

WHO WILL BE RESURRECTED?

It is encouraging to keep reminding ourselves of the wonderful future God has planned for mankind. One of the most encouraging step of God's plan is future resurrections.

During the time of Yeshua there was a heavy debate concerning whether or not there was a Resurrection. The Sadducees argued that there was no such thing.

Mt. 22:23-36

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

1Cor. 15:42-45

1Cor. 15:50-52

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 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

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.

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 his Resurrection.

Gen. 15:4-6

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. But just as others in the

old Testament she did not understand about the resurrection to eternal life. 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?

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 next 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 every one 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

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

Getting back to Eze.37: and the Resurrection of the Whole House of Israel, often 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 had grown 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.

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

Eze39:22-23

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, And 36:21-28.

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 -9 that it happens AFTER Satan has been imprisoned for a thousand years, and has been released.

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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.

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? 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 or limit him 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 for Yahweh or His son?

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