

# The Feast of Tabernacles

The Feast of Tabernacles is like a treasure house, containing the most precious treasure we could ever wish for, designed by God to inspire us with the incentive to strive for a goal almost beyond our imaginations. We need the Feast, so that we can contemplate these treasures for encouragement during the year, when we are faced with a troubled world, which is only going to become more dangerous.

So, today, I'm going to dip into some of that treasure to help us stay on the path towards God's Kingdom. Proverbs 31:29, gives us a clue about our goal, **“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”** Please read the whole proverb to understand her rarity. This exceptional woman pictures those who are selected to marry Jesus Christ, in the First Resurrection.(Revelation 19:7)

That precious group is indicated by Jesus Christ's question in Luke 18:8, second half. He asks, **“Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”** There is good reason for His doubt. We need to understand that the reward of marriage to Jesus Christ is infinitely greater than *anything that exists* in this world, and so it will be granted to only a limited number, even within the Church of God, Matthew 25:1-10. Notice only half the **virgins** actually marry Christ!

When we are first baptised and receive the holy Spirit we are clean, pure and holy – spiritually we are virgins. 2 Corinthians 11:2-3, The Apostle Paul said, **‘For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.’** But, sadly, as Paul goes on to say in his own words, many don't remain chaste – faithful to Christ. They allow themselves to be **‘corrupted’**,

gradually diverted from *Christ's* words to the doctrines of men. The result – They may still be members of the Church, but they are unfaithful to Christ's words, and so become unqualified to become His Bride!

Those who do remain faithful virgins to Christ are described in Revelation 14:1-5, 'Then I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads. These are the ones who have **not** been defiled with women,(the teaching of false Churches) for they **are** virgins. **They follow the Lamb** wherever He goes. They have been redeemed from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

*They* remain chaste by believing only God's words and Christ's teaching and example, and so they are pictured here after marrying Jesus Christ on the Sea of Glass, before their Father's Throne in Heaven. Hebrews 12:22, 'But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering.' They have been bought from "the men" as it says in the Greek, to become the firstfruit harvest to God and the Lamb! Their faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ alone, enabled them to *remain* virgins. They are not perfect, but they remained faithful, just like those in the Faith Chapter, Hebrews 11.

So, is there anything we can do to facilitate the increase of our faith? We can live Jesus Christ's words and examples from both the Old and New Testaments, and that means daily Bible study to absorb His will, an antidote to false teaching!

We absorb it through, a/ His Commands and example  
b/ The examples of the patriarchs  
c/ Christ's teaching of the Kingdom of God

So.... Just how important is God's Kingdom?

Well, didn't Christ tell us in the Lord's prayer to pray *first* for the Kingdom to come? Didn't Christ spend His time on earth teaching about that Kingdom? Mark 1:14-15, 'Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

So, isn't it God's number one priority?

What is the 'good news' of that Kingdom? It is not just the way we are to live our lives, as many preach; it is how we will actually serve God, what life will be like when we return with Christ from Heaven. That is the neglected treasure which so captivated the crowds in Christ's Ministry that they could hardly tear themselves away from His message, it was so exciting, so inspiring, so lets take a look!

On our return from heaven with Christ, once Armageddon is over, God's Kingdom will be established in Israel, and for some of us our first God-given role will be to gather the scattered remnants of Israel from the distant lands where they were held in slavery.

There will not be many. (Isaiah 24:6 ...few men left.)

Isaiah 66:19-20, 'I will perform a sign among them. And I will send those who survive to be messengers to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians... to Tubal and Greece, and to all the lands beyond the sea that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. There they will declare my glory to the nations. They will **bring the remnant of your people back** from every nation. [where they were held captive] They will bring them to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD. They will ride on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels," says the LORD. (see also Isaiah 40:10-11, Zechariah 10:10-11)

Imagine the awesome powers needed by Christ's Bride for that Moses-like operation, to rescue, feed and deliver those traumatised remnants of Israel to Jerusalem, from as far afield as Australia. That's why Christ is so very careful in choosing His Bride! He needs to be sure of our unswerving loyalty, as well as our spiritual strength, gentleness, love and compassion needed to care for His sheep, and so He is judging us right now, not in the distant future! 1 Peter 4:7, 'For it is time **for judgment** to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with **us**, what will be the outcome for those who do **not** obey the gospel of God?'

So.... we must practice *righteous judgement* in our daily lives now brethren, for Christ needs faithful judges *who* will be guided by His word. In 1 Corinthians 6:2-3, It, says, first part, 'Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? ..... So, we will be Kings and Priests, but Judges too!

Our first task as judges in the Millennium, will begin *before* we even reach Jerusalem with our flock, in Ezekiel 20:37-38. Christ says about those traumatised Israelites we gather, 'I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. I will **purge out** the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against me. I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall **not** enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'

When He says 'I' here, and elsewhere in the millennium scriptures, Christ is often referring to the 'oneness' of his family – The Father, Christ and His Bride, who will act as Christ's Arm during the Millennium. (John 17:21, Isaiah 40:10) It will be **our** judgement on those people which will determine their future! What an awesome responsibility! Even now, God is considering *our* natural talents and abilities in His contemplation our future roles.....

The whole land of Israel will be re-structured by the great earthquake on our arrival from Heaven with Christ, and some of His Bride will be allocated to the miraculous renewal of that land, Isaiah 41:15-19,

‘Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge,  
new, sharp, and having teeth;  
you shall thresh the mountains and crush them,  
and you shall make the hills like chaff;  
you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away,  
and the tempest shall scatter them.....  
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.  
I will open rivers on the bare heights,  
and fountains in the midst of the valleys.  
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,  
and the dry land springs of water.  
I will put in the wilderness the cedar,  
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive.  
I will set in the desert the cypress,  
the plane and the pine together.’ What an awesome task!

I’d like to be involved in that landscaping, as I have enjoyed planting many trees, but homes will need building, food will need growing, crafts of all kind will need teaching. Child-rearing, schools, churches, every aspect of life will need to be taught and administered God’s way, and some of us already have the talents and experience which will enable us to administer them, while others may be given cities to govern. In the parable of the pounds, Luke 19:17, picturing Christ’s return, he said to him, ‘Well thou good servant; because you have been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.’ Remember though, that when this was written ‘cities’ were like a small town today.

So, don’t worry that we might feel inadequate to such a task. The scriptures indicate that we will have had 3½ years of training in Heaven, **after** we have been changed into spirit beings, with all

the divine powers we will need for the task! Revelation 12:14. 'But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be **nourished** for a time, and times, and half a time.' While some will indeed be protected and nourished, likely near Petra, (See our article "Christ goes to Petra") those who qualify for the 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection, as we have seen, spend those years in Heaven. This word 'nourished' in the Greek actually means to 'fully develop' or to be 'personally enlarged'.

If we put all the millennial scriptures together, what we see is largely an agriculturally based society. The nearest example I have seen is the Amish way of life in Pennsylvania. God tells us in Micah 4:4, 'Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the **LORD Almighty has spoken.**' Each family will be given land to live on and farm in the enlarged Israel.

The Amish use no electricity. They use horse-drawn vehicles, small craft-based factories, family run farms, and happy, co-operative communities. Isaiah 30:23-25 indicates a return to similar methods: 'Then He will send rain for the seed that you have sown in the ground, and the food that comes from your land will be rich and plentiful. On that day your cattle will graze in open pastures. The oxen and donkeys **that work the ground** will eat seasoned fodder, winnowed with shovel and pitchfork. And from every high mountain and every raised hill, streams of water will flow in the day of great slaughter, when the towers fall.'

No more huge machinery, or heavy industry with its accompanying pollution, just mixed, organic family farms, with animals, healthy soils, full of natural humus from the animal and tree litter, and a countryside full of people, with small towns and villages, as it used to be. So, no more foodless food, which lacks the minerals we need to stay healthy, because artificial

organophosphate fertilisers actually kill the worms which bring the vital minerals up from the subsoil, and take organic matter down.

For those of us who are privileged to rescue, cherish and deliver the remnants of Israel to Jesus in Jerusalem, who better to live amongst and govern those lands on which they will be settled? Your example and teaching will be instrumental in the rebuilding of society in God's ideal nation of Israel, with its new climate, rain in due season, and all the teaching, knowledge and guidance Jesus Christ and His Bride will provide.

All of this indicates a strong emphasis on relationships in God's Kingdom, rather than the materialism and technology of today. Those relationships will be built on the *true* values of God's law, which will provide the peace, prosperity and happiness the world longs for.

Once Israel is fully established, we may even be asked to carry these ways to foreign lands, while our brethren from Africa, Asia etc. will return from Israel to rule and serve their own people. In time, we will need to recolonise Australia, the US and Britain, as Israel gradually becomes full of people.

In Isaiah 49:19-20, it says, 'For thy waste and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away. The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me: give place to me that I may dwell.' What does that mean? It means Israel's population will soon grow too big for that land and we will need to lead groups to homestead Australia and the US, just like the pioneers in their wagon trains, long ago!

Eventually, after 1000 years of gradually turning this world into an Eden-like condition, the whole world will have come to know God's way, and we, and those we have taught, will take it to the rest of humanity, after the Second Resurrection.

But, my friends, it all starts with you, and me.

Maybe these few glimpses of the future from God's word will help us to prepare and build our vision of becoming a member of God's Family, so that when life gets tough, we stick in there, and don't let the pressures of life crowd out our daily, faith-building, studies of God's word and the Kingdom of God!

Finally, let's conclude with Proverbs 29:18, 'Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.'

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