Bible Study Notes

Tuesday, October 10th, 2017 - Sixth Day - Feast of Tabernacles

7th Millennial Day Rest - LIGHT!

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Mic. 4:1-7; Rev. 22:17
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All nations will walk with God in the World Tomorrow - there will be one God and one people - God has big plans that concern all nations.

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Isa. 14:3;7
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The whole earth will be at rest! There will be no war; all nations will be at peace with one another. It will be the Seventh Millennial Day of human history.

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Heb. 2:5
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The subject of the book of Hebrews is "the world to come."

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Heb. 4:1, 3-11; Rev. 14:12-13
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The coming "rest" we are going to enter is pictured by the seventh day of creation (Gen. 2:1-3). By keeping the Sabbath day holy each week we are reminded of the 1,000-year millennium ahead and God's 7,000-year plan of world history. There is a future Sabbath "rest" for the people of God - a "sabbatismos" (Gr., v. 9). We need to be DILIGENT to enter into that rest (v. 11).

Some people think that just being "in the Church" is the "rest" being spoken of in Hebrews 4. That is incorrect. The Seventh Millennial Day is the "rest" we need to be striving diligently to enter. We haven't made it yet (Rev. 14:12-13). Now is a time to LABOR, not a time to rest, because Satan is still around and there is a real battle going on (Eph. 6:10-18; II Tim. 2:3-4; Rev. 3:21). The Wonderful World Tomorrow - Seventh Millennial Day - is the time of rest we are looking forward to, as Abraham did (Heb. 11:13; John 8:56). Satan will be gone then. We will have received our reward. The whole earth will be at rest, and we'll be able to rest along with the people of the world at that time.

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Ex. 20:11
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God created the Sabbath day by RESTING.

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Ex. 31:12-17
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The Sabbath Covenant is separate and distinct from the old covenant, which was ratified earlier (in chapter 24) and cannot be added to (Gal. 3:15). It shows that God does expect all human beings to rest every Sabbath day, as He did in the beginning when He rejuvenated, refreshed and renewed the face of this earth in 6 days (Ps. 104:30), and then rested on the 7th day for man (Mark 2:27). Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28).

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Gen. 1:31-2:3
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God's act of resting on the seventh day pictures the world to come! God sanctified the Sabbath and created a perpetual reminder for man of His creation 6,000 years ago (Rev. 14:6-7) and what is coming in the World Tomorrow.

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Josh. 1:13, 15
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When Israel entered the Promised Land, there was REST.

Joshua did bring Israel into the Promised Land, but the condition of "rest" didn't last forever as it was supposed to. The prophecies of the World Tomorrow - the ultimate rest - remain unfulfilled and are yet to come (Dan. 2:44; 7:14; Ps. 105:6-11; Matt: 1:1-17; 2:4-6; Luke 1:31-33; John 18:36; Heb. 2:5).

The entire generation of Israel which came out of Egypt, except for Joshua and Caleb, had to die in the wilderness and was not allowed to enter into the Promised Land (Num. 14; Deut. 1). This teaches a very important lesson for the Church of God today (Heb. 3:7-15). Joshua brought their children into the Promised Land, but not them. There followed a great REST (Josh. 21:43-45). Israel obeyed God during Joshua's lifetime; the elders who outlived Joshua also kept Israel on the right track (Josh. 24:29-31; Judg. 2:7-10).

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph lived during the first half of the Third Millennial Day. Moses lived in the middle of the Third Millennial Day. The Exodus, 40 years wilderness wandering and entering into the Promised Land also occurred during the middle of the Third Millennial Day. This was followed by the Judges Period. David was born and began to reign near the end of the Third Millennial Day; his kingship continued into the Fourth Millennial Day. Hence, David (Heb. 4:7) wrote Psalm 95 about 500 years after the time of Joshua. This fact strongly implies that the lessons of Psalm 95 and Hebrews 3-4 are directly intended for the Church of God today! Our Christian lives after baptism are analogous to Israel's 40-year period of wandering in the wilderness before they entered the Promised Land.

God intends to re-create conditions like the Garden of Eden on earth in the World Tomorrow! Jesus will "restore all things" - restore the earth to the same beautiful state as in Genesis 1:31.

In Genesis 1, God was rejuvenating the earth after the rebellion of Satan and the demons (Rev. 12:7-9; II Pet. 2:4). He made it beautiful again. But, SIN entered the picture when Adam and Eve chose to follow Satan (Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12). Satan has been "holding the world captive" ever since - for almost 6,000 years. God is now working through Jesus Christ to restore the state of the earth to what it was like before the sin of Adam and Eve, by preparing the saints to be in the first resurrection at Christ's second coming. They will rule with and under Christ in the World Tomorrow.

The entire creation is awaiting the time when we will be resurrected and born into the Family and Kingdom of God! We are going to make everything GREAT! Do we get this? We're not only going to help Christ make the earth beautiful during the World Tomorrow, but afterwards we are going to expand out to the rest of the universe! That is what Mr. Armstrong described as THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL!

The earth is going to "give birth" to a whole new world - the World Tomorrow. This will include the saints of the first resurrection, the restoration of Israel, the Gentile nations and all humanity. The World Tomorrow is going to be "a new heaven and earth," a whole new world, like the birth of a child!

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Rev. 21:1-8; 20:4-6
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The new heaven and earth will begin with the 1,000-year millennial rule of Christ and the saints. We will have labored during our human lifetime to enter into that rest, not as physical humans but as spirit-born, righteous, kind, on-track rulers who will help Christ keep the world and the universe on the right track for the remainder of eternity!

Why does God allow Satan to influence humanity during this 6,000-year period?

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Gen. 3:15; Rom. 16:17-20, 25-27; Rev. 20:1-3
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God is allowing Satan to be around now so God's saints can build character by learning to resist, reject and overcome Satan as Jesus did (Rev. 3:21). It takes time and experience to build character. God is putting "enmity" between God's seed and Satan's seed - between those who are connected to God by having His Holy Spirit and those who are connected to Satan by having his foul, rebellious spirit! God is placing "enmity" (an eternal bar of separation) between the Bride of Christ and Satan!

Only That Which is Holy Will Enter the Seventh Millennial Day

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Isa. 4:2-4; 65:8-25; 6:13; 10:20-22; 11:11-12; Jer. 50:20; 23:3-8; Ezek. 6:8-10; 14:22-23; Zeph. 3:11-13; Rev. 7; Zech. 14:16; Isa. 35:8; Ezek. 20:40; 43:12; Zeph. 11:13; Joel 3:17
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Everyone in the World Tomorrow will be righteous and on the right track! Everyone shall be "holy." Sin and whatever is unholy will not be allowed to enter.

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Rev. 2:7; Isa. 25:7; 2 Cor. 4:4-7; 2 Cor. 3:12-18
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Revelation 2:7 takes you back almost 6,000 years to Genesis 2 and 3. If you have been called by God to understand, and to overcome in the sense that Jesus is talking about here, you will be able to eat of the tree of life and live forever - to be in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6).

On the First Millennial Day, God divided light from darkness - God's way from Satan's way. The World Tomorrow will be full of God's LIGHT! Right now there is Satan's darkness covering the earth - a veil over the hearts of most people so that they cannot understand the things of God (Matt. 13:10-15). God SHUT OFF the tree of life from this world. Most people are not qualifying in this age for eternal life as members of God's Family (because they are simply not concerned about the things of God right now), but their time of salvation will come on the Last Great Day - the Great White Throne Judgment period - when they will be in "the second resurrection" (Rev. 20:5). We can understand these things because we faithfully observe God's holy days.

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Isa. 42:6-7
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The world is currently being "held captive" by Satan; humanity is in a "mental prison" of deception, darkness and blindness. God is in the process of delivering humanity from this condition through Jesus Christ (Isa. 61:1; Luke 4:18). The holy days picture how this is being worked out in God's own time and way. God's plan and purpose is being accomplished through His holy prophets and apostles, gradually, as He calls human beings to salvation and works with them (John 6:44-45, 65).

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Isa. 60:19-20
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This is symbolic of the understanding that "lightens" peoples' minds (II Cor. 4:6; Eph. 5:8-14)!

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Acts 26:18
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Christ used the apostle Paul to turn people from darkness to light!

Parallel to Isaiah 60 - there will be NO NIGHT in the World Tomorrow, in the New Jerusalem. Satan won't be around. It will be 100% LIGHT! No more night! May that day come soon (Matt. 6:10)!

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Rev. 21:3
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God will be WITH mankind in the World Tomorrow. In Genesis 1-3, God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. After they sinned, He cast them out of His presence. In the World Tomorrow, God's presence will be with mankind again!

This describes the unfortunate world condition today - most people are cut off from God and in darkness.

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Rom. 9:25-26; 11:7-10, 25-33
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The children of Israel today are "not God's people," but in the World Tomorrow they WILL be "God's people" (Hos. 1:10; 2:23; Zech 13:9; Jer. 30:22). As much as this applies to Israel today, it applies even more to the Gentiles. We will be used to help our unconverted relatives and all other people of the earth in the World Tomorrow and beyond.

The Seventh Millennial Day will be holy. It will righteous time. This is pictured by the weekly Sabbath and this wonderful Feast of Tabernacles.