

New Beginnings

God's New Beginnings for Mankind

2013

This title is for those readers who have a problem with the word "Ages" but it is on the same topic as "The Seven Ages"

Some new beginnings are referred to in the Bible as "ages". In God's mercy He devised a wonderful plan for His creation of humans that He wanted to include in His family. His plan begins with creating a perfect and beautiful place for his first humans to live and He called it "earth". The first beginning started with two humans, Adam and Eve. (Genesis chp. 1,2,and 3) He set before them certain rules and offered them eternal life if they observed His rules. But He warned them if they refused to obey Him they would surely die. When they disobeyed they did come under the death (for all eternity) penalty as we read on we find many years pass and large populations filled the earth. God became saddened at the choices the human earth people made, they chose to disbelieve Him, their world was filled with vile crimes and cruelty against other. Worst of all they profaned God, their giver of life. God grieved at the misery they brought upon themselves and finally made the decision for a second New Beginning. We can read about the start and end of the first beginning from Genesis one to Genesis seven. God chose to destroy the first earth of humans by a worldwide flood, to start a second New Beginning.

God's second New Beginning began with Him choosing a family of eight persons, Noah and His wife, three sons and their wives, to restart the human race. We can read about that in the next chapters of Genesis. Continuing on through Genesis: Many years later God, in his patience, looked for a man who would believe Him, one who would listen to Him and obey His rules of life and teach his family about their Creator. He found such a man in of Abram, God later renamed Abraham. After testing Abram God entered into a covenant with him and continued His original plan to develop a special family through Abram's second son, Isaac, then through Isaac's twin son Jacob, later named Israel. As we continue reading through the chapters of Genesis we read about the covenant God made with Abraham, through his twelve great .grand-sons, that he would become many, a multitude of great nations (Gen.17:3-4, 48:19). (Note: Has this prophecy been fulfilled in this age, or is it yet to be fulfilled? Has not the USA become many nations (states)? We read about Israel's travels, their conflicts, how they became enslaved to the nation of Egypt and how God used the man Moses to lead them to independence. Israel was God's chosen family to set an example of keeping His laws and showing the rest of the nations in the world the benefits of observing them. The Bible shows many mistakes the great nation of Israel made as they became a power in the world. When they kept the laws of life God protected and blessed them but not all generations separated themselves from their neighbor's idolatrous activities; they suffered God's anger and many punishments. God allowed Israel to have Kings of their choice which led to wars between the twelve brothers. We read in 1Kings 12:1-24 where ten families revolted against the King of Israel, thus becoming known as "the House of Israel". Those who

stayed and worshipped God in Jerusalem became known as the "House of Judah. Because of the northern ten tribe House of Israel's sins God allowed them to be taken into captivity by a Gentile nation called Syria. Much later the House of Judah also was defeated by Babylon and taken captive, but later was allowed to return and rebuild their ruins. However the House of Israel (ten tribes) was never rejoined to the House of Judah. (Where are they today?) Eventually God saw that all of mankind was destined to suffer eternal death because of their sins. It was time for another New Beginning.

The third New Beginning would be an age of Grace. God would allow mankind to avoid the penalty of death, as punishment for their sins, be forgiven and receive the gift of eternal life. He sent "The Word" by the power of His Holy Spirit into a human woman's body where she incubated the flesh around His spirit just as if she had been impregnated by a human man. He was born in the likeness of a human, into the family of Judah, but was neither Jew nor Gentile. He was called Emanuel which means "God with Us". This "Thing" (Lu 1:35) would become the very begotten (Jn. 3:16-17) son of the Almighty God. Later He would become "the firstborn of many brethren (Rom 8:29) But first He would become 'the Lamb" of God and be offered up for the sins of mankind. When the likeness of man, who called himself "the Son of Man" reached the right age He introduced the Great Father to the world, then He allowed himself to be crucified and tortured with the weight of mankind's sins on his broken heart. After he bled to death and was entombed for three days and three nights, as He had predicted, He rose back to life through a resurrection. At this time He was no longer "begotten" by God, He was now "the firstborn" of many brethren. (Note: are believing brethren, now not just "begotten" awaiting our resurrection to be "born again"? Even Jesus was not "born again" until his resurrection.) After appearing to many of His disciples for forty days He ascended back into heaven in a glorified vision of glory. He began the process of "Grace" to all who would love Him by keeping His laws. Not by the letter, but by a willing and loving attitude. In Spirit, he came back into His "called out ones" to dwell in their minds and emotions (referred to as "hearts"). He promised He would never leave them (or us). By the power of His direction they built the first spiritual churches preaching His gift of grace. He saw that His Word was preserved down through the generations so that we are without excuses for not accepting His gifts. Those who answers His calling will also be resurrected to eternal life at the end of this age, when He comes back to meet them in the air. This is the age we live in now, anxiously awaiting His return and/or our new birth.. He left the message, "knock and it will be opened", "ask and you shall receive" this gift of Grace! However, He does require us to repent, be baptized, and live according to His rules, and then He will come into our life, forgive us of our sins and abide with us for all eternity. (Acts 2:38) One would have to read much of the Bible, especially the prophecies, to see that before the next New Beginning near total destruction of this earth and its people has occurred. (Revelation chpts 5 through 19).

Most every Bible student loves the fourth New Beginning when Satan is bound for a thousand years. This is the time when Jesus Christ, King of kings brings His army with Him and they battle against Satan's armies at the "battle of Armageddon". Of course the King wins and collects His saints and together they begin to rule the earth together. Since Revelation says the Beast power has killed all who would not take his mark, and

God destroys those who do take the mark, there's not a whole lot of people left (Rev. 14:9-20) to rule over until the earth is restored and civilization grows again. This seems to be the time Paul talks about being "the fulfillment of the Gentiles" when survivors will be further taught about God. It will be a different world because Satan is no longer able to deceive the people for one thousand years. We don't have a lot of information about this New Beginning but we are told it will last for a thousand years and that there will be no resurrections (Rev. 20:4-6) taking place during this time. Christ and His Saints will rule with no interference from Satan. Eze 38 names many Gentile nations that have grown during the thousand year period. There is no mention of Israel existing during the Millennium. Then we may ask, "what happens to "the rest "of the dead" of Rev 20:5?) Israel has been ignored for a thousand years, but now they are back in the news in this New Beginning. The nations have not been tested by Satan's wiles, or judged, during this time; so he is to be released. Once again Satan will be allowed to rule the world for a short time Rev. 20:7 says, "When the thousand years have expired Satan shall be loosed out of his prison." Just as every New Beginning has affected the whole world, so will this one. The Millennium world has never experienced Satan's destructive influence. Not only is that but there to be a great influx of resurrected Israelites flooding the world. (Eze. 37:1-13) The prophet Ezekiel wrote about the physical resurrection of the whole house of Israel et to occur. These are only a part of "the rest of the dead" of Rev. 20:5. See Eze 37:1-13. However many resurrections will no doubt occur before the last New Beginning. The whole earth is now like the garden of Eden and the people have only known peace and tranquility during Christ's rule. We can't know how many years or in what order the Whole House of Israel is resurrected but it is plain that they are flesh, bone and breath people who are returning to their promised land around Jerusalem. God identifies them as His people Israel. He does not call them Jews or refer to them as "the house of Judah" until much later after they become separated again. They are the whole house of Israel, the same people Satan has always wanted to destroy. Sadly, in the course of time, Satan succeeds in planting seeds of greed and rebellion in Israel, and they go back into idolatry. Eze. 38 tells how Israel became so wealthy that some of the Gentile nations became jealous and with Satan's influence they attack and occupy Israel's land. This was all God's plan to punish Israel. In time they will be defeated by these Gentile nations and be taken into captivity. We can't even guess how many years this involves. This started out as a good new beginning but because of Israel disappointing God so badly it's ending really bad. God became so angry with Israel that He turned his back on them and let them suffer the consequences of their sins. Because of these Gentile nation's arrogant attitudes toward His land and cruelty to His people God reacts in rage against them. (Eze. 38:18 - 23, 39:1-6 and Rev 20:7-9). Then we read where Israel repents in Eze.36:31-38 and God has compassion for them. We suspect that during this age there will be other unnamed Gentile nations of people that will be resurrected and live long enough to be judged just as all people are shown mercy by our loving Father God. (Mat 11:24-24 and Lu 11:31-32). Finally God has pity on sinful but repented Israel and brings them back into their land. (Eze. 36:21-30, 39:23-29) It is time for another New Beginning not only for Israel, but for the whole world. In the sixth New Beginning God opens His arms to repentant Israel, and establishes them as spiritual leaders over the whole world. There is an abundance of interesting information in the Bible concerning this beginning most of which has been erroneously

applied to the millennium. (Often one will find the prophets did not write in chronological order, a later event can appear before the earlier event. Eze 37:21-28, 38:16-17) After Israel is brought back into their land God instructs them to cleanse the land of their enemy's dead bodies. (Eze 39:1-24). Eze 39:28-29, 43:5-11 God promises He will never turn away from Israel again, now that they are a holy, righteous people with God's holy spirit. They will never need to fear an enemy because God will be living with them in the Temple that we read about in the last eight chapters of Ezekiel. Scripture doesn't mention Satan here but if God is coming down to His Temple it seems logical that Satan has been thrown in the lake of fire by this time. (Rev 20:10) In a vision God showed Ezekiel the blueprint for the new Temple in a new Jerusalem and tells him to remember everything so he can instruct Israel how to construct it. As we continue to read the last eight chapters we find most all of the ancient laws are reinstated including priesthood, sacrifices, offerings, circumcision, Holy Days, Sabbath and new moons will all be observed. (Eze 45:17, 46:1,3, 6) This time it will be done right. Somewhere we have to find a place for the many resurrections and the great White throne Judgment of Rev.20:11-15; does it fit in here? When Israel finishes building the Temple Christ will come to it and judge all sinners from it. (Mal.3:1-5,4:1) This will affect the whole world. What Ezekiel sees in vision and writes about is not in the same time period as described in Rev.21:22 even though there is a healing river mentioned in both places there is no Temple nor is the new city of Jerusalem built by men but comes down out of heaven with streets of gold. To get a little more insight into this age we hear Isaiah prophesying (Isa 60:1-22, 61:4-9) about people still having families as physical human beings. No spirit beings mentioned, but what an extremely wonderful time to live!! How many thousands of years this period lasts we can't even guess but there will come a New and even better beginning next. We get a glimpse into what the end of this age will be like in Rev.20:11-15 and 21:8 which "is the second death" of all sinners leading to the end of all death v.4

The last and seventh New Beginning is so different that it is impossible for humans to comprehend.

Edited 2013