

CHAPTER 12

THE GREAT RESURRECTIONS

*Blessed and holy is he who has part
in the first resurrection ~ Yeshua.*

There are two primary and distinct resurrections spoken of in the scriptures. There is First Resurrection, which is reserved for the saints at the Seventh Trumpet (Rev 11:15 – 18). Then there is the second resurrection at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:5 – 15).

Besides these two great resurrections, we have already explored the many individuals, who at various times, have also been resurrected. We have also seen that there was a great multitude that was resurrected at Messiah's rising (Matt 27:52).

The book of Hebrews refers to the first resurrection as the "better resurrection" (Heb 11:35).

THE BETTER RESURRECTION

What makes one resurrection better than another? One is to eternal life, one to eternal death – one is of mercy, one is of judgment – one is to a glorious spirit body, one is back to another physical body.

The “better resurrection” is better because it is a great reward for those who have put their faith in the blood of the Lamb of God. This is the first and greatest resurrection, for those in this resurrection are forever free of the sting of death. They are raised and given their own glorious spirit bodies as firstfruits unto God and the Lamb! This is a spiritual resurrection of the body, to be fashioned to a glorious body like Messiahs!

Phil 3:21

21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Let’s learn more about the resurrection of our bodies:

1 Cor 15:35-38

But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"

36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.

37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain — perhaps wheat or some other *grain*.

38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

This then is the resurrection of the body – not the rising of the soul. Remember, it is said of the dead saints, that they have died in Messiah. The saints live in the body of Messiah, while they await the resurrection of their own bodies! This was thoroughly covered in chapter 7 titled; ***What Does It Mean, We Are The Body Of Messiah?***

1 Cor 15:42-44

So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

43 It is sown in dishonor, 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.

This resurrection of our bodies into powerful glorious bodies is the final victory over death and hell. This is the first resurrection and the better resurrection, which takes place at the sound of the great trumpet.

1 Thess 4:16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

The saints that attain this resurrection will reign with Messiah during the 1000 year millennial period, as kings and priests (Rev 1:6, 5:10). After reigning with Him for 1000 years, then the second resurrection occurs. This is why it speak of the second resurrection as a time when there are “thrones” (plural) and judgment was given unto “them” (plural) [Rev 20:4]. Part of the reward of being firstfruits unto God is the calling to be kings, priests and judges with King Messiah! Messiah told His twelve disciples that they would sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Luke 22:28-30

"But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials.

29 And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed *one* upon Me,

30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Judging is part of the responsibility and reward of the firstfruit saints. The resurrected saints will also have part in subduing the kings of this world, at the return of Messiah.

Ps 149:5-9

Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds.

6 *Let* the high praises of God *be* in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand,

7 To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples;

8 To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron;

9 To execute on them the written judgment — This honor have all His saints. Praise the LORD !

The saints will return on white horses with King Messiah and execute God's vengeance upon the nations (Rev 19:8, 14). They will have no more hunger, no more thirst, no more sorrow, no more pain, no more death, no more tears (Rev 7:16 – 17, Rev 21:4). Remember, the first born get a double portion of blessing. That's why it's called the "better resurrection."

THE SECOND GREAT RESURRECTION

Like the author of Hebrews implies, Daniel made a distinction between the resurrections of some as compared to others.

Dan 12:1-3

1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, *Even* to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

We see from Dan 12:2, there seems to be a time of finality associated with the awakening of the wicked at the end of days. Wherein, the first resurrection is a time when the saints are rewarded at Messiah's return, the latter resurrection is a period of time during which the final judgment occurs. We see God seated on His Throne in Rev 20 for this final judgment. But

remember, a day with the Eternal is like 1000 years (2 Pet 2:8). The final or second resurrection does not take place in a single 24 hour day. It is a “day” or a time when people are resurrected and live, wherein they receive their final judgment from which there is no return (Rev 22:11).

This time is depicted by the 8th day of the Feast of Sukkot, called Shemini Atzeret. The eighth day is the day of the covenant, called the Brit. This is when all will finally be brought into a covenant relationship with the Father Most High – having been restored to Him through the blood of Yeshua Messiah. Those who refuse God’s grace will be blotted out. But there will be a time for people to come to their senses. This second great resurrection is not a spiritual resurrection, like the first. This is a physical resurrection of people. We know this for they can still die, if they do not repent and accept the blood and Kingship of Messiah (Rev 20:14 – 15). Spirit does not die.

Notice, this is not a spiritual resurrection of reward, but a humble restoration of the saints among the Gentiles.

Ezek 16:52-53

You who judged your sisters, bear your own shame also, because the sins which you committed were more abominable than theirs; they are more righteous than you. Yes, be

disgraced also, and bear your own shame,
because you justified your sisters.

53 "When I bring back their captives, the
captives of Sodom and her daughters, and the
captives of Samaria and her daughters, then *I*
will also bring back the captives of your
captivity among them,

This is a reference to being brought back from the dead, for those of Sodom were destroyed by fire from the Eternal and held captive in Sheol. Sodom was not taken captive physically – only destroyed. Thus those in Israel who come back with them are not spiritual firstfruits as they have not yet become repentant believers in Yeshua HaMashiach. They will be brought back from the dead to live anew physically in this time of judgment with Sodom. Let's see further from this fascinating passage in Ezekiel.

Ezek 16:55

When your sisters, Sodom and her daughters,
return to their former state, and Samaria and her
daughters return to their former state, then you
and your daughters will return to your former
state.

Here we see the people of Sodom returning to their former state, alongside Israel as they return to their former state. This fits with the Messiah explained the resurrections:

Matt 12:41-42

The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here.

42 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon *is* here.

Here again we see the gentiles being raised up together with those among Israel who had not obtained the First Resurrection. More than that, we see specific generations of people who shared a common history and/or common characteristics, being brought up to judgment together. Apparently, not all people will come up in one 24 hour day. The eighth day, which follows the Millennium, may last 1000 years and include many resurrections. During this time, children will live to the age of 100 (Isa 65:20). If, by the time they reach the age of 100 they are still sinners – still unrepentant – still have not come under the saving blood of the Lamb of God, they will die a final death

as accursed (Isa 65:20). This sounds very much like the words toward the end of the book of Revelation:

Rev 22:11

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

Very few will be so incorrigible as to refuse God's salvation (Yeshua) for love of the Lamb is great and the Mercy of God endures forever. Non-the-less, this is the second resurrection. It is a time when the masses of people will be brought up to finally live God's way of life. Many will be brought up and hear of Yahweh for the very first time! Many will have never heard the name Yeshua or Jesus! During this time, the firstfruits, who have been made kings and priests, will be spirit teachers, who can hear thoughts and prevent sin before it begins. They are the kind of teachers that will be teaching the ways of God to these masses raised from the dead.

Isa 30:20-21

20 And *though* the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers.

21 Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This *is* the way, walk in it," whenever

you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.

In this time of the second resurrection, the captives of Sodom will come up from Sheol with the captives of Israel, and they will have teachers teaching them the ways of God, until the knowledge of the Eternal covers the Earth like the waters cover the sea (Isa 11:9, Hab 2:14).

Never underestimate God's power to save. Never underestimate the power of the blood and love of the Lamb!