

UNDERSTANDING THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

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Most of the Churches of God teach that the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the millennium. The reason why it was taught this way in Worldwide was that the Day of Atonement putting out of the scapegoat (Lev. 16) was seen as the putting away of Satan into the bottomless pit at Christ's return (Rev 20:2-3) and the next event that will happen in time sequence is the millennium. So the Feast of Tabernacles that occurs five days after the Day of Atonement is said to represent the millennium. The problem with this is that the Feast of Tabernacles does not fit the symbolism of the millennium because moving into booths for the duration of the feast portrays temporary dwellings, not permanent dwellings those of us who are in the first resurrection at the return of Christ shall have in the millennium. These scriptures prove that the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the period of time that the Children of Israel dwelt in booths for 40 years in the wilderness.

Lev 23:39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord seven days: on the first day shall be a Sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a Sabbath.

Lev 23:40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days.

Lev 23:41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the Lord seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

Lev 23:42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

Lev 23:43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

The Children of Israel dwelt in booths AFTER they came out of Egypt and DURING the time they were wandering through the wilderness and BEFORE they reached the promised land where they inherited their permanent dwellings. In fact, the very first place they camped after they left Egypt was called Succoth which means 'booths'.

Exd 12:37 And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot [that were] men, beside children.

In order to understand this meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles we must first understand that this Feast is a harvest festival. Pentecost is the beginning of the year harvest festival and the Feast of Tabernacles is the years end harvest festival. God looks on our salvation as a great harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God. Pentecost is called the Feast of first fruits and is the harvest of the first fruits. They include all people who have been called to salvation in this present age such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the apostles etc. The resurrection of these souls into the Kingdom of God will take place at the return of Jesus Christ before the millennium begins. The resurrection into the Kingdom of God of those souls who are in the years end harvest will take place at the end of the millennium. They will include all those who are born during the

millennium and those who are raised up to temporary physical life in the second resurrection at the end of the millennium who never had a chance to become converted and learn the ways of Christianity in their previous life.

The experience of the Children of Israel dwelling in booths or temporary dwellings for 40 years as they traveled through the wilderness was their period of judgment to see if God would find them worthy to enter the permanent promised land. Likewise these scriptures in Isaiah 65:20 show us that for those born during the millennium there will be no 'infant of days' or infant mortality as we know it today, but they will all live about a hundred years in their temporary physical bodies for a period of judgment to see if God will find them worthy to be in the resurrection to eternal life at the end of the millennium. Also Isaiah 37:1-14 and Revelation 20:4-6 those who are raised from the dead at the end of the millennium who in their former life never had the chance to be called and converted will be given a period of temporary physical life for that purpose.

It is said that the Holy Days picture God's plan of salvation and this is true. So what do these scriptures tell us that the Feast of Tabernacles pictures in God's plan? It pictures the period of judgment that God has ordained for all people whom he will call into his everlasting kingdom. Finally Isaiah 37:1-14 and Revelation 20:4-6 describe a resurrection from the dead at the end of the millennium for all those who lived and died and were never called in this age. It is a resurrection to temporary physical life which will be their period of judgment to see if they will qualify to enter the Kingdom of God

Wherefore, instead of listening to sermons during the Feast of Tabernacles about how we are waiting for the Kingdom of God, we should actually be listening to scriptures like these that warn us to not make the same mistakes that the Israelites did during their time of temporary dwellings in the wilderness.

1Cor 10:5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

1Cor 10:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

1Cor 10:7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

1Cor 10:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

1Cor 10:9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

1Cor 10:10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

1Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

1Cor 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

The Feast of Tabernacles teaches us HOW to be found worthy of the Kingdom of God by scriptures such as these that warn us away from sin and evil.

THE LAST GREAT DAY

Since it is taught that the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the millennium, it is also taught that the Last Great Day of the feast pictures the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the millennium. The problem with this idea is that it does not fit in with these scriptures that Jesus preached on the Last Great Day.

Jhn 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

Jhn 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

In these scriptures Jesus offers the holy spirit to ANY MAN. It is during the millennium that this will take place, first to all those who will be born during the millennium and lastly to all those who will rise in the second resurrection at the end of the millennium. So if you understand that the Feast of Tabernacles pictures our period of judgment and earthly existence in temporary dwellings, it fits that the Last Great Day pictures the millennium when all men who ever lived will be offered salvation and the opportunity for eternal life.