

A vertical rectangular image of a bright blue sky filled with white, fluffy clouds. Sunbeams radiate from behind a cloud in the upper left, creating a dramatic, ethereal effect. The text is centered in a black, italicized serif font.

*Proof
Of
Three
Resurrections*

*Proof
Of
Three
Resurrections*

theeternalstruth.org

This booklet is not to be sold. It is provided free to the public as an educational service. It cannot be reproduced without permission from the author.

The Patriarch, Job once asked the question, “If a man die will he live again?” Job then answered his own query, saying “all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.” This great man of God recognized that there would be a resurrection of the dead and with it a change—to spirit. Yet today, while many believers accept that there is resurrection of the dead, far more are no longer certain. Moreover, of those who do believe, some think there is only one resurrection. Others believe there are two, but few are certain that the truth is that there will be three separate resurrections—each taking place at a different time, and each having a unique purpose. Continue reading and prove—there are three resurrections.

Proof Of Three Resurrections

For over nineteen centuries, the professing Christian community held fast to what they believed to be not only a foundational, but an essential doctrine. That critical belief was the fact that Christ died on the stake and was resurrected after three days and three nights.

This was always the principle core doctrine of the faith. It was a conviction that led an enormous numbers of believers, over countless centuries, to dedicate their lives to Christ. Moreover, it has always been the primary hope of all who professed Christ down through the ages to this day.

Belief in Christ's resurrection was also the basis for the conviction that believers would also experience their own resurrection from death. However, in our modern age, details regarding the faith and even many basic doctrines have become muddled and unclear to many.

For example, a recent poll taken by Thomas Hargrove and Guido H. Stempel presents a surprising jolt of reality. These two pollsters surveyed all the various denominations identifying themselves as Christian. The results were shocking—if not outrageous. The survey's conclusion revealed that a majority of Americans no longer believe in the resurrection at all. As their detailed report clearly states:

“Most Americans don’t believe they will experience a resurrection of their bodies ...putting them at odds with a core teaching of Christianity.” ...“Only 36 percent of the 1,007 adults interviewed a month ago by the Scripps Survey Research Center at Ohio University said “yes” to the question: “Do you believe that, after you die, your physical body will be resurrected someday?” “Fifty-four percent said they do not believe, and 10 percent were undecided.” (As the author states) “...I continually am confronted by Christians, even active members of major churches, who have never heard this taught in their local congregations,” Mohler said. “We have a lowest-common-denominator Christianity being taught in so many denominations that (it) has produced a people who simply do not know...Christian truths.” <https://albertmohler.com/2006/04/07/do-christians-still-believe-in-the-resurrection-of-the-body/ret12-4-2017>

There absolutely is a Resurrection from the Dead!

Take a good long look at those shocking survey numbers, then consider how far many professing Christians have drifted in their knowledge of the Bible. Consider one absolutely ironic example. Easter is one of the most important religious holidays for most professing Christians. Thus, it is outright shocking to see millions celebrating this holiday every year that is solidly based on an occurrence that the majority does not really believe is true. In that context, we ask you to read the booklet, *Easter or Passover*.

If anything is certain about Christ, it is that there is documented secular, and historical, proof of the His life and

resurrection. Moreover, the Scriptures boldly declare there is a similar resurrection awaiting those who sincerely follow His teachings.

In fact, the resurrection is such an integral part of the Bible that the word appears 41 times in the Scriptures. Find further documentation by reading *The Historical Jesus*.

In that context, notice just one of the Bible's 41 verses speaking of the resurrection that boldly declared that Christ was resurrected. The Apostle Paul proclaimed:

Concerning his Son Jesus **Christ our Lord**, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And **declared to be the Son of God with power**, according to the spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead** (Romans 1:3-4)

It's spiritually heartbreaking to see muddled beliefs uttered by those who claim to accept the Bible as God's Word. In many cases, among those who do claim to believe the Bible, their views differ from God's Holy Book as much as individual Christians differ among themselves. Consider:

Evangelical writer Eric Metaxas remarked on BreakPoint last week that if Americans took a theology exam, their only hope of passing would be if God graded on a curve. He's right. In knowing both the content of the Bible and the doctrinal foundations of Christianity, we Americans aren't just at the bottom of our class. We are, as Ross Douthat argues in his book, "Bad Religion," a nation of heretics."

(<http://thefederalist.com/2016/10/10/survey-finds-american-christians-actually-heretics/ret/12-4-2017>)

Metaxas makes a valid point. While the resurrection is repeatedly stated in scripture, believers hold widely, differing viewpoints. Few know when Christ was actually raised. A smaller number know where He is now, or what authority He has. Further, of those who claim to believe in the resurrection, few know when the resurrection takes place, what form individuals are raised in, or which resurrection they'll attain.

Paradoxically, those claiming to believe in a resurrection also think that at death, a person's soul goes to either heaven or hell. By such reasoning, they unknowingly omit the resurrection altogether. The vast number of professing Christians who are confused about the resurrection brings us back to this booklet's purpose. While some might believe in a resurrection, few understand that there is more than one. Continue reading and see proof that there are three.

Clearing up the Basic Misunderstandings

Before offering proof that there are three resurrections addressed in the Bible, the most notorious misconceptions need to be addressed. With all the various denominations in professing Christianity, there are dozens of views regarding end-time events. In such a mêlée, it must be admitted that, with so many differing opinions, they can't all be correct. Some must be wrong! Therefore, what this work attempts to do in the next few pages, is to focus on those errors that are primary and most obviously incorrect.

Do People Go to Either Heaven or Hell When They Die?

Most professing Christians believe that those with faith in Jesus will go to heaven when they die. Many are also hold the opinion that unbelievers will be sent to an ever burning hell. However, the modern concept of hell did not come from the Bible. Rather, it emerged from *The Divine Comedy*, in which Dante tells a fictional story of a descent into 9 levels of agony, suffered for eternity, by those with various character defects. Designed to unmask the king, the play left its mark on religion. As the Catholic Church states:

The power of the sacred poem in popularizing Catholic theology and Catholic philosophy, and rendering it acceptable, or at least intelligible to non-Catholics, is at the present day almost incalculable (Catholic Encyclopedia, Dante Alighieri).



Humans Are Not Immortal

What few understand about hell is that it simply refers to a hollowed out grave in the earth, not an ever burning place in the Devil's abode. More important to understand is that, humans are not immortal. For example, God told the first humans that if they took of the tree of good and evil, they **would die**. Once they ate of the tree, God explained that they would return to the dust from which they were made (Gen. 3:3, 19).

Thus, no one goes to a burning hell fire at death. Neither do they go to heaven. While the Scriptures state that the spirit in us goes back to God who gave it, the spirit in man is not an immortal soul (Ecc. 12:7). Rather, it is the power that God gave man's mind to be able to communicate, invent, and build his own creations (1Cor. 2:11). When that spirit goes back to God, it is inert. There is no conscious thought in death. As the Psalmists states:

Put not your trust in princes, *nor* in the son of man, in whom *there is* no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish (Psalm 146:3-4).

The dead no longer exist. However, God can and will resurrect all who ever lived when it's their time. For now, the dead are extinct, awaiting one of three resurrections.

Is There a Secret Rapture or a Resurrection?

Whenever Bible readers find a word used by theologians that is not literally in the Bible, be wary! This is the case with the rapture theory. It is actually a false belief regarding the end time, but one accepted by many who

profess Christ. It was originally suggested as a theory derived from the term “caught up” that is used in a single verse in the Bible written by Paul who states:

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first**: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord (1Thessalonians 4:16-17).

The word caught up means to seize catch, away, up, pluck, pull, or take to (by force). It is never translated rapture in any of the respected texts. However, for some reason these words were interpreted as rapture a late as the early 1800’s. The concept was first conceived by a 15 year old girl who was ill and in bed. She saw dreams or visions and spoke in tongues. John Darby heard of it and started preaching the theory. Later Scofield also got on board, teaching that Christians would be miraculously taken to heaven prior to a seven year tribulation on the earth. However, the context of this verse shows the very opposite. For example, there is a shout, and a trumpet—at the resurrection not a secret rapture. Notice too how this entire idea does not fit with other verses. Christ taught the resurrection would occur at His return, at the 7th trump—thus ending the tribulation:

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, and the powers of the heavens shall be

shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other** (Matthew 24:29-31).

In Matthew's account, the resurrection occurs at the end of the tribulation. The dead are raised from their graves first, only then will those alive be changed to spirit and be with Christ (I Cor. 15:48-49).

Thus, it is clear that the Apostle Paul spoke of the resurrection in Thessalonians, and it that it takes place after the tribulation, not before. However, Rapture advocates use one other verse to justify their teaching that believer will be taken to heaven before the tribulation occurs. It is when Luke repeats Christ's words about the tribulation, then states:

I tell you, in that night there shall be two *men* in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two *women* shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two *men* shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left (Luke 17:34-36).

What few understand is where to place these verses to fit in the flow of prophecy. While God promises to protect those faithful Christians alive at the start of the great tribulation, He does not take them to heaven. They are

miraculously taken just like Lot was—grabbed by the hand of angels and miraculously transported outside the city.

Lot was taken to a place on earth as those taken in Luke 17 will be. John also described this event in the verses below. There the term woman refers to God's Church, and a great eagle, an angel (Exo. 19:4; Rev. 4:7; Rev. 12:6). John reveals that God's faithful are alive before the tribulation, and relocated **to a place on earth** by an angel:

And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent (Revelation 12:14).

Those who teach the rapture theory have integrated two separate events as if they were one. Those taken to a place on earth are not raptured. Those raised from the dead or changed to spirit are not raptured, they are resurrected.

Is This the Only Time Salvation Will Be Offered?

Many professing Christians send missionaries over the world to convert Indians, African Tribes, Jews, Islamists, and others to Christ. They put enormous effort, money, and time into converting others to Christ.

As shocking as it may sound to new readers, God is not trying to save the world right now. Ironically, many churches claiming to be Christian teach that God and Satan are in a war with one another. In their view, God is trying to save everyone saved, while the Devil is trying to get everyone lost. However, consider that if God were actually trying to save the entire world, the world would be saved!

God is not at war with Satan. It is true that Satan once declared war on God, but quickly found himself violently thrust back to earth. As Jesus said, He saw Satan fall from heaven like lightening (Luke 10:18). Most of us have seen lightening fall, it seems almost instantaneous. Whenever, we see lightening, we should remember this statement of Christ and this great truth. There is no power but God!

Regarding this concept, use logic for a moment. There are approximately seven billion people on earth at this moment. In contrast, there are only just over two billion professing Christians. If God were trying to save the world, these numbers look like a dreadful failure. On another level, consider how many different professing Christian Churches there are. According to one estimate, researchers found there were 38,000 different Christian churches in the world. Further, each of those churches must offer something different to justify not joining in with others. Thus, most of the 38,000 must have thousands of man-made errors.

Readers must understand the importance of these numbers. It shows one simple truth. God is not working with all the people in the world today. Neither is He working in every professing Christian Church. This truth brings us to the purpose of this booklet. His Majesty created this universe, and made mankind upon it. Our maker then became one of us. He became a baby, grew into manhood and gave Himself over to the savagery of the Roman Lictor and the brutal Crucifixion to save “all” of humanity.

It is God's Desire that all be Saved

Christ's sacrifice for mankind makes an incredible statement on its own. That statement is that God's intention

is to save as many people as will join Him in living the way of life that He advocates—a life of love, kindness, and respect for His laws. In truth, His way, is the only way that life can be lived forever in harmony.

In God's vast wisdom, He is allowing the majority of mankind to first experience a world in which men make their own decisions, their own laws, and follow their own ways. By this, all humanity will learn the enormous lesson that our way does not work. The vast majority will eventually accept Christ as King and live the way of life He does.

In that context, God's plan for humanity incorporates three stages of Salvation for all people over time. For example in our age, God is only calling a few to Salvation.

As with any movement, or group, members look to growth as justification, and encouragement, for their cause. This is particularly true in the religious community, and it was just as true in Christ's time. In fact, it is possible that it could very well have been a desire to attract more followers that motivated Christ's disciples to question the technique He used in teaching. As Matthew recorded:

And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but **to them it is not given**. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And **in them is fulfilled the**

prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; **lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted,** and I should heal them. But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear (Matthew 13:10-16).

When Christ was on earth, only His 12 disciples and a few others followed Him. He was not trying to convert people. He was not attempting to gain a following. He was not trying to get everyone saved. He spoke in parables so that people would NOT understand. He later explained the meaning to His disciples and this method was for this vital reason—Christ is not trying to save everyone now!

In this stage of God's plan of salvation, God is only "calling" a limited number of people. These mainly consist of the weaker people of the world. As Paul explained:

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that **not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:** But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things

that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence (1Corinthians 1:26-29).

The First Resurrection

If Bible students inspect the first chapter of each of Paul's epistles, they will find him speaking to those who are "called." In other words Christ's policy is not "come one come all." God personally calls those He chooses to understand His plan of a spiritual kingdom and to eventually join with those He has worked with through the centuries.

What's more, those who are called to understand, during their lifetime, are to strive to think like and live like, Christ while they are in this world that has gone so wrong. It is by this that they will qualify to be chosen to be part of what Scriptures call the first resurrection.

Further, those Christ chooses from among those who are called in this age will be used by Him in His millennial Kingdom to assist millions of others in learning to live God's way in preparation for their time of judgment.

God will eventually give all humanity an opportunity for salvation. However, those called and chosen in this age will be resurrected from the dead—just as Christ was. However, they are **just the first** of God's harvest of mankind. As James wrote:

Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that **we should be a kind of firstfruits** of his creatures (James 1:18).

In his letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul further explained. He stated that death comes upon all men. However, by Christ's sacrifice, and resurrection, faithful believers down through the ages shall be made alive again.

For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ shall all be made alive. But, every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits;** afterward they that are Christ's at his coming (1Corinthians 15:21-23).

First, notice that there is an order in the resurrections of the dead. Christ is the first, and *Vine's Dictionary of the New Testament* states that, in this case, firstfruits means to make a beginning... the earliest of the crop. This reveals that Christ is spoken of in an analogy. He was represented by the wave sheaf offering, spoken of in Leviticus 23—the first to be harvested from the earth and those in the first resurrection are considered part of Christ's resurrection—the first crop of mankind. However these will not be resurrected until Christ returns for them after the Great Tribulation.

At Christ's return, those in the first resurrection will be raised from the dead, or suddenly changed if alive. They will be made Spirit beings just as Christ was. Notice the Apostle Paul's description of their new body:

But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and **with what body do they come?** *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but *there is one kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes,

and another of birds. *There are* also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. *There is* one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for *one* star differeth from *another* star in glory. **So also is the resurrection of the dead.** It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: **It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body** (1Co 15:35-44)

Christ was resurrected as a Spirit Being, and those who are raised at His return will follow His pattern. The dead in Christ will be part of the first resurrection. They too will be raised to life, and miraculously changed to Spirit.

The Second Resurrection

The fact that Scripture speaks of a first resurrection, automatically implies that there is another. Those who are first will assist Christ as He takes over the nations of the world and rules as their King for a thousand years. After the thousand years, the rest of the dead who did not commit the unpardonable sin will be raised to live again. The Apostle John makes this clear while still speaking of the first resurrection, he refers to a second resurrection, stating:

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This (the one at Christ's return) *is* the first resurrection. Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall

be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years (Revelation 20:5-6).

Notice that the verse above speaks of **the rest of the dead** not living until **after** Christ's thousand year reign on earth. The rest of the dead refers to all the people who ever lived and were not in the first resurrection. This assembly will amount to multiple billions of human beings.

The Scriptures give yet another witness to this second resurrection. They depict that the billions who have died and have lain in their graves for thousands of years will live again. Notice Ezekiel's prophecy speaking of the ancient Israelites who, for the most part, rejected Christ in this life. They will live again, but only after Christ's millennial reign:

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which *was* full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and, lo, *they were* very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, **I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:** And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that *I am* the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to

his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. **Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye *shall live*,** and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*, and performed *it*, saith the LORD (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

It is important to focus on a few issues in these verses. (1) This event takes place at the end of Christ's 1,000 year reign. (2) The people will be raised in their physical bodies—not Spirit. (3) While the verse above refers to Israel, they are only part of “**the rest of the dead.**” God will raise every human who ever lived and died—even those aborted. He is only speaking of the people of Israel because they are the

primary individuals the book of Ezekiel is addressed to. Thus, these verses, serve as a type, picturing the entire rest of humanity being raised.

Why a Second Resurrection?

Those who have lived during this present era, which is prior to Christ's return, have only experienced Satan's world. Most of what humanity has been taught about Christ has, either been vague, or a complete falsehood. Further, all who ever lived have witnessed various forms of false religion, war, disease, violence, greed, and abuses of every kind. All have lived in societies in which each individual learns that he or she must look out for themselves alone.

Of course most people who lived during these various generations did not take God seriously. The reason is that the Almighty has not actually been the god of this world. From the time of the Garden of Eden, Satan has held sway over every civilization on earth (2 Cor. 4:4; Mat. 4:8-9).

From the beginning, most of humanity has followed the Devils ways, and most of what each person has seen has been sorrow. Therefore, God is not judging them during their time on earth. Instead, He will raise them after He has ruled the nations for a thousand years, after he has put an end to war disease, and crime. Only then will individuals see God's way, and make the choice to live either His way or Satan's.

God's plan is formed so that the choices people make will be entirely valid. God will rule for 1,000 years, and the world will conform to His standards. All will see His way of life in action. Then, Satan who was restrained during the millennium will be released (Rev. 20:1-3, 7). He will cause those dissatisfied with God's way to rise up in a war against

Christ (Ezek 38-39). In this way, each and every person will be able to make their decision for or against Christ, having truly experienced both ways of life—God’s and Satan’s.

A Third resurrection

God’s plan is entirely fair to everyone. All who ever lived will have their chance to experience both God’s way of life and Satan’s way. Of those, some will be so corrupt that they will reject God’s way of love and giving. Still, even they will have their chance. Every person will eventually have the opportunity to experience both a righteous, and unselfish, life during the time of the second resurrection.

Finally when all who have ever lived have revealed their choice, God will bring all the physical creation to an end. He will produce a final third resurrection that will include those who have chosen Satan’s way of taking from others. It will include those who committed the unpardonable sin, and were never in the first or second resurrection. It will include those who rebelled during the second resurrection.

Most important, the third resurrection will also include the magnificent vast majority—hundreds of billions of people who will have fully accepted God’s way during the second resurrection. Both those who are loyal to God and those who are not will be raised for the purpose of judgment. As the Apostle John explains:

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).

This third resurrection is the most often described in the Bible. Perhaps that is the reason some people become so confused about this issue. Consider Daniel's description:

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and 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** (Daniel 12:1-2).

This is the same resurrection that Christ speaks of in the gospel of Matthew. There He states:

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he **sit upon the throne of his glory**: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate

them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall **the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...** 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 25:31-41).

As an aside, the verse above also states that this lake of fire is prepared for the Devil and his angels. In other words, God will prepare a unique lake of fire that can destroy the Devil and his angels.

Remember that in Revelation 20, this resurrection is a judgment to either life or death. For those who die it is the second death. Thus, the Devil and his angels will also die in this extraordinary, miraculous, and massive lake of fire. For further evidence, please read the booklet *Satan's Fate*.

John the Baptist also understood this final resurrection. He is quoted as saying:

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and **gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire** (Matthew 3:11-12).

A Misunderstanding Corrected

A mistake in understanding has been made by many who embrace the truth that there are three resurrections. However, in our continuing quest to understand God's truth, we learn over time. Therefore, it is natural that we make mistakes along the way. Such mistakes must be admitted and corrected to continue growing in the truth. In that context, consider two verses once thought to refer to the second resurrection, that in retrospect was found that they were not:

The men of Nineveh **shall rise in judgment with this generation**, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here (Matthew 12:41-42).

The queen of the south shall **rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation**, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here. The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here (Luke 11:31-32).

For decades, these verses have been used as evidence of the second resurrection. As we originally studied, we saw that all generations were in existence at the same time. Since this will be the case with those in the second resurrection, we assumed this was speaking of that resurrection.

Where we erred was that we did not recognize that this is also the case in the third resurrection. Further, the words used in these verses clearly point to the time of the third resurrection. For example, these are all risen together, but not in their original nation, but in close proximity so as to speak to one another. This occurs in the third resurrection, not the second (Compare Mat. 12:41-42; and Ezek. 37). In addition, the word "rise" means to "stand up, and to **rise again.**" This would only refer to those who had already risen once before, in the second resurrection, and now are raised again for judgment.

Finally, the term Judgment makes another point clear. These

A Short Recapitulation

In these few pages, it has been demonstrated that there are three resurrections. The first of these includes a small number of those personally called by God from the beginning of humanity. These are impregnated by God's Spirit and are called to produce God-like character in their lives, putting nothing before God. The purpose of this resurrection will be to mold leaders for the rest of God's plan. They will be raised from the dead at the seventh trump, and will rule with Christ during His Millennial reign on the earth as divine Spirit Beings.

The second resurrection is to give all humanity an opportunity for salvation. It occurs after the end of Christ's thousand year reign on earth. It will be composed of all humanity who did not commit an unpardonable sin.

This resurrection is to flesh, and for the first time, the nations will learn to worship Christ and live by His law. During this period, they will finally witness God's way as it is lived by all people. They will see the goodness and majesty of His Kingdom, and the vast majority will accept God's way. However, this is also a time of testing for all, and some will resist God.

Finally there will be a third resurrection of all those who ever lived. All humanity, the good and the evil, and the angels that sinned will stand together to be judged for eternal life or death in the lake of fire. At this time, the earth and physical creation will be burned up and a new creation made.

By these three resurrections, those who did not personally see Christ, but were called to believe, and sought to overcome in Satan's world, even to the death, will be rulers in Christ's Kingdom. They will assist the Savior in

bringing others to the truth. All mankind will finally be able to see God's way in contrast to Satan's way, and make their choice. All who chose God's way will be His sons and daughters and live forever. Those who reject God's way will perish in the enormous lake of fire.

Regarding those who suffer the lake of fire, it should be understood they will not be punished eternally. Their end is death—no more existence, thought, or consciousness.

A Magnificent Future Awaits

Those who are judged to have chosen God's way of life will live forever, but not on this physical earth. The physical will have been done away, and those God saves will be spirit and eternal. They will be privileged to live in God's new creation—a new heavens and earth—and in it a New Jerusalem. As the Apostle John prophesied:

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said

unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (Revelation 21:1-8).