

YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS



LEVEL 7

SPECIAL FEAST
LESSON



The Festival Mystery

FALL FESTIVAL
EDITION

GOD'S FESTIVALS REVEAL YOUR FUTURE

God's plan for man will unfold before our very eyes in this Special Fall Festival Lesson. We'll see the reason God made mankind. We'll even see what the future holds for each of us. Our time capsule — our Bible — is now ready to show us our future by looking into the past!

"How can this be?" you may ask. Just keep reading and you'll see. You'll need your Bible, some paper, and a pen or pencil before we begin.

PUTTING GOD'S PLAN TOGETHER

God's plan as given to us in the Bible is like a huge jigsaw puzzle. To see the whole picture we must put all of the parts together in their proper places. That's exactly what we're going to do in this lesson.

Let's set the controls of our time machine to Leviticus 23 and begin to put the pieces of the puzzle together. Since God's festivals are the pieces of the puzzle, write all seven down in their correct order on the lines below. Then we'll begin our journey in time to see what each one means.

1. _____ (verse 5)
2. _____ (verse 6)
3. _____ (verses 16, 21)
4. _____ (verse 24)
5. _____ (verse 27)
6. _____ (verse 34)
7. _____ (verse 36)

For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, the first three of God's festivals occur during the spring and the last four come in the fall. The opposite is true in the Southern Hemi-

sphere. In this lesson we will concentrate on the fall festivals, but we'll first review the spring festivals so that our picture of God's plan will be complete. In the spring we will look at the first three festivals more thoroughly in a Special Spring Festival Lesson.

The Passover is the first of God's festivals — the first part in the puzzle of God's plan. It pictures Christ's death. His death is very important to all of us. Have you ever been punished for something you didn't do? Christ never sinned but He willingly paid the death penalty for all of our sins. When we've done something wrong and tell God we're sorry and try not to do it again, God forgives us. He does this because Christ's death paid the penalty of our sins in our place.

The Days of Unleavened Bread are the next piece of the puzzle picturing the next step in God's plan. Before this feast begins, God commands us to put all leaven out of our homes. God uses leaven as a symbol for sin. The seven days of this feast remind us that we must continually be putting sin out of our lives, just as leaven is kept out of our homes and not eaten during these days. Once God forgives our past sins, as pictured by the Passover, we need to obey His laws and keep putting sin out of our lives when we don't obey.

The third piece of the puzzle picturing God's plan is the feast of Pentecost. Pentecost comes in late spring, during the time of the smaller, spring harvest. God uses this festival to picture the first, small harvest of people into His spirit Family. At that time those God has now called will be made immortal spirit beings. Eventual-

ly, God will give everyone a chance to be born into His Family, but right now He is giving that chance to only a few people. Your parent(s) in God's Church are among those first few God is now giving the chance to become members of His Family. God wants them to be made spirit rulers in the Millennium under Christ.

In the spring next year we will learn much more about the Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost. Now we're ready to study the last four of God's annual festivals in this Special Fall Feast Lesson. We'll put together the rest of the puzzle picturing God's plan.

FEAST OF TRUMPETS

Turn the controls of your time machine to Leviticus 23, verses 23-25. You are being taken back in time. Suddenly, your eardrums are pierced by the shrill blast of a trumpet! Then another, and another! Looking around, you see several men blowing large corkscrew-shaped horns. You are in the camp of ancient Israel and the sound that you hear is the blowing of

the giant shofar (pronounced show-far), or ram's horn. Approaching one of the men, you ask, "Why are you blowing the trumpets?"

"Today is a special occasion," he replies. "The trumpet is usually blown to sound an alarm. When we go to war, or if we need to alert our people, or if we want to make a special announcement, we blow the trumpets. Today is the _____ day of the _____ month. It's a Holy Day and we do no _____ on this day."

"So that's why this day is called the Feast of Trumpets," you reply.

As you are about to leave you hear the loud, shrill blast of the trumpets once more. "You know, it does sound like an alarm," you think to yourself.

Now let's zoom ahead in time to see what meaning the clue of the trumpet blowing holds for your future. Set your time and space machine to I Thessalonians 4:16. An image begins to come into focus in the distance. You see a brilliant light streaking through the sky right toward you! You're filled with awe and wonder. But don't be frightened. What you are



The shofar alerted ancient Israel to various things such as approaching armies. A mighty trumpet blast will announce Jesus Christ's return.

seeing is Jesus Christ returning to rule the whole earth!

Suddenly you hear a tremendous shout! And your whole body quivers as the loudest trumpet blast ever heard shakes all the earth.

"WOW!" you say to yourself. "So this is what the Feast of Trumpets is about. The trumpet is blowing to announce the Second Coming of Christ just like that man in ancient Israel blew his trumpet to signal a special occurrence."

Now the ground suddenly starts to shake. Turn to and read Zechariah 14:4 (in the Old Testament) and write down in your own words what happens next.

Write down what will happen to them and when it will happen.

We can see that the Feast of Trumpets is a very large piece in the puzzle of God's plan for mankind.

"Wait a minute," you may be saying right now. "What's going to happen to me? If Mom and Dad become spirit beings, if they become members of God's Family, what will happen to me?" You'll find out before this lesson is over!

DAY OF ATONEMENT

Let's hop aboard our time machine once again. Select Leviticus 23, verses 27 to 32 and let's see what's happening.

When you arrive at your destination, you see your same old friend standing not too far from where he was before.

"Hi! Remember me?" you ask.

"Sure, you were here a week or so ago. How'd you disappear so fast, anyway?"

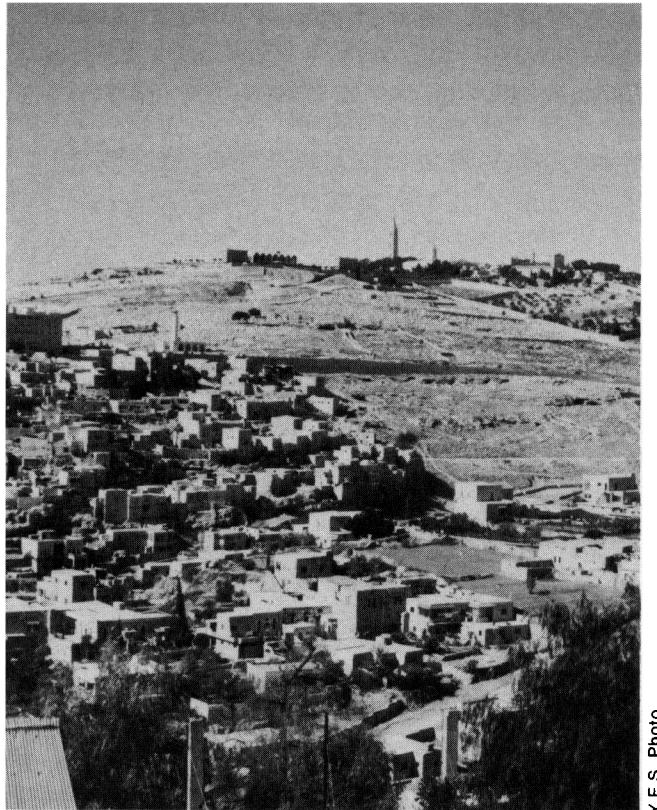
"It was easy sir . . ." you begin, but then you decide you'd better not try to explain.

"What's happening now?" you ask.

"Well, this is the _____," he replies. "We don't eat anything today. Also, on this day Aaron, the high priest, confesses the sins of the people over the head of a specially chosen goat. Then this goat is led into the wilderness," your friend informs you. "Is the Day of Atonement also a special day where you come from?" he asks.

"Yes sir," you reply. "We don't eat anything on this day either. Not eating helps us realize how much we need God because we see how weak we are without food. God doesn't want us to forget Him or to forget how much we depend on Him for everything."

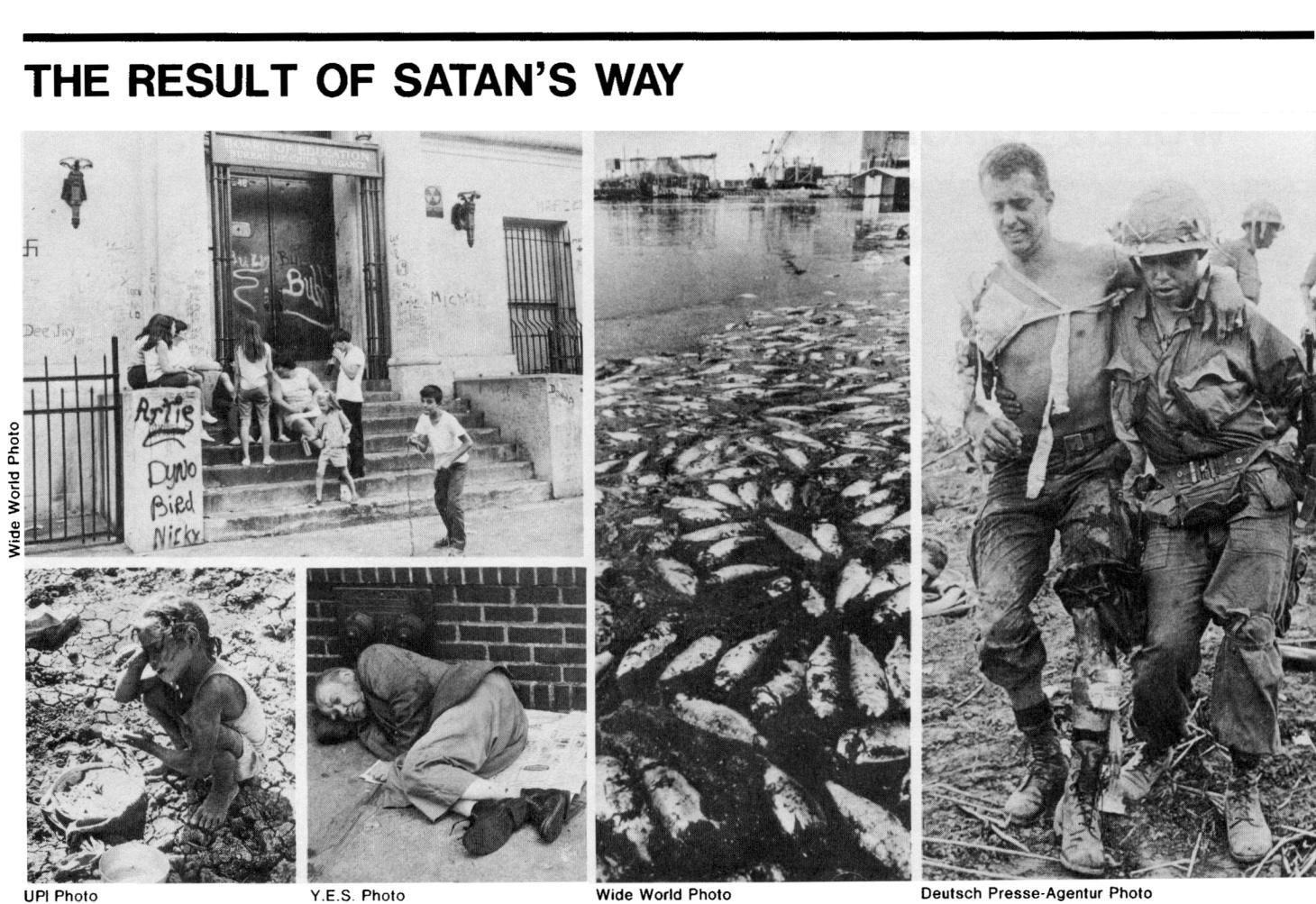
You don't explain the meaning of this day any further to your friend. You know he wouldn't understand that the Day of Atonement also pictures the time when Satan will be



Y.E.S. Photo

The Mount of Olives, pictured here, is where Jesus Christ will set foot when He returns.

THE RESULT OF SATAN'S WAY



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put away from mankind so he can't make people unhappy any more. The goat being led into the wilderness was a symbol for Satan being put away so he can no longer deceive the nations. Just as Aaron put the sins of the people on the head of the goat, Satan will be made to bear his guilt for actually being the cause of the sins of all mankind. After Christ comes back (as pictured by the Feast of Trumpets), the world will learn to be happy and the only way to keep it that way is to get rid of the cause of all unhappiness.

Now set the dials on your time machine forward to Revelation 20:1-3 and write in your own words what God is going to do with Satan.

What changes do you think will happen in

the world when Satan is gone and everyone is living God's way? On the lines below, list some things you can think of that will be done differently. In the left-hand column write down the way Satan's world is doing it today. Then, in the right-hand column, list the opposite way, or God's way of doing the same thing.
Example:

Cars that make pollution.

Pollution-free transportation.

Now you can see the entire meaning of the Day of Atonement. The word "Atonement" is like a word puzzle that helps us remember the meaning of the day. With Satan gone, people

THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW

Y.E.S. Photo



Four by Five



H. Armstrong Roberts



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will be able to live *AT ONE* with God. Notice that Atonement = — — + — — — + ment.

"Things will sure be a lot better with Satan gone," you think to yourself. But then another thought pops into your head. "What about me?" you ask again. "What will I be doing?"

Let's continue our journey through time and we'll see what the not-too-distant future holds for you. Has God got plans for you?

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Set your time machine back thousands of years to Leviticus 23 verses 34, 35 and 42. Sure enough, there's your friend again.

"What's everyone doing in those funny little buildings?" you ask.

"Oh, this is the _____ day of the _____ month," he replies. "It's the Feast of _____ or Feast of Booths. You

see, we leave our houses and live in temporary little homes during the Feast."

We do the same thing where I'm from," you declare. "We save our second tithe, 10% of our income, and use that money to go to the Feast of Tabernacles. We stay in motels and . . ."

"What's a motel?" your friend interrupts.

"It's like your booth," you answer. "It's a temporary home like God has commanded you to live in during the Feast of Tabernacles. Living there reminds us that we are like visitors in this world. We are really citizens of a world to come — the wonderful World Tomorrow."

"Does the Feast of Tabernacles mean anything else to you?" your friend asks.

"Why yes!" you reply. "It pictures the Millennium — 1000 years when everyone will be living and enjoying God's way, a time when Satan will no longer influence mankind to sin."



H. Armstrong Roberts

Saying goodbye to your friend, you return to your time machine and set the dials for Isaiah 11:6-9. You are now in the wonderful World Tomorrow!

And what a beautiful world it is! People smiling wherever you go. No more wars. No crime, no disease. No one living in fear. Plenty of food for everyone to eat. Beautiful homes to live in.

But what about you? What will you be doing in the World Tomorrow? You who are still too young to be born into God's Family at the time of Christ's return will live out your physical lives in the new world. You and your friends in the Church will grow up to adulthood under the care of your parents who will have become spirit beings. You will then help to rebuild the world God's way!

What a wonderful future God has in store

for you in the World Tomorrow!

LAST GREAT DAY

The final piece of the puzzle picturing God's master plan for mankind is about to be put in place. We are now going to finetune the controls of our time machine to Leviticus 23, verse 36. Looking around, you don't see your friend but you notice that everyone is still at the festival site on the day after the Feast of Tabernacles.

"Excuse me, have you seen the man who was blowing the trumpet at the Feast of Trumpets?" you ask a passerby.

"No, I can't say that I have."

"That's ok, sir. I was hoping to ask him what was happening today here in Israel."

"Today is the last festival of the year," the passerby responds.

Suddenly you spot your friend, the trumpet blower, in the crowd.

"You're just in time for the Last Great Day!" he says, smiling. "What does this day mean to you?"

"The Last Great Day pictures a time when everyone who has died any time before the Millennium began without having a chance to be born into God's Family will be given that chance," you answer.

"I don't understand," your friend says.

"You see, after the Millennium God is going to resurrect everyone who has died without knowing His truth and never had God's Holy Spirit. God is absolutely fair. He wants everyone to have a chance to build God's character and be born into His Family. Those who are training now to be in God's Family will be able to help teach all those billions who have lived and died without having had the chance to receive eternal life," you explain.

"I'm a little confused," your friend sighs.

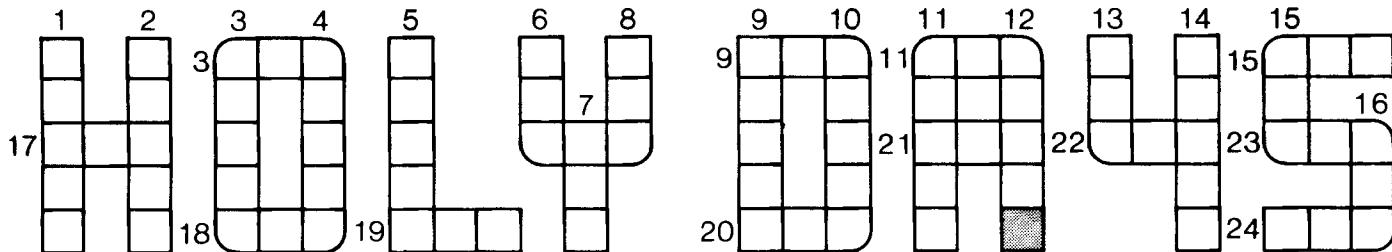
"Don't worry," you remark. "Some day you too, will be able to understand God's plan and see how all of God's festivals fit together."

Now that our time machine has returned to the present, have a happy Feast!

PICTURE THE MILLENNIUM

After reading Isaiah 11:6-9, write down in your own words what you think the Millennium will be like and what you would like to be doing. To help you in writing your description, also read Isaiah 65:25 and Isaiah 35:1-7.

Now draw a picture of what you think your new home will be like. For your drawing you may want to use a separate sheet of paper.



DOWN

- 1 At the sound of a great trumpet, many saints will rise from the _____.
"O _____ where is thy victory" (I Cor. 15:55).
- 2 The 1000 years is a time when Christ _____ with a rod of iron (Rev. 19:15).
- 3 Opposite of always
- 4 The Feast of Trumpets pictures the nations of this _____ becoming "the kingdoms of our Lord" (Rev. 11:15).
- 5 The Feast of Tabernacles pictures a time when the lion shall dwell with the lamb "and a little _____ shall lead them" (Isa. 11:6).
- 6 In the Millennium, swords will be turned into plowshares and nations shall learn _____ no more (Micah 4:3).
- 7 The Day of Atonement pictures a time when the world will be at _____ with God.
- 8 Leviticus 23:28 shows that one holy day is a time to make atonement "before the Lord your _____."
- 9 Each holy day in Leviticus 23 is one of God's _____ days (Lev. 23:2).
- 10 Revelation 5:10 shows that resurrected Christians will _____ on the earth.
- 11 The Feast of Tabernacles is also called the Feast of _____ s because of living in temporary dwellings (Lev. 23:42).
- 12 The Last Great Day pictures a time

when all who have lived and _____ will have a chance to know and live God's way.

- 13 The great archangel Lucifer _____ given rulership over this earth.
- 14 The Feast of Tabernacles pictures a time of world _____ (no war).
- 15 Does God want everyone to have a chance to live His way and receive eternal life? II Peter 3:9.
- 16 We are _____ to do our regular work on God's holy days.

ACROSS

- 3 Opposite of old
- 9 God wants us to live _____ ever.
- 11 Opposite of good
- 15 Abbreviation for Youth Opportunities United
- 17 How many nations will eventually keep the Feast of Tabernacles? Zechariah 14:16.
- 18 In the Millennium, Christ will rule with a _____ of iron (Rev. 19:15).
- 19 Abbreviation for Day of Atonement
- 20 How many commandments are listed in Exodus 20?
- 21 The fast on the Day of Atonement lasts for _____ day, from sunset to sunset.
- 22 In the Millennium, the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God "as the waters cover the _____" (Isa. 11:9).
- 23 Jesus Christ is the _____ of God.
- 24 Abbreviation for Feast of Tabernacles

SERMON NOTES

SERMONETTE

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SERMON NOTES

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FEAST HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 1

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

DAY 2

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

DAY 5

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

DAY 6

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

**Keep the memories of this Feast of Tabernacles for years to come.
Describe the activities and experiences that made each day special.**

DAY 3

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

DAY 4

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

DAY 7

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

DAY 8

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Herbert W. Armstrong

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Feast Friends

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