

What Have You Learned Grasshopper?

Reflections of the Feast of Tabernacles 2022

If you haven't noticed by now, I like to add references of old movies and T.V. shows from time to time to give an image of some off the wall titles that manifest in these lessons. This one most will not remember as it aired on television before most of you were born. John and Chauncey weren't as lucky as me who had T.V. as they both had to wait for radio to be invented for entertainment.

Some of us however do remember the original airings of the TV show "Kung Fu" which first aired in 1972 and ran through 1975. It starred David Carradine, who played Kwai Chang Caine a Shaolin monk who travels through the [American Old West](#). He is armed only with his spiritual training and his skill in martial arts, as he searched for his half-brother. When he was in the monastery in China learning his discipline, his mentor, Master Po, constantly referred to him as Grasshopper. The mentor modeled and taught, and Grasshopper learned, with his mentor frequently asking, "what have you learned Grasshopper?" Growing from his youth to a man, he was constantly tested on his faith and martial arts skills. One test in particular was "to snatch the pebble" from one of the Master's Hands. When he accomplished this, it would be time for him to leave. He, like us, was a student and later a teacher.

It's a cycle that has been repeated throughout history. At different times in life, and in different settings, we each fill roles both as learners and as mentors, teachers and students. From our discussions this week, we know we will be Kings and Priests in God's coming Kingdom. We will rule with Jesus Christ here on the Earth, for His thousand-year Millennial Reign.

Aside from the restoration of the earth, we will be teaching those who survived God's way of life. Before we mention the Last Great Day, let's do a quick recap of the take away's from each day's studies.

Day 1- We learned that we were created in God's image. We were personally chosen by God to be His from before the foundation of the world. **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 Your will they were created and exist."

We must continually glorify and praise God in all that we do here on earth. 1

Corinthians 10:31- “Therefore, whether you eat, or you drink, or you do anything, do all things to the glory of God.” **Psalm 86:12**- “I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore,”

Day 2- We discussed that Christ will be setting up His Millennial Kingdom and our roles as Kings and Priests. We expanded them to include teacher and servant. Mainly by the example they set for others and the character of their hearts.

Matthew 20:26- “However, it shall not be this way among you; but whoever would become great among you, let him be your *servant*,” (**Mark 9:35**)

Deuteronomy 33:10- “Let them *teach* Jacob Your judgments, and Israel Your law. Let them put incense before You and whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar.” What we are being prepared for is to do His work in the Millennium. But while we are living our lives here and now, we are *working at being prepared*, in our walk, our hearts and our devotion to God.

Day 3- We discussed the importance of hearing God’s calling, getting into His Word and waking up to prepare for what’s coming. When we walk in His word, we gain new motivation and clarity, we draw closer to God. “How long will you sleep, O sluggard? When will you arise out of your sleep?”- **Proverbs 6:9**. God is

waking us up to His calling and sounding the alarm to prepare NOW for His soon coming Kingdom. Don't waste time. ***Get up and get ready*** for what God has in store for you in the days ahead. Read His book, find out what it says, find out who He really is. Ask Him prayerfully and He will show you. "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you,"- **Isaiah 60:1**.

Day 4- We discussed the importance of growing in God's word (again), growing our prayer life, and loving God first. The only way to grow closer to God Almighty is to love Him first, love His Son Jesus Christ our Savior and again, live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. **Matthew 7:7-8-** "Ask, and it shall be given to you. Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it shall be opened." Asking, seeking and knocking isn't a one-time thing. Keep at it. The more you ask, the more that will be given to you, the more you seek, the more you will find, the more you knock, the more that will be opened unto you. The clarity and understanding will become obvious. God will not waste His Holy Spirit in a cracked vessel. Why should we waste time on anything that is of no profit in our growth and knowledge of God? **2 Timothy 2:14-** "See that *they* remain mindful of these things, earnestly charging *them* in the sight of the Lord not to argue over words that are not profitable in any way, *but which lead to the*

subverting of those who hear.” I can assure you that when the seventh trumpet sounds, it will not matter what dialect a people spoke or where the temple was built or any other matter of historical irrelevance (notice I didn’t say useless). What will matter most is our obedience, *fruitfulness*, spiritual condition and our relationship with God. Period. It is prudent we know God’s word to provide a ready answer for those He will send our way in these end times. To be a good witness, we must be a good example and ***knowing the Word of God*** will be an asset in addressing all of these topics.

Day 5- We discussed judging which will be an additional function of our roles as Kings, Priests, teachers and servants. The saints will judge angels (**1 Corinthians 6:3**) in God’s Kingdom, **but we’re not there yet. Do not judge one another.**

Romans 14:13- “Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way.”

But we’re not wearing black robes thus far. Our primary duty here on earth is to be a shepherd and good steward of what is entrusted to our care. We are to be at peace with all men (**Romans 12:18**). We are to forgive those who wrong us (**Luke 12:34**) and we are to take no offense. **Psalm 119:165-** “Great peace have they which love thy law: and *nothing shall offend them.*” We are to edify one another.

Romans 14:19- “So then, we should *pursue* the things of peace and the things that *edify* one another.” **1 Thess. 5:11-** “Therefore, encourage one another, and edify one another, even as you are already doing.” Our ultimate goal is to be transformed into the likeness of our Savior Jesus Christ (**Rom. 8:29, Col. 3:10**). Remember to forgive, to take no offense, to edify one another, to esteem others more important than myself and not to judge others, the world has less of a hold on me. God gives us His peace and joy that comes with His way of life. This is all part of our growth to become like His Son.

Day 6- We covered Praise and Worship. Praise is defined as: to *glorify, exalt, acclamation, compliment*. Worship is defined as: the reverent love and *devotion* accorded to a deity, an idol, or a sacred object. Of course, we are only concerned with praising and worshipping our Creator and Sovereign God. We praise God because He is worthy to be praised. He gave us His Creation, the breath of life, His Commandments, His only Son Jesus Christ Who died to pay for our sins, He gave us His Holy Spirit, His Sabbaths and Holy Days. He is most *worthy* to be Praised. “I will call upon the LORD, *Who is* worthy to be praised. And I shall be saved from my enemies.”- **2 Samuel 22:4**.

Psalm 18:3- “I will call on the LORD, Who is *worthy* to be praised, so shall I be saved from my enemies.”

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

This is quite a short list but I’m glad we will have *all eternity* to praise and thank Him for the infinite blessings He bestows upon His children.

We *glorify* God through our praises. To *glorify* means to give glory, honor, high praise or exalt. **Psalm 86:12**- “I will *praise* You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will *glorify* Your name forevermore,” We discussed music and it’s influence and importance to the listener and also the lyrics of what we sing. *We must remember Who we are singing to.* A song can be a teaching vehicle.

Remember, God is not a respecter of persons. **2 Chronicles 19:7**- “And now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Be careful and act wisely, for *there is* no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of a bribe.” (**2 Samuel 14:14, Acts 10:34**). ‘But thou art holy, O thou that *inhabitest* the praises of Israel.”- **Psalm 22:3** (KJV). God hears our praises. **Psalm 40:3**- “And He has put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise to our God; many shall see and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.” **Colossians 3:16**- “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. We will be praising God all through eternity, *let’s get it right now.*”

Day 7- We discussed Jesus calling His disciples and what it was that He did to prompt them to drop what they were doing and follow Him. We talked about how critically important it is to get all of God's word and scriptures pertaining to a specific topic. In this case, in **Matthew 4:18-20** and in **Mark 1:16-18**, Jesus calling Peter and Andrew left a few blanks. When we read **Luke 5:1-11** we see that Jesus actually performed the same miracle He later performed in **John 21:1-8**. In both Matthew 4 and in Mark 1, Jesus told them He would make them fishers of men and to "follow me." The event in John 21:1-8 occurs *after* Jesus' resurrection. In addition to performing a similar miracle of telling them to cast their nets to catch a large number of fish, He later questions Peter three times, asking "do you love Me." He also responds to Peter answering three times with "Yes, Lord You know I love You" with "Feed my Sheep." (**John 21:14-17**).

Again, this is why it is so important to read all of God's Word. In finding them fishing, Jesus was reminding them of His instructions in **Matthew 28:19-20** (The Great Commission). We must make constant choices of our own free will to continue in God's way and live by every word in His Book. We choose to overcome sin, we choose to live a life of righteousness.

Jesus was reminding Peter (and all of us), of the choice we made to follow Him and our duties and responsibilities per His instructions and example.

The role of the shepherd is to care for, tend and feed the flock from the lambs to the full-grown ewes and rams. We too as shepherds are to care for those in God's flock in much the same way. The food we share is the Word of God (**Deut. 8:3, Matt. 4:4, Luke 4:4**). Scriptures for feeding the flock (**Isaiah 28:9, Luke 12:42, 1 Corinthians 3:2, 1 Peter 2:2, Heb. 5:12-14**)

As a fellowship, it is our responsibility to each other to strive to grow in God's Word, grace, knowledge and wisdom. We are in training for our future "positions" in God's Kingdom. Providing the flock with the food and nourishment of God's Word, is plainly our role as a shepherd, here and now.

The Last Great Day- Day 8

This day is the third Sabbath in the Feast of Tabernacles. I'm not going into a lengthy dissertation on this subject as I'm sure it will be covered today. Many things will come to fruition on this "Last Great Day" and we'll just read some scriptures on what will be transpiring.

The thousand-year Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ will be coming to a close. As I don't have a cowbell, I would like to offer some thoughts on His reign and our role in it.

For the entire thousand years, we have labored and ruled with Christ in the restoration and teaching future citizens of His Kingdom. We have been purifying the Earth in teaching those who will be taught and making every effort to remove sin from the people by teaching God's laws and commandments. The incorrigibly wicked who died during this time will again be brought back for the Second Resurrection to stand judgment. They will be judged and cast into the lake of fire which is the second death. Satan is loosed and takes yet another futile swing at God. Our preparation of the earth during the Millennial Reign was setting the stage for the Second Resurrection.

Revelation 20:7-15- "Now when the thousand years have been completed, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison; And he shall go out to deceive the nations that *are* in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, of whom the number *is* as the sand of the sea, to gather them together for war. Then *I saw* them go up upon the breadth of the earth and encircle the camp of the saints, and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven and consumed them; And the Devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *had been cast*; and they, *Satan and the demons*, shall be tormented day and night into the ages of eternity. Then I saw a great white throne and the one Who was sitting on it, from Whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and no place was found for them.

And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God; and *the* books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life. And the dead were judged out of the things written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead *that were* in it, and death and *the* grave gave up the dead *that were* in them; and they were judged individually, according to their works. And death and *the* grave were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.”

WOW is an understatement! With all that we will have witnessed in our part in the First Resurrection, God is going to display His awesome power yet again. Only this time we won't be on horseback to fight in the battle but we may have a front row seat to watch the fire from God in Heaven consume the enemy.

Revelation 21:1-8- “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea. And I, John, saw the holy city, *the* new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice from heaven say, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men; and He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His people; and God Himself shall be with them *and be* their God. And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and *there* shall not be any

more death, or sorrow, or crying; neither shall *there* be any more pain, because the former things have passed away.” And He Who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Then He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” And He said to me, “It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the one who thirsts, I will give freely of the fountain of the water of life. The one who overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. But *the* cowardly, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone; which is *the* second death.”

A new Heaven and a New Earth! After the events of the Second Resurrection, the earth will finally be rid of sinful man and the corruption of the evil of Satan and his demons. Worthy to receive God the Father.

Just as a thought, this purification is apparent in scripture. We know God and His Word are pure. **Proverbs 30:5**- “Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him.”

The Sea of Glass that we hear so much about is only mentioned two times in the entire Bible. **Revelation 4:6**- “And before the throne *was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne and over the throne *were* four living creatures, full of eyes before and behind;”

Revelation 15:2- “And I saw a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, *and* over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having *the* lyres of God.”

There is a mention of something similar in **Exodus 24:9-10-** “And Moses went up, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. And they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the heavens in clearness.”

As I said, I don't have a cowbell but as we will stand on the Sea of Glass someday, it likely represents purity, the mingled with fire would possibly be God's Divine power. As it isn't mentioned all that much in scripture, we do not need be overly concerned with *what* it is, just be focused on that He said we will stand on it and our mission is to get there by living God's Way of life. ***That*** is what is important.

1 Corinthians 15 provides insight as to what will transpire as the thousand-year ends. There's going to be a transition of control from Jesus Christ to God the Father.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28- “Afterwards the end *comes*, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to Him Who *is* God and Father, when He shall have put an end to all rule and all authority and power. For it is ordained that He reign

until He has put all enemies under His feet. *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.* For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when it is said that all things have been put in subjection, *it is* clearly evident that *it does* not include Him Who put all things in subjection under Him. But when He has put all things in subjection to Him, then shall the Son Himself also be subject to Him Who put all things in subjection to Him, so that God may be all in all.”

Revelation 21:22-27

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

For the past 8 days we have learned and shared God's word in many of the aspects of our future roles. This hopefully provided greater understanding of the scriptures we covered and gives clarity for what will unfold in the future. Being able to ask questions in an open forum is one of the reasons I believe we are growing in God's

word and in wisdom and knowledge. Our mission at hand is given in the Word of God, again, *every word of it*.

There are 175 days until Passover 2023 and we begin another year of keeping God's Holy Days. It may take me that long to drop the tonnage I gained with all the "feasting" this week. May we move forward with hope, devotion and purpose in fulfilling His will for each and every member of His Family. I pray we all go home with a little more knowledge and understanding of God's Word and the work at hand. So, "What have you learned, Grasshopper?"

May The Lord richly bless each of you and give us all safe travel back home. And remember,

1 Corinthians 2:9- "But according as it is written, "The eye has not seen, nor *the* ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." Amen! Thanks for a wonderful Feast!

BL-FOT 2022