

God's Timetable – Getting There From Here

Feast of Tabernacles

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Well, I'd like to extend my greetings to everyone wherever you may be as well as those here.

I'm going to start out in the introduction with a story. And this is based on a true story.

It seems this lady is a typical city-dweller, works in the city, waiting on a carpool. And the carpool person happens to be her brother who picks her up on the way to work. And she's waiting on her brother and they have this all figured out, trying to keep ahead of the bumper to bumper moving traffic parking lot the gridlock usually is in a big city.

So, she's standing out there and he's late. And they have this all figured out, the timing and everything where they can beat the gridlock. As she's standing out there, she has a light jacket on. So, she said, "I've got time. I'm going to go back in and change to something a little heavier. It's kind of cool out this morning." So she goes back inside. And she has one of these knee length, light leather, very comfortable coats. So, she puts that on.

Here comes her brother. He apologizes because he had to run an errand on the way and it made him a little bit late. So, they take off and they have this little route all planned out where they can skirt the freeway, get ahead of everything. And they take off down that side street. Lo and behold, they get down there a little ways and there's a garbage truck blocking the street.

So, then they have to divert off to another street. And, as they do that, they come upon this multi-story apartment building and there's a fire. Smoke is pouring out of the building; no fire department there yet. People are stopping in the street. So, they naturally had to stop too. And, as they get up close to the building, there's a lady there with a baby standing on a balcony two or three stories up.

"My baby! My baby! Someone save my baby!"

And the brother says, "Quick! Take your coat off. We'll hold it like a safety net."

So, they talk her into dropping the baby. The baby lands in the coat like a feather, perfectly safe. And after a while, the fire department shows up and they rescue

the mom. She comes down looking for her baby. And they have her baby. It's all cuddled to the lady and perfectly safe.

She's taken aback by all of these events. She says, "This is just too much to be all coincidence." She's attributing it to God. She has some faith. She says, "Well, God did this."

And who's to say? We don't know.

But another thing that struck her was that she realized that they had their route all planned out. They had this timing and all of that. And then she realized; she says, "God's timing is different than ours."

And I thought what a wonderful story that was as a good lead in because I've titled mine:

God's Timetable — Getting There From Here

And that's kind of where we're at today. As God's people, and traditionally in the Churches of God, we've gotten all hung up on when God is going to do something.

- When are the end-time events going to occur?
- When are we going to flee?
- When are we going to go to a place of safety?
- When is Jerusalem going to be surrounded by armies?
- When does the beast power arise?
- When are our favorite prophecy scenarios going to play out?

We want to know all of that. And in doing that, it's natural to do that, but, again—and I appreciate Jason's sermon ahead of me—but if we do that, we're losing focus on the "what" we should be doing; what God wants us to do; what He has in mind on His timetable for us. And we're here remembering that, going over some of the things on that.

You'll forgive me if I use some of the same scriptures because all I'm doing up here is I'm contributing to the things that have already been said. So, as I turn to familiar scriptures, bear with me if you would.

I'd like to turn over to Revelation 20; Revelation 20 and verse 6. I'll be using the New King James throughout. In Revelation 20:6, I can't help but be moved by the depth and the beauty of this verse, because Revelation 20:6 from the New King James says:

Revelation 20:6. *Blessed and holy is he [or they] who [have] part in the first resurrection.... (NKJV)*

And then it says a couple of things why we're blessed.

6b) ... *Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.* (NKJV)

That word “priest” is—I don’t know if you’ve ever looked that up, but again we can look in multiple dictionaries. I like Thayer’s because in Thayer’s it just simply says a priest is *one devoted to God*. Now if you do a little bit of maneuvering there, you can say that as Christ’s bride, we’ll be priests or ministers devoted to Jesus Christ, our husband, in the future.

But there are two reasons there why we’re blessed, as I mentioned to have part in the First resurrection. The first one is *“the second death has no power.”* And the second one is that *“we shall be priests of God and reign with Him a thousand years.”*

And many scriptures that we’ve covered during this Feast, but think about what the Feast of Tabernacles pictures. Many people in the past have thought about the Millennium as—and we were taught this... When we were newbies, when we were babes, naïve, they taught us that we’d be sitting under our vines; we’d be sitting in our field, looking at, gazing out over our field. We have all these scenarios that we’d go through at the Feast of Tabernacles.

We used to think ... and we’d get kind of worried because of all these scenarios. We’d think, “Well, time’s running out. Our kids will never grow up,” all of that kind of stuff. At one time somebody took a picture of me and my son at one of the church activities and sent it out to the Worldwide News. Some people here probably don’t even know what that is, but that was the old church newspaper we used to have. Anyhow, he was sitting on my shoulder. He had a cowboy hat on, really cute. It just showed the back of my head so that helped.

But we had the idea then that our kids will never grow up. We just don’t have that much time. And that urgency was ... it had its purposes. We won’t even go there, but anyhow that little boy and he was about two then, he’s thirty-seven now and he could probably carry me on his shoulders.

We used to have these naïve ideas of what we’d be doing in the Millennium. We had an individual in a local congregation that was very interested in electronics. And he asked me one time, “Jack, am I going to be able to do that in the Millennium?” And I said, “Well, I don’t really think so. I think God has other things in mind for us.” And those of us that were crafts people, carpenters, electricians and all that, we thought we might be doing that in the Millennium. You know building stuff, doing things like that, but that’s not the total meaning of the millennium for us. It just isn’t.

We blessed some little babies here, some little children and we have other small children here. Now, they may be in the Millennium. They may be driving the bulldozers, working on the rebuilding projects and all that. They may have the physical leadership positions and all that. And they may be sitting under their fig tree gazing out over their vineyards, but that’s not the picture for us.

Those who have been baptized and have God's holy spirit, that's not the fulfillment of the Millennium for us. It just isn't.

We can also imagine some of the most beautiful exotic Feast sites that we've ever been to—beautiful beaches. We have beautiful mountains here. I remember one time we went over to visit some brethren in Vail, Colorado and the aspens were changing then. We rode a gondola up and it was just gorgeous—all those yellows and golds. And the mountains were just covered with it.

But we're going to have better than that. We're really going to have better. These things are really great while we're physical. At this point in the thousand year Millennium, we're not going to be doing that. We're going to have better things than that. In fact, we're not even going to be... when you talk about time, we're going to be living, existing outside of that concept of time. God created time for us as physical human beings. It's not going to mean anything to us at that point. So, our future is far greater than these physical things—hanging out on beaches, going to the mountains and all that. Not that we might not be able to still enjoy those things. I'm sure that we will.

Some of the kids, some of the little babies, they may grow up. They may be baptized. They may have God's holy spirit and they may be in the Millennium.

Again, we don't know what that timetable is. We might think we know, but we really don't know what that is. Things happen so fast. Our kids grow up so fast. Some of these kids will—even the little children—might grow up and be married, have families of their own. Believe me it happens really, really fast.

But those were some of the old pictures that were painted for us back then. And we had our own naïve ideas. But going back to that idea that the Second Death will have no power over us, I'd like to turn over to 1 Corinthians 15. That should be well worn by now during the Feast, 1 Corinthians 15. And I think 1 Corinthians chapter 15 is one of the most profound chapters in all the Bible. 1 Corinthians 15, I'd like to begin in verse 50.

1 Corinthians 15:50. *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. (NKJV)*

It's totally incompatible. Verse 51:

51) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. (NKJV)

Verse 54 is the point.

54) So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (NKJV)

And how is death swallowed up in victory? That's found over in Revelation 21 verses 7 and 8:

Revelation 21:7. *He that overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. (NKJV)*

That's how death is swallowed up in victory. We find other scriptures that are going to tell us that it's going to be the end of death. And it certainly will be for us when we're changed.

The very next verse talks about a whole bunch of people that won't be there, won't be. They'll be, actually, in the lake of fire. As baptized members, our future is we're either going to be changed or we're going to be destroyed in the lake of fire. It's going to be a quick, merciful death that's going to be permanent. That's what's going to happen. At that point, we're either going to be in God's family or mercifully exterminated. That's just a fact. But the point is: There's going to be no more death. That's what's going to happen.

And remember, too, you are in the First resurrection not because of your righteousness, not at all, but because God has a purpose for you. We just read that in Revelation 20:6. But in Revelation 21 to finish that verse right after that one that said that death is actually going to be destroyed, Revelation 21:8.

Revelation 21:8. *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (NKJV)*

I don't know if you've ever thought about it, but if you look at all those categories there, that pretty much describes the state of the world. And we don't want any part in that, of course.

Right now we're in a baptized state, if I can put it that way. We're waiting on that change. We're waiting to be made incorruptible, waiting to be made immortal, but right now we're in that process. I know Herbert Armstrong used to say that we were in a begotten state, embryonic state; I believe was the term he used to use. But something special has happened for us in this process. Our life has been changed. We recently had a couple of baptisms and one pending in the local area. Those folks' lives have been changed. Whenever they came up out of that water, their lives were changed.

I'd like to turn over to Romans 6 because Paul talks about that process. I'd like to notice what he says. Romans 6 verses 3 and 4.

Romans 6:3. *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*

4) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (NKJV)

And that's the process we're in. We're in that walk, but we know that process is not yet complete. There's more for you and for me to do.

In the baptism ceremony, we have to state emphatically that you're not baptized into a man or an organization. We have to say that. Personally, I'll be kind of glad when we don't have to say that when it's going to be a "given" that we're baptized into Jesus Christ. But far too many still think that we're, unfortunately, we're still baptized into a man or an organization. And no matter how seemingly sincere people are when they say that or promote that concept, it's idolatry. Plain and simple, it's idolatry.

I'd like to notice Romans 8 because this is where the credit goes. It always goes to the same place. Romans 8:11. The glory goes to the Father. And this is the same spirit we have. Romans 8 beginning in verse 11:

Romans 8:11. *But if the Spirit of Him [God the Father] who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, ... (NKJV)*

And it does once we are baptized, once we repent and are baptized, have hands laid on us.

11b) ... He [God the Father] who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit [which or that] dwells in you. (NKJV)

So, the key to eternal life is very simple. It's having God's spirit in us. You go through the baptism ceremony and you have your sin forgiven by Jesus Christ, the laying on of hands and God's imparts His spirit. You have that spirit in you and you must hold on to it. We must hold on to that. We have to retain that. We can't grieve it. We can't quench it. We have to stir it up.

I remember the story a minister told one time about a lady that came to him in his congregation. She said, "I think I need to be re-baptized." Of course, he listened to her story like a good guy should. And he asked her, "Do you have God's holy spirit?" And then he talked about her baptism. "Wasn't there a commitment there, when you were baptized?" She said, "Yes, but I've made a lot of mistakes."

Then he asked if the minister laid hands on her. And she said, "Yes." And the big question again was "Is God's spirit in you? Do you have God's spirit? If you don't have

God's spirit, then let's go ahead and re-baptize you, consider laying hands on you and doing that all over again. But if you do have God's spirit, let's don't make a mockery of your baptism. Let's not do that. Let's not go through that again." And he asked her again, "Do you have God's spirit?"

So, finally she says—and I think this was his point all along—she says, "Here's the things I've been doing. I've been lazy. I've been slumbering. I've been sleeping. I've been drifting away from God." And he repeated, "Do you have God's spirit?" And she said, "Well, I think I do." And He reminded her, because she thought maybe she was alone in this, and he reminded her of the parable of the ten virgins. They all slept. Everyone goes to sleep. Everyone is affected by this at some point.

And there are probably a lot of people sitting here right now that they wonder... We wonder. We've all been in a case like that. We've been lazy. We've been slumbering and we kind of wonder if we have God's spirit. And we're the problem, which I'll touch on in a little bit.

But again, if Satan can convince you that you don't have God's spirit, then you just give up and quit trying. You just do. You quit trying to live God's way.

Sometimes we forget and I've heard people express these same kinds of feelings, but one thing we want to never ever forget, Satan never takes a day off. Never! So, we have to be aware of that all the time. And he'll do anything he can to discourage us. And if he can get us to thinking God's not with us anymore, we don't have God's spirit anymore, we're one foot in the grave we could say (we'll use a cliché).

Then she went on to say, "Yes, my baptism was valid. I do have the spirit of God. I've just been asleep. I've been lazy." So what he finally helped her to realize was she needed that wake-up call. So, that's what he did. She repented. She recommitted her life to God and it turned out okay for her as far as I know. I never heard any different than that.

But again, if you have God's holy spirit, you will be changed. And you must not lose that spirit.

I think sometimes we get a wrong idea that God's spirit is somehow on a dimmer switch. Well, that's not true. God's spirit is solid. It's stable. It's strong—everything that God is. Jason mentioned one of the Psalms of David was that God is my rock. He's my high tower. He's my fortress. He's my mountain." He's all those things. But God's spirit doesn't, it doesn't ebb and wane. It's us! We're the problem. We're the ones that do that. And if you move away from a light, it will get dimmer. So that's a problem and the same problem the lady had. She was moving away from God and the holy spirit was seeming like it was dim to her.

But continuing in Romans 8 verse 12, Paul goes on to say in Romans 8:12:

Romans 8:12. *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*

13) if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body [live a life of overcoming], you will live. (NKJV)

And what we're picturing here, we want to live forever. We want to live over into the Millennium and live forever. Verse 14:

14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15) For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, (NKJV)

Verse 15; but let's drop down to 16.

16) The Spirit [itself] bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (NKJV)

And if we're close to God, we know we have God's spirit. We know when we're using it. And if we're honest with ourselves, we know when we're drifting away from using that spirit, from employing that in our lives. Verse 17:

17) and if children, ... (NKJV)

And we have this wonderful promise from God.

17) and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, ... (NKJV)

I thought James brought that out very well.

17b) ... that we may also be glorified together. (NKJV)

And again, that glory goes to the Father.

So, how tremendous is that to realize that we're an heir of God? We're a joint-heir with Christ. How tremendous is that! We have to ask ourselves, "What does that mean to you and what does that mean to me?" It means that if we have part in the First resurrection, we are blessed and death has no more power over us. And that's just a fact. The second part of that in Revelation 20:6 was that you're going to be a priest of God (a minister really) and Christ for a thousand years.

We have to ask ourselves the question once in a while. Do we know why we're going to be a spirit-being in the very family of God? Do we know what that means? Do we realize what that means? It means we're going to have the capacity to serve like we've never been able to serve before.

And it doesn't matter what we do these days. I remember one time—I think it was Mr. Gaetzman that pointed out that physically we're limited. I think he gave the example that he stepped out of bed and that if the wall wouldn't have been there, he would have gone right back down on the floor! We all get there. We stand up anymore and we hear about a thousand arthritic clicks as everything straightens out and comes into align.

But we're going to have a much greater capacity to do everything. Sometimes I think we kind of lose sight of that. And we don't want to do that. That's what we're here picturing.

We have the parable of the pounds where it says if you are faithful in a few things, God will give you authority over x-amount of cities. You name it. And He may take that literally, but you may be over states. You may be over countries. We don't know. But the point is there are going to be opportunities galore.

We're just going to have them and that's what we're being prepared for right now in our lives. We're being prepared to be ministers of Jesus Christ. Not a priest or a minister of any corporation or organization, but a priest of God and of Christ for a thousand years. And He has lots for us to do.

When I retired I had this really dumb idea—being a golfer. I thought “Well, I'm going to take a map and I'm going to start drawing circles to each golf course. And as I go along in my retirement, I'm just going to keep going out in bigger and bigger circles and over all the golf courses.” That really never panned out.

But what are some of the things that we might be doing as priests? Well, how about a part in restoration? Isaiah 61, this is a reference scripture, you don't need to turn there if you don't want to. You should know it by heart. Isaiah 61:4.

Isaiah 61:4. *And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. (NKJV)*

We just kept the Feast of Trumpets, the Feast of Atonement and we know from that that mankind is going to be wiped out. There are going to be desolated and waste cities to be rebuilt. And we don't know how God's going to do that. God is obviously going to have to clean up the environment. I think He's going to have to do that by however He does those things. Clean up the water. Clean up the soil, the air, everything—especially if there's a nuclear war and all that going on.

Again, I have no clue what kind of a capacity we'll have to help in that, but we won't be driving, again, we won't be doing the rebuilding. But people are going to be doing that rebuilding. And they're going to do it God's way. And that's where we come in as priests and ministers. That's what our main function is going to be. We'll guide and help that restoration process by that, mostly as priests and ministers. It has to be done God's way.

Again another reference scripture is over in Isaiah 30 verses 20 and 21. I can read this. You don't need to go there, but it's about the teachers where it says in verse 20 of Isaiah 30:

Isaiah 30:20. *And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, ... (NKJV)*

The world is going to see plenty of that if we want to put that in this context here.

20b) ... yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers.

21) Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk [you] in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left. (NKJV)

So, as teachers, we're going to say, "We don't do drugs. We don't get drunk. We don't get into sexual perversion. We don't do any of that. God's not for those behaviors." And we don't do those things now. We're going to be teaching people not to do that in the Millennium.

People are going to be broken in the Millennium. They're going to see the history of mankind in shambles—the ones that are left and are able to see it. They're going to see Satan bound. They're going to see the beast power destroyed. As physically as human beings, we think the world is all powerful, but they're going to come to realize that Christ is all powerful. He's going to prove it. He's going to show that to them.

And people are going to come to us. They're going to say, "You're part of the family. We know that you learned what you know from Christ. And we want to learn from you. We want to learn God's laws, learn God's ways." So, we're going to be doing that. That's just an example of part of that. But we can look at a few of the things that we're going to restore as far as teaching and teach in the world tomorrow and what these individuals are going to have to know.

Langley, Virginia—if I can use this example—is the home of our Central Intelligence, CIA. When you walk into the lobby, you'll see that 16-foot diameter seal of the Agency embedded in the marble floor. You might have seen that in movies. On one wall it has the names engraved of the agents that have lost their lives in the line of duty. And on the other wall, it has engraved John 8:32 there as a partial verse: "*And the truth shall make you free.*" You know those are Christ's words. They're not John's. And you have to think about that a minute. Here's an organization that operates entirely covertly.

It's a very important thing! We're going to restore truth—something that is so lacking on the earth. Winston Churchill, I love that saying that he has said. "Men occasionally stumble across the truth, but they pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened." That's pretty much the case. And if that were true in his day, what about now? It's far, far worse. Again, somebody mentioned the other day—and I don't want

to go political with this, but do we trust our government? Is our government being truthful with us?

Let's go over to Isaiah 59. Chapter 59 in part talks about the collective national sins of Israel. And we could parallel that with us today because in Isaiah 59 beginning in verse 12:

Isaiah 59:12. *For our transgressions are multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us; ... (NKJV)*

The fruits are there everywhere—everywhere!

12b) ... for our transgressions are with us, and as for our iniquities, we know them: (NKJV)

And we do. Verse 13:

13) In transgressing and lying ... (NKJV)

And “denying” we can put in there.

13b) ... against the LORD, and departing from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

14) Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth has fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. (NKJV)

There is just no room for it, politically and in every other way. Verse 15:

15) So truth fails, ... (NKJV)

We can say it's non-existent for the most part in our society and in our culture today.

15b) ... and he who departs from evil makes himself ... prey. (NKJV)

Persecution, that's us. We want to keep the Sabbath. That's a truth of God's law. We want to do that. And how many have done battle after battle because of keeping the Sabbath, even attending the Feast.

15 continued) ... Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. (NKJV)

When I see that expression “displeased God,” I think of the Tower of Babel. I think of Sodom and Gomorrah. And, again, that fits in the context here of our society today.

Over in Jeremiah 9:3, again as a reference:

Jeremiah 9:3. *“And like their bow they have bent their tongues for lies;... (NKJV)*

They bent their tongues like a bow for lies. Lies flying everywhere!

3b) they are not valiant for the truth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know Me,” says the LORD. (NKJV)

In fact, we reject God in every possible way we can, in every institution that we have just about now. In fact, they make laws about that, but that’s all going to be changed in the Millennium.

I’d like to turn over to Zechariah 8. I like Zechariah. I think we all should because it’s a very futuristic book. It talks about Jerusalem as a holy city for the future. In Zechariah 8:3:

Zechariah 8:3. *“Thus says the LORD: ‘I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, ... (NKJV)*

One translation says it is to be called “the faithful city of truth.”

3b) ... The Mountain of the LORD of Hosts, the Holy Mountain.’ (NKJV)

That’s going to be the real government of God on the earth. Not what we might have been taught in the past.

But what’s another thing that we’re going to help restore? This has been brought out too. There are some important main things, some basic things that are going to have to be restored and then everything else built on that. How about peace?

There might be enough older people in here to remember the term “Operation Overlord.” That was the invasion of Normandy, a fifty-mile stretch of beach there. There were five beaches. There was Utah Beach, Omaha Beach, Gold, Juno and Sword Beach. Gold, Juno and Sword were the landing beaches, the landing zones for the British and the Canadians. The Americans had Utah and Omaha Beach. And if you saw the movie “Saving Private Ryan,” you might get a little bit of a picture of what went on there. Omaha was the worst and I think that was the one that was depicted in a couple of movies. I think of “Saving Private Ryan,” “The Longest Day.” It’s a little bit of a taste for that.

Actually Utah ... I’ve read a couple of books recently. I like some history and at Utah Beach they were a little bit luckier because they actually missed their landing zone by a ways. In fact, that was where the son of Teddy Roosevelt, I believe, said, “Well, we’re going to have to start the war from here” when somebody told him they missed their landing zone.

But at Omaha that didn't happen. When the ramps came down, in ten minutes almost all the officers and the NCOs were either dead or wounded or missing. That just happened there. Five thousand young men lost their lives on those beaches in a short time that day. At one point it was estimated that the casualty rate was 41%. That's pretty much unacceptable. What happened when they lost all their leadership? It became a struggle for survival and rescue. That's what they were waiting on. The total number of people killed in that invasion, including on the German side, were 550,000 plus. If you add a few thousand to that, you could have ten times the number of servicemen that were killed in Viet Nam—58,000. The American Civil War: I read a story about the siege of Vicksburg of our own Civil War. In our Civil War 620,000 men young men died, but on and on it goes. It just keeps going.

When is this going to end? When is this nature in man going to be unlearned? Let's go over to Isaiah 9. This is another one of my favorite scriptures, a futuristic glimpse of the solution to all that where it says—this is quoted every Christmas in local papers, but it's totally out of context for that. But it says in Isaiah 9:6:

Isaiah 9:6. *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government [of the entire earth is going to] be upon His shoulder.... (NKJV)*

The entire earth and we're going to help administer that government. Then it goes on to give some of the titles. One of the last ones of that list of titles there is "*Prince of Peace.*" And it says:

7) Of the increase of His government ... (NKJV)

Again we'll help administer.

7b) ... there will be no end, ... (NKJV)

And "*Of the peace,*" He's just going to keep going on and on and on.

As a reference scripture, over in Hebrews 7 verses 1 and 2 talking about the Christ of the Old Testament. Verse 2 says, referring to Melchizedek:

Hebrews 7:2. *to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also [adding to the names and titles of Jesus Christ] king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," (NKJV)*

It's going to be so abundant in the earth. We're finally going to have that. And we have to in the context of all this, we have to ask ourselves, "Are we learning to practice God's way of life now? Are we preparing for that?"

There are some categories we don't want to be in. We saw a little bit of that the other day, Hebrews 5. It talks about where we need strong meat, but we're not mature enough in some cases for that and that's what Paul is talking about there. I believe

Paul wrote that. I'll let the scholars argue about the difference. I don't care. I believe it was Paul.

So, we have to ask ourselves, "Are we being a good teacher now?" We're not talking about the coming Millennium, not what this time pictures, but how are we doing now? Do we know the difference between milk and strong meat which it mentions in those scriptures? "*You have need of milk and not solid food.*" In other words: strong meat. Do we know the difference in that?

Some people have some of the craziest ideas what strong meat is. It's just unfortunate we do that. They get very zealous for what they think strong meat is: "The government of God on the earth, that's strong meat." No it's not. We had a steady diet of that. People have been very sincere about that and we thought that was their job at one point. Some people will say, "Well, prophecy interpretation. Oooh, that's really strong meat. That's what we need." Sometimes we hear in a sermon, we'll hear a certain scripture mentioned in Revelation and, "Oh, that's how it's going to work out. And wow, that's really strong meat!" I heard a minister say one time he thought he could invent a fairy tale, add some scripture to it and people would swoon over it. And we've seen some of that happen unfortunately.

But do you know what strong meat is? Love. Boy, some people will say, "Huh? That can't be strong meat." But it's the strongest meat there is and I don't care what anybody says about anything else. It's the strongest meat there is.

We're all draftees. I think most of us. Well, there are some second generation, third, fourth, fifth here, but you were just called through your parents. That's the only difference. But we did that through an educational process. There's going to be an educational process in the world tomorrow. There's going to be a curriculum. The knowledge of God is going to cover the earth. What's going to be the foundation of that curriculum? Love, I-o-v-e.

We were talking the other day with some friends. They had a little eight-year-old boy. I won't give you his name because he'd probably beat me up after services. Anyway, we're sitting there talking. The adults are talking at one end of the couch. I'm on the other end of the couch talking to the little boy. And the little boy starts talking to me. He starts explaining baptism to me.

But I thought about that afterwards and I thought, "Here it is. That's the way the world tomorrow is going to be." If people are properly educated, they're going to understand God's laws. They're going to understand all these things—baptism and all those things. That's the way it's going to be. That's just a tiny little microcosm of what that's going to be like.

And again, love is the greatest gift there is and it's one thing that we just don't do very good at, unfortunately. I read something one time that said, "People won't remember so

much what you say or what you do, but they will remember how you make them feel,” and, whether we like that or not, that seems to be the reality.

There are people out there looking for church homes. It’s important to do the right thing, to say the right thing, but it’s even more important how we make people feel. In the past, we dealt with our kids. We tried to con our teenagers, I think, into believing that this was their church, but in some cases I don’t think we did a very good job at that.

I’d like to be turning over to Matthew 28.

Our motivation should be because we’re going to be priests and we’re going to be ministers in the future. That ought to be our motivation for just about everything we do. And especially when it comes to just doing things and to getting off dead center, because Christ talked about that. Over in Matthew 25 and here’s a scripture that some people really don’t like. Matthew 25 verse 13 where it says:

Matthew 25:13. *“Watch therefore, You [don’t know when Christ is going to return. You don’t know] the day or the hour ... (NKJV)*

Ouch! Some people say, “Well, I’d like to know. I want to know when. It doesn’t matter if I get unfocused on the “what” I should be doing.” But Christ goes on to explain that in a parable where He talks about a man going to a far country, just to paraphrase that a little bit. And, of course, that’s talking about Jesus Christ. He called His servants and He gave them talents.

If we do a little bit of change on that parable, that whole parable—and I’d encourage you when you read Matthew 25 that you read 24. I have tons of notes in 24 that have been brought out during different sermons for one purpose or another, but that whole thing is contextual, chapter 24 and 25.

But that talent, we know, just means a weight. It’s a value. And that’s what God has given us—something extremely valuable—His holy spirit because that’s the only way we’re going to be changed coming into the Millennium. So, if you take that parable and you take “talent” and you substitute “opportunity,” verse 15 would read:

Matthew 25:15. *And to one he gave five [opportunities], to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; ... (NKJV)*

Because Christ knows we’re not all the same. We have different abilities, but going on in verse 16 where he called them to give account of what they did with those opportunities. It doesn’t change the meaning or the intent of what Christ was getting at. So, we need to use those opportunities that God gives us in practicing and preparing for the job as ministers that He has for us.

And we don’t want to be in the category of some of these folks where in verse 45:

Matthew 25:45. *Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'* (NKJV)

Didn't use any opportunities that were given to us and we have tons of them.

And, again, everyone doesn't operate the same. Everyone doesn't have the same opportunities. Where in life don't we have the opportunity to apply the qualities of God's holy spirit? In how we treat people? Again, we mentioned people remember that, how we treat them, how we make them feel. So, where don't we have an opportunity to do that? But we don't want to be in the category of verse 46 where it says:

46) And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous [those who use what they're given] into eternal life." (NKJV)

And, as mentioned previously, that's our goal. That should be our focus.

Not knowing the day or the hour when Christ is coming and it doesn't matter what anyone says, physically apart from God, there is nothing we can do to prepare for the "when" of when things happen. There just isn't.

Our whole lives should be about preparing for the "whats" we're going to be doing. That's what we should be concentrating on, applying God's holy spirit, using those opportunities that we have, those things that come our way, those opportunities that come our way to practice God's way of life to be an example or whatever it is because it's in God's purpose to bring what this Feast pictures into reality. That's His whole purpose and we have a part in that ultimate fulfillment.

I'd like to paraphrase where I began in Revelation 20 verse 6.

Revelation 20:6. *Blessed are you who will be in the First resurrection because the Second Death will not hurt you and you will be a priest of God for a thousand years. Blessed and holy are they who have part in the First resurrection.* (Paraphrased)