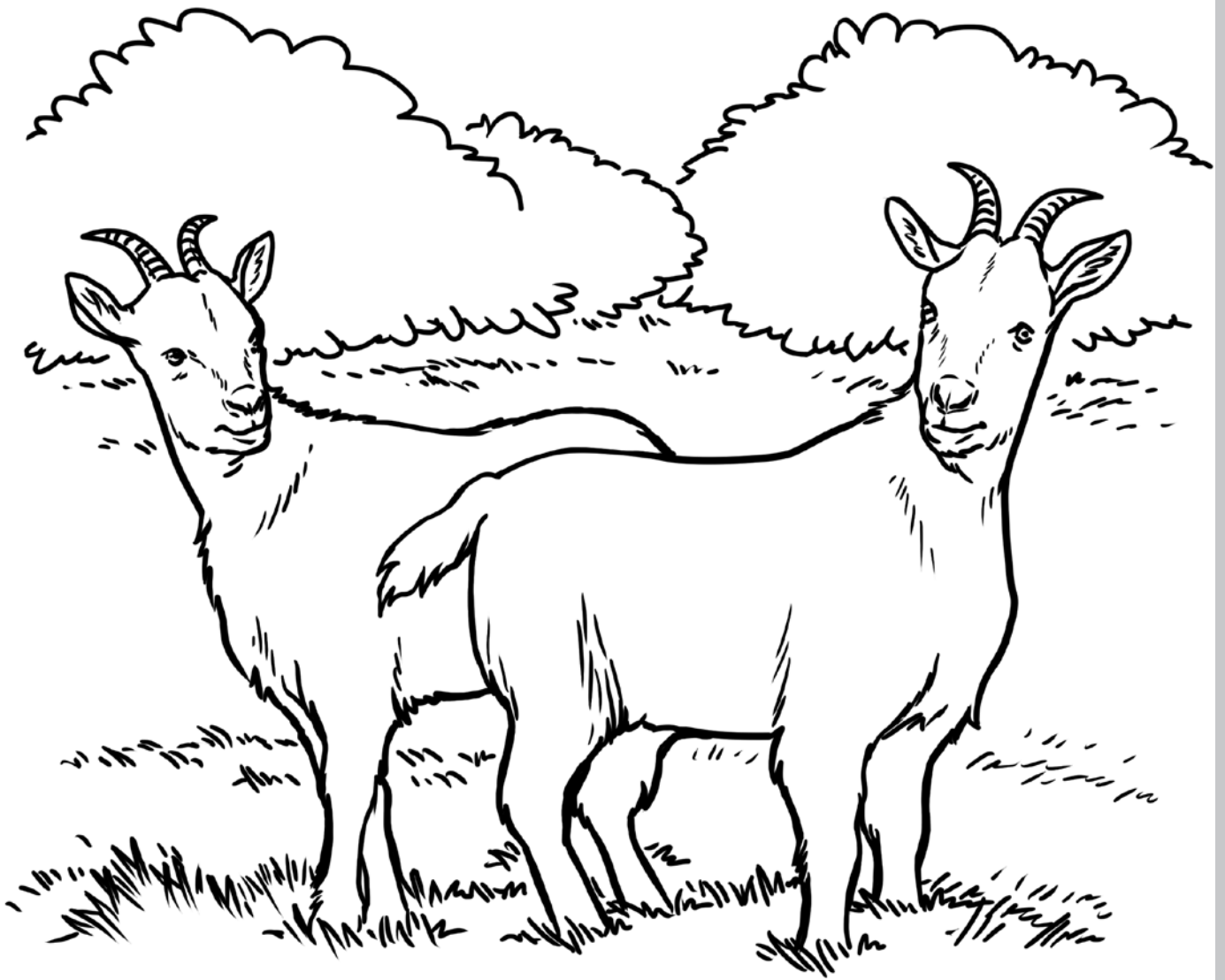




Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Special Fall Festivals Lesson

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About 6,000 years ago, God renewed the Earth. He prepared it to become a home for human beings. During the renewal, God created the movement of the Earth and the moon to teach us about time.

The sun rising up until it goes down helps us to understand the length of a day. The moon's appearance helps us know how long a month is. And the way the Earth goes around the sun helps us understand the seasons and how long a year is.

God put the Earth, the moon and the sun where they are. He set them in motion. He did this to show us how to keep time—and to show us when to keep His special holy festivals!

God's first month begins during the spring season. This is the season grass turns green, trees blossom, baby animals are born, and God's creation is full of new life.

During this season, God commands us to observe His first three festivals in the spring. These three festivals show the first three steps of God bringing new life into

His Family. Springtime is the time of the smaller early harvest.

Spring turns into summer, and summer turns into fall. The fall season brings the larger harvest. Far more fruits and vegetables are ripe and ready for picking in the fall. God commands us to observe His last four festivals in the fall. These festivals show the final four steps of God's plan to bring humans into His Family.

When the first crescent-shaped moon in the fall appears, God's seventh month has already begun. All four of the fall festivals occur during this seventh month. God uses the number seven to denote completion. These fall festivals show us how God will complete His master plan.

Put the three spring and the four fall festivals together, and these seven festivals show you God's complete plan for having a Family! In this lesson, you will learn the meaning of the last four of God's festivals: the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day!

FEAST OF TRUMPETS

The fourth festival in God's plan is the Feast of Trumpets. This festival is a high holy day. It pictures the most important event in history: the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

God commanded the ancient Israelites to keep His festivals. When the Feast of Trumpets arrived, they blew a trumpet made from a ram's horn. This trumpet is called a *shofar*, and the sound it made was a piercing

blast. They also blew a pair of silver trumpets, which produced a variety of musical notes.

On the Feast of Trumpets, the people of Israel did not do any work. Instead, they gathered together for a special meeting, and the priest offered a sacrifice to God (Leviticus 23:23-25). God's people today keep the Feast of Trumpets by not working, by attending Church services, and by giving an offering to God. We learn



ILLUSTRATIONS MELISSA BARREIRO

An Israelite blows a shofar to announce the onset of the Feast of Trumpets.

what the Feast of Trumpets points to at the special Church services.

The Feast of Trumpets points to the return of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that when He returns, a trumpet blast will sound (1 Thessalonians 4:16). This blast will be so loud that everyone on Earth will hear it!

At that moment, everyone who has died as a faithful member of God's true Church will be brought back to life and transformed into a God being! In the next moment, everyone still alive who is part of God's Church will also be transformed into a God being! This will all happen in an instant (1 Corinthians 15:52).

But when Jesus Christ returns to Earth, many people will be furious and will form an army to try to fight Him. The trumpet blast sounds the alarm of war!

Jesus Christ and the God beings who have been born into God's Family will have to fight this army. If they did not fight it, the army would destroy everything. Everyone on Earth would keep fighting and killing each other until no one was left alive! Once Christ defeats this army, He will teach all people the way to peace and happiness. All Church members who have become God beings will help Christ teach those who are still human how to live God's way of life. After 6,000 years of living Satan's way, people will finally be ready to listen to God. This is the special meaning of the Feast of Trumpets!

DAY OF ATONEMENT

The fifth festival in God's plan is the Day of Atonement. It is a high holy day where we attend a special Church service. God commands His people to fast on this day. This means you cannot eat any food or drink any water on the Day of Atonement!

God commands His people to fast so that we will realize how weak we are as mortal humans. After just a few hours without food and water, our stomachs start to growl and we begin to feel weak. If we had to go more than a few days without food and water, we would die! This reminds us of how much we need God. He is the Creator who made us and who gives us the food and water we need to live.

Atonement also shows us that we need humble, teachable attitudes to learn to live God's way of life. During this day, we should spend extra time praying and studying the Bible. Only by praying and studying with a humble attitude can we start to draw closer to God.

This festival also pictures a major event that will happen soon. It has to do with the angel who was once called Lucifer. Lucifer was created by God. His name meant "light-bringer." God gave him the important job of ruling the Earth and making it more beautiful. But Lucifer began to focus on himself. He became selfish and evil, and he rebelled against God!

God changed Lucifer's name to Satan, which means "adversary."



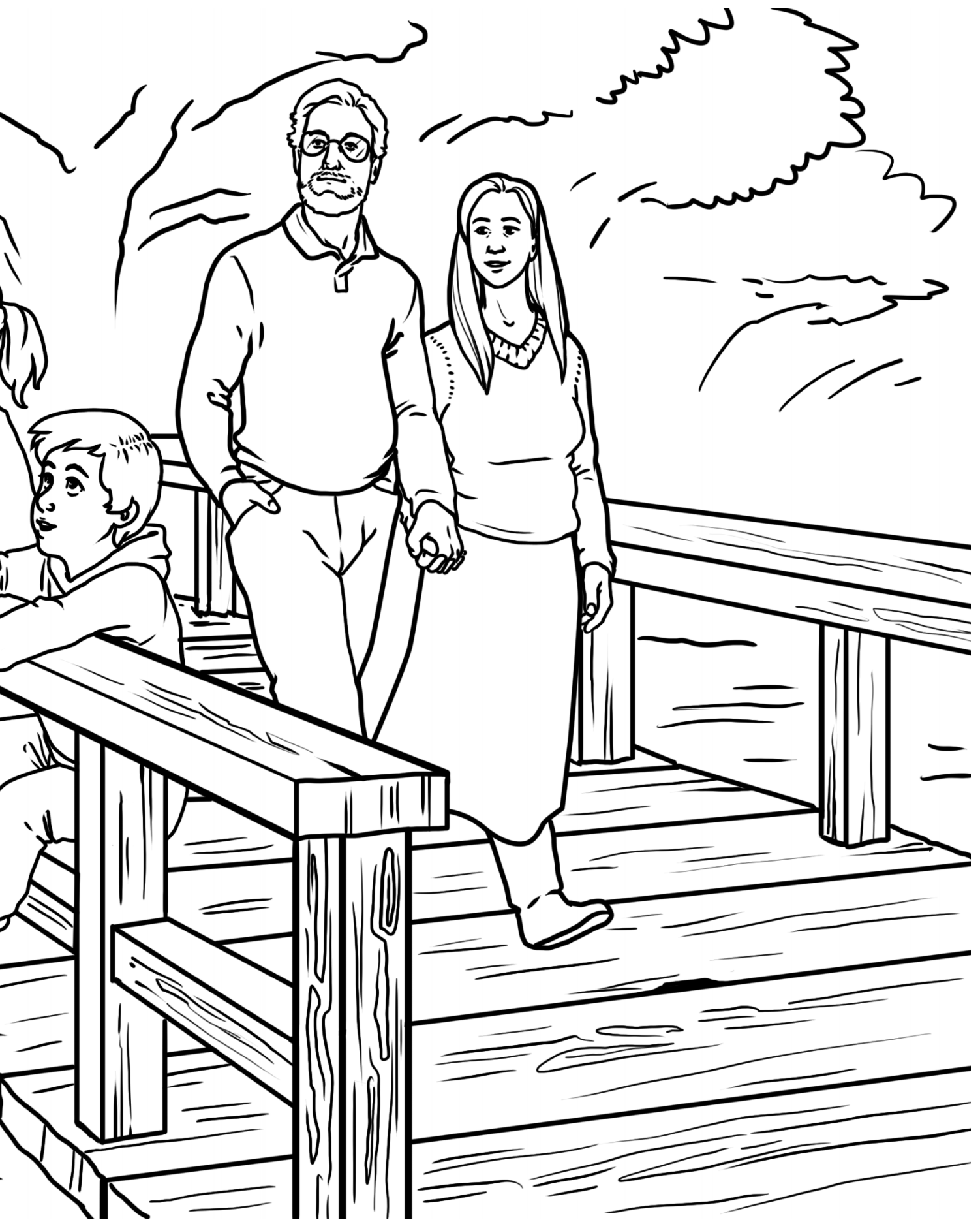
A fit man leads the *azazel* goat, representing Satan, into the wilderness.

Satan has convinced human beings to rebel against God like he did. He causes people to have his selfish, hateful, evil attitude and to hurt themselves and each other. Satan's wicked way of life is what causes everyone's suffering and pain!

The Day of Atonement pictures God locking up Satan! The ancient Israelites pictured this event with the *azazel* goat being let go in the

wilderness (Leviticus 16). In the near future, God will put Satan in a bottomless pit. In this pit, Satan will not be able to interfere while Christ teaches everyone God's way of life. God will keep Satan locked up for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-2). Free from Satan's influence, people will finally have the chance to become *at one* with God. That is why this day is called *At-one-ment!*





FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The sixth festival in God's plan is the Feast of Tabernacles. It is a seven-day festival. The first day is a high holy day. Since this holy day occurs on the 15th day of God's seventh month, there is always a full moon in the sky. The Feast of Tabernacles represents a time called the Millennium. During the Millennium, Jesus Christ will rule the Earth for 1,000 years.

At the beginning of the Millennium, Jesus Christ will marry the people who had made up God's Church and who were recently made into God beings (Revelation 19:7-10). That is why this festival is seven days long. In ancient Israel, wedding feasts were seven days long. So the festival picturing Christ's marriage is seven days long!

In addition to being a wedding feast, the Feast of Tabernacles is called the feast of ingathering because it celebrates the late summer/early autumn harvest (Leviticus 23:39). Just like Pentecost represents the time when God will harvest a small group of people into His Church, so the Feast of Tabernacles represents the time when God will harvest a great number of Spirit-begotten human beings into His Family during the Millennium.

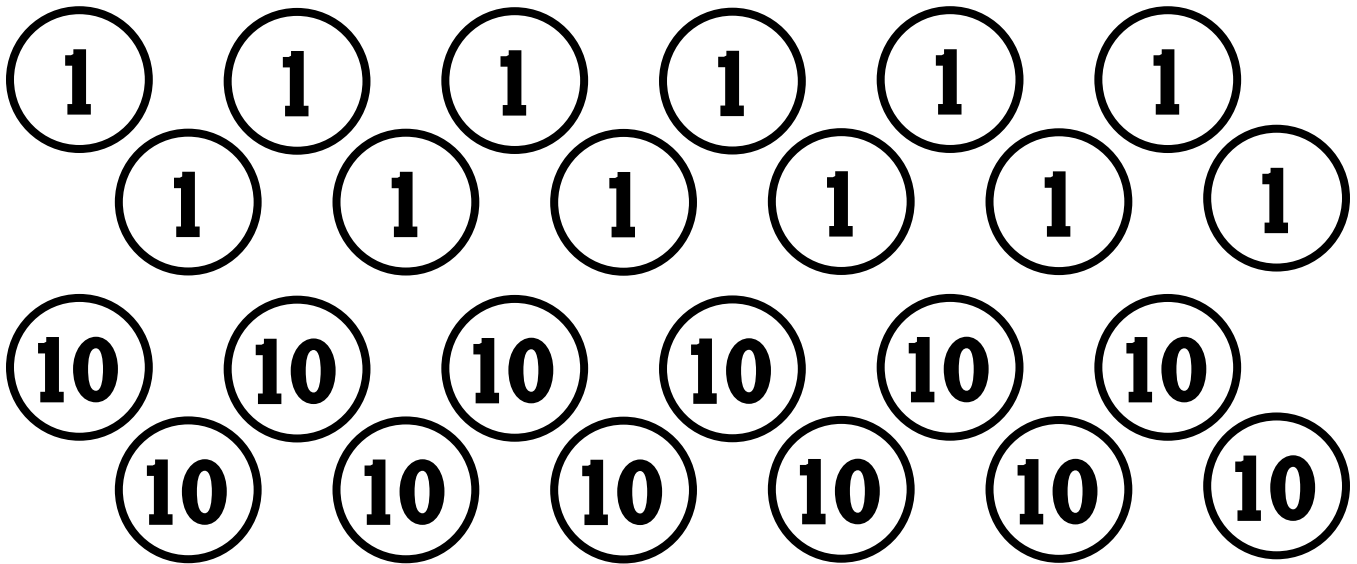
God tells His people to leave their homes and live in temporary dwellings at a special Feast site during this seven-day festival. In ancient Israel, people lived in huts called booths during this time. Today,

people in God's Church usually stay in either a hotel or tent.

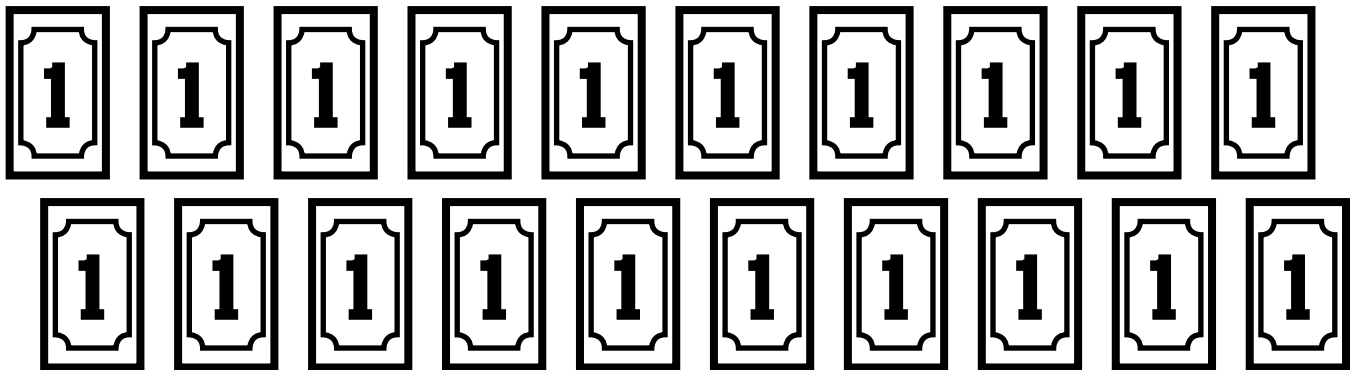
Living in temporary dwellings during the Feast of Tabernacles reminds us that our lives are only temporary. We cannot live forever unless we are born as spirit beings into the God Family. Only members of God's Church understand this truth today. But in the Millennium, everyone on Earth will understand that physical life is temporary and that its purpose is to prepare us to be born into God's spiritual Family. Those people who believe and obey Jesus Christ will enter God's Family as Spirit-born children!

Many children in God's Church will not yet be baptized when Jesus Christ returns. Perhaps you will not yet be baptized. If so, you will become leaders during the Millennium (Psalm 45:16). You will help Jesus Christ and other God beings like your parents. Together, you will teach people to obey and to love God.

During the Millennium, everyone will live God's way and so the entire world will be peaceful! People will not hate, steal or kill. God will heal those who are blind, deaf and crippled. He will change the nature of ferocious animals to be gentle. The Bible says that the wolf and the lamb, the leopard and the goat, the calf and the lion will live together, and little children will lead them (Isaiah 11:6). It will be a great time of peace, joy and productivity.



Here are some pennies and dimes. Put a green circle around the first tithe, and a red circle around the second tithe.



If you had \$20, how much would you tithe? Put a green circle around the first tithe, and a red circle around the second tithe. With all the money on this page, how much second tithe would you have for the Feast? _____

Here is an amazing command God gives us to do at the Feast of Tabernacles: Rejoice! God actually commands us to have a good time at the Feast! So if you are feeling sad, distracted or worried at the Feast, let God take away such feelings and fill you with joy! (Deuteronomy 12:7, 12).

During the Feast of Tabernacles, we go to Church services every day to learn more about what the

Millennium will be like and to learn the things we will need to know to teach everyone when that time comes. This is the special meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles!

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

God even cares about making sure we have enough money to travel to the Feast of Tabernacles and to enjoy good things while we are there. To

do this, He commands us to save a second tithe. The word *tithe* means tenth.

For example, every time you earn \$10, God instructs you to pay \$1 of it to God for His Work. This is the first tithe (Leviticus 27:30). You must also save \$1 to use mainly at the Feast of Tabernacles. This is the second tithe (Deuteronomy 14:22-23). Having this extra money to spend on food, gifts or other good things during the Feast symbolizes the abundant wealth that people will have during the Millennium.

These commands are for our good! God does not need our money. Everything already belongs to God! However, God wants us to learn to give as He gives. We should want to be just like our Father, the great Giver!

God instructs us to put Him first in paying and saving our tithes so that we can also learn to trust and obey Him. If we obediently pay our tithes, then we begin to develop God’s character and we reap the joys and blessings that come from obedience.

God also tells us to give an offering to Him at each high holy day (Deuteronomy 16:16-17). God does not say what amount this offering should be—you should give as much as you want to give. God wants us to learn to be generous like He is generous.

God created the entire world just for human beings. He gives us air, shelter, water, food, health, family,

friends, education and fun. He even gave His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be beaten and killed to pay for our physical and spiritual sins so that we can be born into His Family and live forever! Keep these blessings in mind as we decide how much we want to give back to God when we give our offerings during each of the fall holy days.

Here is a fun challenge: On the following lines, try to fit as many of your blessings as you can!

LAST GREAT DAY

The seventh festival in God's plan is called the Last Great Day. This high holy day is the day after the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

During the Millennium, pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus Christ and the other God beings will teach God's way of life to every human on Earth. Each person who believes and obeys God will be born again as a spirit being into God's Family!

But what about all the people who died before Jesus Christ returned?

Everyone who died without really knowing God will be resurrected. To be resurrected means to be brought back to life! There will probably be close to *100 billion* people resurrected. Some of these people will be Adam's children. Some will be from Noah's lifetime. Some will be from ancient Egypt. Some will be from King David's lifetime. Some will be your relatives!

God will resurrect *all* these people and give each of them 100 years to live and learn God's way of life (Isaiah 65:20). Jesus Christ and the other God beings will teach them the way.

At the end of the 100 years, God will judge these billions of people. This event is called the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-13). All people who refuse to obey God and instead choose Satan's selfish way will die in a lake of fire. No one will live forever in selfishness and misery. All those people who believe



All who have ever lived and died will be resurrected after the Millennium.

and obey God's unselfish way will be born into His Family as God beings!

After the Last Great Day, God the Father will move His throne to Earth. Together with their new family, God the Father and Jesus Christ will rule the universe for all eternity. They (and we) will create new worlds and do amazing things that are wonderful beyond imagination!

Crack the Code

Use the code below to reveal the hidden scripture.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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