

Part 1, The Millennial Reign of King Jesus

(Feast of Tabernacles message)

Light on the Rock

by Philip Shields

Part 1 of a 2-part message on what King Jesus' reign during the Millennium will be like. What lies ahead for you and me is far more exciting than traditional heaven is depicted. We cover: the biggest change of all to make the Millennium a reality. What kind of planet we inherit. Will we live in cities? Who the main servant leaders will be. How the world will respond to Jesus' rule.

Greetings, you future servant rulers and righteous judges of the world to come (**1 Cor. 6:1-2**). This sermon is really the 2nd part of my Feast sermon about the Millennium. We've just come back from the Feast of Tabernacles, and I thought it was appropriate to include some Feast-type messages on this website, as the Millennium of King Jesus could start much sooner than we think – maybe.

What will the world tomorrow, during the Millennium be like? Is the Millennium for real – or do we really go to heaven? Do you realize that a common notion is to take the many verses about God's reign on earth – and to call *it* "heaven"? You will see that God – in the person of King Jesus – rules on earth. And we, the bride of Christ, will reign *on the earth* with Him. It will be a wonderful time.

Today I want to cover what the world we inherit will be like in the beginning, what one or two things make the biggest difference in the world tomorrow, who the leaders on the world stage will be, and what worship will be like in the world to come, and much more.

I hope you children listen as well. Sometimes – because we old fogies don't get it right all the time – our children's perceptions of God and His ways can seem pretty boring to them. God is not boring. Kids, listen: go check out my sermons on "Life as a Spirit Being" and decide if you think we'll be boring when we're changed to spirit, and can fly, can walk through walls, can see through mountains, can hear thoughts, can make ourselves invisible whenever we want to, and have incredible super powers of spirits! No – God's world, and living in God's world – is going to be beyond your wildest dreams and a lot of fun too!

OK. The Bible actually teaches that Jesus is coming from heaven to the earth soon, to be king of kings. At His return, the dead in Christ will be resurrected from their "sleep" or death, and given spirit, immortal bodies. That's "the first resurrection" (**1 Cor. 15:50-52; Rev. 20:4-5**). **King Jesus will reign on this planet for a thousand years, which we call "The Millennium", while God our Father remains in heavenly Jerusalem during that time.**

First, Let's talk briefly about Satan and Hell

God's word is clear: there is a real devil, called Satan, which means "enemy" or "adversary". He is the evil leader of the third of the angels who turned bad and rebelled against God. Jesus – who was from the beginning – said of that time: "I saw Satan fall as lightning" (**Luke 10:18**). Jesus, the Word, was there when it happened millennia ago. He watched it; He probably had a big hand in *causing* Satan to be hurled back to earth.

At the very beginning of Jesus' thousand year reign, Satan and his demons are bound and put into a place where they can't influence anything here on earth (**Rev. 20:1-3**). A thousand years without Satan's bad moods and thoughts and evil will be wonderful. However, God needs to know that all the **humans who are born and live during the Millennium, who never encountered Satan before, have the opportunity to do what WE all have to do: choose God, or choose Satan.** Choose LIFE – or choose death. Choose obedience – or choose Satan's lies.

So near the end of the thousand years, Satan is released for a short time and he goes right back to doing what he has always done: deceiving the nations (**Rev. 20:7-10**). He is once and for all captured and put away in his hell, and those who chose his way receive the Biblical penalty for their unrepented sin: death. Real death.

So back to the Feast of Tabernacles – and how it pictures the Millennial rule of King Jesus. I hope you hear the few sermons before this one to get the whole picture. King Jesus IS returning to rule this earth. We hope it is soon. How soon, I don't know. But for you or me, our end can be at any time. If you're being called now, you and I must not botch our calling. We will *not* have another life to have a second chance. This is our day of salvation, and our time of judgment, and we'd better get it right.

It's the 7th thousand-year period, picturing the 7th day rest from labors, sins and war. It's like a **Millennial sabbath**. The world will finally be at rest from the turmoils we've seen since Papa Adam and Grandma Eve were booted out of the Garden of Eden. Don't be too rough on them, however: you and I would have fared no better.

Let's jump right into the Millennium now, with what the world could be like just after we land on the Mount of Olives. Be sure to hear my prior 3-4 sermons before this one, or you could end up very confused. I went into a lot of prophecy in the sermons about the Feast of Trumpets and Atonement, the coming Exodus, and the one about the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles.

THE WORLD WE INHERIT will need restoring

Many of us are familiar with the many verses where God's people are promised cities to rule over. Certainly in the parables of the pounds and talents, the faithful servants were given 1 or 5 or 10 cities to rule over (**Luke 19:17-19**). We also know the verse: "blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (**Matt. 5:5**). We know also that God has given all things to King Jesus, and we – the Bride of the King – are co-heirs with Him of all things (**Rom. 8:16-17; Gal. 3:29; James 2:5**, etc). Whatever our Husband is given, will be shared with His Wife, the church.

Salvation is by grace. That's for all who receive Jesus as their Savior. So we're *saved by grace*. But *reward* is different. We are *rewarded according to our works* and our deeds (**1 Cor. 3:8; Rom. 2:6; Rev. 2:23; Rev. 22:12**). **Don't ever mix up reward and salvation. Two different things.** Salvation is God's free gift. Rewards, after you're saved, *are* dependent on what you do. Rewards have to do with the assignments you're given, honors you receive and so forth. We will be like the stars – all shining, but some with different glories, Paul says (**1 Cor. 15:40-41**). Jesus promises rewards to those who have forsaken, or been forsaken, in order to follow Him (**Matthew 19:27-30**).

But what kind of planet will we inherit? How will Satan and his minions have left it? *** I liken Satan and his people to bad tenants. God created and gave us a beautiful earth, so much so that at the

end of 6 days of creation, He looked out and saw what He had done, and declared it was “very good” (**Genesis 1:31**). God had also created a garden of Delights - Eden – and had placed the man there, to “keep it” and tend to it. After their sin, they were thrust out of the garden, and ever since we have systematically ruined this planet.

By the time Jesus returns, mankind will have all but wrecked it. Add to that, the destruction that will come as God punishes the world just before King Jesus returns – and wow, what will be left? ***There will be unprecedented earthquakes, mega-tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, 100-lb hail, tornadoes, many meteorite strikes, the earth will “be moved out of its place” (Isa. 13:13), there will have been major warfare – the cities will be nothing but rubble.*** Whole islands will have disappeared. New mountains will have appeared. Rivers will have changed their channels. Dams will have been smashed. The poisons of nuclear war will be everywhere. The results of worldwide war will be evident on humanity everywhere.

That’s the condition the world will be in when the god of this world – Satan – is *forced* to surrender control back to King Jesus. **So it starts off being pretty depressing, but hang in there – it DOES get better.** Some wags have said, “the meek shall inherit the earth, cuz no one else will want it by then”. Hmm. Maybe something to that.

On the other hand, when there’s something you can do to bring healing, joy, peace, a new sense of hope to a group of people – I think we will be charged up, rarin’ to go, eager to help our King establish His new world, His new way.

So I’ve got news for you: the cities we are given to rule, will be cities we are going to have to rebuild. Please turn to Scripture is replete with statements about rebuilding the ruined cities. I’ll list a few in my transcript. (**Isa. 61:4; Isa. 49:8; 58:2; Ezek 36:33-36; Amos 9:14**) Isaiah 49:8 says we’ll have to restore the earth and inherit desolate heritages!

Ezekiel 36:33-36

‘Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell **in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt.** 34 The ***desolate land shall be tilled*** instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. 35 So they will say, 'This ***land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden;*** and the wasted, desolate, and **ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.**' 36 Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that ***I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places*** and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it."

However, as things begin to improve, the whole planet will rejoice! Right now, scripture says the whole world groans, in travail, awaiting the appearance of the children of God (**Rom. 8:22-23**). Right now, trees are being choked by smog and pollution. Fish are dying in our polluted streams and rivers. Some species are being mercilessly over hunted. Even the soil is being leached of all its minerals in many places. Verdant green spaces are becoming desert. Lush forests are being cleared and burned in many parts of the earth, without new trees being planted to replace them. Compare that to what we read in Ps 98.

Psalms 98:4-9

“Shout joyfully to the LORD, **all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.**
5 Sing to the LORD with the harp, With the harp and the sound of a psalm,

6 With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.
7 Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it;
8 **Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together** before the LORD,
9 For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world,
And the peoples with equity.”

EMERGENCY MIRACLES – or ALWAYS THE HARD WAY?

Some believe that God is going to force mankind to fix things – brick by brick. Step by step. We made the mess, we humans will have to clean up our room ourselves, goes that line of thinking. I’ve heard sermons that have stated the reason we have a thousand years, is that it will take a thousand years to clean up the world.

Is that right? What do you think? More importantly, what does the *Bible* actually say?

I certainly believe God is not going to do everything for us, but surely there will have to be some emergency miracles that God and the Bride of Christ will have to perform just to make the earth safe enough to live in, to make the air safe to breathe, to make it possible to move around, to make it possible to stop the starvation – we must find food and clean water now, quickly – surely! If He doesn’t, and if we don’t, then millions more will surely die. **Jesus is the Savior**, and He will want to save physically –first - in these critical times as much He intends to save people spiritually.

So the contaminated, nuclear-infected winds and air will surely have to be miraculously blown away and cleaned up. Other emergencies I’m sure will be attended to at once. Healings will be happening. And guess what? You and I will have a hand in healing the many hundreds of thousands, or millions, who will be maimed, blinded, hurt, wounded and dying – from all the wars and famines. I’m looking forward to being able to heal. After all, as a spirit-born child of God, a spirit being, you and I will have powers beyond our wildest imaginations! You may wish to look up the sermons I gave a while back on “Life as a Spirit Being” to learn more about that. If the apostles, and Elijah, and Elisha, and others were given power to heal – so will you and I! And as I mentioned in a previous sermon “The Coming Exodus”, we’ll be busy gathering the scattered peoples of modern-day Israel all over the earth: and by that, I mean enslaved Americans, Britons, Aussies and Canadians, as well as people from the modern day nation called Israel – who will have been taken captive and sold as slaves all over the world! Let’s read some scriptures:

Israelites will be brought back from their captivity. “The Exodus” will refer to this time of gathering the scattered captives more than to the time God brought them out of Egypt (**Jer. 23:7**).

Jeremiah 31:7-14

"Sing with gladness for Jacob, And shout among the chief of the nations; Proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save Your people, The *remnant* of Israel!' 8 **Behold, I will bring them from the north country, And gather them from the ends of the earth, Among them the blind and the lame, The woman with child And the one who labors with child, together; A great throng shall return there. 9 They shall come with weeping, And with supplications I will lead them.** I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, In a straight way in which they shall not stumble; For I am a Father to Israel, And Ephraim is My firstborn.

10 "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, And declare it in the isles afar off, and say, '**He who scattered Israel will gather him, And keep him as a shepherd does his flock.**' 11 For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, And ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he. 12 **Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, Streaming to the goodness of the LORD** --For wheat and new wine and oil, For the young of the flock and the herd; Their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, And they shall sorrow no more at all. 13 "Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, And ***the young men and the old, together***; For I will turn their mourning to joy, Will comfort them, And make them rejoice rather than sorrow. 14 I will satiate the soul of the priests with abundance, And My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the LORD."

Isaiah 35:1-10

"The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; 2 It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God. 3 **Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear!** Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; **He will come and save you.**"

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened [by US, the wife of Christ!], And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. 7 The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes. [that's actual, physical – as well as spiritually speaking as well] 8 **A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called 'the Highway of Holiness'.** The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, 10 **And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads.** They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

Are you ready to be a part of that? I sure am! I sure want to be! We should now be walking this way, this **"highway of holiness"**. We should already now be clean before God and no longer a fool. We should now be among the redeemed walking the new way – the **Highway of Holiness**.

There will be great celebrations and people will be glad to rebuild. Turn to **Isaiah 61**. Jesus read the first 2-3 verses of this passage and it applied to His first coming, and then He stopped reading. The rest of Isaiah will apply to His 2nd coming!

Isaiah 61:4-6

"And **they shall rebuild the old ruins**, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall **repair the ruined cities**, The desolations of many generations. 5 Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, And the sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. 6 But **you shall be named the priests of the LORD, They shall call you the servants of our God.** You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory you shall boast."

The MOST IMPORTANT THING RESTORED

The Bible speaks of Christ restoring all things when He returns.

Acts 3:19-21

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, *so that times of refreshing* may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 **and that He may send Jesus Christ**, who was preached to you before, 21 *whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things*, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”

What will make the Millennium such a great time is the **restoration of the right RELATIONSHIP back to God**. People everywhere, over time, will repent of their wrong ways, accept King Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they will receive the Holy Spirit and **be converted**. The knowledge of the Eternal will cover the earth as water covers the seas. As people repent, they will receive a new heart and new attitude – and a new Spirit: the Holy Spirit. Just imagine what a great world that will be.

What makes for a superb feast is what will also make the Millennium so great: when everyone around you is converted and being led by God’s Holy Spirit. It’s not the location. It’s not the food. It’s not the quality of the place you stay in. It’s not the weather. . . though ALL of those things help for a pleasant feast, they’re not the main things. **What makes a Feast so memorable, and what will make the Millennium so memorable, are the interpersonal relationships we will have with one another, and especially with God on earth, in the person of King Jesus.**

Wealth, health, prosperity – all that is nice – but without God in the picture, it’s just emptiness. This is why the BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES is supposed to be read during the Feast of Tabernacles: to make the point that **life is not endless gobs of wealth, women or wives, gardens and castles and palaces** that this life is all about. Or as our Lord put it: **“one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15)**. That’s also the theme of Ecclesiastes. It can all become a chasing after the wind. Empty vanity. How did Solomon end the book of Ecclesiastes, which was such a forlorn story of how all his possessions left him feeling empty – because he did not have *the One thing that satisfies*: a right relationship with our Father and with our Lord, King Jesus! And you, oh Christian, must also remember to keep going back to the Well of Living Water – to our Redeemer Himself – and drink in richly of His living waters.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

“Let us hear **the conclusion** of the whole matter:

Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

So once *that* relationship is in place, everything *else* can be put back on track too. King Jesus will have to restore *everything* to what God intended, because the arch-enemy, Satan, has *corrupted* to some degree absolutely everything. We know that, because we just read the scripture that says heaven receives Jesus until he can return for “the times of restoration of ALL things” (**Acts 3:21**).

Even the things which *seem* OK, and don’t seem all that bad, are corrupted and negatively influenced by Satan. I don’t think any of us has a *clue* to the awful degree *everything* has been

corrupted – some more than others. That means even things like our housing, our transportation system, our educational system, our government, roads, farms, clothing, music – *everything* will have to be restored – and ***when one by one, each item is restored, what a wonderful world this will be.*** That world IS coming, and it can come only under King Jesus.

That will mean you won't have to lock your doors or even have keys for everything. Imagine. You won't have to read about wars that are killing our young men and women in their prime. Certainly no more torture chambers. No more death squads. No more tribal warfare. No more bombs and vicious weapons. We won't have to worry about muggers, thieves or rapists. People will honor one another and speak graciously and respectfully. We will be looking out for one another, serving one another, helping one another. No more divorce. No more kids wondering where daddy is. Instead we will have happy families, with children and their parents enjoying their time together. No more obscenity. No more pornography, prostitution, pimps, or strip clubs. No more drug addicts and drug peddlers. No more abortions – or premarital pregnancies. People will be healthy and living long. We'll see sickness and disease eventually eradicated, I'm sure of that.

So everything is set right. When God says "road" He means something different than we picture. When God says "city", I'm sure His cities bear no resemblance to ours.

Will there be cities in the Millennium?

Verse after verse says we will rebuild and INHABIT the ruined cities. God is not against cities. Some conservative evangelicals claim to hate cities. I can understand that based on what we see as "cities" today: concrete jungles ridden with garbage and crime and every sort of immorality. Fair enough: THOSE kinds of cities are abhorrent to God.

But the concept of having a CITY itself is NOT something God is against! After all, He lives in the grandest, biggest, most spectacular CITY of them all – ***heavenly Jerusalem***, which we're told is so big, it would cover ½ of the United States, or most of Europe. One city. And we're told it is ***1,500 miles high (approx 2400 kms)*** as well as 1500 miles long and wide. A high mountain today is only 2-3 miles high. Jets fly at 7 miles high. Can you imagine a 1,500 mile-high city? That's just beyond our imagination, right now. Wow! We're also told that will be the city of the Bride of God also, by the way. That will be your home too. So God isn't even against BIG cities. What He surely is against, is having cities that pollute, that breed crime, that are full of slums and so on. Remember, the faithful servant in the parable of the Pounds inherited ten cities!

So you can learn to love cities – if they're built God's way, and are beautiful, clean, efficient, peaceful and quiet hubs of the best of the best. God loves cities, His cities – and God loves the countryside. We'll have plenty of both in the coming Millennium.

I'm sure, when we take the many verses about people's living quarters and homes – that cities will be large enough to let people have ample land with their house, enough to have a vineyard, some trees, gardens. God IS against "house upon house". God IS against over-crowding.

So when we think of "city", and God thinks of "city" – the two mental pictures will be miles apart. We *will* have cities, roads, homes, agriculture – but by the time we're 30-40 years in the Millennium, they will all look, feel and be run *completely* differently than cities, roads, homes and agriculture are today. Why? Because King Jesus – God on earth -- will restore *everything* to what it

was supposed to be. We won't recognize clothing, housing, technology, cities, roads – anything and everything – compared to what we're used to today, after God's done with restoring all of it.

The Bible also speaks of a **population explosion** during the Millennium. We'll have to have that, as so few will be left alive at the beginning of it.

Isaiah 60:21-22

“Also your people shall all be righteous; They shall inherit the land forever,
The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified.

22 A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time.”

Why, and HOW, a population explosion? Think how fast our population can increase if there were:

- no more wars and the casualties of war
- a high birth rate, which several scriptures prophesy will be the case
- no more murders
- no more abortions (millions being killed now by abortions each year)
- almost no deaths from untimely sickness and disease
- probably great longevity

How long will people live, or could people live, during the Millennium? Consider that “the earth will be moved out of its place” (**Isaiah 13:13**), possibly correcting an ancient disaster. Perhaps climate will be much more even around the world. Perhaps damaging rays from the sun – ultraviolet and other types – would be screened. Perhaps this was the way it was prior to the flood.

- with perfect health – and no wars, no disease, no murders – how long could we live?
- Mankind routinely lived into their 900+ year mark in the pre-flood world (see **Genesis 5**). Human conditions will be even *better* during the Millennium. Remember the Pre-flood world was evil and violent. **So some have speculated that people will live the entire 1,000 years – and then have to make a final decision: are they going God's way, or will they listen to Satan and go HIS way, since Satan is released at the end of the thousand years. In my next sermon we'll get into possible reasons WHY Satan is released at the end.**

Some will listen to Satan at the end of the Millennium. We'll address that in the next sermon.

PASSIONATE WORSHIP RESTORED, CITIES, COUNTRY RESTORED:

Turn now to Amos 9:11. I hope you have heard my sermons on “**the Tabernacle of David**”. If you haven't, you may be in for a big surprise or two. It is all about the kind of worship that King David was so famous for. **David's kind of worship will be restored.** James even alluded to it in **Acts 15**. King David had *two* tabernacles during his reign: the old staid business-as-usual one without an ark in it, in Gilboa, and *his* tabernacle that had the actual ark of God in it. David's worship included virtually non-stop praising, singing 24 hours a day, and it was a glorious time. I think many of us PC folks, who want everything solemn and “proper” would react like Michal, David's wife, who criticized David's enthusiastic and passionate worship – which included even some dancing! Stop and think about it. Be sure to hear my 2 sermons on it, if you haven't already.

Amos 9:11-15

"On that day I will raise up The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old; 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name, "Says the LORD who does this thing.

[now God goes into what the harvests will be like; and he mentions the coming exodus]

13 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "**When the plowman shall overtake the reaper**, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it.

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."

True worship – taught by you. You and I should be learning God's word so well right now that we can someday teach it. You and I will be the judges, the rulers, the teachers in the coming world – when you read all the verses in the New Covenant which clearly say so. So when it says "the LORD will teach them" this or that, we – the body of Christ – will be assisting in that teaching process. The Millennium will be mostly about them – the people being converted, being taught, being healed – it's their time. It's about bringing the Good News to *them*.

There are clear verses that indicate that God gives people time to *choose* to go His way. He also doesn't bless them if they don't. Review **Zech. 14:16-20 if you need to**. It will take time to win over the people of the world. To win over former Muslims, former Hindus, former pagans, atheists. AS they see the fruit of this new King's way – in time, people will choose this way. But I reject the notion we're going to be a bunch of little Hitlers *forcing* people to obey God, or else! That's just not God's way.

Sure we will be teachers, no longer removed to a corner – and sure, we'll teach people. I do think some preachers have made more of **Isaiah 30:20-21** than they should. And they usually omit verse 19. Let's read verses 20-21 first, as is the usual case:

Isaiah 30:20-21

"And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, Yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. 21 Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left."

I think we need to keep that passage in *context* with a God who wants us to **CHOOSE the right way without having to be *forced* into that way.** Surely if the people choose evil as a *way of life*, we – the rulers of that kingdom – will surely have to intervene. But surely we will also give them space, time and ability to make their own course corrections too. *They* have to be the ones to choose the right – or it means nothing. In any case, notice the context of verses 20-21 starts in verse 19: *these people are crying for help, then the teachers appear and help. God is simply making the point that they'll have teachers who are responsive and are there to help them.*

Isaiah 30:19 NIV: "O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you."

But surely we won't just appear every single moment a somewhat wrong thought is in someone's head! Where would be the free moral agency? Where would be the chance for them to build character, to resist the wrong impulse? Can you imagine how jumpy people would become if every time they had a less-than-perfect thought, a spirit-being "teacher" appears with an "uh,uh,uh"? They'd be paranoid mental cases before long! No –we'll do it then, as God does it now: allowing us time to make up our minds, time to repent, time to choose. God also allows us to make mistakes, and to learn from those mistakes. Surely we would intervene to stop a deadly mistake – but I also believe we'll have to let people live their lives to some extent too.

OK – so over time, the world gets converted, and chooses to come and worship the King of Kings. The best sermon we can have is seeing our happy lives. That's more effective than all the words we could ever preach. Especially if people see our lives change. That is what I personally hope for more than anything: that people see changes in us, the people of God, and see us as new, different, not like the way we used to be. That is very effective in attracting people. They want whatever changed you and me. And that is what will bring people to God in the Millennium: seeing people change, seeing people be happy. **Be turning to Jeremiah 31:31.**

As you turn there, keep in mind the many scriptures that make it clear that over time, everyone will have access to the Holy Spirit, as our forefathers did. But this time, Satan is not around! This time, most – though not apparently all – will choose to eat of the tree of Life, as it were.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"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 -- 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.** 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' **for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,** says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and **their sin I will remember no more."**

So what if people think of you or me or anyone else in a certain way. What counts is what we are now, and what GOD thinks of us now.

Micah 4:1-7

"Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the **mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains,** And shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it.

2 **Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.** "For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3 He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; ***They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.***

4 **But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree,** And no one shall make them afraid; For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. 5 For all people walk each in the name of his god, ***But we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.***

6 "In that day," says the LORD, "I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast And those whom I have afflicted; 7 ***I will make the lame a remnant, And the outcast a strong nation; So the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever.***"

So it's clear: the Feast of Tabernacles **pictures** the time *ahead* of us – during the 7th thousand years of man, **the millennial sabbath of God**, when this world will rest from its wars and fears and evils and **this world will at that time come to be converted** and come to know God. This is what the huge fall harvest pictures. Remember all the final 4 holydays, when God's plan wraps up, all happen in the 7th month of God's calendar: the final steps.

NEW LEADERSHIP – CONVERTED SERVANT-LEADERS WHO CARE

Brethren, you and I are being given opportunities right now to learn how to be godly leaders. How? In our homes. Our marriages, our families, our child rearing. We're given opportunities to develop the attitude of service everywhere we go. At work. Do we help others out – or have the "It's not my job" attitude? Do we put litter in a trash can – or just dump it on the street? Are we responsible? Do we care about how we are affecting others feelings? Right now – all these little things are developing you and me one way or another. God is sick and tired of dictators. Are *you* one? God is sick and tired of out-of-touch, insensitive "leaders" who look only after themselves. Well, are we any different around those over whom we have some authority – our family, our kids, or perhaps people at work? How about you kids? Do you take care of your dog? Do you love your cat? You have some authority that way too! Are you a kind master to your pets?

Matthew 20:25-28

"But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles ***lord it over*** them, and those who are great ***exercise authority*** over them. 26 **Yet it shall not be so among you;** but whoever desires to become great among you, ***let him be your servant.*** 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave -- 28 ***just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,*** and to give His life a ransom for many."

Husbands, are we showing God that we are developing into husbands who love their wives as Christ loves the church, giving ourselves to and for our wives? Are we the greatest of servants in our homes? Or do we expect the wife and children to cater to our every whim? Are we husbands looking for ways to give HONOR to the wife, as a co-heir with us (1 Pet. 3:7).

Wives, are you showing the same loving attitude of serving cheerfully, being one with your husband and submitting yourself to his leadership with all meekness (1 Pet 3:1-5)? Or do you nag, do you try to be the boss, do you fight his every intention? You know what scripture says.

Fathers and mothers, are we being careful to not discourage or provoke our children – but to inspire and encourage them (Col. 3:21; Eph 6:4)? This is our training ground, folks! I preach to myself as well. I need to grow and change a lot in all these areas too! But please be aware: we're in

the situations we're in because God wants to see how we deal with stressful situations. God is training us now. Let's respond.

Even you **children** are being given those opportunities now. For example, by showing how responsible you are with what you're given to do: your chores. Do you keep your room clean? Do you pitch in, happily? Do you volunteer to do the dishes, or sweep the floor – without being asked? These are the things that will also prepare YOU to be a great leader in the world tomorrow as well. Do you try to be cheerful, even when everything's going wrong? Do you find ways to be an encourager – even to your parents, when they're all stressed out. Are you growing in being understanding that even your folks can have a bad day ... uhm, sometimes many "bad days" in a row, when they're not perfect examples of Christian parents. But are you – child of God – growing in your leadership too?

We can also read **Ezekiel 34** and apply it to ourselves. What kind of shepherd have we been with our children, our families? God will give Israel shepherds in the future who care for the sheep (**Jeremiah 23:3-4**). He wants you and me to be training for that now.

We need to be learning **righteous judgment** right now too. Notice what King Jesus himself says:

John 7:24 "Do not judge according to appearance, but *judge with righteous judgment*."

1 Corinthians 6:1-4

"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? **2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?**"

So there you have it. Don't confuse the difference between learning to have righteous judgment, and just always condemning people. We are commanded not to be condemning people (Matt. 7:1-3) all the time, but we're also commanded to learn to judge *righteously*. We have to make judgments all the time. Now let's learn to make *righteous* judgments. We need to be making better use of the training time we have now.

WHAT FORM OF GOVERNMENT?

As much as we prefer democracy to other forms of human-devised governments, ***God is clear that His government will not be one which seeks to fulfill the will of the people, but a government that seeks to lead by doing the will of GOD THE FATHER in heaven.*** Even Jesus often said while on the earth, that He was not here to do His own will, but the will of Him who sent Him (**John 6:38**). God the Father is greater than Jesus. Jesus said so (**John 14:28**) and in fact bows **HIS** knee to the Father too (**1 Cor. 15:28**). Jesus set us the pattern by not giving in to Satan's temptations, but roundly defeating him (**Matthew 4**).

Father knows best. God's will is what will best serve everyone. The majority may be a majority, but they may not know what's *best* or *choose* what's best. So *God's* will, *God's* way, *God's* laws, *God's* way of life is what will be taught, what will be expected, and what will be lived in the World to come. We're told over and over that God's rule will be righteous, will be just and fair, and will be

glorious. The people are happy during the millennium. God himself tells us that when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice (**Prov. 29:2**).

Isaiah 11:1-5 A prophecy of the righteous rule of King Jesus, the Branch of Jesse

“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

3 **His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;**

4 **But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.**

5 **Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.”**

Remember, we will be judges too. We will be priests of God. We will be leaders of cities as well. God the Father is supreme in heaven. King Jesus is supreme on earth. There will be some form of hierarchy, I’m sure – though we will also be acting very much like a loving family. Jesus is the oldest brother and He is king.

I think it is very likely that Abraham will be made next in line – over all the earth, under Jesus. **Abraham** is the father of the faithful. He was told he would inherit the earth.

Under Abraham, I believe, will be two leaders: one will judge and rule the Gentiles overall and one will rule the nations of Israel, both under Abraham. Perhaps the ruler over all the Gentiles could be **DANIEL** – who certainly had the experience right there in Babylon. I envision a team under Daniel, which could include the **Apostle Paul**, and perhaps Apollos, and others.

The Bible is clear that the ruler over the modern descendants of Israel will be the resurrected King David. Many read “Jesus” into all those verses, and some of the scriptures indeed are dual – about David as well as Jesus – and some are clearly literal. Jesus was clear that under David, would be each of **the 12 apostles** – each ruling a separate tribe of Israel (**Luke 22:29-30**).

I’m sure there will be specialists as well: converted, resurrected spirit beings who will be over the educational system of the world, over agricultural production, over the rebuilding program of cities, and many other endless projects. Don’t worry about not having things to do: you’ll be busy!

We’ll definitely have some of us who will be over cities – **Luke 19:15-19**

Jesus even said He would make some a “ruler over many things” – **Matt. 25:21-23**

Those who overcome, who change, who grow, are promised rulership over entire nations – “power over the nations” – **Rev. 2:26**

The church is told, if they repent and overcome, they can sit with Jesus on his throne – **Rev. 3:21**

But in all of this, keep in mind, we will be ruling – not in heaven – but on this earth (Revelation 5:10). Heaven is ultimately coming to this earth (**Rev. 21-22**).

A new EARTH will be the center of the universe, and you and I can be there helping King Jesus set it up. . . If He knows us now. If we have accepted Him as our Savior. If we *live* as one who knows God, and we're putting away the evil things and evil ways of our past. I preach also to myself. And I pray we are doing that and more brethren, and if so, we will receive honor and glory and power to be able to help set up this kingdom and to effectively serve the people of the world.

Ezekiel 34:23-31

23 I will establish **one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them -- My servant David**. He shall feed them and 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.**

[apparently King David will reign over Israel, and the 12 apostles will each reign over a tribe of the nation of Israel. Remember, "Israel" is really the modern nations of Israel, USA, Britain, Australia, Canada, and many of the northwestern nations of Europe]

In my next sermon, which will wrap up my topic of the Millennial reign of King Jesus, we'll go into these topics:

- how the Psalms of Ascents pictured the coming unity of the world under King Jesus
- More on what could the world ahead be like? Will there be **CITIES**? If so, what will they be like? Will people live in cities?
- Will there be any **TECHNOLOGY** as we know it today? **Will God have us in a world with rapid transportation, vehicles, jets and air travel, cell phones, computers and gizmos** – or will all that be trashed as being evil somehow? OR, will God allow mankind to use the unused 90% of our brains and we will see technological wonders yet undreamed of, in a world of converted people?
- what could houses, homes and farms be like?
- What about **EDUCATION** in the world tomorrow under King Jesus? Will everyone be home schooled or will there be schools that children GO to? Will there be universities of higher learning?
- Why on earth will God release Satan again at the end of the thousand years?
- why on earth would so many people choose to follow Satan at the end of the thousand years?
- Then I'll give a sermon about the meaning of the mysterious 8th day after the 7 days of the Feast of Tabernacles. I think you'll find that one very exciting indeed. In there, we go into what happens after the Millennium.

All that and much more. Sure, you'll find much to inspire you and much to disagree with in the next sermon, I'm sure, but I'll try to present concepts that at least seem to have Biblical support. I'd like your comments in the meantime. Spread the word of this coming kingdom to others. Tell others also about this website. This web site's dedicated to you and to all of us, to get us thinking outside the box a little about the things of God.

Until next time – your brother and servant, Philip. You can email me if you wish

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