

The Feast of Tabernacles- Moving Forward

Welcome to the Feast of Tabernacles 2022! For some of us, this will be your first time keeping this Feast. We all tend to look forward to this time of year as it is a time of fellowship in and with our Family of God. We look forward to the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom on this earth. It will signify the end of the age of man and the beginning of His Millennial Reign for 1000 years.

We also know from scripture, His chosen will have been through the First Resurrection, the harvest of His First Fruits.

Since coming together as a family of God nearly 7 years ago, we have experienced a greater understanding of God's Word and His plan for mankind through His Holy Days. The culmination of what we will have learned and studied during our time on earth prior to Christ's return will be foundational and applicable to our new roles as Kings and Priests.

Revelation 1:5-6- “And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him Who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, And has made us kings and priests to God and His Father; to Him *be* the glory and the sovereignty into the ages of eternity.

Amen.”

Revelation 5:10- “And did make us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth.”

Revelation 20:4- “And I saw thrones; and they that sat upon them, and judgment was given to them; and *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and those who did not worship the beast, or his image, and did not receive the mark in their foreheads or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

Revelation 20:6- “Blessed and holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power. But they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

Before we begin to discuss the mission ahead, let’s take a look back to Genesis 1. You all know I throw out statements offered as “food for thought” so here’s a quick question, why did God create us in the first place and to what purpose? I wish I had the music for Final Jeopardy to play for a minute or two...

Genesis 1:26-27- “And God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of heaven and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that crawls upon the earth.” And God created man in His *own* image, in the image

of God He created him. He created them male and female.” God is reproducing Himself in us! We will be His Family!

Ephesians 1:4-6- “According as He has personally chosen us for Himself before *the* foundation of *the* world in order that we might be holy and blameless before Him in love; Having predestinated us for sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will, To *the* praise of *the* glory of His grace, wherein He has made us objects of *His* grace in the Beloved *Son*;”

Ephesians 1:9-10- “Having made known to us the mystery of His own will, according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself; That in *the divine* plan for the fulfilling of *the* times, He might bring all things together in Christ, both the things in the heavens and the things upon the earth;”

Romans 8:29- “Because those whom He did foreknow, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His own Son, that He might be *the* firstborn among many brethren.”

1 John 3:1-2- “Behold! What *glorious* love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God! For this very reason, the world does not know us because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be; but we know that when He is manifested, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him exactly as He is.”

All things were made for Him. **Colossians 1:16**- “Because by Him were all things created, the things in heaven and the things on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or lordships, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him.”

Revelation 4:11- “Worthy are You, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power because You did create all things, and for You will they were created and exist.”

As we mentioned this past Sabbath, we will receive our inheritance and become heirs to His promises as He has ordained us before the formation of the world. As we are created to be in His image, we were created to glorify God! Andrea and I discussed this on our ride up here Sunday morning. She said we should be doing it as second nature. If we are truly loving God *first* and reading His word, studying and praying and keeping His Commandments, I certainly agree. But just as a reminder, today’s scriptures will serve to prompt us to keeping our focus in the proper direction.

This we are to do in our walk in His service here on earth. It will prepare us to continue into the ages of eternity and set the example of those of whom we will teach.

1 Corinthians 10:31- “Therefore, whether you eat, or you drink, or you do anything, do all things to the glory of God.”

As we will move into the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ someday, remembering to glorify God in all things will strengthen our efforts in fulfilling our future roles in His Kingdom.

Psalms 86:12- “I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore,”

Psalms 96:1-4- “O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all people, For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods,”

Isaiah 42:12- “Give glory to the LORD and declare His praise in the isles.”

Isaiah 43:5-7- “Fear not; for I *am* with you. I will bring your seed from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give up;’ and to the south, ‘Do not keep back;’ bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth; *Even* everyone who is called by My name; for I have created him for My glory, I have formed him; yea, *I have* made him.”

Isaiah 66:18-19- “For I *know* their works and their thoughts; it shall come to pass, that I will gather all the nations and tongues; and they will come and see My glory. And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those who escape from them to the nations, *to* Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, drawers of the bow; *to* Tubal, and Javan, *to*

the far away isles that have not heard My fame, nor have seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations.”

I sincerely believe we will have a captive audience made up of those who survived the Great Tribulation. We may find that they might be eager to listen and learn what God has in store for them as they just made it through the greatest battle the world has ever seen. There are no atheists in foxholes...

Psalm 86:8-9- “Among the gods there is none like You, O LORD; neither are there any works like Your works. All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O LORD, and shall glorify Your name,”

Habakkuk 2:14- “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

Revelation 14:7- “Saying with a loud voice, “Fear God, and give glory to Him, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him Who made the heaven, and the earth, and *the* sea, and *the* fountains of waters.”

Revelation 15:4- “Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You only are* holy; and all the nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgements have been revealed.” With Satan locked up for the thousand years, distractions will no longer be as intense.

Isaiah 6:3- “And one cried to another, and said, “Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.” The power of Almighty God will have been displayed to all those who survive.

The example we set now and, in the future, will draw the lost to the Light of God.

Matthew 5:16- “In the same way also, you are to let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works, and may glorify your Father Who *is* in heaven.” We will lead by example and we should be doing it *now*.

1 Peter 4:7-13- “Now the end of all things has drawn near. Therefore, be serious-minded and be watchful in prayers; But above all, have fervent love among yourselves because love will cover a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. *Let* each one, according as he has received a gift from God, *be using* it to serve the others as good stewards of the grace of God *which* manifests *itself* in various ways. If anyone speaks, *let it be* as *the* words of God; if anyone serves, *let it be* as from the strength which God supplies; so that in everything, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ to Whom is the glory and the power into the ages of eternity. Amen. Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial among you which is taking place to test you, as if some strange thing were happening to you. But to the degree that you have a share in the sufferings of

Christ, *rejoice*; so that, at the revelation of His glory, you also may *rejoice* exceedingly.”

2 Peter 3:11-18- “Since all these things are going to be destroyed, what kind of *persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, Looking forward to and striving for *the* coming of the day of God, during which *the* heavens, being on fire, shall be destroyed, and the elements, burning with intense heat, shall melt? But according to His promise, we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. For this reason, beloved, since you are anticipating these things, be diligent, so that you may be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless. And bear in mind that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation, exactly as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has also written to you; As *he has* also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them concerning these things; in which are some things that are difficult to understand, which the ignorant and unstable are twisting and *distorting*, as *they* also *twist and distort* the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. Therefore, beloved, **since you know this in advance**, be on guard against *such practices*, lest you be led astray with the error of the lawless ones, *and* you fall from your own steadfastness; Rather, **be growing in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him be glory both now and into *the* day of eternity. Amen.”

Brothers and sisters, this is a Feast week and a week of learning and growth. I challenge all of you to think on your roles as “Kings and Priests” and imagine what these roles will have you doing in the coming Kingdom of God. What work will need to be done to a decimated world?

It is also a week we are commanded to rejoice! **Deuteronomy 14:23-26-** “And you shall eat before the LORD your God in the place which He shall choose to place His name there, the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herds and of your flocks so that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. And if the way is too long for you so that you are not able to carry it, *or* if the place is too far from you, which the LORD your God shall choose to set His name there, when the LORD your God has blessed you, Then you shall turn *it* into money and bind up the money in your hand, and shall go to the place which the LORD your God shall choose. And you shall spend the money for whatever your soul desires, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatever your soul desires. And you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and ***you shall rejoice, you and your household,***”

God has called us to repentance and His way of life from a world of darkness and sin. He gave His only Son Jesus Christ Who paid our sin debt for us. Through Him, His sacrifice and His example, we have the hope the of world as yet does not

understand. This alone should have us doing backflips and shouting from the rooftops.

We have countless reasons to praise and glorify His name, now and forever. As we go forth from today, enjoy the fellowship and family of God we have among us and have a blessed week!

Romans 11:36- “For from Him, and through Him, and unto Him *are* all things; to Him *be* the glory into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

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