

What Will the Millennium Be Like?

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We are here on the first day of Feast of Tabernacles, 2020 and as was said, who would have thought we would still be here, but we are. If you look at the time frame of what we are celebrating today—where this day fits into the time frame of God’s Holy days and God’s plan of salvation—the Father and the Son have already come down to the earth. They have literally crushed human rule. The problem is, the earth is a total wreck right now. The air, land and water are polluted beyond measure and a fraction of humanity is left alive. When you think about the mindset of those who are left alive, they are battered, they are shocked, they are scared beyond comprehension; and they don’t know what on earth is going on. That is the time frame—the setting—of when this day starts.

So, we have to ask, “Why are we here? What is the purpose?”. We are celebrating this day, which pictures the beginning of our Father’s new relationship with mankind. Everything from this point forward is about to change. I thought it might be instructive to look into scripture and see what the Father’s plan is, going forward from this day. What is He going to do? What are the major events that will happen? So, let’s examine those today. The title of the sermon is:

What Will the Millennium Be Like

We will have seven points. The first point is:

1. The Father and His Son will dwell with mankind.

Go to Zechariah 8:3. Zechariah was written about 2500 years ago.

Zechariah 8:3 *This is what the Lord says: I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the Lord Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain.*” (NIV)

That is a time right upon us. Same book in chapter 14:1.

Zechariah 14:1 *Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, [and we obviously, once again, looked forward to that on Trumpets this year.] and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.*

2) *For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

3) *Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.*

4) *And his [Yehovah's] feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. (KJV)*

The valley running east and west.

5) *And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: (KJV)*

Uzziah reigned from 784 - 742 B.C. so we are told this is similar but much greater. According to the Biblical Archaeology Review, there is evidence they say—they wrote not long ago—that Zechariah 14:5 is absolutely true because in 1984, there were two Israeli geologists who investigated that area and they found a large landslide on the Mount of Olives. This is an area of the King's Gardens at the juncture of the Hinnom and Kidron Valley's and these two men validated Josephus's account of an earthquake caused landslide during King Uzziah's reign. This is where God Almighty's feet will touch the earth and people will flee in those days as they did in the time of Uzziah.

5 continued) *... and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. (KJV)*

Keep that in mind. Now go to Isaiah 24:21, out of the NIV.

Isaiah 24:21 *In that day the Lord will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below. (NIV)*

Of course, this refers back to Trumpets.

22) *They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days. (NIV)*

We know Satan is bound during this time, God has come to rule with His Son, crushing human rule.

23) *The moon will be dismayed, the sun ashamed for the Lord Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders—with great glory. (NIV)*

This is the time we are looking forward to right here and right now and what a time that will be.

In the last book of the Bible, Revelation 11:15 the seventh angel sounds.

Revelation 11:15 *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord [referring to the Father], and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. (KJV)*

This is the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. This is the time when the rule of the Father begins and oh the changes that are going to be made.

16) *And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,*

17) *Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, [there is no question who this is] which art [You exist now], and wast [You have always existed], and art to come [You will always exist in the future—this is the meaning of the name Yehovah]; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. (KJV)*

And have said to mankind, “Enough is enough! We are going to wipe the slate clean and we are going to start afresh.”. Christ will rule with humanity—with His Father. Psalm 110:1 is a very familiar scripture—we quote it often. It is a Psalm of David and David is the one speaking. This out of the NIV. Christ is going to rule humanity underneath His Father’s authority.

Psalm 110:1 *The Lord says to my lord: [to David’s lord] Sit at my right hand [the Father’s right hand] until I make your enemies [Christ’s enemies] a footstool for your feet.”*

2) *The Lord will extend your mighty scepter [Christ’s mighty scepter] from Zion, saying, [You Christ will] “Rule in the midst of your enemies!” (KJV)*

Those who oppose Him, those who ridicule Him, Christ will rule and they will be as a footstool to Him. Think about this, what a time this will be. The Father and the Son come to dwell on this earth to be with the Father’s children. To actually be here. When this starts—this process—a changing this world and changing every facet of this world, His children are going to get to know His Father and His Son in truth. Not as we have today. That’s the first point; they are going to come to earth to rule.

The second point is: Big changes are coming.

2. The Father and His Son will rebuild this earth.

Think of the destruction and the pollution resulting of the battle of the Great Day of God Almighty—Revelation 16—we won’t turn there. The earth will need to be made habitable for human beings. It is a wreck; it is a mess. With that in mind go to Isaiah 51:3. Notice what is going to happen. God is not going to snap a finger and make it happen all at once. It is a process that will happen and we will see how this plays out in reality.

Isaiah 51:3 *For the LORD shall comfort Zion [as a father comforts a child]: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden [the Garden of Eden], and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein [not what we have today], thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. (KJV)*

People singing because of joy and happiness. The earth will then gradually become like the Garden of Eden; what it should have been all along. But because of Satan and human nature, everything man puts his hand to do seems to foul the air and the water and look what we have today. Now, in the same book, but a different chapter, go to Isaiah 61:1. This is telling us what is going to happen, which is what we are looking forward to right now as we begin to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Isaiah 61:1 *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, [as was pointed out, there are many brokenhearted today, in and out of the church] to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; (KJV)*

We know the whole world is in prison to Satan. They are bound by Satan and under his influence.

2) *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; (KJV)*

Their government will be one that comforts those who are in pain, who suffer, who are worried, who are in fear.

3) *To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion [notice the change from what we have today to what is coming], to give unto them beauty for ashes [the earth is ashes, our Father will make it beautiful], the oil of joy for mourning [mourning turned to joy], the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness [there is a spirit of heaviness in the world today and that's going to be replaced by a garment of praise]; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. (KJV)*

God will plant righteousness in the hearts of people, to the ultimate end that He will be glorified.

4) *And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, [notice this] the desolations of many generations. (KJV)*

So not only the desolations caused by the Day of the Lord, but the desolations that man's pollution has caused over the past centuries of the Industrial Revolution which has polluted this earth from the bottom of the sea to the upper most parts of the

atmosphere all around the globe. The desolation of many generations will be repaired, starting at this time. Now go to Isaiah 65:17, where it says the Father and the Son are going to rebuild this earth. They are undoubtedly going to use resurrected human beings as help, but as we say, They will do the heavy lifting.

Isaiah 65:17 *For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered ... (KJV)*

This polluted, befouled earth is not going to be remembered.

17 continued) ... *nor come into mind.*

18) *But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. (KJV)*

All because of what They are going to do to this earth and Their government of love and righteousness compared to the governments we have today.

Romans 8:20 *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; (NKJV)*

Verse 21 out of the NLT.

21) *the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. (NLT)*

What a time to look forward to. I don't know about you, but I've always enjoyed fixing up old things; making them better. Like an old car—making it better than when you got it. We have a forty-eight-year-old house and have made it better, somehow, every year, doing something to make the grounds or the house itself better. That brings joy to people and we can participate doing in this, in this world today. Making things better; we will have a part to play in rebuilding the earth. What a joy!

The third point is:

3. Mankind is going to dwell in peace, safety and prosperity.

As this time is going forward, we have increasingly lesser amounts of any of those three; peace, safety and prosperity. Violence and fighting will cease during this time. Will Durant—he died in 1981—he and his wife, Ariel, who were American writers and historians and philosophers, wrote a book together in 1968 and they stated the following— of course this was as of 1968.

“In the last 3421 years of recorded history, only 268 have seen no war.”

You do the math, that's seven percent. Seven percent of the time going back almost 3500 years in which you have had a year that has been free of war. Here is the point.

The vast majority of humans who have ever lived have never lived in peace and safety at all. They are going to be resurrected and this is what they are used to. We are seeing this today; peace and safety are going out the window. All of it is the result of Satan's provocations and Satan's influence. With that in mind go to Hosea 2:16. Hosea was written about 790 B.C. and it was written to Judah and Israel.

Hosea 2:16 *"And it shall be, in that day," Says the LORD [so we know who is speaking, Hosea is recording it], That you will call Me My Husband, And no longer call Me My Master, (NKJV)*

There is a relationship change.

17) *For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals [Israel and later Judah would only worship anything but the Father; they made a career out of worshiping the Baals], And they shall be remembered by their name no more.*

18) *In that day I will make a covenant for them [and who is it made with?] With the beasts of the field, With the birds of the air, And with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth ... (NKJV)*

The Hebrew can mean "to crush or to destroy from the earth". Why is this covenant made by the Father?

18 continued) ... *To make them lie down safely. (NKJV)*

What a concept; that you could put your head on your pillow tonight and you don't have to worry about a fire, about a riot, about a hurricane, about a volcano or a forest fire or about somebody breaking into your home or so on and so on. What a time this is going to be.

Now go Ezekiel 34; normally we turn here looking at the first twenty-two verses which are a condemnation of the shepherds of Israel. We won't go over that, that's been covered many times before but it applied back then and it applies to the shepherds today, no question about that.

Ezekiel 34:23 *And I [that is Yehovah, who is the Chief Shepherd since the context are shepherds that leave a lot on the table.] will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.*

24) *And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it. (KJV)*

As they say, you can take that to the bank.

25) *And I will make with them [the flock being abused] a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods. (KJV)*

Time is coming when the kids can just go spend the night sleeping in the woods; what a concept. Nobody is going to hurt them, animals aren't going to bother them, humans aren't going to bother them.

26) And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

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

He is going to break the back of the selfish shepherds who abuse the people. He is also going to reign down prosperity, safety and security in a way that this earth has never had.

28) And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid. (KJV)

You know, today, one of the greatest issues that people face is fear and anxiety because everything that is going on, either locally or in the country or around the world. Nothing is going to be afraid. Verse 29 out of the NLT.

29) And I will make their land famous for its crops, so my people will never again suffer from famines or the insults of foreign nations. (NLT)

It's happening today. One in nine people are hungry on the face of this earth today. For a country as prosperous as the United States is, we have far too many people that go hungry every day. Back to the King James.

30) Thus, shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them, [everybody is going to know it, it's not going to be a secret] and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD.

31) And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD. (KJV)

We marvel at the time that this represents and the changes that are going to occur. Not only cleaning it up, but how things are run and how those who are overseers behave themselves.

Micah 4:1 is again adding to the fact that man is going to dwell in peace and safety and prosperity. It tells us right in the beginning, these are the last days.

Micah 4:1 *But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. [Because they want to.]*
2) *And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: (KJV)*

What a contrast from today when people thumb their nose at even the existence of God Almighty and think anybody who believes in the Bible is completely out of touch and off in the head.

2 continued) *... for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

3) *And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares [something to destroy into something to build and benefit], and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (KJV)*

Seven percent of the years, going back 3500 years ago, have been war-free. Now, our Father is telling us, we are going to turn that around, totally turn it around—no war, no fighting, no nation getting angry with another nation. It's not going to be tolerated and you are going to learn to do it because you are going to see it's the best way to live your lives.

4) *But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. (KJV)*

It will come to pass. Now go to Zechariah 8:4, out of the NIV, adding to the fact that mankind is going to dwell in peace and safety and prosperity. Something we just do not have today.

Zechariah 8:4 *This is what the Lord Almighty says: Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each of them with cane in hand because of their age.*

5) *The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there."*

6) *This is what the Lord Almighty says: It may seem marvelous to the remnant of this people at that time, [at this time there will be a remnant in Jerusalem] but will it seem marvelous to me?" declares the Lord Almighty. (NIV)*

No, God can do anything He wants, any time He wants and has the power to do so.

7) *This is what the Lord Almighty says: I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. (NIV)*

He will intervene when and where necessary.

8) *I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God.*" (NIV)

I will look after them, I will take care of them, I will teach them the way they should live.

What a time this will be; I can't wait for this time when people aren't going to be crying, suffering, wringing their hands in worry and fear. Now go to Isaiah 65:19, out of the King James Version.

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.* (KJV)

What a change from today. Continuing with Verse 20, from the NLT.

20) *No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at one hundred! Only the cursed will die that young!* (NLT)

Verse 21, back to the King James.

21) *And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.* [What a concept.]

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 [as we know, trees can live hundreds or thousands of years], and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.* (KJV)

Our Father will provide security and the knowledge that you can keep the fruits of your labor. Today we can't—the governments (local, state and federal) have their hands out and we pay tax on just about everything. The point is, God is saying you work hard and you get to keep that except what is designated for Me.

23) *They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.*

24) *And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.* (KJV)

God Almighty is involved in their life. This is the picture that we have for decades, looked to.

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.* (KJV)

The violence between animals and the violence between humans will be a thing of the past.

One final scripture under this third point. In Amos 9:13; again, talking about mankind will live in peace, safety and prosperity.

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. (KJV)*

Could it be that during the Tribulation and that great battle or after, that God will change the tilt of the axis of the earth? The more the earth is tilted away from the sun or to the sun, the greater the variations and seasons. If that tilt is lessened then the variations of the seasons will be less. There won't be extremes of climate, of temperature. Maybe there will only be two seasons; an early harvest and late harvest. It's like Victoria—we've gone to Victoria. It's amazing the leaves start falling in October and November and the buds start budding in January. What a place to live if you like a moderate climate. The Father may do something in that order. Verse 14, in the New King James.

14) I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.

15) I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them," Says the LORD your God. (NKJV)

People will have their own land, there will be a sense of permanency, there will be a sense of "buy into" this land and what I am doing with this land. Among humans as well as animals, violence and fighting are going to cease. Peace and joy and prosperity will become the norm. As we live in this horrible world and see what has happened between now and the last Feast, we wonder what more is going to happen between now and the next Feast and this downhill slide of society. We can ache for a time like this.

4. Resurrection to physical life will occur in the millennium.

We've talked about this before but since we are talking about the millennium let's summarize that. Go to Ezekiel 36:33. As we go through here, notice the time frame and the context. Sometimes in the past—we have all done it—we take something out of context to suit a preconceived idea or a preconceived notion. Look at the context, look at the thread of what is said.

Ezekiel 36:3 *Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.*

34) And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.

35) And they shall say, this land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. (KJV)

Does this sound like the millennium or not? Of course, it does.

36) Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: [They will know that God did it and they will admire and come to worship.] I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. (KJV)

The Almighty and His Son will do it; not human beings.

37) Thus, saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. (KJV)

This can happen through resurrection, it can happen through a lack of war, it can happen through a lack of disease.

38) As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the LORD. (KJV)

The context without a doubt is millennial but notice what happens next in chapter 37:1.

Ezekiel 37:1 *The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,*

2) And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. (KJV)

Indicating these bones were very old.

3) And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. (KJV)

What he is saying is only You know, I don't know.

4) Again, he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

5) Thus, saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:(KJV)

The context is the millennium. Then he goes on to describe a great noise and great shaking and the bones started coming together and internal organs were filled, muscles and sinews were placed in the proper place and skin covered them over and now you have complete human bodies but they are corpses—there's no life in them. Verse 10.

10) *So, I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. (KJV)*

Undoubtedly a very bewildered army.

11) *Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: (KJV)*

This tells us that during the millennium, the whole house of Israel is going to be resurrected. The vision suggests all at one time, but could that be just a part of Israel and it's done in stages? We don't know, some day we will find out. Latter part of verse 11 will be out of the NLT.

11 continued) *... They are saying, We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished. (NLT)*

Verse 12, back to the King James Version.

12) *Therefore, prophesy and say unto them, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. [During the millennium.]*

13) *[Here's the purpose.] And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves ... (KJV)*

You better believe that whoever opens those graves and gives life to you is a tad bit more powerful than you are and maybe you ought to start listening.

14) *And shall put my spirit [it can be breath] in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know [not think, but know] that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD. (KJV)*

Verse 21.

21) *And say unto them, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: (KJV)*

What a time this is going to be. He says in verse 22, I will make them into one nation—not divided anymore.

22) *And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:*

23) *Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of*

all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. (KJV)

What a time!

24) And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. (KJV)

Israel is going to start with an Old Covenant relationship when they are resurrected and the people that live over into the millennium will start with an Old Covenant, physical relationship with the Father—keeping His statutes and judgements.

25) And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince forever. (KJV)

Peace, safety and security, through resurrection of people that had lost all hope. Had probably died violently.

26) Moreover, I will make a covenant of peace with them [during the millennium, those who are resurrected]; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

27) My tabernacle [we'll talk more about that in a minute] also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (KJV)

All the dead of Israel will be resurrected in the millennium, David will be their king as we read in Ezekiel 34; this reaffirms that. The fact is our Father and His Son will dwell with His people.

What about the Gentiles? Go to Ezekiel 16:1 in the New King James Version. If we could have a DNA check, I imagine most of us would have Gentile blood running in our veins, probably some more than others.

Ezekiel 16:1 *Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying ... (NKJV)*

Verse 2-47 is a condemnation of Jerusalem and Judah and we pick up the story in verse 48.

48) As I live," says the Lord GOD, neither your sister Sodom [now talking about Sodom being Gentile] nor her daughters have done as you [meaning Jerusalem] and your daughters have done. [Meaning their descendants.] (NKJV)

Verse 53.

53) *When I bring back their captives, the captives of Sodom and her daughters, [this indicates they will come back to life and be given their chance] and the captives of Samaria [remember Samaria was the capital of the Northern Ten Tribes and there were Gentiles mixed in there; certainly, after the Ten Tribes were taken captive by Assyria] and her daughters, then I will also bring back the captives of your captivity among them ... (NKJV)*

Verse 54 out of the NLT.

54) *Then you will be truly ashamed of everything you have done, for your [referring to Judah's sins] sins make them feel good in comparison. (NLT)*

Your sins are so bad, the Gentiles are going to feel not so bad about their sins in comparison to you. Verse 55, New King James.

55) *When your sisters, Sodom and her daughters, return to their former state [how can that happen except a resurrection], and Samaria and her daughters return to their former state, then you and your daughters will return to your former state. (NKJV)*

The context is the millennium. This is an indication that the Gentiles will be resurrected, sometime in the millennium. Could it be that Israel will be resurrected first and they will be established as a model nation and then the Gentiles come on the scene? That's up to God.

5. The Temple will be built and sacrifices will begin.

I remember in the early years we puzzled and pondered over these scriptures and quite often they weren't even mentioned because it was inconvenient or whatever the reason. The Temple will be built and sacrifices will begin. Why? The Father is beginning a new relationship with all of mankind and it starts at the physical level. By building the millennial Temple and reinstating sacrifices, it enhances and is a physical demonstration of things yet to come. Go to Haggai 2:7.

Haggai 2:7 *And I will shake all nations [the end time plagues will do that], and the desire of all nations shall come: [notice what He says here] and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.*

8) *The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.*

9) *The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts. (KJV)*

Now go Zechariah 14; we were there earlier but we will look at a different set of scriptures in verse 16, talking about the people who will come up against Jerusalem when the Father and the Son return.

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. (KJV)*

What a change from today, when a tiny, tiny fraction of humanity are here today, keeping the Feast of Tabernacles. Verse 17.

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.*

18) *And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain [they didn't come up, they were punished by no rain and they still refused to come up]; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.*

19) *This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. (KJV)*

There will be forced obedience in the beginning. There will be nations that are more compliant and there will be nations that are incredibly stubborn, just like today. Some have to have an incentive and pain is a very, very good incentive. So forced obedience will occur in the beginning until they come to know Yehovah and they want to obey. Not because they have a gun to their heads or the threat of a plague but because they learn who He is and who His Son is and they want to obey. Verse 20 out of the NLT.

20) *On that day even the harness bells of the horses will be inscribed with these words: Holy to the lord. And the cooking pots in the Temple of the Lord will be as sacred as the basins used beside the altar. (NLT)*

That will happen. That physical relationship is going to be aided by physical sacrifices. We see why in Galatians 3:22. As human beings, we all need help, we need visual aids. We learn by watching somebody who does something well, we learn by looking over their shoulder and watching how they do it. So, the Temple sacrifices are a visual aid to help to a goal.

Galatians 3:22 *But the scripture hath concluded all under sin [yes, absolutely], that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.*

23) *But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.*

24) *Wherefore the law [the law including all of the sacrifices and the oblations and the washings, notice this] was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ ... (KJV)*

All the sacrifices pointed humans to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It was a teacher; a visual aid.

24 continued) ... *that we might [in the future] be justified by faith.*

25) *But after that faith is come [that is a process of conversion], we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

26) *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (KJV)*

There is going to be a transition from the physical relationship to the Father to a spiritual relationship to the Father. It begins on a physical level; a Temple people can see, sacrifices that they participate in and then it transitions, for those who will allow it, to a spiritual relationship. At this time, the Temple is going to be built and sacrifices will begin. There is this physical relationship that will allow human beings to know who God is and who His Son is. We won't turn there but remember what Habakkuk said in chapter 2,

"The earth is going to be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yehovah as the oceans are filled with the sea."

That is going to happen; it is not going to happen overnight as it will take some time. Hopefully the knowledge of who the Almighty is and who His Son is and they see the reformation of the earth and the changes in the nation of Israel and the changes in the hearts of people, will lead to a spiritual relationship that others can see. Once the Father calls them, then it leads to the next point.

6. The Father is going to make a New Covenant with mankind.

At some point, after coming to know Yehovah on a physical level, the Father is going to make a New Covenant with those in the millennium, as He had previously done with us—the first fruits. But this time He is going to call billions. Is He going to call groups or families or clans or one at a time? We'll see, we don't know. He will do it as He did with us. In Hebrews 8:7, we see that the Father is establishing a New Covenant with mankind.

Hebrews 8:7 *For if that first covenant had been faultless [there's the first one], then no place would have been sought for a second.*

8) *Because finding fault with them, He says [now quoting Jeremiah 31:33]:*

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—

9) *not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. (NKJV)*

Not like that.

10) *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days [in these days we are celebrating today], says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; (NJKV)*

Remember Moses in Deuteronomy 5 lamented, if only they had the right heart, if they had a heart in them. He had the heart because he had a spiritual relationship; they didn't, they just had a physical relationship and were just as carnal as stumps.

10 continued) ... *and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.* (NKJV)

This describes a process of conversion.

11) *None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.* (NKJV)

Another contrast with today. This current generation doesn't know God, doesn't want to know the Father, doesn't want to know what is in His word, does not care less. There will come a time when everybody will know.

12) *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.*" (NKJV)

This is describing forgiveness from the Father; not a covering that ancient Israel had but a forgiveness from the Father. So, we see that during the millennium all mankind will be given an opportunity for conversion that can lead to salvation.

The last point: We are going to conclude with the big question for us today.

7. Will we be there to help?

Are we going to be there or are we not? Here we are on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles in 2020 and we are looking forward to a time—we are here celebrating a time—when the Father and the Son will dwell with mankind. All mankind will come to know the Father and the Son. The earth will be transformed into the Garden of Eden; it will spread over the entire globe. People will be dwelling in peace, in safety and there will be prosperity, no more violence, no more war. Mighty resurrections of the Israelites and the Gentiles are occurring. We ask the question; do we want to be there? Would we like to be there to be part of this? To participate as maybe helpers, servants, slaves of our Father to do His bidding? Of course! Wouldn't we like to be there to witness this monumental achievement.

Here is the big problem: The world we live in today is described as Laodicean—lukewarm, increased with goods, in need of nothing and the big one, spiritually asleep. That is the world we live in, the spiritual world among the churches of God, we live in today. Our challenge is that we have to come out of that mentality that permeates the Father's church, permeates the church of going to sleep. "What's the difference? It's okay as long as I'm warming this seat, everything is fine; I will just coast or tread water into the Kingdom of God." If we can come out of this, if we can prove to God a few

things that we'll talk about, look at what's ahead of us. Go to Mark 13:26, Christ is speaking. This is what is ahead of us.

Mark 13:26 *Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.*

27) *And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth [those who are alive] to the uttermost part of heaven [those who are being resurrected]. (KJV)*

Then, look at John 14:2, a very familiar scripture.

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

3) [Notice this] *And if I go and prepare a place for you, [this is a promise] I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (KJV)*

In Colossians 3:4, you can use it as a reference, we are told that when Christ appears then we shall appear with Him in glory—absolute glory. This is what is ahead of us. Finally, in Relation 20:6, which talks about the first resurrection and how the second death has no power on those in the first resurrection. We know, from the end of verse 6, that they are those who are changed when the Father and the Son return.

Revelation 20:6 *... but they shall be priests of God and of Christ [priests, us?], and shall reign with him a thousand years. (KJV)*

Those are the stakes. Eternal death or what we just read; which do you want? The fact is, you have to work at it and we have to show God that we want this tremendous reward. It's not a given that we are going to get it. We have to prove a few things. How can we make sure that this reward is a given? It is a fact?

We have to prove to our Father that we will always submit to His will, we will always put Him first and we will always humble ourselves before Him and before our fellow man. Satan did none of those. We have to prove to our Father that we are the opposite of Satan. A good start is with the two great commandments. Christ was asked a question, "What do I have to do to have eternal life?" He gave two. Here we are scattered at the Feast. We are not come together and rejoicing with old friends all under one roof as we used to, but you know the fact is, the righteous don't come to the Feast for a vacation or a party or to be entertained. We just don't do that. Or to eat and drink ourselves into oblivion; we just don't do that, that's not the point of the Feast. The righteous come to worship the Almighty, to put Him first in our minds as we keep these days and to learn more about Him and His Son and what they would have us be doing in this life. We have the opportunity to put Him first and we have the opportunity to practice the second great commandment.

Go to Philippians 2 and see some specifics that we might think about during the Feast. These are specifics about how to implement the second great commandment. Here we have the opportunity of having fellowship—maybe not on the scale we’re used to—but doing our best with the lists and the contact information to make that happen.

Philippians 2:3 *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit [not a thing], but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

4) *Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

5) *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus ... (NKJV)*

The mind He had today but the mind He had when He walked this earth.

Verse 6 out of the NIV.

6) *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; (NIV)*

He didn’t do what Satan did. He never wanted equality with God His Father, He always acknowledge that His Father was greater than Himself. Rather, notice what he did in verse 7.

7) *rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

8) *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (NIV)*

That is what we need to be doing and be ready to do.

9) *Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,*

10) *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

11) *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NIV)*

It all comes back to the Father’s glory.

12) *-Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling ... (NIV)*

Proving to God that we will have the mind of His Son and we will act like His Son, every minute of every day of our lives.

13) *for it is God who works in you to will [to have the desire] and to act [to have the deeds] in order to fulfill his good purpose.* (NIV)

Verse 14 back to the New King James.

14) *Do all things without complaining and disputing,*
15) *that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation [we are in the middle of that], among whom you shine as lights in the world ...* (NKJV)

We cannot let the world's attitudes and conduct corrupt us; we just cannot do that.

Let's go to one final scripture, Ephesians 4:2. Our Father is concerned about what's inside us; inside our minds and our innermost being—our heart.

Ephesians 4:2 *With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;* (KJV)

Forbearing means simply to put up with and sometimes we just have to do that—in love. That's not normal for humans to do but how can that be accomplished? Verse 23 tells us.

23) *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*
24) *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.* (KJV)

Until we all reach the unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. We have to remember His simple teachings--the sermon on the Mount comes to mind.

Here we are, picturing a time yet forward that we want to be part of. We have an opportunity to practice here in these days, walking in our Elder Brother's footsteps. Here at the Feast, we have an opportunity to be the servant of others as He was. He didn't come to exalt Himself; He came to serve others and exalt His Father. If we do that, we are going to be proving to the Father that we want to be there with Him and His Son during the tremendous changes and opportunities and reformation that occurs on this earth and among people during this period of time. So, let's dedicate ourselves to putting God first and dedicate ourselves to loving our neighbors as our self.