

Choose—the *better* RESURRECTION



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THE FIRST RESURRECTION

Christ is the first of the first to be resurrected: “But each in turn: Christ, the first-fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him” (I Corinthians 15:23).

“If in this life only we have **hope in Christ**, we are of all men most miserable. But now is **Christ risen from the dead**, and **become the first-fruits of them that slept**. For since by man came death, **by man came also the resurrection of the dead**. For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ shall all be made alive**. But **every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming**” (I Corinthians 15:19-23).

“I am He that lives, and was dead; and behold, **I am alive for evermore**, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death” (Revelation 1:18).

The saints will be part of the first resurrection: “And the nations were angry, and your wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that you should **give reward to your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear your name**, small and great; and should destroy them which destroy the earth” (Revelation 11:18).

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to 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 worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their right hands; and **they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years**. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection**. Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such **the second death has no power**, but **they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years**" (Revelation 20:4-6).



"**We believe that Jesus died and rose again** and so we believe that **God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him**. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that **we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep**. For **the Lord himself will come down from Heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and **with the trumpet call of God**, and **the dead in Christ will rise first**, after that, **we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, encourage each other with these words" (I Thessalonians 4:14-18).

"Listen, I tell you a mystery: **We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet**. For **the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised**

imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (I Corinthians 15:51).

"Our conversation is in Heaven, from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, **that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body,** according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself" (Philippians 3:20, 21).

Many suffered in life and died in the faith not having received the promise of eternal life, still await the better resurrection: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets, so many more "who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to fight the armies of aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; **that they might obtain a better resurrection**" (Hebrews 11:33-35).

"As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: **I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness**" (Psalm 17:15).

The saints are active and dynamic believers who live each day in obedience to God; they are judged daily and upon repentance forgiven—their sins forever forgotten. "For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God" (I Peter 4:17).

"According to my earnest expectation and hope **that in nothing I shall be ashamed,** but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:20-21).

"If anyone desires to come after Me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, **but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service**" (Romans 12:1).

"Make every effort to be **found spotless, blameless and at peace with him**" (II Peter 3:14).

"**Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name... He forgives all my sins...he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, **so far has he removed our transgressions from us**" (Psalm 103:1-12).

Daily devotion to God is a believer's highest priority. "He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 10:39).

They are the remnant of believers who Joseph [a mirror of the suffering Christ] was tasked with to preserve; he was sent ahead to preserve these people (Genesis 45:7). They are the overcomers growing in grace and knowledge. They pass the baton of truth on from one generation to another. "Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. 'They will be mine,' says the LORD Almighty, 'in the day when I make up my treasured possession.' I will spare them... And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not" (Malachi 3:16-18).

These special people love their heavenly Father: they know Him. They accept his graciousness, they feel his power, and they rejoice in his righteousness. They are forever grateful for His generosity to gift them salvation through the sacrifice of His beloved Son and only heir, Yashuah HaMashiach/Jesus Christ. "Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power..." (Revelation 20:6).

"He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; He that **overcomes** shall **not be hurt of the second death**" (Revelation 2:11).

They were predestined to be part of the first resurrection. "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29).

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Ephesians 1:5).

These people will NOT be part of the grand and fearful formalities of the divine court on Judgment Day. They will have received the better resurrection—the first resurrection. They will be wearing their crown of life. "Whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature. . ." (II Peter 1:4).

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2).

"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" (Daniel 12:3).

THE FINAL RESURRECTION



“ORDER IN THE DIVINE COURT! YOUR JUDGE—THE ANCIENT OF DAYS HAS ENTERED THE ROOM—STAND!”

GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER APPOINTS JUDGES: "I kept looking until **thrones were set up**, and the **Ancient of Days took His seat**; His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, and **the books were opened**" (Daniel 7:9-10).

"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. **You have come to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks.** If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time his voice shook the earth but now he has promised, 'Once more **I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens**'" (Hebrews 12:23).

CHRIST IS THE APPOINTED: "For he has set a day when **He will judge the world with justice by that Man he has appointed.** He has given proof of this to all men by **raising him from the dead**" (Acts 17:31).

"For **not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son**" (John 5:22).

"And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that **this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead**" (Acts 10:42).

"On the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men **through Christ Jesus**" (Romans 2:16).

"**When the thousand years are over...** Then I saw a **great white throne** and **him who was seated on it.** Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. **The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.** 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...** **If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire**" (Revelation 20:7-15).

"Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied about them: 'Behold, the Lord is coming with myriads of His holy ones to execute judgment on everyone, and **to convict all the ungodly of every ungodly act of wickedness and every harsh word spoken against Him by ungodly sinners**'" (Jude 1:14).

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left" (Matthew 25:31-33).

"SILENCE! THE RESURRECTED SAINTS WHO RULE WITH YASHUAH/CHRIST HAVE ENTERED THE COURT ROOM AND THEY TOO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR JUDGMENT."

"You are those having continued with me in my trials. And **I appoint a kingdom to you,** as my Father appointed to me, that **you may eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom.** And **you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel**" (Luke 22:28-30).

"And **he that overcomes, and keeps my works to the end, to him will I give power over the nations:** And **he shall rule them with a rod of iron;** as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to pieces: even as I received of my Father" (Revelation 2:26-27).

“Or do you not know that **the Lord's people will judge the world?**” (I Corinthians 6:2)

“Do you not know that **you will judge angels?**” (I Corinthians 6:3)

“EVERY MAN AND WOMAN MAY NOW SIT. AWAIT PATIENTLY UNTIL YOUR NAME IS CALLED.”

“For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that **the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned;** but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:17-18).

Some will be judged harder than others because of their stubborn

unrepentance: “Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. ‘Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you” (Matthew 11:20-24).

“The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here” (Matthew 12:41-42).

Mankind will give an account for themselves: “But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matthew 12:36-37).

“You, then, **why do you judge your brothers?** Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat... So then, **each of us will give an account of himself to God**” (Romans 14:10-12).

“**There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words;** the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day” (John 12:48).

“So, it will be **at the end of the age;** the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous” (Matthew 13:49).

“The enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the **end of the age**; and the reapers are angels. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will **gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness...**” (Matthew 13:39-43).

“Therefore, **do not go on passing judgment before the time**, but wait until the Lord comes who will both **bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts**; and then each man's praise will come to him from God” (I Corinthians 4:5).

“But because of your **stubbornness and unrepentant heart** you are **storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God**” (Romans 2:12).

"Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, **these to everlasting life**, but the **others to disgrace and everlasting contempt**" (Daniel 12:2).

“For if we go on **sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy** on the testimony of two or three witnesses” (Hebrews 10:26-28).

“For the **wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that **they are without excuse**” (Romans 1:18-21).

REPENT NOW: "And there is salvation in no one else; for **there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved**" (Acts 4:12).

"Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life**" (John 5:24).

Since Christ's sacrifice, the veil has been rent and we have been given God's Holy Spirit and direct access to Him so that we can grow in grace and knowledge, that we may present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service, making every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 21st century believers have God's word at our fingertips; truly we are without excuse. Choose now—the better resurrection.

“**Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection**” (Revelation 20:6)—the BETTER RESURRECTION.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich