

Bible Study Notes

Wednesday Night, October 4th, 2017 - Opening Night - Feast of Tabernacles

Isaiah's Vision of The World Tomorrow

Welcome to the Feast of Tabernacles! This is the time of year that pictures the Wonderful World Tomorrow.

Mr. Raymond McNair, an evangelist of the Worldwide Church of God, was sent out by Mr. Armstrong (along with the other evangelists) to teach the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles during the Feast. He started off the Wisconsin Dells Feast one year by talking about God's 7,000-year plan, quoting II Pet. 3:8, Rev. 20:1-6 Isaiah 2:1-5 and passages from Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

Isa. 2:1-5

Notice there is a time coming when people will have a teachable attitude! What does it take to produce people who are teachable? It will take the events pictured by the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement. Right now, the people of this world are stubborn and rebellious (Ezek. 2-3; Rom. 8:7)! God's law will be in place during the World Tomorrow. That's the only thing that can produce happiness. Jesus taught the law throughout His first coming (Matt. 5:17-19) and will enforce it at His second coming.

Isa. 9:6-7

God's government will be established - but not over only one nation. It will be a worldwide government that will rule over all people then living. This government will expand throughout eternity. The earth looks huge to us, but it's really just a tiny speck in the universe. The same principle applies to this 7,000-year plan that's being worked out here below. It is like one week to God, to whom a thousand years are as just as one day. It's a tiny amount of time in the grand scheme of things. But it's IMMENSELY important! The earth is just the starting point for all eternity - that's really important! Don't minimize the 7,000-year plan or the earth in terms of their overall purpose. God is in the process of putting the world, the universe and His entire Family back on the right track!

Isa. 11:1-9

God's government through Jesus Christ will put this world back on the right track (Acts 3:21). The results of God's benevolent government will be obvious and dramatic. We're going to be priests and kings (which means teachers and rulers - Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:4-6). We will be the "good shepherd" type of rulers, not "overlords" (Jer. 23:4; Luke 22:24-30).

Isa. 59:20-21

Verse 20 is talking about Christ's second coming. Verse 21 is a promise from God: Once the New Covenant is made with the people of the World Tomorrow, God's Spirit will never cease to be with them forever! That means their children and grandchildren won't go off-track. Satan won't be around to pull them away and siphon God's truth out of their minds. He's VERY MUCH doing that today. When God puts His truth into an individual or into a group of people, Satan pulls out every stop to try to suck it right out of them if possible. But God is far greater than Satan. The first generation of the World Tomorrow will receive the right education, and retain it. It will not cease to be with them and their children forever!

If God's government were in place today, we wouldn't have the problems we have today (e.g., church divisions). God's government would set the standard for all of us to believe.

Isa. 60:1, 14, 19-22

This is talking to Jerusalem as if she were a woman (the "mother" of Israel; its citizens her "children" – as in the allegory of Galatians 4:21-31). Isaiah 40-66 go together as a unit. Isaiah 40:1-2 illustrates how God talks to Jerusalem as to a woman. Notice Isa. 60:21 - every one of Jerusalem's people will be righteous. Who does that include? Jerusalem will be world headquarters. This means that ALL people of the entire earth will be ALL righteous! God will make this happen - it won't fail. God cannot lie. Those people of the World Tomorrow will be SO precious - the first generation will be very few in number (Isa. 13:12).

Isa. 65:8-25

These verses describe the difference between those who will survive into the World Tomorrow and those who will be snuffed out during the great tribulation. Only those who respond to God's calling (Matt. 24:14) will survive and have a part in the World Tomorrow. It has to do with how they react to God's message when he calls them at the end of the age. Some of Jesus's parables (the ones regarding weeping and gnashing of teeth) go right along with verse 14 (Matt. 13:40-42, 49-50, 24:51, 25:30, etc.). We have seen the Church go off track before our very eyes several times in recent history (read Mr. HWA's article "Recent History of the Philadelphia Era of the Worldwide Church of God"). It doesn't appear that things will get back on track soon. But, the whole world WILL get back on track after Christ's second coming and before the Wonderful World Tomorrow. A "new heaven and new earth" is coming! This means the World Tomorrow - the time pictured by this Feast of Tabernacles, and beyond.

We are here to REJOICE over what God is going to do. We are to rejoice over what is coming, the time pictured by these wonderful, utopian, millennial scriptures. These aren't the mere esoteric platitudes of an ancient people musing over what they wish could happen, but in reality won't. These are the SURE PROMISES of God in heaven who cannot lie! Read Romans 8:17-22 - the whole creation is like a woman that is groaning and waiting for God's government to put it back on track so that it will be without pain and with happiness forever and ever.

People are going to live a long time in the World Tomorrow (Zech. 8:4; Isa. 65:20, 22) - perhaps 900 or more years, as in the opening chapters of Genesis. There will be universal godly education, and the enforcement of it by God's government. There won't be any violence - it will be a society that is completely peaceful. We'll all be under ONE government in the World Tomorrow, so we won't have the kind of problems we have today. The problems today are caused by a lack of God's government over us to inject His education into us and enforce God's standard of living (Hos. 4:1, 6).

Isa. 66:7-8

A whole new world is going to be "born" into existence!

Isa. 51:2-3

There was a time back in Genesis when God was working with only Abraham and Sarah. God was planning on building up a great nation through them. It all happened - God caused it. It all came through Abraham and Sarah. They were called ALONE! It was a "grain of mustard seed" beginning that is still going on (Matt. 13:31-32). God sees it all as one unit from Abraham and Sarah down to the World Tomorrow. Read Genesis 17:6-7, 15-21. God thinks

really BIG because He is extremely powerful, can see the overall picture and bring to pass what He sets out to do. He was looking, in Genesis, all the way down to the World Tomorrow.

Isa. 66:1-2, 4-5, 15-16, 22-24

God looks favorably on those who tremble at His Word and obey Him with vigor! God isn't impressed with wealth or power, nor should we be. We need to be looking to God and fearing HIM. We should look to Him and look forward to the time when these holy days are actually fulfilled. Do we care about this? Do we realize the importance of God and His government? Or are we simply enamored with the cares of this life - wealth, status, careers, good looks, vanity and so on? All flesh will come and worship before God in the World Tomorrow. We should be very impressed with that! What human being, or group of human beings, can make world government happen today? NOBODY! Only God has the power to bring this to pass. God will extinguish all rebellion against His rule and authority (Mal. 4:1-2). That's how the book of Isaiah ends. It's very sobering. It's a stark reminder that not everyone will submit to God's government today (Rev. 9:20-21). Those who do survive, who aren't rebellious, will lead long, happy, prosperous, satisfying, obedient and abundant lives in the Wonderful World Tomorrow (Isa. 65:21-24).