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October 2, 2022

God uses a variety of ways to communicate time. Time is of no significance to God in His Heavenly realm. However, God established time for the earth and humanity and many things hinge on precise timing as God carries out His Will on earth, with and through mankind. God established in the Law specific dates and times for various festivals. Those festivals were linked to specific prophetic dates and times that Jesus would fulfill as prophecy. So, God is precise in His timing.

2 Peter 3:8 [8](#)But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

I do not believe 2 Peter 3:8 is an equation for calculating God's timing, it simply reflects that God is not incumbered by our time, His time is limitless. When God wants to communicate an exact length of time the context of the verse will usually express that as in verse 2 and 3 of Revelation 20. God then reverts in vs 3 to a imprecise term of "a little season". Context is helpful in most cases but it some it is just a mystery.

Revelation 20

1And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

This Angel God has dispatched may be the same angel of Revelation 9:1 that was given the key to the bottomless pit/abyss. The chain is new to us in that it reflects some method of containing or limiting movement of an entity that is not human but cavorts in the spirit realm.

In some sentences it is hard to discern at times between metaphor and physical reality; in this sentence we are likely dealing with both. I believe the identity of an “angel” to be completely real, however it is not the Messiah but a specifically assigned angel. However, the term “key to the bottomless pit and a great chain” are more likely symbolic, used in a way to describe the idea of a manner of containment for a spiritual being. It is unlikely that a three-dimensional thing like a lock and chain could contain a spiritual being, so I believe that aspect to be a metaphor describing to us that the recipient of this chain and occupying the bottomless pit is contained. In vs 3 God says He put a seal on Satan. In that context God’s seal whatever that is, apparently is unbreakable so the image of a “chain” is used to show in man’s eyes an unbreakable object.

The bottomless pit is and has been Satan’s abode since ejection from heaven along with his demons. Satan and his demons

operate from this location apparently at free will but at the end of Tribulation will be confined to it like “house arrest” for a thousand years.

2And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

It is likely that the reason for describing this particular entity with 4 different names is to differentiate him from the dragon we saw earlier. This dragon is without doubt Satan, the old serpent which is the Devil. The names God uses are, Dragon, old serpent, Devil and Satan.

Perhaps we should do a side-by-side comparison of the dragon’s we have seen so far?

Scriptural Comparison

<u>Revelation 12</u>	<u>Revelation 13</u>	<u>Revelation 17</u>
Dragon from Heaven	Beast from the Sea	Beast from the Abyss
Appears in heaven	Arises out of the sea	Arises out of the bottomless pit
Seven heads / ten horns / seven crowns	Seven heads / ten horns / ten crowns	Seven heads / ten horns
Swept away 1/3 of the stars	Like leopard / bear / lion	Names of blasphemy
Stood before Woman to devour child	A blasphemous name	Carrying the great harlot
	Dragon (Satan) empowers	Seven heads / mountains / kings
	One head fatally wounded	Five kings fallen
	Head wound healed	One is
	World worships the beast	One is yet to come
	Speaks great things / blasphemies	Beast is of the seven kings
	Continues 42 months	Beast receives the kingdom
	Blasphemes God	The world marvels at him.
	Persecutes with the Saints	
	Has authority over the earth	
	The world worships him	
	666 is the number of his name	

Satan

Anti-Christ

Tribulation Beast

3And 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.

Q. Where are the Anti-Christ/Beast and False Prophet at this time?

Revelation 19:20 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. (emphasis mine)

Vs 3 is talking about Satan himself referred to as:

“...the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan....”

from vs 2. He is cast by the angel of vs 1 in the bottomless pit. So, whoever the angel of verse 1 is, he is obviously more powerful or is given authority by God over Satan to subdue him for a thousand years. At the end of vs 3 we are told;

“...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.”

I believe we can take the thousand years literally, but when it comes to, “a little season”. No idea, but I believe it is a short time even in our time centered world.

4And 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.

The “thrones” are for Believers that would reign with Jesus during the millennium and judge the earth.

***Revelation 5:10* And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.**

***Revelation 3:21* To the one who overcomes, I will grant the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.**

We know from this verse that there will be some that will not be taken in the Rapture due to not turning their lives over to Christ and walking in obedience to Him in Love prior to the Rapture. Those with their newfound Faith in Christ will resist the Anti-Christ, the Beast and False Prophet, refusing to take the mark of the beast or to worship the beast or his image. If they are caught, they will be beheaded. Those that are beheaded surrendered their lives in exchange for eternity with Jesus and the honor of reigning with Christ for a thousand years here on earth.

5But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

There is according to scripture a state of not being alive but what the Bible calls “sleep”, in reality death of a person. This is not soul sleep, which is taught by Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah

Witnesses, and Christadelphians. What the Bible teaches is that upon death in the Old Testament people either went to Abraham's bosom (Paradise) or to Hades which is described by Christ as a simile but a real place in spiritual reality:

Luke 16: [19](#)There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: [20](#)And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, [21](#)And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. [22](#)And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; [23](#)And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. [24](#)And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. [25](#)But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. [26](#)And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. [27](#)Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: [28](#)For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. [29](#)Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. [30](#)And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. [31](#)And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

In the New Covenant we are told:

2 Corinthians 5: [6](#)Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are

***absent from the Lord: [7](#)(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)
[8](#)We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent
from the body, and to be present with the Lord.***

We understand that when Jesus was crucified while the tomb was closed, He was not there. He defeated death and went to Paradise where He delivered the good news and led what were called the captives free. In essence He led those in what was called Abraham's Bosom to Heaven in the Spirit to await the day of the "Resurrection" of the Saints. On that day, the Bible calls "Caught Up" translated from the Latin word it means to be "carried off, transport or carried away". The Bible teaches all Believers from all time will be reunited with their bodies and those alive will be transformed in an instant but only after those who are dead in Christ are reunited with their Resurrected bodies first. It all happens in an instant called Rapture.

Back to vs 5; To understand the term "first resurrection" we need to look to the Bible to give us a clue or definition of what the "first resurrection" means. Let's go to Paul's Book of

1 Corinthians 15: [20](#)But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the **firstfruits** of them that slept. [21](#)For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. [22](#)For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. [23](#)But every **man in his own order**: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. [24](#)Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. [25](#)For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

Paul is using an agricultural metaphor to describe successive events that all part of one major event. The major event is the harvest. During this time the entire crop was not harvested at one time. There were parts of a field or various grain crops that ripened early, and they were called "First Fruits". That would be Christ in this metaphor we are told that in vs 23 "...**Christ the firstfruits...**". The verse continues with; "...**afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.**". The first was Christ then the believers at Rapture both dead and alive. But that is not the end, we are told then the end comes.

Again, during this time in this agricultural metaphor there was the first fruits, then later in the season came the majority harvest where most of the remaining fruit was harvested but there remained a smaller harvest as the last fruits ripened and were ready to be picked. This was called the late harvest; these would be those beheaded during the Tribulation, they ripened late but were still part of the First Resurrection or overall harvest of believers. Then there will be those both Jews and Gentiles that survived the Tribulation not taking the mark but some accepting Christ as their Lord and Savior. They are in essence the planting of seeds of the 1000-year generation that will grow for a thousand years.

Referring back to vs 5

5But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Vs 5 is convoluted a bit in that the first part of the verse is referring to those NON-BELIEVERS who have died and will not live until the thousand years were finished. That resurrection sends them to the Great White Throne Judgment. The second part of verse 5 is obviously refereeing back to vs 4 as part of the first resurrection.

4And 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.**

Again, to understand the term “first resurrection” we had to go to Paul and his agricultural metaphor to understand what is meant by “first resurrection” like a harvest. First fruits, main harvest and late harvest.

6Blessed 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.

This verse verifies to us that the last part of verse 5 is talking about the harvest of the believers and it spans season of time just like the agricultural harvest spans a season of time.

It is from this and other verses that the adage; “born once, die twice, born twice die once” was coined. To be born of the flesh is the first birth, to be born of the spirit or to be born again is the second birth. Those who experience both of these births only experience death once (except those of the Rapture). If you are Raptured and still alive you will transform in an instant, the old body dies in that instant and you are given your resurrection body just like those caught up from the graves who had died before.

Like Paul Harvey always used to say; “Now for the rest of the story.”

Satan Cast into the Lake of Fire

7And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

We saw in the first verse of this chapter an angel with a key and chain and his task was to capture Satan and commit him to the bottomless pit for a thousand years. God placed a seal on Satan that bound him in the abyss. In our study sequentially we have now crossed that threshold of what is referred to as the millennial reign of Christ on earth. We have reigned with Christ on earth a thousand years.

Satan has had a thousand years to consider his next move. We will see he has not repented but instead conjured up yet another assault on Jesus Christ.

I want to start out this Bible Study with this verse. There many people who will say, how can a loving God allow people to die and go to hell? This is God's answer.

Deuteronomy 30:19 ... I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days ...

I do not want to start a new doctrine in today's Bible Study, so I ask you just to listen, consider it, question and evaluate it before you come to a conclusion. I'll point out the issue when we get to it.

7And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8And 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.

Consider the potential population growth; one mathematician projects the world population at the end of the millennial era to be 69 million trillion people which I think is actually a quadrillion? 1×10 to 15^{th} power.

Today's population is believed to be 7.7 billion = 7,700 million

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7Xo9Y0W7xA>

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9And 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.

“They” is a reference to the hordes of people summoned; and “breadth” means = from around the world. They were called by Satan to begin his final attack on Jerusalem and Christ Jesus. This is without doubt the Jerusalem that Jesus reconstituted and ruled from for a thousand years.

This is what I said I would point out

To sort out who those people are that are alive at the end of the Millennial period of Christ’s Reign on earth, there will be two types of people.

To understand where these people come from, we need to back up to the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennial Reign of Jesus. At the end of the Tribulation, you will recall that Satan is defeated and cast into the abyss for a thousand years.

Jesus presides over what is called in Matthew a judgement of sheep and goats. This judgement determines of all those alive at the end of Tribulation who will enter into the Millennial Reign on earth with Christ. There are predominately two types of people at

this judgment **BESIDES** those who had accepted Christ during Tribulation and lived through it: gentile Believers and Jewish Believers.

1. People who aided Christians in their effort to survive.
2. People who took the mark of the beast or continued to reject Christ and who would not help the Christians during the Tribulation.

Matthew 25:32 explains this judgement

Matthew 25: [31](#)When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: [32](#)And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the **goats**: [33](#)And he shall set the **sheep** on his right hand, but the goats on the left. (Emphasis mine)

Some believe this to be the Great White Throne Judgement, but there are distinct differences between the Great White Throne Judgement and this judgment.

1. This judgement is done by Jesus on His Throne on earth.
2. This is a judgment of the nation's, pre-millennial
3. This is to reward those who are alive and aided Tribulation Saints
4. This takes place on the earth with all survivors of the Tribulation with the exception of the Beast and False Prophet who were cast into the Lake of Fire.

Now for the some of the distinctions of the Great White Throne Judgment.

1. This judges those who have died without Christ “the dead”
2. There are no rewards to be given at this judgement
3. It takes place someplace other than earth, because earth has fled from the face of God.

Those are just a few of the distinctions between the two judgements. There are actually five judgements in all.

1. Judgment of the nations; Matthew 25:31-46, Isaiah 34:1-2, Joel 3:11-16
2. Judgement of fallen angels; Jude 6
3. Judgement of the Nation of Israel; Ezekiel 20:37-38, Zechariah 13:8-9
4. Great White Throne Judgement; Revelation 20:11-15

There is a 5th judgement that only Believers go to. It is the Bema Seat Judgement.

2 Corinthians 5:10 [10](#)For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Notice at the Bema Seat Judgement that no “books of Life” were opened. The Lamb’s Book of Life undoubtedly already has all the names of those who will believe in Him already in it.

The ones who rejected Christ and survived will be sent to the Lake of Fire at that point. As a note these are only the ones that survived the Tribulation supporting the Anti-Christ. There are many more non-believers we spoke about that had died and are in Hades awaiting their date with God and the Great White Throne Judgement.

Those who survived the Tribulation and loved Christ or who aided Believers will continue into the Millennium in their human bodies. They will procreate and repopulate the earth. There will likely be two categories of Believers who survive the Tribulation: Gentiles and Jewish. These two Believing groups will populate the earth during Jesus's reign for a thousand years.

Back to this interim judgment at the end of Tribulation; Those sheep on Jesus right hand are those who survived the Tribulation and became born again, or at a minimum showed great deference and protected those who did become born again during Tribulation but after the Rapture. They have a special place on the earth during the millennial reign of Christ. These are the beginning of the multiple millions that will populate the earth by the time the 1000-year reign of Christ comes to an end. However, their posterity will be sorely lied to by Satan at the end of the 1000-year age.

These verses have always been a guide to how we should treat people we meet. I had never considered that they would be a balance to measure anything in the determining of who would go into the Millennial period but as we read them consider what Jesus says at the very end.

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ***35*** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: ***36*** Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. ***37*** Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? ***38*** When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? ***39*** Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? ***40*** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ***42*** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: ***43*** I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. ***44*** Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? ***45*** Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. ***46*** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

If these acts of compassion are what determines who is born again or not, then it would be based on works. We know that is

not the case, so this measure appears to be used for some other purpose even though the outcome seems to be the same; that of life eternal. The difference would be a qualifier for a person who loved Jesus after the Rapture and survived the Tribulation. Those people would make up the initial population of the earth at the beginning of the 1000-year reign of Christ.

10And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

“The devil that deceived them”, who is “them”. That would be all the dead that rejected Christ as their Messiah.

Satan’s outcome has been predetermined by God so there apparently is no need of Satan being at the Judgment Seat called, the Great White Throne Judgement, Satan is finally cast into the lake of fire where his two main cohorts have been waiting his arrival. This will occur just before the Great White Throne Judgment.

The Final Judgment

11And 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.

The location is not specified that this Great White Throne is located at. Likely not the earth as we will see that the earth and

heaven; likely the atmosphere surrounding the earth fled and found no place to exist.

This throne is identified as a “white” throne distinguishing it from any other throne that has been mentioned in Revelation. White would be consistent with the purity of God. Even though the one who sits on this throne is not identified by name; all indications are that it is the Creator God.

12And 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.**

This verse leads off with “I saw the dead, (comma) small and great”. The range is everyone that was not a believer; with no conditions based on power or prestige. However, the critical part here is the fifth word, “dead”. There is no living in the sense we understand as “alive” among this group that is about to face judgment. In this verse none of those who are to be judged are referred to as “living” only as “dead”.

The verse continues; “and the books were opened:” (semicolon) and then it introduces first a set of books which are not specifically identified. Based on the content here it would appear that the “books” are a reference to all the people and every aspect of their lives; to be reviewed in their presence before God.

We have to divide a work **for** salvation and a work **due** to salvation in our Pretribulation world. Those of many cults that stand on their works in order to receive salvation are just as lost as those who reject Christ outright.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is **the gift** of God: (emphasis mine)

There is nothing you can do to be saved other than acknowledge we are sinners as the first step. Then accept **the gift** from God of Salvation through His Son's work on the Cross. That's it; nothing else can save a person from eternal separation from God.

We are clearly taught that the dead are judged on their personal works that they devised either through a manmade religions/cults or on their own as atheists etc., either way if they are non-believers their works are the only thing that would be judged.

Romans 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. 29 Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: 30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

A work is only a truly righteous work when it is created by God, placed into the heart of a person and that person in obedience carries out that work in accordance with God's Will.

When people finally understand that Pretribulation salvation is by Faith in the Blood and the Blood alone, they can begin a relationship with Christ. During that relationship their desire is to love Jesus with all their hearts and that grows from a small seed given by Christ Himself. That growing process is called Sanctification Process. Sanctification's goal is to bring each believer to a righteous condition of Sanctified or Holy and Sacred like Christ.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is **the gift** of God:

As they grow in Christ and study the Truth; in His Word, they will find several passages that may startle them and, in some cause, confuse them. The challenge is understanding the difference between works and obedience.

[John 14:21](#)

Whoever has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him."

[John 14:23](#)

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him.

[John 15:10](#)

If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love.

[1 John 2:3](#)

By this we can be sure that we have come to know Him: if we keep His commandments.

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome,

2 John 1:6

And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the very commandment you have heard from the beginning, that you must walk in love.

The Great White Throne Judgment has more than just sending the unbelievers to their ultimate end. It also has to deal with anyone who was NOT caught up in the Rapture but gave their hearts to Christ during the Tribulation, miraculously escaped death and were moved into the Millennial period and either dying during the millennial period or died at the end of it. How are they dealt with?

I believe it is the reason that God opens the Book of Life at the Great White Throne Judgement. If there were not two groups of people, why open a book. In other words, all of those raised at this time if they are all evil the outcome is forgone; the lake of fire.

The Book of Life reveals the hearts of all who have ever lived on this earth. Rapture took care of all believers at the instant it happened both alive and dead believers at the Rapture. But it did not resolve the issue we are now discussing of those who lived

during the Millennial time and were faithful to God and worshipped Jesus on His Throne but still died during the final 1000 years.

The only recourse for those who lived through the Millennial time is going to be the Book of Life. Anyone who walked in obedience to God during that time, who did the things Jesus declared would be accounted for; in Matthew 25, would then be found acceptable by God.

***Matthew 25:34* Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

We can read further down in Matthew 25 about the outcome for those on God's left.

***Matthew 25:41* Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:**

So, to get this straight there is a partial judgment at the beginning of the 1000 reign of Christ on earth. Jesus using this process declared in Matthew 25 identifies those who will enter the Millennial period after the Tribulation. It will only be those who accepted Christ during Tribulation and survived those 7 years. There will be two types of believers at that point on earth: Jewish Believers and Gentile Believers.

However, we are at the end of the Millennial period now, so how do we rectify the idea of their being another part of the resurrection to life and anyone who is resurrected standing before the Great White Throne Judgment?

I think we have to go back to Revelation 20:5

5But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Remember God tells us that Jesus is the First Fruits of this first resurrection. That people were raised up according to “each in his own order”.

1 Corinthians 15:22-24

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

All life is extinguished at the end of the millennial period if not due to the final battle then certainly due to the removal of the earth and heaven shown in vs 11 where the earth and heaven fled away from the face of God.

So, what happened to those who lived and died during the millennial period or who died at the end of the millennial period?

They were all resurrected to the Great White Throne Judgment. Those that were found in the Book of Life were part of the “first resurrection” they would be the late harvest that we spoke of. This again is addressed in vs 5;

***Revelation 20:5* But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.**

***John 5:28* 28Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**

15And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

So, God declares the question that we are debating. Is there anyone at this judgment that is not thrown into the Lake of Fire. The answer is yes, it would be those whose names WERE found in the Book of Life. They will be declared righteous by God for their heart and their deeds during the Millennial period; is the conclusion I have come to.

13And 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.

The Bible is not clear why the term, “sea” was used here to describe the place where the dead which were in it? Coupled with

that were death and hell which also delivered up the dead. There have undoubtedly been people that died at sea, there have been burials at sea but not to the extent that it would be one of the prime locations of deceased bodies especially considering vs 11 where the earth fled away from God's presence?

So, we need to either consider it a mystery or seek an answer within the Bible.

Here is a possible understanding;

Sea

A great number of people, Ezekiel 26:3, Matthew 13:47, Revelation 13:1

We found during our studies that sometimes God uses the term seas to describe humanity or nations or kingdoms symbolically. So, one understanding may simply be that God is referring to bringing bodies back to life and up from around the world that have been buried in any place.

The main point here is coming Judgment. It is the final raising up or resurrection of all the dead. This would include those who died during the Millennial period which in the end will be every person on earth as God will destroy the elements of this existing earth and renew it. So, no one will survive that event in the flesh.

All those who were still in a state of "dead" they will immediately be resurrected to stand before the Great White Throne Judgment

of God. We have discussed already how God, in my opinion, will deal with those on earth that came from the Tribulation as believers but missed the Rapture. They survive and have offspring. If they stay true to God, we have to account for them at this Great White Throne Judgment?

The other manner in which to enter the “Book of Life” is obedience to God’s Law and the sacrifices associated with it during the Millennial Reign of Christ. There will be animal sacrifices as well as offerings to God at the Temple in Jerusalem by the Son’s of Zadok. The tribe of Levi was disqualified from actually working in the Temple during the Millennial period. You can read about the coming Temple, sacrifices and offerings, and who is qualified to offer them to God in Ezekiel 43:18–46.

Going back to animal sacrifices is a way of continuing to show these unsaved people the cost of sin just like was done when Israel was first created and God issued the Law.

14And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

If we use the adage to understand this verse it may be helpful if you are not already born again.

Born once die twice, born twice die once.

This second death that is reference here is for non-believers. As a human you were born from your mother. You lived your life and you died (first death) without ever asking Christ into your life. At the Great White Throne Judgment, you will be raised from the dead from (Hades/Hell) to be judged. Because you rejected the free gift of Salvation through Jesus Christ you will be sent to the Lake of Fire which is ultimate death (second death: separation from God for eternity with no hope of every escaping this punishment)

15And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The “whoever” here are those that were dead (non-believers) both gentile and jew. They may have been dead from the old testament times or they may have died after Rapture to include Tribulation and Millennial Reign of Christ. These will all be judged by the law as the Blood of Christ was not applied to them for one of two reasons. #1 They rejected Christ. #2 They lived during the Millennial Reign of Christ and were obedient to the Law and Sacrifices and their names were written in the Book of Life or there failed to walk in the Law and their names were not entered into the Book of Life.

“Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.” This sounds like the fulfillment of Christ’s final mission from God.

1 Corinthians 15. 26 *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

When death and hell (the holding place for the dead) are cast into the lake of fire the final enemy “death” is defeated.

To recap; the judgment of God at the Great White Throne Judgement is that all who's names are not in the Book of Life are cast into the lake of fire. So, the opposite of that statement must be true, at the Great White Throne Judgement, anyone's name that IS written in the Book of Life will be accepted into the New Heaven and New Earth and eternity with Christ. I am getting the sense that the names of those written in this book are very important to those who lived through the Millennial Reign of Christ and walked in obedience during that thousand years and had Faith in God and in His Son. Their names will be added to the Book of Life. The Book of Life already had the names of all the saved from Genesis who loved God and Believed in Jesus Christ.

That may be contentious for some, but the only way to resolve it is to study the Bible and come to your own conclusion. We may agree or we may not, but it does not rise to the level of salvation or no salvation for us. Our salvation is based on Faith in the Blood of the Lamb and our Love of Christ and all that entails period.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James.