"For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God...."

The book of Job 19:25-27 KJV, 1520 BC

"Thy dead *men* shall live, *together with* my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead."

The prophet Isaiah 26:19 KJV, 712 BC

"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. 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."

The Hebrew captive, Daniel, 12:2-3 KJV, 534 BC

"And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one."

The prophet Zechariah, 14:9 KJV, 487 BC

"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....And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

Messiah Jesus,

John 5:29; 6:39-40 KJV, spoken 31 AD

## 29

## AFTER THE MESSIAH ARRIVES AND ENDS THE WAR—PARADISE!

Many philosophies and religions alike teach that there is no bodily resurrection, only a lonesome wandering spirit which floats around after a person dies. We of course, as true believers in the Bible and its unique proofs of prophecy, know better! Both our Old and New Testaments lavishly illustrate a beautiful kingdom which God and His Messiah Jesus will create. This kingdom will be created for our bodies (John 14:1-3), which will be resurrected and transformed into an eternal state of permanence, in which to live forever.

The resurrection and eternal existence in this new kingdom is the central point of all that God promises in the Bible.<sup>2</sup> Jesus will

<sup>1</sup> Jesus comforted His disciples: "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also" (John 14:1-3 NASB).

<sup>2</sup>While there are liberal theologians who deny this, we need only to direct them to Paul's New Testament words: "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and

inaugurate redemption in this soon coming Messianic Kingdom, thus restoring us and the earth to a state **even better** than the Garden of Eden. We will regain the rights to all that we lost<sup>3</sup> in Genesis 3, when our first parents fell in Eden, and more.

#### THOUGH SOME DOUBT THE RESURRECTION, ATTEMPTING TO BASE THEIR BELIEF ON "SCIENCE," SIR ISAAC NEWTON, THE GREATEST OF SCIENTISTS. BELIEVED IN IT!

The central feature of this redemption is the resurrection of the dead! Some may snicker, however they should bear in mind that all the prophecies regarding the First Coming of Jesus and the troublesome Middle East Crisis have occurred literally, not figuratively.

Sir Isaac Newton, the greatest scientist of all time, who lived in the seventeenth century, was eternally right when he instructed us: "Let me therefore beg of thee not to trust to the opinion of any man concerning these things....search the scriptures thy self....if thou desirest to find the truth. Which if thou shalt at length attain thou wilt value above all other treasures....search into the scriptures which God hath given to be a guide...and be not discouraged by the gainsaying which these things will meet with in the world....the world loves to be deceived, they will not understand, they never consider equally, but are wholly led by prejudice, interest, the praise of men....Wherefore when thou art convinced be not ashamed of the truth but profess it openly and indeavour to convince thy Brother also that thou mayst inherit at the resurrection the promis made in Daniel 12.3, that they who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the starrs for ever and ever. And

your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised your faith is vain....Then they also who are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (I Cor. 15:12-19 KJV). Thus we all long in our hearts, those of us who believe, for our new resurrection bodies promised to us in the New Testament book of Romans: "For we know that even the things of nature, like animals and plants, suffer in sickness and death as they await this great event. And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering. We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his children, including the new bodies he has promised us —bodies that will never be sick again and will never die. We are saved by trusting. And trusting means looking forward to getting something we do not yet have—for a man who already has something doesn't need to hope and trust that he will get it. But if we must keep trusting God for something that hasn't happened yet, it teaches us to wait patiently and confidently" (Rom. 8:22-24 The Living Bible).

3See our comparison list of prophecies and rabbinical commentary in chapter 1, which proves that in the "original sin," we **lost** much that we will regain. Some rabbis state that this teaching is unique to the New Testament, but it is not, as we proved in our chapter 1.

rejoyce if thou art counted worthy to suffer in thy reputation or any other way for the sake of the Gospel, for then great is thy reward."

Let's not let anyone try to cheat us out of our resurrection promise, which Jesus maintained would be a physical resurrection when He said: "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good *deeds*, to a resurrection of life...." (John 5:28-29 NASB).

## JOB AND JESUS TELL IT (THE RESURRECTION) LIKE IT IS (LITERAL), NO MATTER HOW MUCH LIBERALS DISLIKE IT

In the Bible's Old Testament, Job proclaimed 4000 years ago: "For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God" (Job 19:25-26 KJV).

It should be noted that some liberal "scholars" try to say resurrection is a recent idea. However, they either choke or change the subject when you quote this verse to them, and remind them that Job is among the oldest books of the Bible; perhaps the oldest!

Job, under the prophetic inspiration of God, could not have made himself more clear in these verses, could he? Jesus, the very Messiah Himself—God in the flesh—made the strongest statement about bodily resurrection in the New Testament: "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 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" (John 5:26-29 KJV).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Yahuda Manuscript 1.

#### ORIGINAL HEBREW TEXT WRITTEN 534 BC

וְרָבִּים מִישֵׁנֵי אָדְמְת־עָפֶּר יָקִיצוּ אֲלֵה לְחָיֵי עוֹלֶם וְאֵלֵה לְחַרָפִוֹת לִדְרִאָּוֹן עוֹלֶם: וֹהְמְשִׂכִּלִים יָזָהֵרוּ כִּזְהַר הָרָ קִיעִ וּמְצִדִּיקֵי הֶרְבִּים כְּכּוֹכְבֵים לְעוֹלֶם וָעֵד:

#### OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION

"And 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. And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Daniel 12:2-3 NASB

#### ANCIENT RABBINICAL COMMENTARY

"R. 'Azaria said: 'The Holy One, blessed be He, opens the graves and opens the storehouses of the souls and puts back each soul into its own body....' "5

#### Pirqe R. Eliezer, ch. 34

"Rabbi [Y'huda haNasi] said....the Holy One, blessed be He, too, will bring the soul, cast it into the body, and judge them as one."6

B. Sanhedrin 91a-b

#### NEW TESTAMENT RECORDED 31 AD

"Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment." John 5:28-29 NASB

#### MODERN RABBINIC COMMENT/REFUTATION

"However, the life after which there is no death is the life of the World to Come." in which there is no body. For we believe it, and it is the truth [held] by all those who have a mind, that the World to Come is souls without bodies, like the angels."7

Treatise on Resurrection, by Maimonides, p. 17

#### AUTHOR'S COMMENT—EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN POSITION

Again, we have Maimonides (Rambam—Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon), who presently has many admirers and followers, advocating an off-the-wall, controversial, contrived position, contrary to the Bible's promise of resurrection. The Scriptures promise that we will receive bodies at the resurrection in which our souls will reside during the eternal world to come.

Philip Moore

#### WILL WE RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER BEFORE THE RESURRECTION?

Some ask, "Do we have recognizable bodies after we die and during eternity, or are we just lonesome spirits?" While many cults teach soul sleep and that we will become just a spirit of some sort, we

<sup>5</sup>Raphael Patai, The Messiah Texts, p. 202.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid. p. 219.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid, p. 206. While Maimonides lived in the thirteenth century, he originated this modern rabbinical view.

as Bible believers know, even before we are resurrected, that we retain a recognizable spiritual body. We know this from Matthew 17:1-3, where 1700 years after Moses physically died, he and Elijah were seen in beautiful radiating **recognizable** bodies, with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. A comforting thought, isn't it?!

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN DEATH AND THE RESURRECTION

Here, we should take some space to clarify some misunderstood details about soul sleep, resurrection, Heaven and Hell, which vary in their dispensations.

Once death occurs, the soul of the person leaves the body through the mouth. The body begins to deteriorate and rigor mortis sets in. Thereafter, the body decomposes into the dust from which it was taken, as God promised would happen as a consequence of the Fall: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust *thou* art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:19 KJV). That is, until the resurrection predicted by Daniel and Jesus occur (Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29).

The soul, upon its departure, continues its eternal existence which began at conception in the womb (Psalm 139:14-15, 24). It continues in a constant state of consciousness, either with the Lord or in a state of agony separated from Him. Whether the soul ends up in Paradise or Hell depends on a person's decision to accept God's sacrificial provisions for redemption.

God always provided a sacrifice for those who would receive it. Prior to the Messiah, there was a long line of sacrifices, from the Garden of Eden, to Passover, to the Temple, to Yom Kippur. All of these foreshadowed the Messiah's fulfilled work, until Jesus, Himself, came and died for us in our place, providing our forgiveness. God clearly said there is no remission of sins (redemption) without the shedding of blood, in the Jewish Old Testament book of Leviticus: "... for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement" (Leviticus 17:11 NASB).

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<sup>8</sup>Except for some very rare cases in which doctors have been able to revive dead people through cardiac resuscitation. Some of these people, who were clearly dead and had no heartbeat or brain activity for a number of minutes, reported startling stories of seeing Jesus or experiencing unbelievable Hell. For a fuller explanation on the subject of near death experiences, correctly called temporary death experiences, see our appendix 2, "Life After Death Experiences That People Have Lived to Tell About." In this appendix, we quote doctors who published interviews with their patients who experienced this. One doctor even retrieved first-hand testimony from a patient on the operating table.

Concerning where those who died went before Jesus' Coming to be and seal all sacrifices of past and future, the Old Testament spoke of Sheol, and the New Testament, of Hades. Some have mistakenly thought that these were Hell and were for eternal punishment only. This is not true. Both Sheol and Hades were the same place, where all people went—both the redeemed and the unredeemed (by their own choice)—before Jesus rose from the dead.

Hades had two chambers. One chamber contained Paradise, also called "Abraham's bosom," where the people who believed in God's blood sacrifice went; and another compartment called "Torments" where those who rejected God's blood provision were, and still are, deposited.

The New Testament tells us that there was a great gulf between these two areas, which allowed none to move across, only to see across. "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 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. But Abraham said, Son...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" (Luke 16:23-26 KJV).

#### WHAT HAPPENED WHEN JESUS VISITED HADES?

It is written that when Jesus died at the crucifixion He went down into Hell (Hades) and into the Paradise portion of Hades. He then stated that the promised redemption, which all of these people anticipated with their blood sacrifices and faith, was now an accomplished reality through His death. He also endured Torments, the place where He preached to those spirits who had rejected God's loving plan for an innocent to take our punishment by shedding His blood as an atonement (I Pet. 3:19).

It should be noted that the word Peter uses, "preached," in the original Bible language, means to "announce" and not to attempt to "convert," as Mormons believe. The Scriptures clearly teach that a man dies once, and is then judged (Heb. 9:27). No reincarnation or second chance is even hinted at in our Judeo/Christian Bible. Jesus announced to the individuals within this second chamber of Hades that they had made the wrong decision in not accepting God's loving gifts of sacrifice through faith. As a result, there was no doubt about the fact that they had lost their chance for redemption and condemned themselves to eternal punishment.

Jesus, Himself, told the thief on the cross beside Him, who changed his mind and believed in Him, that he would be in Paradise! As the apostle Luke related: "And he [the thief] said unto Jesus, **Lord**, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:42-43 KJV; [] and bold mine).

When the thief called Jesus *Lord*, it was clear that he had changed his mind about Jesus. He had accepted Him as Messiah and redeemer!

### JESUS LIBERATES THE CAPTIVES IN HADES' PARADISE COMPARTMENT

This travel to Hell occurred while the body of Jesus still lay in the tomb. When His resurrection and ascension into Heaven took place, He took all the souls in the Paradise chamber of Hades into Heaven above with Him. "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things)" (Eph. 4:7-10 KJV).

These events were also foreseen 1000 years earlier in King David's biblical book of Psalms. He prophesied: "Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive, thou hast received gifts for men...." (Ps. 68:18 KJV).

Now, since the First Coming of Jesus and His resurrection, all those who believe are taken to be face-to-face with Jesus in the heavens above: "For now we see | in a mirror |, darkly; but then, face to face; now I know in part, but then shall I know [Him] even as also I am known" (I Cor. 13:12 KJV; [] mine). 10

We are told in the Scriptures that to be absent from our bodies is to be instantly present with the Lord, which is far better (II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21-23)!

### OUR MORTAL BODIES ARE REFORMED INTO IMMORTAL HAPPINESS AT THE RAPTURE

The body of a person may be buried, cremated, mutilated by a catastrophe or even disintegrated in a ship like the famed Titanic in the depths of the ocean; however, when the Rapture occurs (as you read about earlier in our chapter 25, "The Rapture Factor"), a person's

<sup>9</sup>That he believed in Jesus is indicated clearly by verse 42. The designation of Jesus as "Lord" is evidence of this.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>The New Scofield Reference Bible.

body is reunited with their soul, never again to be separated. This new reunion of body and soul is unique in that our new bodies (spoken of in Romans) will have four "no-mores." The New Testament book of Revelation tells us: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Rev. 21:4 NIV).

#### THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT BELIEVE, STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO GET IN ON THE ETERNAL ASPECT OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

The soul of every person in every period of history, who dies rejecting God's love gift of sacrifice, will go to Torments. This includes Cain, those who reverted to paganism between Adam and Abraham, those who rejected the Jewish Temple sacrifice, those in Egypt who did not put the lamb's blood on the door, and those who now say, "The death of Jesus is meaningless and I do not want forgiveness or redemption from any part of it."

There they will all remain until the end of the 1000-year Messianic Kingdom, when they will be reunited with their suffering bodies of shame. Daniel spoke of the resurrection of everlasting contempt: "...there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 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" (Dan. 12:1-2 KJV).

Jesus spoke of the resurrection of life and damnation: "...the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 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" (John 5:28-29 KJV).

The two modes of resurrection are made very clear by both Hebrew sages, Daniel and Jesus, who have never been wrong in their prophecies. Do we dare take them lightly or neglect God's precious love gift of Jesus' death for us, while we still draw breath and have the opportunity to receive it?<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup>If you want to receive Jesus' eternal gift of forgiveness, say a simple prayer to Him. Admit your wrongs and accept His death in your place for all the wrongs you have and will perpetrate, inviting Him into your heart (Rev. 3:20; Rom. 10:9). You will then be removed from eternal judgment and be given eternal life. Paul tells us in the New Testament that by believing He arose from the dead and confessing Him, we will be saved. In his very words: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Rom. 10:9 KJV). See Philip



Moore, *Eternal Security for True Believers*. This mention of good and evil (in John 5:28-29) is, in the original language, preceded by **the**—*the* good, *the* evil; singular. The only truly evil thing a person can do is to reject the Messiah who died for *all* their evil. The only truly good thing a person can do is to *receive* the Messiah's death in their place as payment for all of their evils.



A memorial for the victims of the Holocaust, at Yad VaShem, in Jerusalem, Israel.



An Israeli mother weeps over the grave of her eighteen-year-old son, killed in battle. This picture clearly illustrates that if there is no resurrection, as liberals teach, then we live in utter hopelessness. This picture helps us appreciate the promises the Bible gives us concerning resurrection.

### RESURRECTION AND RAMBAM—THE WHO, WHAT AND WHY OF THE ATTEMPTED RESURRECTION COVER-UP

Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon (Rambam) changed the already reconstructed rabbinical view of the Jewish Messiah, even more radically, ten centuries after the changes made at Yavne. He did this to build a wall around "Judaism" and keep Jews who believed in Jesus as Messiah outside that wall. What Rambam did was make a radical change in the traditional biblical view of resurrection! The Bible always taught that the Messiah would be the one who would raise the dead; the ancient rabbis agreed on this point in many important commentaries and writings. Rambam changed this view, and attempted to universalize his own "new" ideas within "Judaism." Why would he do a thing like that? What possible motive could he have had?

It is interesting to see that after Jesus met the conditions elaborated upon by the Bible and ancient rabbinical authorities, Rambam and other rabbis simply attempted to change the tasks which the Messiah had always been understood to fulfill. Jesus fulfilled over three hundred prophecies in His First Coming and promised to fulfill the remaining prophecies upon His return, when Israel, as a nation, accepts Him as Messiah. This will occur when Jesus wins Israel's great future battle, known as Gog and Magog (Armageddon—Ezek. 38; Rev. 16:16; Matt. 24:22).

Jesus made very specific solemn promises about resurrecting the dead. One of the promises was: "...this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him

<sup>12</sup>A Time magazine article entitled "Is Jesus in the Dead Sea Scrolls?" illustrates certain tasks the Messiah was to accomplish and compares them with the text of the Dead Sea Scrolls and portions of Jesus' New Testament record. The article portrays Luke 7:20-23 beside the recently released Dead Sea Scroll text 4Q521, which reads: "Surely the Lord shall visit the pious and shall call the righteous by name. His spirit shall hover over the poor; by his strength he shall renew the faithful. He shall glorify the pious upon the throne of the eternal kingdom. He shall release the captives, restore sight to the blind, make straight those who are bent double...He shall heal the wounded, resurrect the dead, preach glad tidings to the poor." An interesting portion of the article, connecting Jesus to the Jewish Messiah's resurrecting role, mentions: "...the scrolls do speak of the coming Jewish Messiah....Two of the fragments made newly available in the Review's photo books are especially striking....the most important phrases are clear. Apparently referring to the coming Messiah, the text declares that he will 'heal the wounded, resurrect the dead [and] preach glad tidings to the poor.' The passage closely resembles the words of Jesus in the Nazareth synagogue (Luke 4)...[James] Tabor [of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte] notes that Jesus spoke virtually the same words about resurrection in Luke 7 when John the Baptist asked for proof that he was the Messiah. This, Tabor says, is the closest parallel yet found between the Dead Sea Scrolls and the recorded words of Jesus." Richard N. Ostling, contributor, "Is Jesus in the Dead Sea Scrolls?" Time, © Sept. 21, 1992, reprinted by permission. [] mine.

that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:39-40 KJV).

Jesus' promise firmly supports Job's Old Testament words: "For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God...." (Job 19:25-26 KJV).

I believe Rabbi Maimon had Jesus' words in mind when he attempted to lead the Jewish population away from the bodily resurrection which was to be accomplished by the Messiah. Rabbi Maimon says: "...think not that the Messiah must perform signs and portents and bring about new things in the world, or that he will resuscitate the dead, or the like. Not so" (Hilkhot M'lakhim 11-12).<sup>13</sup>

## IF YOU CAN'T TAKE JESUS OUT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, YOU HAD BETTER TAKE THE OLD TESTAMENT OUT OF JESUS

It is rather convenient, isn't it? If you cannot change Jesus' fulfillment of past prophecies and future promises, you can just say the Messiah was never meant to suffer and fulfill Isaiah 53, nor was He ever to return and raise the dead. Thus, as people no longer have these specific expectations of Messiah, He is not as easily recognized.

This ingenious technique of blinding the Jew was applied in an attempt to curb assimilation. However, we must remember, when Jews accept their Messiah (Jesus) today, they are much more proud of being a Jew, a Messianic Jew, who threw off those old rusty chains of modern rabbinical Judaism for the fresh vitality of biblical Judaism. After all, the Bible is the document which originally recorded the life of the first Jew, Abraham, and his history, as a standard for what Judaism is. If at any time, the rabbis begin to deviate from the Bible, they are teaching a false religion under the name of Judaism, which absolutely, in our opinion, should not be accepted as Judaism.

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<sup>13</sup>Raphael Patai, *The Messiah Texts*, p. 324. Though other texts purported to be his seem to look forward to the resurrection, this one is for sure and clearly against a Messianic resurrection. It denies the Messiah would bring about this resurrection supernaturally, as Judaism historically taught and maintained!

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame."

Daniel 7:9-11 KJV. Bold mine

"And 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. And 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. And 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. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 20:11-15 KJV. Bold mine

The apostle John and prophet Daniel give very vivid and, for the unbeliever, frightening accounts of future prophetic occurrences, resurrections and judgments. At this point, we as believers, can certainly say, "It pays!" As we read Daniel and John's ancient parchments above, we probably wondered about the details, and especially about the books mentioned therein! That is, if we are believers; if not, maybe it is better not to read on.

#### THE BOOK OF LAW

Which books are the apostle John and the Hebrew prophet Daniel talking about? The books of law, works and life. At the great white throne of judgment, we believe that the first of the books to be opened will be the book of the law. In several biblical verses, the written word of God is called "the book of the law." This book will be used to illustrate to millions that anyone who has heard or read God's law must keep it perfectly, or accept the consequences of judgment, unless they received God's mercy through the sacrifices before Jesus came or Jesus' *perfect salvation* (Isa. 53) itself once He did come. Of course, once Jesus paid the penalty for all who have broken the law, He fulfilled the final sacrifice! The New Testament book of Galatians makes this clear: "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the Law....Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us...." (Galatians 3:10, 13 NASB).

<sup>14</sup>Deuteronomy 28:58, 61; 29:20-21, 27; 30:10; 31:24, 26; Joshua 1:8; 8:31, 34; 23:6; II Kings 14:6; 22:8, 11; II Chronicles 17:9; 34:15; Nehemiah 8:1, 3, 8, 18; 9:3 and; Galatians 3:10.

To those who will claim a lack of knowledge of God's law, it will be shown that God placed the knowledge of good and evil within their conscience (Romans 2:11-16). By not always following their "good" conscience, without the Messiah's blood atonement, they will find themselves in a position of perilous judgment.

#### WHAT ABOUT THE PAGAN IN AFRICA?

At this point, we should say that there have been many instances throughout history whereby anyone desiring to receive God's salvation has been shown many times, through miraculous circumstances, who and what Jesus was, in order that they may receive Him.

A friend<sup>15</sup> of mine once told me of an African chief who had realized that his idols were not really God. He was on his knees daily asking to be shown the truth of the true God. Then this chief had a series of dreams of a man with nail-scarred hands who told him, "I am the atonement for your evils." A few days later a group of missionaries passed through his village. When he told them of his dream through their interpreter, they told him of Jesus and gave him a New Testament in his own language. Once he read the life story of Jesus, he was so impressed that he, and the majority of this group of African natives, became devout followers of the Jewish Messiah. This shows one thing; if anyone wants to know God's truth, He will move Heaven and Earth to get the correct information to them! This means there is no one who has wanted to hear that has not heard. They do not exist except in the minds of critics of the faith.

#### THE BOOK OF WORKS

The second book to be opened is called "the book of works." Today, some well-meaning ministers teach that if you are sincere and do many good deeds, this is enough to salvage you into forgiveness and eternal bliss.

Clearly, Jesus taught that works don't cut it. He said there would be only two categories of people standing before His judgement

<sup>15</sup>Reverend Jeff Williams, former pastor of Northside Park Baptist Church in Atlanta, is truly an incredible Christian. He was the one who prayed with me that the man who killed my father would be apprehended. After a year of no clues, within a week of our prayer together, the murderer, through a set of miraculous circumstances, was caught, and is still behind bars today—nineteen years later. This episode with Jeff helped me to answer the many people who asked me, "Have you ever seen God do a miracle in your life? Has God ever answered a prayer?" Jeff presently ministers at Lebanon Community Fellowship in Lebanon, VA, USA. Also, I will never forget my schoolteacher, Dr. Margie Parko, who once wrote me when I was only fifteen, saying, "I pray to God every night that things will work out for you." Shortly thereafter, I became a Christian, and so far, everything has worked out (Romans 8:28). By praying for others you edify yourself and bless those for whom you pray.

throne: those that have done *the evil*<sup>16</sup> (there is only one evil that is unforgivable and that is rejecting the one who has paid the price for all evil deeds), and those who have done the good<sup>17</sup> (the only truly good thing a person can do is to accept the penalty Jesus paid in your place, which forgives all sin past and future). Thus, those who will boast of their works will be shown that, no matter how many good deeds they performed, they cannot erase those evil things, which only the atoning death of Jesus can erase. Thus judgment falls and they are not allowed into a kingdom which they have no key to enter—Jesus.

Jesus is the key to the kingdom. The Jewish Bible and Jesus both taught that, aside from those who are forgiven, all deeds will be exposed and judged in the end (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36).

#### THE BOOK OF LIFE

The book of life<sup>18</sup> contains the names<sup>19</sup> of every human being who was ever conceived,<sup>20</sup> including all those who have not reached the age of accountability<sup>21</sup> and died without receiving the forgiveness of Jesus, and those who received the mark of the beast (Antichrist) in the Tribulation. However, their names will be removed immediately upon their acceptance of this false Messiah's economic/spiritual computer chip sell-out.<sup>22</sup> Thus, when God opens this book, as He sits upon His great white throne, the only names left are those who accepted the

<sup>16</sup>This is the literal translation, singular, of Jesus' words recorded in the Gospel of John (I John 5:29).

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>18</sup>The book of life is mentioned in Philippians 4:3, and Revelation 3:5; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19, as the book containing the names of all who are redeemed. The book of life is also mentioned in Jewish holidays, ceremonies and throughout the ancient rabbinical writings. In Hebrew, it is known as *Sefer Hayyim*. We documented earlier that it was mentioned in the Birkat ha Minim, a curse used to excommunicate Jewish Christians of the first and second centuries from their synagogues. The BHM was a curse primarily due to the phrase, "May they (Jewish-Christians) be erased from the *book of life*." G. Alon, *The Jews in Their Land in the Talmudic Age*, p. 289.

<sup>19</sup>Those who were miscarriages or purposely killed by abortion and never given a name by their parents, have a name given by God.

<sup>20</sup>See our Vol. II, chapter 13, "Heaven and Abortion," on the eternal future existence of aborted children.

<sup>21</sup>This age varies with the intelligence of the person and their ability to distinguish good from evil. We should all ask and pray with our children to receive Jesus as soon as our children are able to understand! A man named Bill Gothard told me, "Draw a picture of a heart and a door within it, and tell the child, open the door and invite Jesus in to forgive." This is known as a childhood salvation and is, no doubt, wise. For in the course of time, existential philosophy, socialism, evolution, atheism and all the "isms" can blind people.

<sup>22</sup>To get this mark enabling you to buy and sell or even hold a job, you will have to worship or swear allegiance to the Antichrist, who is Satan in the flesh. It is also highly probable that this mark may be accompanied by a computer chip similar to those that are in today's Smart Cards, placed under the skin of your hand, or your forehead (if you are an amputee), as a means of credit, banking and general identification.

atonement of Jesus (He died for their wrongs and one cannot be tried twice for the same crime).

The story is told about the judge whose daughter committed the crime of murder. He stood up and asked to be executed in her place. He was executed and she was set free, because the crime required a "human life for a human life." "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth...." (Exodus 21:23-24 NASB).

No one who witnessed this was able to fathom such mercy. This is the case of Jesus, who is sitting on the judgment seat. He already paid for us, but we can only claim that redemptive sacrificial death if we receive it. If someone holds out ten dollars to you, it is not yours until you take it into your hand! Thus, at the judgment, this book only contains the names of those who have believed in Jesus. This is why its name was changed from the book of life to the *lamb's* book of life (Revelation 21:27). Jesus is our lamb (John 1:29, 36).

#### THE ORDER AND LOGIC OF THE BOOK OF JUDGMENTS

As we have seen, God first opens "the book of the law" and illustrates to all those who claim they kept the law, that this law was to be perfectly kept, and nothing short of perfection could merit forgiveness. He will explain that this is why the Messiah Himself came to keep the law perfectly and then die as an eternal atoning sacrifice for all those from Adam until **the end of history**. Thus, the law, without sacrificial payment, does not win Heaven (*olam haba* in Hebrew) and forgiveness. Secondly, God opens "the book of works" and shows the person all of their good deeds. He emphasizes that all of these deeds and works were not enough, especially when they fall short of what was demanded in the book of the law, since there was no blood sacrifice to intercede for and cover these offenses.

Finally, God opens "the book of life," which contains the names of all who inherit eternal life. He then shows the person (while wishing all the time that their name were there), that only the acceptance of the Messiah's righteous blood sacrifice for all their shortcomings prior to their death would have assured that their name remain inscribed. He will then remind the person of all those times

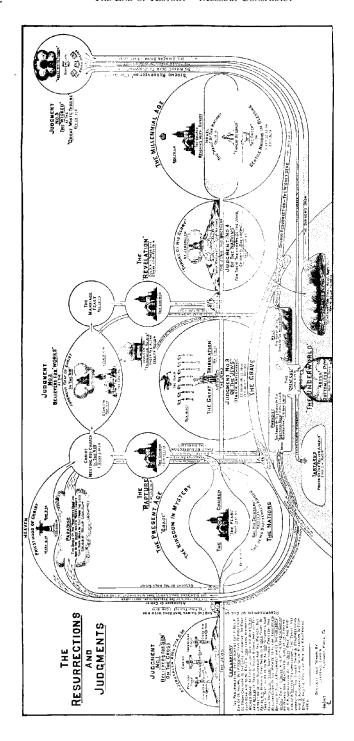
true believers presented this beautiful opportunity of Messiah to them, then He will say with sadness, "Your name was removed when you died, rejecting My provision for you; thus, your name does not remain as it would have otherwise." Then his nail-scarred hands close the book and the Lord says with tears in His eyes: "...I never knew you;

depart from me...ye cursed into everlasting fire" (Matt. 7:23; 25:41 KJV).<sup>23</sup>



The tomb of Rambam.

<sup>23</sup>See the evidence of the reality of Hell, as taught within ancient Judaism, which is shunned by most modern rabbis! Ancient Jews believed and wrote about Hell as Gehenna, though there are many within the modern rabbinical community who deny there ever was a theology of Hell within Judaism. See Philip Moore, *Nightmare of the Apocalypse*, Appendix 2, "The Reality of the Ancient Jewish Acknowledgment of Hell, Covered Up Until Now." This section also gives critical information on Rambam discouraging the reading of the end time Midrashim (Jewish commentaries) and his "proofs" that Jesus is not the Messiah. He once wrote: "You know that the Christians falsely ascribe marvelous powers to Jesus the Nazarene, may his bones be ground to dust. We should not be convinced by their reality that Jesus is the Messiah for we can bring a 1,000 proofs from scripture that he is not." This rabbi's statement is, of course, untrue, as we have shown in the scriptural comparison charts on the Jewish view of the Messiah in Chapter 5. Rambam also attempted to apply the prophecies of the Antichrist (the yet to come false Messiah) in Daniel, to Jesus (see Abraham Halkin, trans., Crisis and Leadership: Epistles of Maimonides, New York: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1985), which is the epitome of absurdity.



#### ORIGINAL HEBREW TEXT WRITTEN 997, 713, 698 BC

שַּשִּאִנִּיי ... ווֹאָאַיִּ וֹלִאִי בִּפּוֹרִ, טִאָּגָּשִׁים טִפּשְׁהֹחִם כֹּי כֹּי עוִלְאִּטִּׁם לָא טִׁמִּיע לָא טִכְּיִּע וֹנֹמְפֹּוְ כִּּלְ-אַבֹּא נֹהְשָׁטִׁים וֹנִּנְנִּוּ כַּסַפֹּר נַשִּׁמֵים וֹכְּרְ-אַבֹּאֵם יִבְּוַלְ כִּנְּכֵּלְ כַּפָּתו תִּיֹלִם לַהָּשׁׁ עַמָּיִ בַּנְּבָּע הַשְּׁמִים וֹלְנְנִי לִבְּעִם מִימוּ-מִז מִבְּתִּי נִזְּלֵת וֹ וְעִנְּי בְּשְׁתְת עָשֵׁי בְּבְשֶׁתתוּ שְׁמָּנוּ נִלְּבֹּבֶע לְנְלֵם:

## ישעיה לד:ד; סו:כד סו:כד סו:כד סו:כד סבר: ישעיה לד:ד; סו:סד OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION

"The LORD is known by the judgment, which he executeth....The wicked shall be turned into hell [sheol], and all the nations that forget God."

#### Psalms 9:16-17 KJV. [] mine

"...the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling *fig* from the fig tree...of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring...."

Isaiah 34:4; 66:24 KJV

#### ANCIENT RABBINICAL COMMENTARY

"...The Holy one, Blessed be He, will sit on the Throne of Judgment in the Valley of Yehoshaphat. And instantly the heaven and the earth will decay, and the sun will become ashamed, and the moon and the mountains will shake, and the hills tremble so as not to remind Israel of its sins. And the gates of Gehenna will open in the Valley of Yehoshaphat, and the gates of the Garden of Eden in the east."<sup>24</sup>

Nistarot R. Shim'on ben Yohai, BhM 3:80-81

#### NEW TESTAMENT RECORDED 37 and 96 AD

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, [25] and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken....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...."

Matthew 24:29; 25:41 KJV

25These words have puzzled many people. Hal Lindsey speculates on the meaning of this verse when he comments on a similar passage written by John in the book of Revelation. Hal says: "I believe this passage describes the initial stages of an all-out nuclear war. 'Seismos' (σεισμοσ) in the Greek does not necessarily mean an earthquake, as it is usually translated. It can also mean a terrible shaking of the earth by forces not known to the 1st century writer who witnessed it. As a result of this violent shaking on the earth, the sun becomes black like sack cloth and the moon becomes red like blood. This sounds remarkably like the 'nuclear winter' scenarios that scientists predict will follow a thermonuclear war. The debris that is blasted into the atmosphere will blot out a great deal of light and heat from the sun and moon. Note that John predicts that multiple stars fall out of the sky to earth. To a 1st century man, this would appear like falling stars. But he could have well been describing multiple independently targeted warheads blazing through the atmosphere as they streak toward their targets. The clincher is 'the sky was rolled up like a scroll.' In a thermonuclear blast, the atmosphere is violently pushed back upon itself as a great vacuum is created. Then it rushes back into the vacuum with almost equal force. The double violent movement of the atmosphere is one of the great destructive parts of the bomb's explosion." Hal Lindsey, *The Final Battle*, pp. 248-249. This prophecy could also be literally interpreted as a divine judgment.

<sup>24</sup>Raphael Patai, The Messiah Texts, p. 217.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth

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. And 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. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

#### Revelation 20:11-15 KJV

#### MODERN RABBINIC COMMENT/REFUTATION

"...eternal punishment for the wicked finds no official acceptance in Judaism." <sup>26</sup>

#### Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

"...even the tarnished souls will not be forever denied spiritual bliss. Judaism rejects the doctrine of eternal damnation."<sup>27</sup>

#### Chief Rabbi Dr. J. H. Hertz

#### AUTHOR'S COMMENT—EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN POSITION

These statements by our rabbi friends, which are shared by the vast majority of contemporary rabbis, are not really accurate when you glance up at the Old Testament and ancient rabbinical commentary, are they? For detailed documentation, using many verses from the ancient rabbinical commentary, proving Rabbis Hertz and Silver are absolutely misrepresenting Jewish belief on the subject of eternal judgment, see our *Vol. II*, chapter 33, "The Reality of the Ancient Jewish Acknowledgment of Hell, Covered Up Until Now."

#### Philip Moore

#### THE ORDER OF RESURRECTION

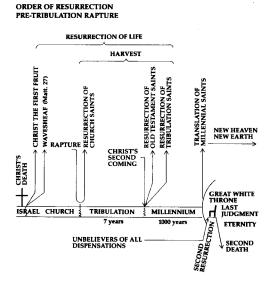
There are many ecumenical and liberal theologians who are very confused as to the order of God's Messianic resurrection of humanity. In the past, some believed that the teachings of Augustine<sup>28</sup> were valid.

26Dan Cohn-Sherbok, *Rabbinic Perspectives on the New Testament*. Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales, UK: The Edwin Mellen Press, Ltd., © 1990, p. 2, used by permission. 27Ibid, p. 1.

28 Augustine, of the fourth century, purposely altered the early New Testament and biblical teachings, which were so precious to believers. Incredibly, many of them were only rediscovered recently, thanks to modern reasonable sound Bible scholarship in an absence of ecumenical persecution! Israel My Glory quotes Augustine on this issue, which threw prophetic teachings into the Dark Ages for centuries. We have every right to ask, "Why did Augustine alter the early true New Testament interpretation of resurrection, and the 1000year promise of a literal kingdom?" Hal Lindsey comments on this question in his 1983 publication, The Rapture: Truth or Consequences. Hal correctly notes: "...Augustine (A.D. 354-430) dealt the doctrine of prophecy the most damaging blow of anyone in history. He plunged the study of prophecy into darkness for almost 1,400 years by systematically teaching that prophecy could not be interpreted literally. Augustine held to a literal, grammatical and historical interpretation of every other field of Bible doctrine, but taught that prophecy must be interpreted allegorically. He did this in order to be able to sustain his views....He taught that Jews had no more purpose in God's plan; that they would never be reborn as a nation." Hal Lindsey, The Rapture: Truth or Consequences, p. 167. I, along with millions of other true Christians, support Israel, as God would have it. So much for

His pretense indicated that there would occur just a general resurrection of all the dead at once and that would be all. However, the Bible definitely teaches us of "dispensational resurrections" that occur at different times and to different divisions of people! "The apostle Paul uses an extremely important term in relation to the stages He says again, 'But each in his order...' (1 of resurrection. Corinthians 15:23a). 'Order' is the translation of the Greek word tagma, which was primarily a military term. It was most frequently used to designate a division or battalion of soldiers. The best available Greek New Testament lexicon says about this term, 'Of a number of persons who belong together and are therefore arranged together; division; group. A military term for bodies of troops in various numbers such as divisions or battalions of soldiers...in 1 Corinthians 15:23f the gift of life is given to various ones in turn, and at various times. [F. W. Gingrich and Frederick Danker, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, p. 802]....Paul paints a word picture which describes army divisions on parade passing by a reviewing stand at different intervals in time....the believers are to be resurrected...each one in his own division. The very term, tagma, implies a number of phases."29

The order of resurrection, according to the specifications in our Judeo/Christian Bibles, occurs as follows:



Augustine's false teachings. Israel has become a nation and we are very happy about it! See our chapter 18, "Israel—Is Real."

<sup>29</sup>Hal Lindsey, *The Rapture: Truth or Consequences*, pp. 159-160. The diagram is Hal Lindsey's. Ibid, p. 161, courtesy of Bantam Books.

#### RESURRECTION—PHASE I

In the first resurrection, there are four phases (the second resurrection occurs at the end of the millennium and is for unbelievers only; John 5:29; Rev. 20:6). The first resurrection, which is composed of believers only, has four stages. The first stage of phase one was the resurrection of Jesus nearly 2000 years ago. We are told that Jesus was the "first fruits" of the resurrection (I Cor. 15:20-25).

Jesus as Messiah, was the first man in the long history of men to receive a permanent resurrection body which can never be destroyed. Lazarus and the boy in the Old Testament were only raised back into their mortal bodies and died again shortly thereafter. There is a clear difference between raising the dead and resurrection. Resurrection is permanent and encompasses a resurrection body. This resurrection of first fruits, which corresponds to the Jewish feast of "first fruits" in the Bible (Lev. 23:16), contained a token of believers (Matt. 27:52-53) in ancient Israel.

The first fruits of the harvest were waved before God in the tabernacle by the high priest. This was an offering of thanks, which also assured a bountiful harvest (the second stage). It was only offered with a lamb sacrifice, therefore Jesus, our high priest (Heb. 5-7; 13:11-12), offered these believers His first fruits. Thus Jesus is our Passover lamb for all time.

#### RESURRECTION—PHASE II

The second phase of resurrection is hinted at in Revelation 4:1: "After this I looked, and behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I had heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter" (KJV).

John, who is writing, sees a door in Heaven and is told to "come up hither" in his vision. This may provide an answer to the puzzling conversation Jesus had with Peter, recorded in the Gospel of John: "Peter therefore seeing him said to Jesus, 'Lord, and what about this man [John]?' Jesus said to him, 'If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!' This saying therefore went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but *only*, 'If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?' "(John 21:21-23 NASB; [] mine).

The apostle John was told to "**come** up hither" so he could see and record the vision of the end days and Second **Coming** of the Messiah. This second phase will occur in our future and is known as the Rapture. All that John wrote, until he was told to "come up," was history.

After he was taken, he was given visions which are predicted to occur **after** the Rapture portion of the resurrection, lasting seven years, before the Lord returns to stop Gog and Magog in Revelation 19. This resurrection contains all of those who were born-again at Jesus' Pentecost (the beginning of His true church, fifty days after the Passover from which He rose until the day of the event known as the Rapture occurs—still future). As we know, in the Rapture we will all be taken up (see our chapter 25, "The Rapture Factor"). You will get a taste of being a benefactor, which you will be, if you are a believer!

#### RESURRECTION—PHASE III

In the third phase of the resurrection, the Old Testament believers, from Adam until John the Baptist's ministry, prior to the dispensation of the church age (Acts 1:22), are resurrected. This resurrection also contains the Tribulation believers in Jesus, both Jew and Gentile, who were martyred (not the 144,000 specially appointed Jewish witnesses; see our chapter 25, "The Rapture Factor"). This resurrection occurs after the seven-year Tribulation—after the previous "Rapture resurrection"—at Jesus' judgment of the nations (Matt. 25:32-46; Dan. 12:2).

#### RESURRECTION—PHASE IV

The fourth phase of the resurrection occurs when the mortal kingdom believers receive their new immortal resurrected bodies. It consists of those who survived the seven-year Tribulation, the last war of Gog and Magog, and lived through the 1000-year Messianic Kingdom (Matt. 25), due to the biblically predicted alteration of nature, which resulted in greatly increased longevity. This happens at the end of the kingdom, just prior to Jesus' creation of the New Heaven and Earth, which is the beginning of eternity future, the subject of our forthcoming chapter 30, "New Heavens and a New Earth."

### AFTER PHASE III, THERE ARE MESSIANIC JUDGMENTS OF JEWS AND GENTILES HERE ON EARTH

After the resurrection (third phase), the Hebrew prophet Daniel elaborates on the beginnings of the millennial kingdom: "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass

away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed....And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Dan. 7:13-14, 27 KJV).

Two major judgments occur before the joys of this kingdom are realized. Hal Lindsey, in his book, *The Rapture: Truth or Consequences*, precisely covers the major events of these judgments. Therefore, we will quote him at length: "The *second prophetic theme* that relates to this question of who populates the Kingdom concerns *two* great judgments of the Tribulation survivors which takes place on earth immediately after Christ's return. These judgments are the Lord's first major act after returning to the earth.

There is an extremely important condition on earth which is demonstrated by the Lord's judgment of the survivors. These survivors are segregated into two judgments: one of Jews and one of Gentiles

#### THE JUDGMENT OF SURVIVING ISRAELITES

Throughout the Old Testament, prophecies were made about the coming of the promised Messianic Kingdom. Many of these spoke of a judgment of the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to determine who would enter. Paul warned that not all who are called Israel are Israel (Romans 9:6).

Ezekiel clearly forewarned what would immediately precede the Messiah's founding of the Kingdom. In Chapter 20 he said that the Messiah would become king over them with great judgment upon the earth (Verse 33); that He would bring them out of the lands where He had scattered them (Verse 34); that He would bring all living survivors of Israel into the wilderness (probably the Sinai Desert) and judge them face-to-face (Verses 35 and 36); that the judgment would be made according to the covenant He made with them (which demanded faith in His provision for sin) (Verse 37); that He would purge from them all rebels who had transgressed against Him (Verse 38); and that those who remained would be established in the Kingdom (Verses 40-44).

The prophet Zephaniah predicts the same sequence of events. First, he predicts the terrible judgment of the Tribulation (1:14-18); then, the coming of the Lord to earth with great worldwide destruction and judgment (3:8). Next, he predicts a judgment of survivors in which all proud and exulting ones, and all deceitful and lying people, will be removed from their midst (3:11). He also said that only a humble and lowly people who take refuge in the name of the Lord will remain to enter the Kingdom and land of Israel (3:12-13). Finally, the

Lord will become the king of Israel and remain in their midst (3:15-17).

These two passages make it very clear that all Jewish survivors will be gathered for judgment 'face-to-face' with the Messiah Jesus, and that the believers alone will enter the Messiah's Kingdom.

#### THE JUDGMENT OF THE GENTILE SURVIVORS

After the Lord Jesus judges the Israelites (illustrated by the parables of Matthew 25:1-30), He will then gather all Gentiles to Jerusalem (the place of His glorious throne of Matthew 25:31) and conduct a very personal judgment of all those who survive the Tribulation (Matthew 25:31-46).

This passage very clearly indicates when and upon whom this judgment takes place, 'But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. And all the nations [Gentiles] will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep [believers] from the goats [unbelievers]; and he will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.' (Matthew 25:31-33)

At the end of the judgment and separation the Lord Jesus says, 'And these [that is, the goats on the left] will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous [that is, the sheep on His right] shall go into eternal life'....The Lord uses a unique test to determine whether these Tribulation survivors are true believers in Him. This is evaluated on the basis of how they treated a very special group that the Lord Jesus calls 'these brothers of mine' (Matthew 25:40, 45). Judging by the unusual survival of this group in spite of hunger, thirst, estrangement, lack of adequate clothing, sickness and imprisonment, it seems certain that they are the 144,000 Jewish witnesses....At the end of the Tribulation, the same 144,000 are pictured standing with Jesus the Messiah on Mount Zion in Jerusalem (Revelation 14:1-5). The indication is that they all survived the Tribulation and are in unresurrected bodies."<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>30</sup>Hal Lindsey, The Rapture: Truth or Consequences, pp. 144-146.

"And 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... they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Revelation 20:4 KJV 96 AD.

"...The Jews kept ye Passover partly in memory of their coming out of Egypt, partly as an anniversary type of the passion of the Messiah to come: & we now keep it in memory of his passion past: And so ye feast of the seventh month kept by ye Jews as a type Christ second coming of ye kingdom of God. Then to be founded may be hereafter kept in memory of ye coming & as ye anniversary or birthday of the kingdom of God which from thence shal stand forever." 31

Sir Isaac Newton, 1600's

"...the Holy Communion is to be understood as a Messianic meal which hints at an eternal perspective." Risto Santala, 1992

#### WHAT WILL BELIEVERS DO? PLENTY!

The Scriptures teach that we will rule over angels: "Do ye not know that the saints [believers] shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you....Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" (I Cor. 6:2-3 KJV; [] mine).

We believe we will assist Jesus in the governing of the universe. This will be a rule which is shrouded in love. The mortals who survive the Tribulation and live through the 1000-year kingdom, will definitely rely on our direction before they are given their new eternal resurrection bodies. They will receive these bodies at the end of the kingdom, pending our entry into the New Jerusalem, New Heaven and Earth, so beautifully described in Revelation 21:1-4.

### THE NEWTONIAN VIEW OF THE MILLENNIUM IS A COMFORTING AND CORRECT CONFIRMATION

Sir Isaac Newton, our scientific friend, wrote in great anticipation of enjoying this future world of the millennium: "But you will say how then comes it to pass that in the thousand years there are Mortals on earth?....Doth the earth last after the day of judgment, and do mortals live on it, and do the Sons of the resurrection live among them like other men and reign over them in the beloved city? I answer that its true the beloved city is a city of mortals, and I say further that the glorious description of the new Jerusalem under the types of pretious stones and pearles is a commentary upon this city....Christ at his second coming must...rule....when the Martyrs and Prophets live again they may reign here with Christ, a thousand years till...the dominion of the new Jerusalem be established and death be

<sup>31</sup> Yahuda Manuscript 9.2 151. Read "ye" as "the."

<sup>32</sup>Risto Santala, *The Messiah in the New Testament in the Light of Rabbinical Writings*, p. cover flap.

vanquished by raising the rest of the dead...and all this time they may be in the same state of happiness..."<sup>33</sup>

### HEY FOLKS, WE WILL GET TO MEET ISAAC NEWTON, IN SPITE OF MANUEL'S SARCASM

I, myself, look forward to seeing Isaac Newton there, the man who opened the way to so much understanding of our scientific universe in the fields of calculus, optics, mathematics, physics and gravity. Newton anticipated his place with us, resurrected in the millennial kingdom. We are informed of this by a sarcastic comment in the writings of Frank Manuel: "'Such as is his body [Jesus], such shall ours be', wrote Newton, with more than a touch of self-assurance that he would be among those 'children of the resurrection.'"<sup>34</sup>

It goes without saying, if you are a scientific fan of Newton's and would like to meet him and ask a few questions, it would no doubt pay to become a believer. Wouldn't it? Yes!

## THE MILLENNIAL PARADISE OF THE AGES FINALLY REALIZED—WE COULD ALL USE THE REST, COULDN'T WE? YES!

In our forthcoming and final chapter, we will take up the crowning subject of the New Heavens and New Earth. I cannot wait! But before we get into those jewels, we will examine the beautiful conditions which will prevail once Jesus returns, executes the Antichrist (Isaiah 11:4; II Thessalonians 2:8) and convenes the resurrections and judgments that we have read so much about.

The millennium, once put into operation, will be one of the most beautiful states the world has ever known. It will be very similar to the condition our father, Adam, was accustomed to in Eden<sup>35</sup> (see Genesis 1). The curse placed on the ground will be removed so that we will no longer have to "work by the sweat of our face" (Genesis 3:19). Food will again become the gift of God, as it was in the Garden.

The fact that men have had to strive for their upkeep has been the result of God's original judgment, for the original sin<sup>36</sup> of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> *Yahuda Manuscript* 9.2, fol. 138r, 6 fol. 12.

<sup>34</sup>Frank E. Manuel, *The Religion of Isaac Newton*, p. 100. Manuel's source was *Yahuda Manuscript 9.2, fol. 138r*, 6 fol. 12. [] mine.

<sup>35</sup>See our Vol. II, chapter 29, "The Garden of Eden, Immortality and Today—Will We Stop Aging?"

<sup>36</sup>Those of you reading this, who are Jews, and have been taught that original sin is not originally Jewish, see our comparison page in our chapter 1, where we show the parallels between the ancient rabbinical view and that of the New Testament. You will see that ancient Judaism agrees with the New Testament regarding original sin. Modernists deny

distrusting Him and disobeying Him. Few take Genesis 3:17 seriously, which describes the curse placed on the ground so that man would have to work vigorously to extract a living from the earth.<sup>37</sup> There is no such thing as free money. All of us must work for "money," the liquid result of labor. The only other methods are stealing or taxing, both of which take from someone else's hard work! Thus in Revelation 22:3, God says clearly that He removes this curse.

Once this obstacle is removed, the world, under the personal rulership of Jesus, undergoes a transformation in which our present earth of war, famine and death, will be changed into a world of peace, plenty and fairness.

### HOW DO THE TESTAMENTS DESCRIBE THIS 1000-YEAR MILLENNIAL KINGDOM? BEAUTIFULLY!

The rulership of this Messianic Kingdom, which Jesus will inaugurate as the Jewish Messiah, is beautifully foretold in Jeremiah and I Chronicles of the Old Testament: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jer. 23:5-6 KJV).

I Chronicles also predicted: "And it shall come about when your days are fulfilled that you must go *to be* with your fathers, that I will set up *one* of your descendants after you, who shall be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be His father, and He shall be My son; and I will not take My loving kindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever. According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David" (I Chr. 17:11-15 NASB).

Isaiah wrote the prophetic words: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The

Judaism ever taught such a doctrine! There is really no difference, though some would like you to think there is, and will tell you so in order to keep you away from a Messiah who redeems from sin—Jesus!

<sup>37</sup>The very words God spoke to Adam, recorded by Moses in Genesis, were: "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, 'Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed** *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:17-19 KJV).

mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isa. 9:6-7 KJV).

Luke writes in the New Testament: "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shall conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:30-33 KJV).

## THOUGH THE WORLD IS PRESENTLY ONE-QUARTER COMMUNIST AND OPPRESSED, THAT IS GOING TO CHANGE SOON WHEN THE MESSIAH TAKES THE REINS

At present, the world is one-fourth communist. The communists (dishonest people artificially placed in ruling leadership positions) force their citizens (slaves) to work, but not for themselves. They then confiscate their money or goods and sell them to others.<sup>38</sup> This now goes on, on a large scale, throughout the world. However, the Bible foretells this will not be the case when Jesus returns and sets up the Messianic Kingdom. Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet, clearly tells of the equality and plenty once the kingdom begins: "And they shall build houses, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat: for as the days of a tree *are* the days of my people, [39] and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their

<sup>38</sup>For example, the finest candies, jams and novelties, which are forbidden for the worker to eat and are not available in these countries, are sold to the West. It was recently documented on a national news show that the workers in China's military factories only receive twenty cents an hour. The seemingly harmless products, such as stuffed toys and dolls, end up on the shelves of stores like Kmart, here in the West, at a high profit margin. China, in turn, uses the funds to enhance their military for an aspired battle that will be to all of our detriment!

<sup>39</sup>This was especially true of the Jewish people in Russia, who until recently, were forced to produce food in factories so the state could sell it to the West. It would seem, in this case, that God's people (the Russian Jews) were exploited by the capitalistic principle of the communist elite. This will totally halt in the millennium when Jesus returns, though the tide seems to be beginning to turn at the moment. My favorite President, Ronald Reagan, might have spoken a bit prematurely (as far as the freedom we will have in the millennium) when he said: "I've always maintained that the struggle now going on for the world will never be decided by bombs or rockets; by armies or military might. The real crisis we face today is a spiritual one. At root, it is a test of moral will and faith. I believe that communism is another sad, bizarre chapter in human history whose last...pages, even now, are being written. I believe this because the source of our strength and the quest for human freedom is not material, but spiritual, and because it knows no limitation. It must testify and ultimately

hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they *are* the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them" (Isaiah 65:21-23 KJV).



"Peace," by William Strutt. During the millennial reign of the Messiah, all of God's creatures will love one another, as was intended in the beginning.

triumph over those who would enslave their fellow man. For in the words of Isaiah: 'He giveth power to the faint and to them that have no might; he increases strength that they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary.' "These words were spoken to the National Association of Evangelicals in Orlando, FL, March 8, 1983, by President Reagan. In the early 1990's, this biblical dream was partially realized in the present demise of communism in Russia. For the moment, the people are free, though we do not know how long this will last. However, as we know, in the millennium, the Bible has promised all people will be free for all time in dignity and freedom to serve God.

## THE CONDITIONS OF THE MILLENNIUM INCLUDE A WORLD FREE OF GERMS, DEFORMITIES AND DISEASE

Isaiah also foretells of a world free of disease, deformities, handicaps and illnesses, which are presently incurable. All of these sicknesses will be cured, and in fact, made extinct by the Messiah when He comes to establish His kingdom. The prophet states: "Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, even God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out and streams in the desert....And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isa. 35:4-6, 10 KJV).

### ONCE FEROCIOUS ANIMALS WILL AGAIN BE TAME, AS THEY WERE IN THE GARDEN!

Other beautiful passages show that even the animals and beasts, some of which are presently hostile toward each other and man himself, will once again become friendly. Even a child will be able to put his hand in a snake's den without the fear of being bitten. Isaiah predicts: "And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the kid, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze; Their young will lie down together; And the lion will eat straw like the ox. And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.... 'The wolf and the lamb shall graze together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,' says the LORD" (Isa. 11:6-8; 65:25 NASB).

#### ORIGINAL HEBREW TEXT WRITTEN 713, 574, 487 BC

ְּוֶגֶר זְאָבֹ עִם־כְּּבָשׁ וְנָמֵר עִם־זְּרָי יִרְבֶּץְ וִעְּנֵל וּכְפֵּיר וּמְרִיאֹ יַחְדָּר וְנֵעֵר קְּמָן נֹהָג בָּם:
יפְּבָה וִדְבֹ מִרְעָּינָה יַחְדֶּו יִרְבְּצִוּ יִלְבִימֵן וְאַרְיָה כִּבְּבֶּר וֹמְרִיאֹ בַּלְּחָבְּי וְעַשְׁשַׁע יוֹנֵק עַל־חָר בָּבָּבְר וֹמְבָּי וְעַבְּיֹם לְיָם מְכָּבְים: .... וְשְׁבֵּיוֹ אֶל־פְּחָח בַּבֶּל חְנְבִּי בְּיִבְּי יִבְּנִי הַבָּיִ הַבְּיִ הַבְּיִם וְמָבְּים וֹמְבָּי הַבְּיִם מְבָּבְים וֹמָבְּים לִיבָּם מְבָּבְיּ הַבָּיִת הְבָּיִ וֹמְבִים וְנְבִּי הַבְּיִת מְבָּיְם וְעָבְּים בְּבָּי הַבָּיִת הְבָּית וְמְצָה עַל־שְּׁבְּתוֹ מִנְה וֹמְבָּים וְמְבָּים לִיבְּם מְכָּבְים יִיבְּל הְעָלְוּה מְּהְבִּים בְּיִבְּים לְּעָבְּים וְמָבְּים וִמְבָּים וְנְבִּים בְּבִּיל מְלְבְּים וְעָלָהוּ בְּלִים מִיּבְּים הְּמָה יוֹצְאֵים וְהְיוֹּ בְּלָיִם הְלָּבְּי וְעָלָהוּ עַלְּהוּ בְּלִים הְבָּבִית הְבָּבוֹי וֹמְצְּיָם הְעָבְּיה בְּיִבְּים לְיִבֶּב בְּמִבְּים הִיבְּבוֹ הַבְּיִתְ בְּיִם מְבָּבְית מְיִבְּלְ וְעָלָהוּ מְלְּבְּיִם הְּהִיּה בְּיִבְּים הְּהָבּים הְיִבְּם הְּיִבְּבְּבְּי וְעָלֵהוּ מִבְּיִם הְּהָּוֹי הְבָּיִבְים הְבָּבְיֹת הְבָּבְיוֹ הְבָּוֹת הְבִּיֹם הְבָּבְּיוֹם הְבִּבְּים הְיִבְּבְּים הְנָבְּים הְבְּבְּים הְנָבְּים הְיבִּבְּית הְבָּבְּיוֹם הְבִּיִם הְבְּבְּיִבְּים הְעָבְר וֹמְבָּבְית הְבָּבְיוֹם הְבִּיִם הְבִּבְּיוֹם הְהֹוֹבְים בְּבְּים הְבָּבְים הְבָּבְים הְעָבְר בִּבְּים הְבָּבְּים הְעָבְרוּ בְּבְיִים הְבָּבְּיִם הְבָּבְּים הְבָּבְים הְבָּבְים הְבָּבְים הְבָּבְּים הְיבָּבְים הְבָּבְים הְיבָּים הְיבָּבְים הְיבָּבְים הְיבְּבְּיִים הְבְּבִים הְעָבְּיבְּיבְי בְּבְבְיִים הְבָּבְים הְבְּבִים וְנְבְבּים הְיבִּבְּים הְנְבְבְּים הְבְּבִים הְבְּבְים הְבָּבְיוֹבְּבְּיִי וְבְבָּים הְיבְבּים הְבְּבָּים בְּבְּבְים הְנְבְבּים הְיבִבּית הְיבְבּייִבְיוֹבְּבְּבְּיוֹ בְּבְבִייִי וְבְבָּבְייִבְּבְיי הְבָּבְיבְייִים הְבָּבְייִבְּיבְּבְיוֹבְבְּיבְיבְּיבְיבְיבְּיבְיבְיבְּבְיבְיבְבְּבְיבְיבְבְיבְּבְיבְיבְיבְּבְּבְיבְיבְיבְיבְיבְּבְבְיבְיבְיבְּבְּבְיבְבְּבְבְיבְיבְבְּבְּבְיבְּבְּבְבְיבְיבְּבְּבְיבְּבְיבְיבְיבְיבְּבְיבְבְבְּבְיבְּבְיבְיבְבְּבְבְיבְבְיבְּבְבּיבְיבְיבְבְּבְיבְּבְּבְבְיבְבְּבְּבְיבְבְּבְיבְבְבְיבְבְ

ישעיה יא:ו-ט; יחזקאל מז:א-יב; זכריה יד:ח-ט

#### OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea....Afterward, he brought me again unto the door of the house, and behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar....And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for | meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed; it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for |meat|, and the leaf thereof for medicine....And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the LORD shall be king over all the earth...."

#### Isaiah 11:6-9 KJV; Ezekiel 47:1, 12 KJV; 40 Zechariah 14:8-9 KJV ANCIENT RABBINICAL COMMENTARY

"Why was it [one of the Temple gates] called Water Gate? R. Eliezer ben Ya'aqov said: 'Because in it water bubbled forth.' This teaches us that the waters were bubbling forth and rising as if coming out of a flask. In the future they will come forth from under the threshold of the Temple....All the waters of Creation will in the future come forth as if coming from the mouth of a flask."<sup>41</sup>

#### M. Middot 2:6; T. Suk, 3:3, 10; B. Yoma 77b-78a

"And He will open for them the sources of the Tree of Life, and will give them to drink on the way...."

Otot haMashiah, BhM 2:58-63

"R. Y'huda said: 'In This World the crops ripen in six months, and a tree yields fruit in twelve months, but in the Future to Come the crops will ripen every month'...R. Yose said: '...In the Future to Come the crops will ripen in fifteen days, and the trees yield fruit every month.' "43

Y. Sheqalim 50a mid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup>The New Scofield Reference Bible.

<sup>41</sup> Raphael Patai, The Messiah Texts, p. 231.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid, p. 316.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid, pp. 231-232. Patai's source was the Jerusalem Talmud.

"[In the days of the Messiah] *I will cause evil beasts to cease out of the land* (Lev. 26:6). R. Y'huda said: 'He [God] will calm them so that they should do no damage.' R. Shim'on said...'God will calm those who cause injury in the world, so that they will cause no injury. To this refers the verse, *And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid...and the cow and the bear...and the suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp (Isa. 11:6-8)."* 

#### Sifra b'Huqotai 2:1, Yalqut haMakhiri, p. 86

#### NEW TESTAMENT RECORDED 60; 96 AD

"...the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body....And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner* of fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the

#### Romans 8:21-25; Revelation 22:1-2 KJV

#### MODERN RABBINIC COMMENT/REFUTATION

"It should not come to one's mind that in the days of the Messiah anything in the customary order of the world will be annulled, or that there will be something new in the order of Creation. For the world will continue in its path. And that which Isaiah said, *The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid* (Isa. 11:6), is but an allegory and a riddle....*The lion shall eat straw like the ox* (Isa. 11:7). And likewise, all the similar things said about the Messiah are but allegories."

Maimonides (Rambam), 46 Yad haHazaqa,

Shoftim, Hilkhot M'lakhim 11-12

#### AUTHOR'S COMMENT—EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN POSITION

The name Rambam stands for Rabbi Mosha ben Maimon (Rabbi Mosha "son of" Maimon). It is clear to us that Rambam and the many modern rabbis who agree with his allegorical interpretation/opinion, not only contradict the New Testament Scriptures, but also those cherished literal hopes which lie within the core of

<sup>44</sup>Ibid, pp. 231-232, 259.

<sup>45</sup> Raphael Patai, The Messiah Texts, p. 325.

<sup>46</sup>Rambam was a rabbi who died in 1204, and is still considered a giant within rabbinic circles. Why? I do not know! His opinions seem blasphemous when compared to the earlier literal rabbinic commentaries. Concerning Rambam and certain modern rabbis who deny these wonderful promises, claiming they are "allegory," this author believes the words of Newton, the world's most famous scientist, are appropriate. He wrote: "He that without better grounds then his private opinion or the opinion of any human authority whatsoever shall turn scripture from the plain meaning to an Allegory or to any other less naturall sense declares thereby that he reposes more trust in his own imaginations or in that human authority then in the Scripture (and by consequence that he is no true beleever). And therefore the opinion of such men how numerous soever they be, is not to be regarded." Frank E. Manuel, *The Religion of Isaac Newton*, p. 118. Manuel's source was *Yahuda Manuscript 1*. Spelling per original text quoted.

ancient (true) Judaism, as noted in the above commentaries. We who believe, look forward to the new world and its new order, which Jesus the Messiah foretold! He Himself promised: "...Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matt. 19:28 KJV).

Philip Moore

## WE HAVE A LOT TO LOOK FORWARD TO AT JESUS' SECOND COMING—PERFECT PEACE IN PARADISE—TAILOR-MADE FOR ALL WHO LOVE HIM!

The Scripture foretells: "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*" (Micah 4:3-4 KJV).

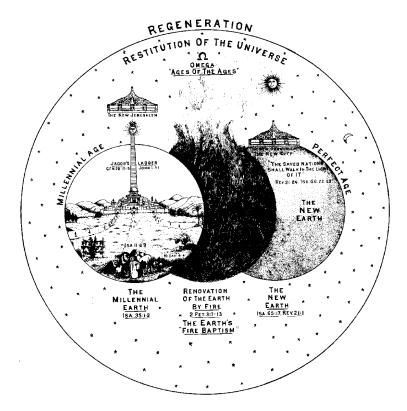
It is also foretold that there will be a perfect one-world government, that the Messiah will be king over the whole world and that far-off nations will come once a year to pay homage to Him: "And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.... Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, there will be no rain on them. And if the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. In that day there will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, 'HOLY TO THE LORD.' And the cooking pots in the Lord's house will be like the bowls before the altar. And every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the LORD of hosts: and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them" (Zech. 14:9, 16-20 NASB).

We can say with confidence that we have a lot to look forward to, to say the least. All of us who are believers, will soon be in a Shangri-La of perfect peace. A paradise so unimaginable, with a harmony of man and nature so fantastic that we may only dream and read about it. That is, until it actually arrives, which will not be long!

The time key is that there is a biblical history of 7000 years marked off—the kingdom lasts 1000 years and we are nearing the end

of 6000 years; thus soon (no one knows the day or hour), things will start happening! This author believes most probably *before* another forty years have passed!

Though the Scriptures teach that no one may know the exact time, they do not negate our hope and Scriptural speculation. Jesus taught: "And when these things begin to come to pass [end time signs], then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28 KJV; [] mine).



Reverend Clarence Larkin beautifully illustrates the regeneration of the universe.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>47</sup>Courtesy of Rev. Clarence Larkin Estate, from the book *Dispensational Truth*. Available through Rev. Clarence Larkin, Est., POB 334 Glenside, PA, USA 19038.

#### ORIGINAL HEBREW TEXT WRITTEN 997; 487 BC

כּי אֶלֶף שָׁנִים בֶּעֵינִיף כְּוֹם אֶחְמוֹל כִּי יְעַבְׁר וְאָשְׁמוּרֶה בְּלֵילָה: מהלים צוד

וְהָנֶה יְהנָה לְּמֶלֶךְ עָל־כָּל־הָאָרֵץ בְּנִים הָהוֹא יִהְנֵה יְהנָה אָחָד וּשְׁמִוֹ אָחֵד: זכריה יד:ם

#### OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION

"For a thousand years in Thy sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night."

Psalms 90:4 NASB

"And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be *the only* one and his name *the only* one."

#### Zechariah 14:9 NASB

#### ANCIENT RABBINICAL COMMENTARY

"Another interpretation of 'There was none of them' (Ps. cxxxix. 16) is that it means the seventh day, for this world is to last 6,000 years; 2,000 years....It was waste and desolate; 2,000 years under the Law; 2,000 years under the Messiah. And because our sins are increased, they are prolonged. As they are prolonged, and as we make one day a Sabbatic year, so will God in the latter days make one day a Sabbatic year, which is 1,000 years, and it is said, 'But it shall be one day, which shall be known to the Lord,' this is the seventh day."48

#### Yalkut on Psalm cxxxix. 16

"For six thousand years the world will exist: [there will be] two thousand years of *Tohu* ['void'], two thousand years of Tora, and two thousand years of the Messiah. But because of our sins, which are many, several of these [Messianic years] have already passed....the Holy One, blessed be He, will renew His world only after seven thousand years."

#### B. Sanhedrin 97a-b

"...And the Children of Ishmael [the Arabs] will at that time arise with all the nations of the world to go forth against Jerusalem....Happy will be all those who will remain on the world at the end of the sixth millennium to enter into [the millennium of] the Sabbath...."

Zohar 1:119a

#### **NEW TESTAMENT RECORDED 96 AD**

"Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years."

#### Revelation 20:6 NASB

<sup>48</sup>Rev. B. Pick, Ph.D., *Old Testament Passages Messianically Applied by the Ancient Synagogue*, published in the compilation *Hebraica, A Quarterly Journal in the Interests of Semitic Study*, Vol. IV, pp. 248-249.

<sup>49</sup>Raphael Patai, *The Messiah Texts*, p. 60. 50Ibid, p. 64.

## AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM, THERE IS A SMALL REBELLION AGAINST THE MESSIAH WHICH IS QUICKLY QUASHED

Near the end of paradise, which lasts 1000 years (Rev. 20:4-6), at the end of the last year, there will be one final attempt at battle. Apparently it will be instigated by the descendants of Gog (Rev. 20:8); those who were born into the kingdom through mortals who had survived the Tribulation, but who secretly, within their hearts, rejected the Messiah. The Messiah will quickly halt this attempted rebellion, as He allows these people to make themselves known for the first time, as they chose to reject the truth. Even in a perfect environment, they will finally illustrate that positive surroundings do not heal man's fallen heart of sin—only Jesus does, and He only does it when invited personally to do so. He loves us beyond all, but will never violate our free will.

# ANTI-PREMILLENNIAL (MESSIANIC KINGDOM) TEACHERS WOULD RATHER YOU NOT KNOW ABOUT THE PARADISE OF JESUS, BECAUSE THEY ARE JEALOUS, OR UNBELIEVERS THEMSELVES!

Now you have been enlightened in the revelation of this beautiful kingdom. If it was the first time you heard this, you should know why you did not hear about it before from your church or minister!

There are many "ministers" today, and untold numbers of religious leaders of centuries past, who taught violently against God's 1000-year kingdom of peace, promised to you in the many prophecies of the Old Testament and the last book of the New Testament (Rev. 20:4). We ask ourselves, "Why?" Some, of course, do not feel worthy themselves of going there, and thus, they very definitely do not want you to have the hope which they do not! They simply cannot stand the thought of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and all of the believing<sup>51</sup> Jews, together with the Evangelical Christians, enjoying eternity in a physical, literal kingdom in which they have no part.

Others, of course, do not believe in the Bible, but are only "frocked" because their profession requires it. Thus they adhere to the most liberal and unorthodox position, allowing them the maximum comfort in their hopeless unbelief! There are even liberal rabbis who neither believe in a Messiah nor a Messianic Kingdom.

<sup>51</sup>Believers in Jesus as Messiah.

#### JESUS TAUGHT THE APOSTLES AS WELL AS US, THROUGH PRAYERS AND PROMISES, THAT THERE WILL BE AN EARTHLY MESSIANIC KINGDOM

Jesus taught us in the Lord's prayer to pray for this kingdom. He said: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:9-10 KJV).

We can know with certainty that this is a literal kingdom for the future of believers and believing Israel, because Jesus' very own apostles later asked: "...Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6 KJV). Jesus' reply was: "...It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" (Acts 1:7 KJV).

An answer like this gives us hope for the future, even though we don't know exactly when this kingdom begins. We were told previously by Jesus there would be a regeneration upon the earth in which the apostles and believers would rule (Matt. 19:28).

#### DESPITE JESUS AND JOHN'S REVELATORY PROMISE OF A KINGDOM, LIBERALS AND ECUMENICALS SELDOM TAKE A "POSITION"—THUS, CONVENIENTLY AVOIDING THE QUESTION

I once asked a Greek "priest" 52 what the Greek Orthodox Church believed regarding the 1000-year reign of Jesus over all the world as Messiah, while pointing to verse 4 in Revelation 20: "...they lived and reigned with Christ, one thousand years." He raised his eyebrows and snapped defensively, "I know it says 1000 years, but we do not take a position on that!"53

<sup>52</sup>One named Homer p. Goumenis in Atlanta, GA. 53 *Israel My Glory*, a Jewish-Christian magazine, notes that the Christian writer, Harnack: "...claimed that in their eschatology the early Christians preserved the Jewish hopes for the future presented in ancient Jewish literature." Dr. Renald E. Showers, "A Description and Early History of Millennial Views," Israel My Glory, June-Oct. 1986, used by permission. The same magazine reminds us, using Harnack as its authority, that: "As early as 170 A.D. a church group (known as the Alogi) in Asia Minor rejected the prophetic writings from which the premillennial view was derived. This group 'denounced the Apocalypse of John as a book of fables'....Because of the great influence of the Alexandrian scholars, most of the Greek Church followed their lead in rejecting Premillennialism. Concerning this rejection of the premillennial views in the East, Harnack wrote: 'It was the Alexandrian theology that superseded them; that is to say, Neo-Platonic mysticism triumphed over the early Christian hope of the future'....Harnack related the following information concerning the controversy between Dionysius and Nepos: 'During this controversy Dionysius became convinced that the victory of mystical theology over 'Jewish' Chiliasm would never be secure so long as the Apocalypse of John passed for an apostolic writing and kept its place among the homologoumena of the canon. He accordingly raised the question of the apostolic origin of the Apocalypses and by reviving old difficulties, with ingenious arguments of his own, he

If you ask around, you will see that nearly all the ecumenical, Catholic and liberal Protestant "Churches" deny this great promise of the New Testament to Israel and the believing world.

## TRUE BIBLE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS HOLD FIRM TO GOD'S PRECIOUS PROMISE OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM, FOR OURSELVES AND THE BELIEVING JEW

We, as true Bible believing pro-Israel believers in Jesus, accept the literal promises of the Bible. Hal Lindsey, one of the more well-known premillennialists, who has sold millions of **popular** books supporting our true, literal viewpoint, reminds us: "This view holds that Christ will literally and bodily return to earth *before* the thousand-year Kingdom begins. He will set up this Kingdom and reign from the throne of David out of a rebuilt city of Jerusalem...Premillennialists also believe that God made many unconditional promises and

covenants with Israel, and that...God will *literally fulfill* all His promises during this thousand-year Kingdom period. Church-age believers and Tribulation believers will also be the recipients of these promises as the adopted sons of Abraham."<sup>54</sup>

#### LINDSEY REMINDS US THAT MOST MINISTERS DENY THE LITERAL TRUTH OF THE KINGDOM, EVEN THOUGH THE PROPHECIES OF JESUS' FIRST COMING WERE LITERAL

Hal Lindsey elaborates in his book, *The Late Great Planet Earth...* 

carried his point.' Dionysius so prejudiced the Greek Church against the Book of Revelation and its canonicity that during the fourth century that church removed it from its canon of Scripture, 'and thus the troublesome foundation on which Chiliasm might have continued to build was got rid of.' The Greek Church kept the Book of Revelation out of its canon for several centuries, 'and consequently Chiliasm remained in its grave.' The Greek Church restored the book to its canon late in the Middle Ages, but by that time the damage to the premillennial view could not be remedied." Ibid. It goes without saying that even though these ecumenical churches have greatly persecuted us in the past, we are proud to be free premillennial evangelical believers today, just as our forefathers were, who lived in the generation of Jesus' life on Earth. We are proud of our biblical faith in which we love the Jew. This faith has proven superior and true to Jesus' teachings over all other "Christian" faiths that have gone against the wishes of Jesus—even to the point of attempting to relegate portions of the Scripture to fables!

<sup>54</sup>Hal Lindsey, *There's A New World Coming*, p. 267.