

# Bible Study Notes

Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - Fourth Day - Feast of Tabernacles

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## Israel and Gentiles Blessed Together

Heb. 11:8-16; 13:14

God was planning for what was pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles - the Wonderful World Tomorrow - clear back in the days of Abraham. Abraham envisioned the World Tomorrow far into the future - a time when the world would be a much better place than it was during his lifetime 4,000 years ago. If Abraham didn't have faith, he could have returned back to his homeland and given up on God's promises. God wants us to seek what Abraham was looking for as well!

John 8:56

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." Abraham was looking for what is pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles - and Jesus here called it, "My day." Paul called it "the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil 1:6, 10). It will be the time when Jesus rules the world - the Seventh Millennial Day of human history (Mark 2:28)! Abraham rejoiced to see the day of Christ, the World Tomorrow. He did not see the fulfillment of it in his human lifetime, but had the faith that he would see it eventually (Isa. 2:2-4; Rom. 4:17; Heb. 11:8-16).

Gen. 13:14-17

God was looking clear down to the World Tomorrow in this passage!

Gen. 28:12-14

The promises to Abraham were passed on to Isaac and Jacob. Throughout the story of the book of Genesis, God was raising up the beginnings of the nation Israel. Israel was intended to become God's model for all other nations on the face of the earth.

Isa. 27:6, 12-13; 11:11-12

Israel is going to blossom, and will yet become that model nation in the World Tomorrow. All other nations will follow Israel's good example at that time.

Isa. 54:2-8; 60:1-22

Jerusalem is a "mother." This is an allegory, as Paul mentioned in the book of Galatians. Her "children" are the children of Israel. God is going to gather the children of Israel and return them to their mother - to Jerusalem. It's going to be a very happy World Tomorrow - a happy Jerusalem (65:18-19).

Jerusalem will be extremely prosperous, unlike anything the world has ever seen! The Gentile nations are going to bring some of their wealth to Jerusalem (as when the Queen of Sheba came to Solomon - I Kings 10:1-13).

The U.S. and B.C. are "the house of Israel" today, and the Jewish nation of Israel is "the house of Judah." The nations that hate modern Israel today will have to look up to Israel in the World Tomorrow! Jerusalem is going to become the capital city of the entire earth (Jer. 3:17); Christ will place the saints of the first resurrection over the cities and nations of the earth, with world headquarters at Jerusalem. This "New Jerusalem" is the city which

Abraham was looking forward to (Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:22; 13:14)! Notice - the people of Jerusalem (i.e. the population of the whole world during the World Tomorrow) will be completely righteous (60:21). God will cause this to happen at precisely the right time in history (v. 22).

#### Ezek. 36:1-11, 16-38

In chapter 35 (v. 1-11, 16-21), God directs His comments to the enemies of Israel. You can just imagine the nations of the middle east who HATE America, Britain and Israel today. God will punish them harshly (35:14-15). In chapter 36, God speaks poetically to the mountains of Israel. God cast Israel out of their land. The surrounding countries became arrogant - now they thought they "owned" the land. Beginning in verse 8 God gives good news to Israel. The World Tomorrow will bring more prosperity to Israel than it ever had before! It will be more prosperous than the United States or Britain at their height - better than the kingdoms of David or Solomon.

All of the prophecies picture Israel as coming OUT of a state of captivity at the time of their ultimate restoration. Whoever they are, wherever they are, they will be coming out of a state of captivity just before entering into the World Tomorrow. The people of Israel have given, and are giving God a bad "name" (reputation) today. Rom. 2:23-24 describes this situation also. Gentiles think the "people of God" stink!

God is not going to restore Israel for THEIR sake (v. 22-27), but for HIS NAME'S SAKE (v. 22)! Today, America has a bad reputation in the eyes of much of the world due to its sinful ways. But God will - for His name's sake - restore it and bless it with enormous prosperity after the great tribulation. God will make our people HUMBLE (Zeph. 3:11-13), then lift them up above all other nations! God will forgive them of their sins (v. 25), grant them a new heart through the Holy Spirit (v. 26) and cause them to walk in His laws and ways (v. 27). This is the real key to their success. (It's like Rom. 8:5-14 - you have to have God's Spirit in you to be soft hearted and truly obedient to God.)

Deut. 30:1-10 is a parallel set of Scriptures to what is laid out here in Ezekiel 36. These Scriptures give us absolute proof that God's law is NOT done away today (Matt. 5:17-19)! It's what will be in place during the World Tomorrow (Isa. 2:2-4). God's law is not "obsolete" at all, but alive and very relevant. Liberal theologians, beware!

God is going to BLESS Israel greatly in the World Tomorrow (v. 28-38)! Again, this isn't going to be for the peoples' sake, but for God's sake! It will be very apparent that it is GOD who is doing this. He's going to make the land (the entire World Tomorrow, but especially the Israelite areas) like the garden of Eden.

#### Ezek. 37:15-28

God will restore Israel and Judah together and make them ONE nation. They won't be divided any longer. Jeroboam once severed the Kingdom of Israel from the Kingdom of Judah. This division will be healed in the World Tomorrow. The people will keep God's laws, be restored to the land of Israel, be under David their king and enter into the New Covenant (Hos. 1:11; Jer. 31:31-34).

Mr. Armstrong said that there is a story flow running throughout the book of Ezekiel. Today, the people of Israel are sinful, wrong, rotten and rebellious. God will deal with this by subjecting them to a time of punishment, sending them into captivity. This punishment will humble them during the 3½-year-great-tribulation (the books of Daniel and Revelation confirm this), whittle down their population and make the survivors ready to inherit the land

in the World Tomorrow. God will bring them into the bond of the New Covenant, willing and able to obey His laws. He will build them up. The story flow running through the book of Ezekiel culminates with “the vision of the World Tomorrow” found in chapters 40-48.

Notice Ezekiel 37:27 - God will place His “temple” in the midst of Israel in the World Tomorrow. When Paul quoted this verse, he applied it in a very special way:

#### 2 Cor. 6:16-18

God’s CHURCH is the “temple” of God today! “For you are the temple of the living God,” said Paul in v. 16 (see also I Cor. 3:16-17).

#### Rev. 21:22, 3

God and Christ (the Lamb) ARE the temple, and we are a part of it too (Eph. 2:20-22; Rev. 3:12; John 14:2)! God’s “temple” is actually His Family, His Kingdom. None of these verses contradict each other - rather, they are to be combined together. (Mr. Armstrong said that a doctrine is like a house: you must see it not only from one side, but must walk around it in order to see it from all sides, and even go inside. Only then have you seen the entire house - the big picture.)

#### Rev. 7:14-15

The “144,000” and “great multitude” come out of the great tribulation and serve God “in His temple.” What is that temple? “YOU are the temple,” said Paul! It is God’s “house” (Heb. 3:6) - His Family - His Kingdom - His temple.

In your mind’s eye, picture the earth with God’s Family encompassing it, filling it, making the entire earth “right” in God’s eyes - on “the right track.” All of humanity will be “in God’s temple” during the World Tomorrow - i.e., under the authority of God, Christ and the resurrected saints - connected to God by virtue of the fact that God’s Family of immortal spirit beings will be placed over the human beings on earth, guiding and directing their lives, providing abundant education and encouragement. (God is very creative, and sometimes uses very symbolic descriptions to communicate His truth!)

#### Jer. 50:4-5

Those who survive the great tribulation will be EAGER to enter into the New Covenant with God. This restoration of Israel, along with the Gentiles (Isa. 19:24-25; Rom. 2:10-11), will never end (Ezek. 37:25).

#### Jer. 33:7-9

God will forgive all of their sins through the blood of Christ, and cause them to inherit the land forever. The World Tomorrow will be immensely HAPPY and PROSPEROUS!

#### Rom. 11:26

All Israel shall be saved - this will happen at the time pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles - the World Tomorrow. (What happened during the Persian period, when Cyrus made a decree to restore Jerusalem, was not the ultimate fulfillment of Bible prophecy). These things simply haven’t happened yet.

#### Isa. 61:9; 62:1-2, 7; 2:1-3

In the World Tomorrow the Gentiles will realize that GOD is blessing Israel. They are going to want to be like Israel. ALL nations will be blessed in Abraham - they’ll all become “Abraham’s descendants” spiritually (Gal. 3:8, 16, 29)! ALL will be part of the same family.

“Globalization,” as some call it, cannot be achieved by man alone, without God’s help. It will come through the guidance of God and His government. In the World Tomorrow the nations will be kept separate physically in order to preserve their God-given identities and special characteristics (Gen. 10:32; Deut. 32:8; Acts 17:26), but all nations will belong to one spiritual family! Jerusalem will be the praise of the whole earth. The nations will be teachable under the government of God (Isa. 2:3; Ps. 86:11).

The whole world, including the Israelite and Gentile nations, will become blessed physically by learning to obey the One True God, and blessed spiritually by following the teaching of Christ and the resurrected saints - and by becoming the true descendants of Abraham (Gen. 17:1-8)!