

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE DEAD? Rev. 20:5

Introduction

This study will probably be totally foreign to you, never heard before.

This study is so different from what most people have been taught (and believe) that it is actually shocking (and thrilling) when one first begins to understand it.

If you are one of those people who has decided that all you need is to “work out your own salvation” and that you don’t have enough time to “dig” into the Bible for anything more, or not interested in learning anything new, or you think avoiding controversy is more important, you probably won’t want to do this study. But first let me inform you that I am not interested in anyone sending me money. I came upon this understanding about five years ago while studying about the resurrections, and have continued studying it ever since. I have no intention of starting a following. I have no agenda to prove. I will think no less of you if you choose to ignore it. I have had a hunger for many years to understand the plan God has for humanity, and by doing so, draw closer to Him. As I study I ask myself questions and then proceed to search for the answers. I found the last eight chapters of Ezekiel aroused numerous questions. Some of the questions while studying were:

- 1) What time period do these chapters fit into.
- 2) What purpose does reinstating of the priesthood, animal sacrifices, and the keeping of the new moon, the laws and holy days play in this period.
- 3) And why give Ezekiel all those blue prints to build a Temple.
- 4) And why would God allow Gog and Magog and other Gentile nations to attack Israel; is this going to happen in this age, or during the millennium?
- 5) Are the Jews going to build a Temple for Christ to reign in “forever” as mentioned in the last verses of Eze.36? It can’t be before Christ returns because Rev. 14: shows there are only two groups of people on this earth just prior to the second coming of Christ. One group typifies the believers who refuse to take the mark. The first group is martyred by the beast power and will be “reaped” by the first angel. The other group is serving the Beast and taking the mark. This group will be gathered, by the second angel, to be cast into the “great winepress of the wrath of God”. After reading Revelation, or rather “studying” it, one will see that there are very few (remnant) people left living on the planet earth when Christ returns. According to John they will be taken up to heaven in a resurrection, just prior to, or near the same time the beast is destroyed and Satan is imprisoned. Then I read in Rev. 20: 5 that the “rest of the dead” don’t come alive until after the thousand years. That not only means they won’t live until then but that they WILL live after the thousand years. How long afterward is not told. Then I ask: does Eze. 37 take place during the thousand year period?
- 6) If Christ and his resurrected saints reign during this time, who do they reign over? The earth has just experienced a demolition, near total destruction, and is nowhere near what it was (or is now). Just as in the days of Noah after the flood, few people will survive. Is this not a new age?
- 7) Another question: If the saints are among the first group who are “reaped” by martyrdom and Christ comes with his army and destroys the other group of wicked humanity, that means there is no “wonderful world tomorrow” for many years, right? But when and who rebuilds the Temple? Is it still in existence when Satan is released after the millennium?
- 8) Why is Satan released if Christ is ruling the earth from his Temple? Would Christ share rulership with Satan during this short period of time while Satan is released on the earth? Would it make sense to have two rulers, at the same time, over the same earth?

Then I read where both Christ and Paul referred to “past ages”, “present age” and “future ages” which comes to at least five ages. But God works in sevens so there must be two more. Getting back to Eze. 37, and 38, why do people seem to think the “resurrection of the whole house of Israel” includes other (Gentile) peoples when no other peoples are mentioned? Where do they

get this? And why are only Gentile nations mentioned that comes out of the millennium? There is no history of any Israelites living during the millennium. The Israelites after the thousand years are part of the “rest of the dead” who were not in the better resurrection, nor those who lived during the millennium. And what about all of the billions of people who have died, are dying, and will yet die, aren't they “the rest of the dead” who are not among the first resurrection? When will they be judged? Won't they be judged just as we are presently being judged? Since God is of no respect of persons won't they be judged by the same mercy as we are presently being given?

These are but a limited amount of questions I had. If you have similar questions that you really want to find the answers to you will enjoy this study. If not you may choose to put it aside and forget it. Otherwise, read on and be prepared to be amazed. But I suggest that if or before you share this with others you be convinced that you have studied enough to back up everything with scriptures, because no one is going to believe you otherwise. And maybe not ever.

WHAT ABOUT THE “REST” OF THE DEAD?

We have history that tells us what has happened in the past, before the flood, after the flood, during the time the law was given to ancient Israel. We know about when Moses led Israel out of Egypt. We know about the prophets up until the time of Jesus' birth. We have the Bible that tells us about Jesus and his apostles and his and their deaths. We also have the book of Revelation to determine what is going to take place in our future as we await the return of Jesus Christ. We are also awaiting the event of the first and better resurrection that is described in the same book. Those of us who believe the Bible is the word of God and that Jesus is the Son of God, look forward to our change from flesh to spirit, IF we qualify for such a glorious reward at the next appearance of Jesus Christ. We hear a lot about what has happened and a lot about what is happening, and a lot about what we think is going to take place as our age ends in the return of Jesus. We hear some of what we think the Bible says about the next age which is called the Millennium. We read about that time as when Christ will come for his saints and together they (or we) will rule the earth as priests with our saviour for a thousand years. We also hear a little about a resurrection that Ez.37 speaks of but we're not real sure what that's all about. Most people, even those who profess to be born again Christians, do not have enough interest beyond that event to study into the future any farther. But there is much more to learn than we have been introduced to in most of our modern churches.

I want to start this study with the scripture found in Rev. 20:5 where we are told there is a group of people called the “rest” of the dead. We are told this group of people, when they die, will not be resurrected until the thousand year period of time has come and gone. What can we learn from the Bible about them? To begin with we find they will not be in that first resurrection that takes place when Jesus comes back to earth at the end of this age, prior to the thousand year period. So we see there is a separation of the two groups: one is before the millennium and the other one is referred to as being brought back to life afterwards.

Rev.20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.

So from this time on we will be discussing events, revealed by the scriptures, that happens to the “rest” of the dead, after the millennium. Throughout this study we must keep in mind that “the rest” are people who will not be in the first resurrection, but will be brought back alive some time after the thousand year period. Who are these people then? They are everybody that has ever lived and died, even those who lived and died before the great flood, most who are alive now and will die, and those who will die in the future, even those who live and die during the millennium. We see that no one will be resurrected during the millennium because Christ says “the rest” of the dead, meaning those who are not resurrected during the first resurrection, will not live again until after the thousand years have passed. So none of this group will be in any

kind of resurrection until the next or second resurrection which will not occur until after the millennium. Now we have two groups of people described in Rev. 20:5 and Rev. 20:4 & 6.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

This is the first resurrection.

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.

We see that the first group has no need to fear a second eternal death (this is not speaking of the sleep death) but the second group (the rest) may, or may not, be subject to an eternal death. There is a difference in the two types of death: 1) is the kind of sleep death that we all enter into that allows one to be resurrected. 2) The second death is permanent and does not allow a resurrection of the person).

Another thing we notice is that the first group will reign with Christ for a limited period of a thousand years. Why only a thousand years? The answer is in verse seven and eight.

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.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The Bible says that Satan has been allowed by God to be the temporary ruler of this age, just as he, Satan, will be allowed the same short time position after the millennium has ended.

At the end of the thousand year period Satan is released from his prison. Christ takes his saints back to heaven with him and lets Satan rule the earth again for a short time. There cannot be two rulers, one righteous the other one wicked, ruling over the earth at the same time. We read about Satan being imprisoned for the thousand year period in Rev. 20:1-3 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

All of these events work together to fulfill a plan that God has for the future of the "rest"; we will discover what it is as we go along.

In Eze. 37:1-13 we find another resurrection that involves just one particular type or group of people who are referred to as "the whole house of Israel". Notice there are no other mentions of Gentiles, nations, or heathen. This resurrection involves strictly Israelites! They are not promised any kind of reward, no special positions and they actually are prone to a sleep death. These Israelites are among "the rest" of the dead, but not all of the rest, that we read about in Revelation. This takes place "after" the thousand year period when Satan has been released from the bottomless pit and now is free to rule the world again. God gives his prophet a vision of this event, which is called the second resurrection. However, this is not about the whole of mankind but just to the "whole house of Israel". Note that this is not limiting this hord of people to the one tribe of Judah or Jews (as they are called today).

Eze. 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

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, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, 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. {wind: or, breath} 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 prophecy 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,

Notice God calls them “his people” and tells them he is taking them back into the land of Israel. They are not promised eternal life or even that they are going to be with him. They are Israelites that are being resurrected to flesh and bone mortal beings just as they were before their deaths. There is no doubt they are part of the “rest” of the dead. In Rev. 20:12-13 we find another reference to “the rest”. And remember Satan is now ruling the earth, as he is now. These are not labeled as Israelites; they are from all walks of life.

Rev. 20:13 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. {hell: or, the grave}

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.

These people will be judged. They are not of the same group that are labeled as “the whole house of Israel” as the last group was. However, they are of the “rest” who were not qualified to be in the first resurrection. After they are judged, (just as we are being judged) if their names are not entered into the book of life they will be cast into the lake of fire, and they will burn up. They will “die” because in v. 14 it says, “This is the second “death”.

Neither does it say that all of those in these resurrections, whom have been judged, will be burned up, only those whose names are not recorded in the book of life. At this point we need to discuss a little about the “judging”. Judgments of these kinds take a long time. Isaiah speaks of God’s judgments. Is.26:9 says: 9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Dan. 7:9-14 speaks of a judging.

9 ¶ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Peter talks about a judging that is taking place right now, to God's people. 1Pet.4:17 For the time is (has) come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" We, then are being judged over the whole period of our life. This is the method God uses to judge, it isn't done after we are dead or while we are too young to know the difference between right and wrong. It stands to reason that the "rest" will likewise be judged at a time when they know right from wrong. Would he condemn millions of the "rest" who knew little or nothing about God, his plan, his laws, etc. Millions upon millions have lived and died without ever knowing God's judgments, which have never been given an opportunity to make a decision for their salvation. The "rest" will be resurrected and given their time of decision to choose either life or death just as God gave that option to ancient Israel and is giving it to us. This next scripture has some surprising events that have often been thought to be fulfilled in this age, but with a closer look we will see it is prior to the third coming of Jesus. I have a study on the third coming of Christ.

Mal 3:1 Behold I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. (Notice the reference to the reestablishment of the Levi priesthood)

4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. (Notice the animal sacrifices "as of old" being offered)

5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

Since there were no resurrections during the thousand year period, these people are part of the "rest" of the dead. However, they are living in an age when Christ comes to his physical Temple that they have built for him, according to the blueprint given to Eze. 40-48, and are "delighting in him" and are anxious for his appearing. Lots of surprising and exciting things will happen to the "rest" before the seven ages end. Later, when the right time comes other nations will also be resurrected "in their course".

Mrk.6:11 shows us that even the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be resurrected and judged (tested).

11 ...Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. Luk.10:12-14

12 But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

13 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

14 But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you.

These people did not qualify to be in the first resurrection. But we see that they will be resurrected.

We also find other places in the Bible where Lazarus was resurrected to physical life, a young girl, a widows son, and many came out of their graves at the time Christ came out of the tomb; just to name a few.

Mt.27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Wouldn't that make for a great movie, if the producers could get it right? These saints were resurrected to physical life and was subjected to die a sleep death again, and of course they will be resurrected again in their course. So we see by scripture that there can be more than one time of one's death and more than one time of one's resurrection. Likewise there is a time of being judged at any time. We also see in Eze.44:23-24 where Levitical priests will judge the people after the millennium.

This is but a short reference to "judgments" and "resurrections; there are many, many more to study.

Much happens between the time of Satan's release and his end which we will discover as we go farther into the study. We will learn something about Satan's influence on this age of the "rest of the dead" during his short rule. To fill in these events we'll start back at the beginning before the millennium, before there were any "rest" of the dead; back to our age when Satan is presently ruling the world.

We go to the end of this age in Rev. 19:11-21 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: (as he commands) and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Now to Rev. 13:7-8 that speaks of the Beast power, or Satan's government system at the end of our age. 7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Rev. 14:6-10 is a warning of the result of taking the mark of the beast:

6 ¶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Here we see more of God's judgment).

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. (is in the process of falling)

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Then in Rev.14:15-20 we read about the final result of the two groups of the remaining population of the world as they are "reaped" or gathered for their final rewards. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

These are the martyrs of the first group who are harvested by Christ.

17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

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.

20 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 (16 miles). This clearly is the majority of the whole wicked population left on earth at the end of this age when Christ returns.

We just read about the second coming of Jesus in Rev. 19:11-21 It ends by saying in verse 21: And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

We have to ask: "How many people's are left to go into the millennium?" In the above scriptures we see the final end result of this age. It is followed by the first resurrection, the beginning of the millennium, and the imprisonment of Satan. Rev.20:1-6 who are these people who will reign, and judge the people, with Christ during the millennium? Rev. 20:4 tells us they will be rendering "judgments" on the people who have survived into the age of the millennium.

Now we go back to where we begin in Rev. 20:5 speaking of the "rest" of the dead. The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. We will go forward now to see what happens to the "rest" after the thousand year period when the whole house of Israel will be resurrected and Satan will be released to rule over the "rest of the dead" for a short time. But

first--what about what takes place during the millennium? This time period is not so much about the "rest" except there will be people who will live and die even during this age. No one will be resurrected during the millennium. What the Bible does tell us is that the earth will have been totally changed during all the devastations that take place described in the book of Revelation. The earth will be nothing even close to what it is now as the result of the three woes and the seven periods of God's wrath. There will be very few people left to start a new civilization. The good news is that Satan will not be stirring up trouble while Christ and his saints teach and train the surviving people his laws and help them to restore and care for the earth. No doubt this will also be a great time of training for those who did qualify to rule over this new civilization. We find descendants that survived of Gentile nations as they are named in Eze. 38:1-6,13 who have become great nations by the end of the thousand years. There is no scripture mention of any Israelites having lived during the millennium.

Eze. 38:1 ¶ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

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.

13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

We have descendants of Gog, Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah, Sheba, Dedan, Tarshish, and many bands of unnamed Gentile peoples. This takes us to the conclusion that the millennium is the time of the fullness of the Gentiles that Paul speaks of in Rom. 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. We know that Paul was sent to the Gentiles but he only reached those that lived in his lifetime. There were many more to come.

There is very little written about the "rest" people of the millennium until after the whole house of Israel is resurrected. We find in verse three that not all nations are agreeing to attack Israel. Perhaps they are converted nations that have not been deceived by Satan. Next we want to know about the Israelite people of the "rest of the dead". What were they like after their resurrections? To begin with they are the first Israelites to be resurrected after the millennium. The earth has been restored and is made like a Garden of Eden. The water is pristine, the air is sweet, the people are friendly and helpful. In time the Israelites are settled in their own land of Judah where they gradually become content, wealthy, and as is always the case with prosperity, they begin to listen to Satan whom God has released to test them. They fail the test and go back into idolatry. Satan is also spreading his attitude of greed to the surrounding "rest" of Gentile nations. The Bible does not tell us how many hundreds of years this involves, but we can be sure all of this won't happen overnight.

Next we glimpse into the event of Gog and allies attacking and taking Israel into captivity and occupying their land.

Eze. 38:11 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.

13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

14 ¶ Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

We find a condensed reference to the same event in Rev. 20:7-9 where Satan is held responsible for influencing Gog, but here God says he caused it to happen. So God allowed Satan to influence these Gentiles to attack Israel and be victorious over them for a reason.

17 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?

However God is angered that these nations were in an evil attitude when they succumbed to Satan's influence.

18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face.

19 For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; Few, if any, Israelites are left in the land of Israel by this time; they are either dead, scattered, or enslaved to these nations.

20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Keep in mind that all the peoples from this time forward are "the Rest" of those who were not in the first resurrection.

Why did God allow this to happen to the Israelites? Eze.39:23 -28 .

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.

24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them.

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.

Notice that when they transgressed against God they were dwelling safely in their own land. This could not possibly be happening in our age because Revelation nowhere speaks of Israel dwelling safely and being brought back into their land.

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;

28 Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them anymore there.

Again the Bible doesn't tell us how long all of this takes except Eze. 36:33-35 talks about the wastes and the desolation of the land, indicating it was a very long time. Remember, we are still discovering things about what happens to the "rest" of the dead after they have been brought back to life. Okay, so what happens next? After Israel repents God says: Eze. 36:31 Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.

God begins to fulfill his promises that he made to Abraham many years ago, and for his own name sake.

Eze. 36:23-28 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.

Rom. 11:26-27 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

At this point God removes the blindness from Israel.

Ez.36:23 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.

Isa: 60:9 ¶ Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.

10 And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee.

11 Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought. {forces: or, wealth}

12 For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.

13 The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious.

14 The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Israel is no longer separated into two nations but will be referred to from now on as simply "Israel". Ez.37:21- Following this Israel builds the Temple that God gave the blue print to Ezekiel for them to follow (read the last eight chapters of Ez.).

God says of Israel:

Isa. 61:6-11 Ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

7 For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

8 For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed. We see here that these are not spirit beings since they are producing "seed", having "offspring".

10 ¶ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

21 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

22 And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:

23 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

24 And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

28 And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

Even during this time, after Israel has become a Godly nation there will be growing families and people will still live to be old but will also die. See Eze. 44:23-25 But what about the millions and millions of other great nations that have lived and died since Adam and Eve, those who died in the great flood, those who have died since then and are even now dying every day and will yet die before Christ returns? We read of some of those nations being resurrected and judged, such as Sodom and Gohmorrah. So it stands to reason all peoples who have been deceived by Satan will have their eyes opened to the truth before the second death. Depending on what they do with that revelation will determine what happens to them. We see in Rev. 21:24 that there will be whole nations that have been saved. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. We also read of many nations in Rev. 7:9-17 who came out of great tribulation who will be in God's kingdom. God is loving and merciful. He will give righteous judgment to all of his children. Those whom he resurrects, in their course, will be given the same opportunity to repent, when they come to themselves, as the prodigal son did, and as we have been. They will live long enough to be tested just as we are being tested. God will work with them as we see in Zech. 14:16-19

16 ¶ 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.

Notice these were "nations" people who had "come against" Jerusalem at one time.

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.

18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

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

Rev. 20:11 ¶ 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.

And of course, after every one is judged, Satan will be cast out of the earth, when Christ comes (the second time) to his temple and replaces Satan as the supreme ruler. Then we read of the new heaven and new earth in Rev. chapters 21 and 22. We assume that by that time all those who rebelled to the very end were burned up when the earth was cleansed by fire and the rest were spirit beings. There is yet much for us to learn about the eternal plan of God which he has for the "rest" of mankind.

Isa. 2:3 And say, Come ye, and let us go up to the "mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Next we need to put these major events into their correct age, for which there are seven of them. I have another study, "The Seven Ages of Mankind" offered upon request that goes deeper into this topic.

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