

A Picture of the Millennium

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Well, brethren, with this first High Day of the Feast of Tabernacles that began at sundown, we began to picture something incredibly important in the plan of God for the salvation of mankind. Because we are not here keeping a convention or any kind of assembly that was ordained by human beings. We are here only because we fear the Eternal God who made a command that we are to appear before Him for this seven-day Feast. And there is incredible purpose in that Plan and in the keeping of this Feast. And so on this first High Day—this Holy Day, the opening of the Feast of Tabernacles—it is especially imperative and appropriate that we look at the meaning and the purpose for which we are here. What is it that we are celebrating? What is it that we are looking forward to by being here? Is it that our thoughts and our hopes for the future are caught up in the things of this world—in the governments of this world and all that which is offered by the work of human hands? Or, do we look for something much more valuable for the future? All of you who are here keeping the Feast of Tabernacles are doing so because you have a hope of something much greater that is going on, and it is the very operation of the living God who created us and put us here on this earth for the purpose of becoming very members of His God Family. And, so, in the keeping of the Feast of Tabernacles, we are picturing the very coming of Jesus Christ to take possession of this earth and become its King—to rule over all of this earth and to establish the very rule of God, with His perfect laws, in the lives of men. And so we come here joyously to glorify that God—to obey His command and to avail ourselves of the blessings and the benefits which come by living that Way of Life.

So we want to go through and look at the picture of the meaning of this Feast of Tabernacles in starting right off at the beginning of this Feast: a picture of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. And so what I want to do is pick out a few scriptures which give us a synoptic image of what that reign under Jesus Christ is

going to be like and how different it is going to be in comparison to the governments that now rule on this earth under the god of this world.

Let's begin in Zechariah chapter fourteen and verse nine. Zechariah 14:9: "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth." That's what we are celebrating—the very fulfillment of that statement.

[T]he [Eternal] shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses. And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction.

If you look at the news on your television on a regular basis, what do you see, brethren, in the course of world events today? Utter destruction, divisiveness and chaos occurring all over the globe. And so it has been happening for the last six thousand years as men attempt to fulfill their own goals—their own aims—seeking to create their own utopian society upon this earth. Most of them being very well meaning, and yet, utterly incapable of achieving happiness and peace and bringing about those lofty goals. And, yet, we are celebrating a time when that government is going to rule on the earth; there is going to be peace and harmony and a glorious fulfillment of all the desires of human beings to live in happiness and joy.

"And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited." Doesn't that today seem utterly impossible when we think about what is going on in the Middle East right now, and all that is circulating politically around that very city of Jerusalem? And, so, according to the efforts of men, it is impossible that that city, or any city, ultimately will see peace. It is going to take the miraculous hand of God to intervene and establish it—something that is far beyond the capacity of any human being to bring about.

Verse 16: "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem . . ." And, remember, we looked at those scriptures during the Feast of Trumpets when we looked at the very process by

which God is going to take possession of this earth and establish that Kingdom. And Jesus Christ *is* coming as a conquering warrior. He is coming to take His Kingdom by force and He is going to rule.

And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

A day is coming, my dear brethren, when you are not going to be sitting as a small handful of people observing a Feast of Tabernacles while the rest of the world goes about its daily business, oblivious to this Feast and its meaning. But how phenomenal is it to think about the possibilities of that time when all human beings on the face of the earth are going to have the knowledge of God's Law and they are going to be taught the very same things that all of you have been taught; and they are going to learn to value that same Way of Life that you now cherish; and they are going to relish an opportunity to come before their King and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles; a day when you are not going to be the oddball; you are not going to be strange and peculiar people that make such sacrifices of their personal lives to come and be at a designated place; a day that is coming when you are not going to be strange, because all human beings are going to have that knowledge and they too are going to be keeping the Feast.

And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong made a very simple statement that sums up the meaning of the keeping of the Feast of Tabernacles as he was able to do better than anyone else we have probably ever known. He had a way of taking even complex subjects and reducing them down to their lowest common denominator and making them very simple to understand. And this is what Mr. Armstrong said; it is a quote from "The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like":

God marked out six millennial days to allow man to indulge in the spiritual labor of sin, followed by a millennium of spiritual rest under the enforced government of God.

How simple. Well, brethren, that is precisely what we are here to do. We are here to celebrate the eventual arrival of the soon-coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ—the very government of God—when it will be established upon this earth to rule all human beings that live. And, so, I want to go through, now, during this service, in the time that we have left, and take a look at a number of scriptures, and there are so many, I must pick out only a few to give us a glimpse, a synoptic overview, of what that world under the reign of Jesus Christ—that Millennial rule—is going to be like in comparison to what we experience today in this world. Let's begin in Revelation sixteen and verse eighteen. Because the first thing we find is going to happen when Christ returns, which will be totally different upon this earth, is that Christ is going to change the very physical topography of this earth. The physical earth that you see—the land, the oceans, the mountains, the continents and all that we are familiar with in the areas in which we live and from the maps and perhaps the movies or documentaries—much of it is going to look totally different because Jesus Christ is going to come and make some monumental changes. Revelation 16:18: "And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth . . ." Now, how great an earthquake must that be? We've had some pretty phenomenal earthquakes in the history of mankind, have we not? There have been some incredibly historic quakes which have wreaked incredible devastation upon this earth and yet, we are talking about an earthquake that is going to come, leading up to the very return of Jesus Christ, that is going to be unlike anything human beings have ever witnessed before. " . . . so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell." So, first, Jerusalem is going to be changed incredibly. It's not going to look the way it does now. The very earth is going to separate and be divided into three parts. "And the cities of the nations fell." All of these cities that we marvel at because of the devices of human beings and their engineering and accomplishments—their skyscrapers, their metropolitan areas—are all going to be destroyed because Jesus Christ is going to start from scratch and He is going to build them again. But I don't want to get ahead of myself because we are going to see that later.

. . . and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

There are going to be some phenomenal things that happen to the largest mountains on the face of the earth. Those mountains are going to be brought low. The topography of this earth is going to be changed. They are going to have to draw totally new maps. And there is a reason all of this is going to be done.

Isaiah eleven and verse fifteen. Isaiah 11:15: "And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea . . ." Another reference to the fact that God is literally going to change the boundaries between sea and land, and many of these things are going to be affected. " . . . and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod." And we know, without taking time to turn to it, that many of the seas on the face of this earth are going to be dried up because the millennial reign of Christ is going to include a lot more land mass for the habitation of human beings. They are not going to have the problems they do today with overpopulation. Overpopulation is simply a mismanagement of the resources of this earth that God gave. And in preparation for a great resurrection of billions that is going to come after the end of the Millennium, work is going to be done throughout that thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ to make it ready for the habitation of all of those billions that are going to come up out of the ground to be taught God's Way for the first time. Uninhabitable places, places where people currently can't live, are going to be restored—they are going to be made fertile. Valuable land is going to be expanded and there are going to be no more of these desolate places on the earth.

Isaiah thirty-five and verse one. Isaiah 35:1: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." Imagine how phenomenal it will be when deserts, like the Mojave Desert, or the Sahara Desert—nothing but sand and desolation where nothing grows at all; no water; no means to support life—and yet those very arid and desolate places are going to be turned into beautiful gardens, even like the garden of Eden. It's almost beyond our human imagination, but it is going to happen.

It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

Yes, He is going to take those deserts and make them beautiful, lush, inhabitable places. Right now, I believe, brethren, there are more than ten million square miles of uninhabitable desert upon this earth. Now, I think they also include in that the polar caps—the regions that are covered with ice—in considering from a scientific perspective what constitutes a desert. Ten million square miles of only the land that exists right now—absolutely useless for human beings. And, yet, a day is coming when all of that land is going to be made habitable and people are going to possess it and it is going to be an incredible blessing to human beings.

Verse 5: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened . . ." A reference to something else that is monumental which is going to happen during the Millennium concerning human beings—with the healing of all manner of diseases and illnesses and those things that we are so afflicted by through the breaking of God's perfect laws.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

What an incredible image that is going to be when we see that transformation take place before our very eyes. Isaiah forty-one and verse seventeen. Isaiah 41:17:

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys.

So mountains where there is no water—rugged terrain which doesn't support life at all—are actually going to be flowing with beautiful rivers of water as well as the water which is going to come out of the earth in fountains to give life to the land.

I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together.

How amazing that these desolate deserts and uninhabitable places today are actually going to be vast forests of living, beautiful trees. What an amazing accomplishment is going to take place—and probably not too many years hence.

That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

Yes, God, and no one else but God, is going to bring about this beautiful restoration of the earth. ". . . and the Holy One of Israel hath created it."

It's going to be an amazing transformation—a literal renewal of this earth's surface—in making it a beautiful garden of Eden over the entire expanse of that land that God is going to provide.

Cities are going to be rebuilt and restored. As we've already seen, the cities of man—those things that they worship, those things which they feel are their legacies, their great accomplishments in life, their engineering wonders and their marvels—are going to be brought low in those days leading up to the return of Jesus Christ. The things that man reveres are going to be destroyed—they're going to be wiped out—and Jesus Christ is going to bring in a new system, a new master plan for redesigning the habitation of human beings. Yes, there are going to be cities, but not cities the way human beings build cities. It's never God's intent that people cram themselves into apartment buildings in an asphalt jungle, breathing pollution, subjecting themselves to all of the evils that are a part of these Babylonian concepts. Not at all. No, but there are going to be cities in the Kingdom of God. We don't know precisely how those plans are going to be laid out, but we know there is a Master Builder and Master Planner that really knows how to design a proper city and Jesus Christ is going to teach those human beings how to plan and design the appropriate kind of habitation—places for business and commerce—and yet, it is going to be an agrarian society. Human beings are not going to be shuttled into cities to live—to be dependent upon a socialistic

society for their food and for their sustenance. No, the people of the earth are going to learn to be self-sustaining. They are going to be given their own estates—their own land. It is going to be an agrarian society and families are going to work their own land; they are going to raise their own livestock; they are not going to be dependent upon a welfare system; they are not going to be herded into crowded cities to live. Cities will have their important use. We don't know the details because God does not provide the image of how those things are going to work together in an agrarian society, yet having centers of commerce and trade. There are going to be very strong economies but it's all going to be according to the perfect Law of God—according to His standard of building a society.

Isaiah sixty-one and verse four. Isaiah 61:4: "And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations." It would be impossible to take what man has built and designed with their layout of society and their cities and to just tweak it, here tweak it there, and kind of bring it into compliance with God. No, brethren, as you are aware, it's better to just make a clean sweep of those things—to utterly destroy what's there and start over from scratch. And so, even in the very return of Jesus Christ—that horrendous time following the great tribulation which is going to come with the heavenly signs, when this earth is going to be shaken—all manner of destruction is going to take place upon this earth, and He is basically going to clean house and prepare the way for the building of a whole new society under the very laws of God. And those cities are going to be built according to God's laws and rules, and it is going to be a glorious building.

Ezekiel thirty-six and verse thirty-three. Ezekiel 36:33: "Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities . . ." And when is that day when God is going to cleanse humanity from their iniquities? When He opens up saving knowledge to the entire world for the very first time. It hasn't happened yet. The only ones who have access to that saving knowledge and who can be truly cleansed from their iniquities are those who have been called as a part of the Firstfruits harvest—among whom you all are counted. You have that opportunity now to know your Creator God—to come to know who He is that made you for the very purpose for which you were designed and put here on this earth. You were put here literally to be born into the very Family of God and to share His divinity and His power and His glory for all eternity. And

you are of the very few human beings on the face of this earth—of the over six billion who live and breathe today—who understand that very simple reality which He is bringing about. That which is going to begin to be manifested and fulfilled when Christ ushers in that millennial reign—even that which we are picturing right now on this first High Day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Brethren, it is a glorious opportunity and I hope that no matter how many Feasts you have kept, and how long you have been in the church, that you never begin to take for granted the picture of what this Feast means. And I hope that I never do so either. But it is something that we have to stir up in our minds again and again. And the reason God makes us rehearse it every single year is that we are weak human beings. We do have the tendency to forget—we do have the tendency to allow other mundane things to become more important to us. But this is our opportunity to come out of the world. We've put those lives back home on hold. No matter what you have dealt with in order to be here, no matter what trials, no matter what difficulties—whether they be family issues, whether they be financial problems, problems with work, problems with health—if you have overcome them and, against all odds, in fear, you have come to keep the Feast of Tabernacles before God, you then have an opportunity to be reminded of that glorious Kingdom which is coming in the very near future, and to be stirred up again concerning how glorious this plan is that God is working out.

Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.

Think about all of the land—the acreage—totally unfit for producing food now because of man's misuse. Our deserts and uninhabitable desolate lands are growing all of the time. Why? Because man continues to misuse and to abuse those resources and to violate the very principles of God that He laid out for taking care of the land. And we are going to speak later on in the Feast of Tabernacles about that because I have some comments about the land Sabbath, and I am going to go through some of those spiritual principles that God laid down in the Old Testament concerning taking care of the land. They have absolute applicability to us as Christians today.

And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden [imagine it]; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.

Yes, that is a day when there is going to be a glorious society. Human beings are going to walk around and they are going to stand in awe and say, "Look at where we live! Look what our King and our God has given to us!" And they are finally going to have the opportunity to enjoy their wildest hopes and dreams of a truly perfect and utopian society—that which could never be achieved by the action of any human being. It has never been achieved in the last six thousand years, and men have been trying to establish that perfect world government as long as they have walked on this earth, and they haven't achieved it yet. As Mr. Armstrong said, the first six millennial days—the first six thousand years—were for the express purpose of allowing man to do his best to bring about a perfect society on his own, without God. And God has sat back and, for the most part, allowed human beings to do it on their own. Just like the parent who has a belligerent little child who won't listen to instruction, and that parent knows precisely what they need to do in order to achieve the goal they have in mind, but the little child says, "No, I don't want your help. I want to do it myself and I don't want you to tell me." And finally the parent says, "Okay, have at it. You do it your way." And that little child gets frustrated and eventually figures out that he is not going to be able to do it on his own. The method he was set and intent on using will not work. And finally when that little mind thinks it over, it becomes open to that parent saying, "Okay, now are you ready? Now let me show you how to accomplish what you wanted all along." And that is precisely what is going on right now. Human beings are finally going to get their stomachs full of trying to seek a perfect society on their own terms. And they are finally going to open their minds and their hearts to their King and their God, and He is gladly going to show them the way to bring it about.

God is going to use two courses of action to accomplish His will among men when He is established as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, ruling from Jerusalem on this earth. There are two courses of action He is going to use in His dealings with human beings, because after He conquers the earth—with all of the decimation that takes place—He is then going to have to put some kind of plan into action to begin to change the habits and all the evils that human beings have

been locked into for so long, and it's not going to be an easy task. It's going to take God to do it; it's going to take a perfect, loving, wise and glorious God to make that kind of change in human minds.

Number one, brethren, all crime and rebellion are going to be put down by force. Look at the crime rates in our country and countries around the world. Human beings want peace—they want happiness, they want security—so why can't they have it? If the majority who live on this earth value the principles of peace, and harmony, and unity, and oneness, why can they not achieve it? But they value it—they love it. It's because we have a carnal nature, that in spite of our lofty ideals and platitudes of moral thinking, down deep inside we are like that little child that says, "Mine. I want it. Give it to me," and is willing to take every advantage to have what he wants. And that's the way we all are. It's just that when we get older, we get more sophisticated at hiding our true motives. But as Mr. Armstrong always said, there is the way of "give" and there is the way of "get." And human beings are past masters at subtle methods for getting everything that they can at the expense of other people. But all that is going to change, because in the glorious government of God, which you are representing by the keeping of this Feast of Tabernacles, the first thing Christ is going to do is say, "There is going to be no more taking advantage of other people. There is going to be no more crime. Infractions that harm, murder, steal from or oppress your neighbor are no longer going to be allowed." It's simply not going to be tolerated.

And it's not going to be the fact that there is going to be a law—which has always existed—that says, "You shall not murder." And, yet, what do we do? Well, the best that human beings can do is wait until a murder occurs and then they can arrest the suspect and they can penalize them. But they can't stop the murder in most cases. But this new King of the earth is going to stop the murder before it takes place. He is not going to allow it to happen, because He reads hearts and minds and He is going to establish a perfect government of which many of you are going to be a part when you are born into the very God Family when that Christ returns. And you are going to reign, wearing crowns—you are going to be Kings, and you are going to be Priests, and you are going to be a part of the civil government ruling over the earth; and you are going to have magistrates reporting to you who are going to fulfill the very laws of God; and there is going to be no more victimization, one human being against another. It is simply just not going to be tolerated.

To begin with, there are probably going to be a whole lot fewer people on the earth at that time. Remember, that final battle of Armageddon and all of the carnage which is going to take place at the arrival of Christ—it is going to kill millions and probably billions of human beings. When it says it is a great tribulation like has never occurred in the history of humankind, I don't think we can even conceive of and begin to understand what that destruction of human life is going to be like. When we look at some of the things that human beings have perpetrated against one another in past generations—and the Holocaust during World War II usually comes very highly to mind for many of us (and, yet, during the carnage that took place during the Russian Revolution, many more millions were killed than even the six million Jews who perished), and all of the other wars, the atrocities that have been committed in the name of greed and false religion—and, yet, all of that destruction is not going to hold a candle to the devastation that is going to befall human beings in the months leading up to the arrival of their King. Let's just notice one of those scriptures. Revelation fourteen, and beginning in verse nineteen. Revelation 14:19:

And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God [it's incredible imagery and symbolism that is used here]. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

How many people would have to die and spill their blood for the blood to run that far, and even to the horses' bridles? It's an incredible image. In all likelihood, brethren, there are going to be a lot fewer human beings left on the earth at the beginning of Jesus Christ's reign. We don't know how many—obviously, there will be thousands and thousands, probably millions left—and, yet, it is probably going to be easier to start a new society when, instead of having billions and billions, and multiple billions, like exists now, there is probably going to be a lot fewer people to start with. It's probably going to be easier, then, to start that new society on the right track with a more manageable number of subjects in that Kingdom.

But Jesus Christ, then, is going to rule that Kingdom with a rod of iron. We're not talking about a namby-pamby, weak, effeminate Christ that most

so-called Christians look to as their savior. No, we are talking about a warrior-God who is perfect. And He is a righteous judge, and He is the perfect personification of love. But this is not a wimp. Jesus Christ is meek, and He is merciful, and He is the perfect personification of all of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and at the same time, brethren, He is a warrior and He is not going to back up from enforcing every one of those perfect laws upon the earth. Let's just notice a couple of scriptures. Back to Zechariah fourteen and verse seventeen. Zechariah 14:17:

And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

So, here, we already saw earlier that everyone is going to be taught how to obey God—they are going to have that Truth opened up to them for the first time, and they are going to be expected to come before their King and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. It's not a suggestion, it is a command. There is nothing more important in the lives of human beings than to fulfill the command to appear before Him in the place where He has placed His name. Now, human beings are still going to have free moral agency, so they are going to get to choose whether or not to obey. But there will be stiff penalties for those who will not obey that edict of their King.

[E]ven upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague . . .

So, the first year, if they don't come, they are not going to have rain for their crops, and it is going to be pretty devastating. The rest of their neighbors are all going to be blessed—the ones that went to the Feast, and they are going to be blessed in their land and it's going to produce for them in their farms and their livestock—incredible blessings and abundance through the year. But that family who says, "I can't afford to go to the Feast; I've got business to take care of right here; my crops need to be tended; my livestock needs to be tended; all of these other mundane things prevent me from being able to go to the Feast," they are not going to have any rain the first year. And then they are going to find out what it's like to be in dire straits. But then some are going to be so belligerent, they are still not going to obey. So what happens the next year?

And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain [So they have already paid the price one year. The next year, then]; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Do you recognize, brethren, that those who do not keep the Feast, once they have the knowledge of the Truth, and understand that commitment—that requirement to be at the Feast—those who do not come are called "heathen"?

This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

So is God going to enforce His Law? You had better believe He is. He is going to rule with a rod of iron. But human beings are still going to have free moral agency, and this is a perfect example of it. They are going to have to choose to obey. He is not going to grab them by the nap of the neck and pull them to the Feast of Tabernacles. He is going to teach them the perfect Law, and He is going to show them—even by the history of humanity and by all the mistakes that they have made and the penalties they have paid—the difference between the right way and the wrong way, but He is not going to compel them to obey. They are still going to have to choose to submit to their God. The ones that do are going to be incredibly, richly blessed. But the one thing that is not going to be allowed are the kinds of infractions of God's laws which harm other people. Because there is going to be no murder in the Kingdom of God—in that millennial reign of Christ—there is going to be no theft; there is going to be no one taking advantage of someone else and harming them. No, everyone is going to be assured of a peaceful society. There are going to be no people gathering together subversively to organize themselves into a military coup against the government. No, it's not going to be permitted. That King and God reads hearts and minds, and all of you who are born into that Kingdom are going to be a part of that God Family. You are going to be those who are reading hearts and minds, and you are going to prevent the atrocities that human beings naturally want to perpetrate one against another.

Notice Micah chapter four and verse four. Micah 4:4: "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree." That's an allusion to the fact that God is going to give a family estate to all the families that exist on the earth.

There are not going to be the poor and the desolate, the have-nots, because even as He gave to Israel, among every tribe and every family, an estate—land, the ability to be self-sufficient and provide for their own needs through hard work and industry—so all the nations of the earth are going to have their family estates. They are going to have their property—their responsibilities.

"But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid." No, you see, they are not going to worry about having a security system in their homes out of fear that someone might come and creep in and steal their possessions, or kill them in their sleep, or take advantage of their children or their wives. No, the people on the earth are going to rest in true safety and peace of mind, knowing that there is a police force—a spiritual police force—in action, governing the affairs of human beings and preventing that kind of crime, one human being against another.

It doesn't mean crime is not going to happen, because God is going to allow those who choose to do so to disobey, even in not keeping the Feast. But, you see, that's not an infraction of the Law which harms someone else, it only harms the self. So, in all likelihood, human beings are going to be able, if they choose, to rebel in ways that only harm themselves. They are just not going to be able to rebel in ways that harm others around them because every one is going to have the assurance of safety and peace.

. . . and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it [yes, He decreed it and He is going to enforce it]. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

This is a certification that there are going to be a certain number of human beings in the Millennium who are still going to hold on to ideas which are considered false gods—little "g." There is going to be idolatry extant, because human minds are still carnal, and they are going to have to overcome them, and their sins are going to include false idols of mind, and they are going to have to learn to worship the one and the only true God and to put all of these things away.

Christ is going to reeducate humanity through the calling and the offering of conversion—that which you have been offered today and something you could

never have obtained on your own, because you did not find your own way to God. God called you out—He selected you for a purpose. From the foundation of the world, you were known by name and God determined to give you this opportunity in this very age. That makes you very special indeed, my dear brethren. Special, not because you earned it or because you were better—you certainly weren't, and I certainly wasn't—but by the mercy and the grace of God, according to His plan, He decided there was a certain handful to whom He was going to give this priceless knowledge in this age, and He provided an opportunity for qualification now in helping and assisting that great King in ruling that Kingdom in the Millennium. It is a priceless opportunity. But the day is coming when all human beings on the earth are going to have that same opportunity that you now enjoy. And, for the first time, their minds are going to be open and they are going to understand the Holy Scriptures which, before, were nothing but gibberish and foolishness to them. And some of you have experienced that in trying to explain to your close family members, or your friends, whom you desperately wanted to understand why you were doing the strange and crazy things that you were doing, like coming and keeping this Feast of Tabernacles. And how much you desired to be able to share an appreciation for that Way of Life with those that you love. You could show them the same scriptures which leapt out at you with such meaning and purpose, but they looked at you like you were some kind of fanatic because they just could not see it. The day is coming when they *are* going to see it. They are all going to be called to that Way of Life, and through the preaching of the Truth, the words of the Scriptures are going to leap out at them as well, just like it did for you, and it is going to change their lives; and they are going to be converted; and they, too, are going to be taught in that perfect and priceless Way of Life; and they are going to share those blessings to which you have access right now. Isaiah chapter eleven and beginning in verse one. Isaiah 11:1:

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And 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; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes . . .

No, we are talking about a King and a Judge who is going to rule in the Millennium, who is not going to be partial; He is not going to be like all of the

corrupt judges that we have in our courts today who are partial in their decisions. ". . . and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor . . ." Think about the day when even the poorest citizen of the Kingdom is truly going to have *equal* opportunity for justice in the court. No need for a high-powered lawyer; no need to have money and influence and connections with people—with movers and shakers in high places. By simply being a citizen of that Kingdom—no matter your station in life—you are going to have access to truly righteous judgement. What a phenomenal system—society—that is going to be. "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth." No more victims of political shenanigans and fraud and deception; no one is going to be victimized or taken advantage of.

". . . and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth . . ." Oh, you had better believe it. What does that mean? Jesus Christ is going to be preaching loud and long. They are going to hear some sermons about the ways of God—about His priceless Way of Life and how to live the fulness and the joy that God wants humanity to have and to experience. So they are going to sit through some training lessons. They are going to go through a reeducation process, and they are going to learn the very principles that all of you are being schooled in right now. And you are going to help be the teachers—the ones that bring it about.

[H]e shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Skipping down, then, to verse number nine: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain." No victimization in this society; no statistics about the number of murders, rapes, muggings, thefts, embezzlements—they won't exist.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD [How full is full?], as the waters cover the sea.

It's not going to be a time anymore when the Truth of God is heard so little—as a tiny flame about to go out. That's the way it is today on the earth, even among those who once were called in great numbers, by the thousands, to understand and to accept that Way of Life, with whom we had fellowship for decades in the unity of the very Spirit and revelation of Jesus Christ. And the majority, by and large, allowed other cares of the world and the mistakes of other human beings to discourage them, and they became offended. And they turned away from that priceless gift. At this time, brethren, there are very few who really appreciate how priceless is that Way of Life and who treat it as something to be cherished above all else. But the day is coming when it is going to be cherished because the knowledge of God and that Way of Life is going to be as the waters that cover the sea.

The reeducation of humanity is going to include teaching true science—not evolution, not all of these false principles that human beings in their own arrogance have determined represent truth. No, Christ is going to wipe all of that away. He is going to say, "It is a lie. It never happened. Throw out that textbook." True science is going to be taught. Human philosophers of the past are not going to be studied and revered. There is going to be no study of Socrates and Plato and Aristotle. There will be no more fawning over Freud and all of these idiots that human beings hold up to be such great and wonderful men—so accomplished and so wise. It's a bunch of garbage. No, all of those textbooks are going to be thrown out. Christ is going to make a mockery of that. Human beings are going to come to a knowledge of how absolutely and utterly foolish they have been. Children are going to be educated correctly from birth. They are not going to learn all of this misinformation that leads them into every penalty for breaking God's Law. They are going to be taught true principles of real knowledge—that which works and will produce happiness and success in their lives.

There is also going to be a universal language. Think about that. We are used to the fact that there are language barriers around this world—with hundreds and hundreds of different languages that keep us apart. Well, God imposed that upon the earth as a curse, remember, at the time of the tower of Babel, to prevent man from catapulting himself to his own demise too early in the plan. You see, because human beings had already organized, with their common language, to break God's Law and bring their own destruction upon themselves. And so, God confounded the languages back then to slow down the process of their own

self-destruction. You see, man was supposed to last, according to God's plan, for six thousand years, but man was already on a track to destroy himself long before that six thousand years was complete. And so confounding the languages was one of the ways that God slowed that process down so that man would have six thousand years in which to make all of his mistakes. But the day is coming in the millennial reign of Christ, pictured by this Feast of Tabernacles, when, once again, even as it was at the beginning, there is going to be a common language. Notice it in Zephaniah chapter three and beginning in verse 8. Zephaniah 3:8:

Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation . . .

Yes, this is concerning the very wrath of God which will come when He takes possession of that Kingdom. ". . . even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy." We pictured that on the Feast of Trumpets that has just passed.

Verse nine: So then, after He takes possession of the Kingdom—once the Kingdom of God is established—He says, "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent." Then language is going to be a binding and unifying force among human beings once they are all educated in the perfect laws of God and that righteous Way, and they are going to share one language around the world. What language is it? I can't even begin to tell you. God hasn't revealed it but it's going to be a perfect language and all are going to speak it.

There is going to be a new medical system upon the earth in that day. Forget about all of these hospitals. There is not going to be all of this sickness and this illness. It's going to be a blessing that God pours out on humanity to give health and peace within those human bodies under His benevolent rulership. They are going to enjoy the fullness of the blessings. They are not going to have corrupt food. They are going to learn how to feed those bodies and keep the laws God intended in order to have health and vitality.

Isaiah thirty-three and verse twenty-four. Isaiah 33:24: "And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their

iniquity." What iniquity is He talking about? The physical laws that are broken which bring upon us every pain, suffering, illness and disease with which we are afflicted in our bodies, because all illness, brethren, involves the infraction of the spiritual laws that govern us. When we are sick—when we are hurt—it is because a law has been broken. In the Kingdom of God, those laws aren't going to be broken. Men are going to be taught how to have the fulness of health and vitality. Isaiah fifty-eight and verse eight. Isaiah 58:8 says:

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.

A society of healthy, vital human beings who don't suffer with every conceivable illness that we take for granted as a part of life today is almost unimaginable. Healthy citizens in a glorious, perfect Kingdom under the government of God.

Next, brethren, nations are going to be relocated to their assigned boundaries and they are going to be blessed. The physical Israelites are going to be reassembled in the Promised Land where God has always intended to put them. The land that He gave to the original ancient Israelites is also going to be the homeland of the new Israelites of the Millennium. Read it for yourself in Ezekiel 36:23–32. God is going to bring them back and He is going to recover them out of all of their dispersion around the earth. We don't have time to read it, but also Jeremiah 3:17–18, and Jeremiah 31:7–10. The land that the Israelites are going to inhabit is not going to be the United States and the British Commonwealth. They are going to dwell in the Holy Land over there in the Middle East. It's not going to be like it is now, as we have seen, it's all going to be changed—the whole topography is going to be totally different. It's going to be a glorious garden of Eden, and that is going to be the place that those physical descendants of Israel are going to be placed. That's where their estates are going to be.

God has still singled out Israel as His inheritance, but then *ALL* nations—not just physical Israelites, but *ALL* nations of the earth—are going to be blessed with the same glorious blessings that, up until now, have only been given according to the birthright of physical Israelites. They are all going to be blessed by that God; they are all going to have those marvelous opportunities.

Notice Isaiah nineteen and beginning in verse twenty-three. Isaiah 19:23: "In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria . . ." Oh, so there are not going to be all of these walled borders where nations bump up against each other with their soldiers standing by for potential confrontation in case someone blinks. No, there is going to be no need for that kind of border between these nations. " . . . the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians." Totally different nationalities, and yet, harmoniously living side by side in the inheritances where God is going to place them. "In that day shall Israel be the third . . ." Now, Israel is still the inheritance of God. Israel has always been made the first, then, and yet, though they will still be that Holy nation with special benefits—inhabiting that Holy Land—yet, all of the other nations are going to share equally in the blessings as well.

In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people . . .

Now, look at all of the scriptures in the Bible which absolutely condemn Egypt as the personification of sin and rebellion against God. And, yet, the day is coming when Egypt—the Egyptians by birth—being converted, are going to be made a part of spiritual Israel, and they are going to share in the same opportunity to be the Sons of God that all of the physical Israelites were originally offered. Because all of humanity—from every background and nationality and race and creed—have that opportunity to be blessed through the covenant that God made with Abraham. The second part of that covenant was that "one seed"—Jesus Christ—in whom *ALL* of the nations of the earth would be blessed. And that is going to be fulfilled during this thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ.

In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands . . .

They are going to be sons—as nations—to that King, and He is going to love and cherish those peoples as His dear children. "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance." They are all

going to share in the benefits and the blessings of that perfect society. Yes, all of those peoples will be blessed. Read for yourself Isaiah 11 and verse 6. We are going to read it later in the Feast. It's probably the most quoted scripture concerning the blessings of that Kingdom that we hope for and know is coming to pass.

We are going to have a lot to say concerning the very fulfillment of that glorious plan of God and this Kingdom—that which we hope for and look for, now, in the very keeping of this Feast of Tabernacles in this another year.