

Psalm 100

We are born believing that we are happiest living without restrictions, according to our free will. Free will can mean anarchy. There are basic parental actions that make a difference. Nobody wants to live near a child raised without rules or respect for others. Here are some statistically-proven minimum parental guidelines:

- Talking to and listening to your kids
- Making it clear you have ambitions for their future
- Being emotionally warm
- Teaching them letters and numbers
- Taking them on excursions
- Reading to them daily (and encouraging them to read for pleasure)
- Maintaining a regular bedtime

We cannot be happy or be part of a sustainable community if we are not taught to be productive and thoughtful neighbors. Psalm 100 is the perfect society. We were not able to sustain it in the Garden of Eden. God has proven that man cannot live without rules. He will commit murder; even if nothing is really at stake. God needs to be at the center and in control to have order and peace.

Read Psalm 100:1-3: Is this a storybook picture in our imagination; or will this happen some day? The millennial reign of Christ is exactly that. People and nature will be reset. The honest people will be kept honest; and the dishonest will be stopped cold. Meat eating animals will revert to their Garden of Eden diet of vegetation again. Animals will

no longer run away from other animals or man in fear. There won't be looting, gay parades, porn on TV, abortions, wars, pollution, or idolatry.



It will be like life in the 1800's; minus the survival of the fittest, the plagues and the setbacks.





The millennial reign of Christ on earth will include an annual Festival of Booths requiring a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. This is for all nations. The idea is that personal joy is tied to collective joy. We can never ultimately be happy in a selfish pursuit or in isolation. God built into us a reaction of being useful to others; as part of our own sense of well being.





Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles. And should any of the families of the earth not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, then the rain will not fall on them. And if the people of Egypt will not go up and enter in, then the rain will not fall on them; this will be the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles....(Zechariah 14:16)

During the Millennium, the land surrounding Jerusalem will be transformed into a very high plain. It will run from Geba in the north to Rimmon in the South (Zech. 14:10). The plain contrasts with the now highly lifted Jerusalem and King Jesus who will be ruling from the summit (Zech. 14:9-10). Jerusalem's mountain will be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised higher than the hills. The mountain's great height emphasizes Jerusalem as the center of world authority for all of the nations will flow to it (Is. 2:2; Mic. 4:1). Because the mountain serves to lift up a city, the peak is to be a uniform fifty square mile plateau (Ezek. 45:1; 48:8).

If Mount Zion is taller than Mount Everest (and all worldwide peaks), then some assumptions should be made. I don't think that God will call all nations to climb something taller than Mount Everest every year. Mount Everest and other towering mountains might be reduced to rubble. Otherwise, Jerusalem's mountain will be so high that one would assume that the conditions near the summit would be rather harsh.

For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!’ Then they will begin ‘to say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!”’ (Luke 23:29-30)

And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. (Revelation 16:18)

“For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly children, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge.” I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled. And all the hills moved back and forth. I beheld, and indeed there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled. I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, And all its cities were broken down At the presence of the Lord, By His fierce anger. For thus says the Lord: “The whole land shall be desolate; Yet I will not make a full end. For this shall the earth mourn, And the heavens above be black, Because I have spoken. I have purposed and will not relent, Nor will I turn back from it. (Jeremiah 4:22-28)

There will farming around this millennial castle, on the mountain top. (Ezek. 48:18-19), the prophet also speaks of a majestic tree (metaphorically or in reality).

Thus says the Lord GOD: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.” (Ezekiel 17:22-24)

No trees including the cedar grow atop the highest mountains on Earth. This will change when God transplants a piece of a cedar from its mother tree and places it on the height of Jerusalem's millennial mountain (vv. 22; 23). The Hebrew for Cedar here is, “erez.” This describes any kind of coniferous or pine tree. Cedars are not known for their ability to produce fruit. This will change in the Millennium as at least one cedar will yield such produce. This is just one of the reasons that the conifer atop the Jerusalem's mountain will be referred to as, “noble.” In addition, the cedar's nobility comes from its significance in height and canopy. Both will provide enough room and shade to house every kind of bird (v.23).

Every nation is shouting and singing to God. We can only obtain small glimpses, and use our imagination to picture these things. The closest thing to this that I have seen was 60,000 men singing loudly to God at a Promise Keepers event. It was an emotional experience to take in and be part of. I was also part of the million man gathering in Washington D.C. for Promise Keepers as well. I recall sitting in Qualcom Stadium when the Chargers had won the 1994 NFC divisional playoff, and earned a seat in the Superbowl. The people were shouting and full of happiness. They were running across the San Diego River, and across nearby parking lots to gather and get loud and proud. It was a bittersweet moment for me. Why can't this ever happen for God? It will.

The millennium will include an annual event for all nations. The idea of dropping everything, and going to Jerusalem seems like a disruption now. This day will come for God with gladness of heart and praise; not in an annual obligation. It will not be a tiresome and repetitive exercise either. How could such a gathering not be considered a hassle? What about our jobs and responsibilities that hold us?

The economy will be different in the millennium. Right now, we have a *specialized economy*. That means that you might spend all day on the computer, working on spreadsheets, or in a factory. The tribulation will likely wipe out roads, businesses, buildings, and utility service. We will revert to a simpler time of self sustenance and an agricultural society. It will be more like the *Amish lifestyle*.

But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make them afraid; (Micah 4:4)

It shall be in that day That a man will keep alive a young cow and two sheep; So it shall be, from the abundance of milk they give, That he will eat curds; For curds and honey everyone will eat who is left in the land. (Isaiah 7:21-22)

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them,” Says the Lord your God. (Amos 9:13-15)

God began creation with man under the notion of an agricultural existence in a sparsely-populated frontier. Part of the spiritual life is living in harmony and satisfaction with simplicity.



And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. (Genesis 1:29)

Then the Lord God took]the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. (Genesis 2:15)

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. (Genesis 9:1)

Satan has capitalized on our notions of envy and accomplishment and comparative status. Cain's family were inspired to build empires. They built large cities, centralized governmental control and specialized work forces. The Tower of Babel is an example of our quest for recognition and to grab power. God has told us to not seek personal greatness. Large cities offer opportunity and anonymity. It appeals to the idea of controlling more; without being scrutinized.



Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch. (Genesis 4:16-17)

Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.” And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city). (Genesis 10:8-12)



Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” (Genesis 11:1-4)

Read Psalm 100:4-5: One secret to enduring praise is to weed out our competing interests. Our time and money spent tell a story. Sports can be good; unless they keep you out of church. Entertainment can be OK; unless it keeps you from reading your Bible. God needs our finest hours each day; not our leftovers. Does God get our prime time; or after we fully exercise our free time other activities?

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. (Matthew 13:22)

Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!” And

the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.” (Mark 10:21-27)