptist Church originally had side entrance doors and everyone that came into the church had to enter from the front of the church. He said he heard they did it that way so that if anyone came in late it was meant to embarrass them, so they would have to pass by everyone. I told him that if were the case, it didn't last long because, last I checked, the door was moved to the back of the church.

Years ago there was more discipline in the churches, and attending church was taken seriously. In fact, in some of the earlier churches of our nation the pews were made in such a way that it was almost impossible to fall asleep in them, and if you did you would fall forward on your face.

Now when we think about this statement:

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron:

We realize that the Lord is going to rule and reign a thousand years on this planet.. and He will do so with a rod of iron. A wooden rod is flexible.. but an iron rod is inflexible. Unbendable. In other words, when you disobey our Lord, you will suffer for it. This is quite a different perspective than the one we often get of our Lord. Remember this: He came to this world as the Lamb of God who took away our sins. He will return as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah who will rule with a rod of Iron. When He first came, they were looking for a Savior who was a lion, and He came as a lamb. We now are looking for a Savior who is a lamb, and He will return as a lion!

Now in light of that we read this passage:

***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.***

***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.***

On Wednesday nights we have been learning about the feasts of Israel, and they were special feasts given to His people Israel for a special purpose.

All the nations of the world will be commanded of the Lord to keep a special feast in Jerusalem. Note the mandated feast was not Passover (the Feast of Unleavened Bread). It was, of all things, the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast of Tabernacles was a one-week feast that began the 15th day of the seventh month and lasted 7 days.

Now how is it that the Lord is going to require everyone in the Millennial Kingdom to observe this feast?

Why? How is it that the gentiles, who are not under the ceremonial law, will be required to keep this ceremonial feast?

Also, how is it that when any nation is not represented at this feast the Lord is going to severely punish that nation by withholding rain from them for a whole year?

Some significant questions we need to ask ourselves as we read this passage:

***I. WHY WOULD THE LORD COMMAND THE WHOLE WORLD TO KEEP THIS SPECIAL JEWISH FEAST?***

***II. WHY DOES THE LORD WITHHOLD RAIN WHEN REPRESENTATIVES DO NOT COME UP TO THE FEAST?***

***III. HOW COULD THIS APPLY TO US TODAY?***

A few years back I was reading through the Bible in my regular devotions, and that year we were preparing for our Bible School Tent Meeting. We had the meetings starting on the 15th of the month, and I read that the Feast of Tabernacles was to be observed on the 15th day of the 7th month. It just happened to be the 7th month and the 15th day of that month that we were

starting our Tent Meetings! That started me on a little study of this special feast and all the feasts. Then I noticed that in the Millennial Kingdom it is this special feast that the Lord is going to require all nations of the world to attend.

Why this feast?

I believe the Lord chose this feast above all others to be a world holiday when He establishes His kingdom for the following reasons:

**1. THE REASON THIS FEAST WAS SPECIAL WAS BECAUSE IT IS THE LAST GREAT FEAST OF THE JEWISH CALENDAR AND PROPHETICALLY SYMBOLIZES THE ENTERING INTO THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM ...**

All of earth's history and all prophecy will culminate in our Lord's Kingdom when He comes down to earth.

The Lord commanded the children of Israel to dwell in booths for this special feast. They were to leave the comfort of their homes and make booths..

In that day everyone will observe this special holiday—Jews and Gentiles alike.

We get this idea that the Lord is only Lord over certain people. Jesus is LORD of Lords and King of Kings.

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.

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**2. THE OTHER REASON THIS FEAST WILL BE UNIVERSALLY OBSERVED IS BECAUSE IT SPEAKS OF OUR FRAILTY AND HUMILITY...**

One of the books that is read in the synagogue during the beginning of this feast is the book of Ecclesiastes. The reason for this is that Ecclesiastes speaks about the vanity and brevity of life. This is the purpose of dwelling in booths. The conclusion of that book is:

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.

Everything is vanity apart from obeying God and His commandments!

Our bodies are frail. temporal tabernacles..

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 5:4 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.

Our bodies are frail and soon will be dissolved.

Just like the children of Israel would put up these temporary booths and tents for a week and then tear them down, so we, too, come into this world and dwell in these frail humble bodies for a short time, and then everything is torn down.

THIS TRUTH IS VALID FOR EVERY HUMAN BEING!

Is there any human being, Jew, Gentile, any color, or nationality that is not under the same plight? So this feast is not just a Jewish feast—the Lord is going to command the peoples of the world to observe it.

It matters not about nationality or color of your skin. We all are in the same dilemma.. We are all living our lives knowing one day this earthly tabernacle called our bodies will be dissolved.

Notice how divided we are today in our nation. What unites people is a common faith and belief system. The further we get from the Bible as the foundation of our belief system, the more divided we will be! An illustration of that are these protests under the guise of "Black Lives Matter". The truth is, when you say that, you are insinuating that there is a divide—and that maybe white lives don't matter, nor do red or yellow. How about them? Red or yellow or black or white; they are all precious in His sight.

**3. *Another prophetic picture that this feast symbolizes is that someday all the elements will dissolve and be burned.***

One of the things that the Lord told the children of Israel to use for these booths was branches, leaves etc.

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.

Now at the end of the 7 days, what do you think the people did with the branches?

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.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Notice the first heaven and the first earth someday will pass away.

And how will this happen?

II Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

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.

So someday, like the people of God took those branches from the Feast of Tabernacles and burned them up, so too, God is going to take all the elements of this world and everything will be burned up.

## ***II. WHY DOES THE LORD WITHHOLD RAIN FOR A WHOLE YEAR FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY BY COMING TO CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL FEAST?***

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 no rain?

### ***1. THIS IS THE PRESCRIBED PUNISHMENT GOD HAS PROMISED TO THE NATION THAT WILL NOT SERVE THE LORD.***

Deuteronomy 11:13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

Deuteronomy 11:14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

Deuteronomy 11:15 And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

Deuteronomy 11:16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

Deuteronomy 11:17 And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

Notice the cure for this curse was to assemble in Jerusalem and pray for deliverance.

II Chronicles 7:12 And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

II Chronicles 7:13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

II Chronicles 7:16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

So the people of the nations who did not come up to Jerusalem to the feast would have to wait till the next year to come up to ask forgiveness.

This certainly would get there attention.

So the reason there would be no rain was because this was the prescribed punishment for the nation that would not serve the Lord! It wouldn't take only one year of no rain for that nation to learn.

Why no rain?

## **2. THERE WOULD BE NO RAIN BECAUSE RAIN IS A SYMBOL OF SPIRITUAL BLESSING AS WELL AS PHYSICAL BLESSING**

Hosea 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Rain is a picture of blessings.

So God promises blessings to those who obey Him.

There are some blessings that can only come from God.

God sends blessings to those who obey his ordinances.

And one of his ordinances is to not forsake the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is.

Only God can send the rain.

Only God can send you the blessings.

There are some things that only God can give you.

The Word of God is likened to water that flows. Rain is essential to seeing crops grow.

Those who reject God's word ...those who disobey the Lord—they wind up losing out on the blessings so God with holds the rain. God will withhold the blessings.

### **III. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION FOR US TODAY?**

Our Lord is the same Lord. If we want to be blessed, and if we want to experience His blessing, then we need to obey Him and place ourselves in the place of blessing.

In that future kingdom, people are going to reason that it is not convenient for them to make that trip to Jerusalem just to go to those special meetings and that special feast called the Feast of Tabernacles. People could say in that day, "What's the difference if I go ... I'm too busy etc. "

There are all kinds of reasons and excuses people can give.

Has anything changed?  
Will anything change in that Kingdom Age?!

In the New Testament, in the Church age, Paul said:

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:  
Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Jesus said gathering together with His people is important.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

There are many people who have all kinds of reasons for not being faithful to church. I have heard it all. "Well, I just don't feel like I am getting anything out of it," some people say.

Have you ever stopped to consider that sometimes assembling yourself together is not for you to get something out of it, but to put something in it.

In the law, the Lord showed a pattern for us to follow. He warned that God's people were not to worship just any old way they wanted to.

Deuteronomy 12:13 Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest:

Deuteronomy 12:14 But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

Deuteronomy 16:16 Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

Deuteronomy 16:17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.

There are two aspects to your attending the services that were commanded of you: one is for you to be blessed, the other is for you to gather together to be blessing to others. One is to get; the other is to give. Both happen.

So next week we have a week of meetings scheduled. Some of you are planning to skip when you are quite able to come. How sad that is.

IF GOD WILL WITHHOLD THE RAIN FROM A WHOLE NATION IN THAT FUTURE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT HE WILL BLESS YOU FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL SLOTHFULNESS AND SPIRITUAL LAZINESS?

Imagine what it took in Bible times to make that pilgrimage to worship the Lord at the Feast. Imagine the commitment. From the farthest points of northern Galilee—such a journey would take 7 or 8 days. Imagine 7-8 days of travel, then 7-8 days to travel back, plus 8 days at the Feast. Usually the 8th day was considered a Sabbath, and travel was forbidden. So a total commitment of time for some pilgrims was  $8 \times 3 = 24$  days. For those Jews dispersed in Babylon, this would be a 1000-mile trek—and a dangerous one at that. It would take months to make this journey.

On an average, God's people in Bible times would have to budget several days of travel back and forth to obey God's command to make their pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Plus there was the expense of lodging and travel and taking off from work.

Now in light of that, how sad it is when God's people cannot be faithful to attend yearly revival meetings at their local church.

In the Millennial Kingdom, God will expect representatives from every nation in the world to come to Jerusalem and keep this holiday feast. I assume there will be air travel then because we read this:

Isaiah 11:14 But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west;

In Revelation 11:9 the Bible says that in the Great Tribulation period there will be two prophets who will be killed by the Antichrist, and the peoples of the world will see their dead bodies. I used to hear Carlton Lewis tell the story of how he used to hear preachers say this when he was a young boy and attended the one-room schoolhouse just around the corner. He'd wonder how it would be possible that all around the world people would see the bodies of these two prophets lying in the streets of Jerusalem for three days. But today you can go on the Internet and 24 hours a day you can see people praying in the streets of Jerusalem at the wailing wall.

So in that great day .. GOD WILL REQUIRE ALL THE PEOPLES OF ALL NATIONS TO ATTEND THIS ONE-WEEK MEETING.

Now if it was required in the days when Israel was a nation; if it was required when Israel was not a nation—and it will be required in that future Kingdom—maybe it should be required of you to set aside time to assemble with God's people.

You don't have to walk 8 days or 3 days, or even one day to get here. You can fly on the wings of your Philistine Chariot called Chevy, Ford, or whatever. You can come and spend time under a tent, kind of "rough it" for a week and listen to guest speakers share challenges from the Bible.

Come and hear God's music sung.

Come and place a gift (a burnt offering) in the offering plate to be given to God's servants.

Come and pray.

Come and search your soul and see if there be any wicked way in your heart.

Come and pray the prayer of Psalmist.

***Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:***

***Psalms 139:24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.***

Come and see by taking the time—setting a week aside to place yourself under the preaching of God's Word. Come and see if God would not pour out a blessing for you.

Our nation is suffering from a spiritual draught these days. God is withholding His blessing from us. We need God to pour out a blessing for us. I believe if that blessing comes, it will come by the same means it has always come.

***II Chronicles 7:13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;***

***II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.***

***II Chronicles 7:15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.***

***II Chronicles 7:16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.***

Now where is the temple of God today? Are you not the temple of God? Jesus said when God's people meet together to worship Him, there He will be in a special way. So I think God is still pleased when we meet together as the temple of God. Let me encourage you to assemble yourselves together.

How do we do this? We should do it with the same biblical pattern that the people of God had done it for thousands of years.

God's people set aside one day every week to worship

God's people set aside times in the year to assemble together in a week-long celebration.

If you obey this pattern I believe God will pour out to you a blessing.  
I believe we can claim that as a promise.

If you disobey this pattern, mark it down—God will send leanness to your soul.  
Mark it down—God promised this also.

Will you obey this pattern in your life?

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:  
Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.