

More About The Resurrections

During the time of Yeshua there was a heavy debate concerning whether or not there was a Resurrection. The Saducees argued that there was no such thing. Mt. 22:23

23 ¶ The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, Yeshua taught that there was indeed a Resurrection to eternal life. Lu. 20:35-36
35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

The controversy continued to rage concerning the Resurrection, during the building of the New Testament church. Paul spent much of his ministry defending the doctrine of the Resurrection.

1Cor. 15:12-26

12 ¶ Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

20 ¶ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death

1Cor. 15:42-45

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

1Cor. 15:50-51

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 ¶ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

In our time the Resurrection is accepted by most people because it has been taught for many years. But suppose you were a potential convert to Christianity who had been totally unfamiliar

with Yeshua and the new teaching of a Resurrection to eternal life by some Jewish preacher by the name of Paul; how would you react? You would not have had years of reading and studying the New Testament nor easy access the scriptures. This “new” revelation would have been hard to accept, don’t you think? Many still think of the Resurrections as a mystery and find it difficult to accept “new” understanding about them.

In this study we will take another look at the Resurrections:

It is interesting that there the word “Resurrection” is not found in the Old Testament. However, Job made mention of his belief in a Resurrection, stating that he knew he would regain life after “the heavens be no more”, and after Yahweh’s wrath is past, and at his “set” time.

Job 14:12-15

12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!

14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

Likewise, Abraham knew that Yahweh would of necessity have to Resurrect Isaac even if he died from being sacrificed in order to keep His promise of raising up a great nation through Isaac.

Gen. 15:4-6, 26:2-5

In view of these scriptures we see there are two types of Resurrections: one to eternal life that Yeshua, and Job talked about and the one Abraham knew about. The Resurrection to eternal life had not been available until after Yeshua’s death and Resurrection.

4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Even though there was not yet a “New Testament” to learn from many believed in a Resurrection during Yeshua’s time. Martha said she understood about the “end time” Resurrection.

Jo.11:24-26

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. However, she still didn’t seem to grasp that He was talking about a different kind of Resurrection than the one she spoke about.

Just the same Yeshua proceeded to resurrect Lazarus, not to eternal life, but to physical life. In addition, we find in several scriptures, both Old Testament and New Testament, where people were brought back to physical life.

Some might say that there is only two resurrections based on Jo.5:29. But scripture shows there have already been many Resurrections to physical life, and hints that many are yet to occur, none of which are called the “first” or “second Resurrection”, etc. The phrase “second death” is mentioned in Rev.2:11 which shows some humans will die twice. They will die during this physical life, resurrect, and die a final death. Did you ever wonder why Yeshua would resurrect

someone just to destroy him? We'll get to that as we go along. But what about those people who have already died twice? Lazarus died and Yeshua resurrected him to physical life (first death) then, unless he is still alive (which I doubt), he died a second time. If he is to be in the first Resurrection he will be resurrected a second time. If not, will he not still be resurrected at a later time? He, along with the many others that have been resurrected, will have already died two times, and resurrected twice. Are we to believe that everyone who has already experienced a resurrection from the dead will be in the second death group of Rev. 20:14 and 21:8? Of course not!

Then is it not possible they could experience a second Resurrection to physical life, as well as a second "sleep" death before the Great White Throne Judgment Resurrection? (Just a thought.) Taking this into consideration we see that the second death of Rev.20:6, 21:8 is speaking of a permanent, eternal death, just as the "first" Resurrection is a "permanent" Resurrection to eternal life.

Scriptures show there have been and will yet be more than one Resurrection to physical life as well as Resurrections to eternal life. How can we know there will be more Resurrections to eternal life than the one in Rev.20:6? Simply because it is called, "the FIRST Resurrection", the first of it's kind. In order for it to be a first, there has to be one or more to follow, otherwise it would not be a "first".

Rev.20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. As we have already said, it could not be a first to physical life because there have already been many physical resurrections recorded. Paul said it was a "better" Resurrection, in that those in it would never know death.

So far we have found many resurrections to physical life, and possibly two permanent (first) Resurrections, along with a final Resurrection of all the dead at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Now we will look at one of these very important Resurrections in greater detail:

Rev.20:5

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

The first Resurrection of it's kind, to eternal life, takes place at the return of Yeshua, but there will NOT be another Resurrection until "after" a one thousand year period of time. We read about this in Eze.37:5-13

5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

9 Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves.

This Resurrection is not of all who have ever lived that never heard Yahweh's plan of salvation, as some have taught. Yahweh identifies this group Himself as "THE WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL". They are not resurrected to eternal life because they are part of "the rest" who were not included in the first (better) Resurrection to eternal life; they had to wait until AFTER the thousand years. There are still others, who are not of the Whole House of Israel who are still dead, who are still awaiting their "lot" or "order". Dan.12:13, 2-3

Dan.12:13 But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

and Rev.20:11-15

11 ¶ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Getting back to Eze.37: and the Resurrection of the Whole House of Israel, often erroneously referred to as "the second Resurrection", we see a huge army, perhaps millions, of Israelites (who may be resurrected by tribes, in their order), locating in the land Yahweh promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They become a physical nation grown wealthy, living in peace, but not at all righteous, very vulnerable to the surrounding nations. Eventually they are attacked and taken into captivity by Gentile nations who grew powerful during the previous one thousand year period while Satan was imprisoned

Rev.20:7-9

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

and Eze.38:2-12.

2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

6 Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

7 Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.

8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of

Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

11 And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

12 To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

We have already shown by scripture that humans can live and die and be resurrected physically more than once. So we see here that Yahweh allows the resurrected nation of Israel a second physical death. Eze39:22-24

22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.

23 ¶ And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword.

Later Yahweh brings Israel “back” again. Eze.39:25-29, 36:21-28.

25 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;

26 After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid.

27 When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; 21 But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went.

22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

25 ¶ Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

These are Israelite people who are prone to death. Are we to believe they will never die, or if they do die, will never be resurrected? This writer believes Yahweh is so merciful that He will continue working with Israel during the last ten chapters of Ezekiel to purify them until they are ready for the second (of the better) Resurrection to eternal life. I also believe there will be other Resurrections of Gentile peoples. There are other nations mentioned beside the ones who went

against Resurrected Israel Eze.38:13. Can we believe that there will not be a Resurrection for all the people mentioned here?

Some may question the time setting for the events of Eze.37. However, if one compares Rev.20:7-9 with Eze.38: one can see that this is one and the same event. Both are talking about Gog, and other nations uniting to conquer Israel. Both explain how Yahweh deals with them. Most importantly, we see in Rev.20:7 that it happens AFTER Satan has been imprisoned for a thousand years, and has been released.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Eze.38:2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

6 Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

7 Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.

8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee

Eze. Chapters 38-48 fills in the details left out between Rev.20: verse 9 and 10.

To get the whole picture the reader is encouraged to read the last chapters of Eze from chapter 36-48 then come back to Rev.20:10 and continue reading the rest of the story in Rev. chapters 20, 21, and 22.

Rev.20:11-15 gives very little information concerning this last mentioned Resurrection except to indicate it is a final judgment of all whoever lived and died throughout the ages of mankind.

11 ¶ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

This is not the first resurrection to eternal life, nor is it the resurrection of Eze.37 because it is during a time when “the earth and heaven fled away”. This time period is explained in Rev.21 when all things are made new.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This writer believes this is when every living human who ever lived and died (for the last time) will either be resurrected to eternal life or eternal death, and that no one need fear death ever again. Will they all become spirit beings at this point? I haven't a clue. Rev.21:24-26 shows there will be "saved" nations still existing. Yeshua said Yahweh has given Him the power to resurrect anyone, any time He chooses. Jn.5:21,24,28-29. Who are we that we can set limits on His power to do so?

21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Is there any place in the Bible that says there will be a set amount of resurrections? Is anything impossible to Yahweh?