

RESURRECTIONS



**A BIBLICAL EXAMINATION
OF THE RESURRECTION
OF THE DEAD**

By Dr. Dan Arbogast

FACTS CONCERNING THE ANTICHRIST

WHO WILL HE BE, AND WILL THE CHURCH SEE HIM?

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

"That day," in verse three, is in reference to the seven year tribulation. The man of sin, who is the antichrist, will not be revealed until that day comes. The church will be taken at the rapture prior to the tribulation.

The church will not know who he is.

In verses six and seven of the same chapter we are told that the "withholder," and, "he who letteth," will be taken out of the way. That is in reference to the Holy Spirit.

In verse eight we are told, "And then shall that wicked one be revealed."

The wicked one, who is that man of sin, and the, son of perdition, will not be revealed until the Holy Spirit is removed.

If the Holy Spirit is removed, so is every member of the church. Jesus Christ said the Holy Spirit would be in and with every saved born again child of God. If He is removed, so is the church. The Lord said He, the Holy Spirit, would never leave us. (ref. John 14:15-17)

HIS MANY NAMES

The name antichrist, which is mostly used, comes from 1 John 2:18-22 4:3 2 John 7.

The name means simply, "against Christ." More specifically, it means, "hard against, and over against."

In 1 John we are told that anyone who is against Christ is an antichrist. We are also told that there is "A" antichrist who will come.

Revelation 11:7.

2 Thessalonians chapter two calls him the, "man of sin, the son of perdition, the mystery of iniquity, and the wicked one."

He is also the rider on the horse of Revelation chapter six.

HIS POWER AND AUTHORITY

His power and authority comes from Satan. 2 Thessalonians 2:9.

Therefore, he will be a manifestation of the personality of Satan in the flesh and blood body of a man.

In Revelation chapter twelve verses twelve and thirteen, we see the devil is cast out of heaven into the earth. At this time he will indwell the antichrist physically.

We must remember however, all these things are done by the will of God and he has absolute control over his word.

HIS PERSONALITY

Since he will be a manifestation of Satan, he will take on the personality of Satan. He will have the personality of the old devil, even before he is literally indwelt by him. He will be everything the devil is in human form.

He will exalt himself above God.... Ref. Isaiah 14:9-17 2 Thessalonians 2:4

He will be pride filled and puffed up.... Ezekiel 28:11-19 2 Thessalonians 2:4

HIS PERSONALITY cont.

Since he will be a manifestation of satan, he will think and act like satan. He will have all the attributes of satan.

He perverts and distorts the word of God and hinders the truth of the gospel. Ref. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 Matthew 4:6 13:19 2 Corinthians 4:4

Is a deceiver, a liar, and a murderer. John 8:44 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 1 Kings 22:22

HIS NATIONALITY, CITIZENSHIP, ETC.

Since Jesus Christ was the Messiah Israel was looking for, and they rejected him, they are still looking for their Messiah. The antichrist will appear to be the Messiah they are looking for. They will accept him as the long awaited King of Israel. Ref. Daniel 9:24-27

Therefore, he must be Jewish, and he will be. Ref. Ezekiel 21:25-27 Daniel 11:37,38

He will also be an Assyrian. He will be a Jew of Assyrian citizenship. This is only logical since he must also be accepted by the Arabian nations and particularly the Muslims, who also reject Christ. Ref. Isaiah 10:5-27. Notice the words "in that day,"

He will not be married, and considering his nature, will probably be homosexual. Daniel 11:37

He will be intellectual and a great speaker Daniel 8:23 (Antiochus was a type of the antichrist) Daniel 11:21 11 Thessalonians 2:9

He will be a military and political genius. Daniel chapters seven and eight, Revelation 6:2 Revelation chapters thirteen and seventeen.

three years, in the middle of the seven year tribulation, he will be physically indwelt by Satan, the devil, who is called the serpent and the dragon. Revelation 12:9 2 Thessalonians 2:9

some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

John 5:28,29 Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in 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.

There are two resurrections mentioned in the Bible. The resurrection of life and the resurrection of death, or damnation. Both are eternal according to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of life is called the first resurrection, and the second resurrection is called the second death.

Revelation 20:5,6 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that 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.

The first resurrection has to do with all of those who are saved by faith in the finished work of Christ on the Cross. These are called the "just", and those who have "done good." They are just and good because they have believed the Word of God and put their trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross for their sins.

The second death, which is the second resurrection, is made up of all those who are lost in their sins because they reject salvation by faith in Christ, because they refuse to believe the Word of God.

However, there are some things we must consider. These are, the resurrection of the church, which we call the rapture, and the resurrection of the just who lose their lives during the seven year tribulation. There is also the resurrection of Israel as a nation, prior to their inheriting the Kingdom for one thousand years.

There are also other resurrections we must consider, such as the two witnesses, who have a resurrection in the middle of the seven year tribulation. What part do they have in the first resurrection, since they would be considered part of the group called the just?

If there is to be a resurrection, then it is a resurrection from what? How and where do we fit in? When and where do these resurrections take place? How do we know there will be a resurrection?

There will be a resurrection because of the resurrection of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen.

1 Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.

1 Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

There will be a resurrection of the just because Christ, the first fruits, rose from the dead. There will also be a resurrection of the unjust, because Christ said so.

It is also important to note the words, "every man in his own order."

THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

If while we wait for the resurrection, where do we go? Do we cease to exist? Are we in a state of limbo, or a state of trance? Are we aware of our existence?

In Luke chapter sixteen we have the account of the just and the unjust who have died. The saved and the lost. They were awaiting their resurrection. The one was a rich man who died in his sins because he did not believe God's Word.

The other two men mentioned were Abraham and a man by the name of Lazarus.

Luke 16:22,23 And it came to pass that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom; the rich man also died and was buried;

And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

The word hell in verse twenty three is a mistranslation. It is the Greek word Hades. Hades is the equivalent of the Hebrew word Sheol. It is not only a literal place, it is also a condition. Let us consider some points.

1. Abraham and Lazarus were being comforted. The rich man was in torment.
2. They were all very much aware of their state.
3. They could still think, and communicate, and feel, and act.

Hades was the temporary abode of those awaiting a resurrection. It still is for some. Hades, which is the same as Sheol, the Hebrew word for the same place, is where everyone went upon death, until the Cross.

When Christ went to the Cross things changed. On the Cross Christ told the thief, "today shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)

When Christ died on the Cross he went to the paradise side of Hades. He did not go to hell as some people ignorantly assume. There was no reason for Christ to go to torment.

NOTE: This is not a study on hell. For a complete Biblical examination of hell see the book. A Biblical Examination of Hell by Dr. Max D. Younce

This is a study on resurrections. We must examine however, the abode of departed souls in order to see where a resurrection occurs from. For further review, see the resurrection chart on the foldout page.

When Christ died on the Cross he told the thief he would be with him in Paradise.

Christ also said, when he predicted his death, burial, and resurrection, that he would be in the center of the earth.

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth

Since Christ was three days and nights in the heart of the earth, and he went to Paradise, then we must assume, according to the Bible, Sheol, which is Hades, was in the heart of the earth.

Hades had two compartments. One was Paradise, and the other was torment. According to Luke 16:26 there was a great gulf (a distance or barrier) between the Paradise side and the torment side of Hades.

RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

When the three days and nights were ended Christ made his appearance from the grave. He became the first fruits of them that slept. That is, all of the Old Testament saints, who had already died, and the first fruits of the New Testament saints who were to die, including those who will die during the seven year tribulation.

An Old Testament saint went to the Paradise side of Sheol upon death.
NOTE: The word Sheol is mistranslated as grave 29 times in the Old Testament.

their resurrection in a place called Sheol, in the Old Testament, and Hades, in the Greek New Testament.

It will be the Cross, the blood of Christ, and the Word of God that judges which resurrection a person will be in.

Everyone who died before the Cross went to Sheol. The saved went to Paradise, the lost went to torment. According to Christ, they were in the heart of the earth. Christ went to the paradise side when he died on the Cross.

Unlike mankind, Christ body did not suffer decay. When we die our body begins to decay. Within three days the process has already begun. That is why Christ rose from the grave in three days. After all, He was God in the flesh. (Psalm 16:10 49:9 Acts 2:27 13:35)

Unfortunately, the Word of God becomes confused when ignorant or demonic motivated men pervert the Word. Many claim Christ went to hell to pay for our sins upon death. The Bible specifically states he went Paradise.

Many claim Hades is the same as hell and the final abode of the lost. At one time both the saved and the lost were in Hades. (Sheol)

Also, because the translators have mistranslated the word Sheol as grave over 29 times in the Old Testament, false doctrine exists. Many claim there is no life after death, only the grave, or cessation of life.

Matthew 27:51-53 And behold the Veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks were rent.

And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints that slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

After Christ arose, many of the Old Testament saints arose and appeared in Jerusalem to many. However, Christ had to rise first. "after his resurrection."

Many of the Old Testament saints appeared, proving there is a resurrection.

PARADISE

The Bible called them saints. Therefore, they were saved and just. They are part of the first resurrection. However, was this a resurrection? The Bible said they rose from their graves and were seen by many.

The rich man wanted Lazarus to go tell his family they need to know about the gospel. Of course he could not go. Nobody returns to this life. There is one death. Everyone must die a physical death. (Romans 6:23 Hebrews 9:27 along with 1 Corinthians 15:12-41)

There is also a spiritual death, and that is separation from God for eternity. It is called the second death and the second resurrection. Everyone is spiritually dead until they trust Christ as their Savior.

Abraham and Lazarus believed the gospel and went to Paradise. The rich man did not, and went to torment.

Paradise is no longer in Hades. After Christ was glorified and ascended into heaven, he took Paradise with him. (Acts 1:9 Ephesians 4:8)

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 that he was caught up into the third heaven, "into paradise."

Paradise is no longer in the heart of the earth. (Sheol, Hades) It is in heaven. The Old Testament saints who were there because they believed in the gospel are now in heaven

THE FIRST RESURRECTION

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

The word 'part' in verse six is from the Greek word 'meros' and it means to **receive as an allotment, to share in, a division.**

Paradise has taken their part in the first resurrection. They have taken their allotment, and shared in the resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

The word for 'order' is the Greek word 'tagma', and it means a **troop, division, company.**

1 Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.

Christ the first fruits. Every man in his own order. Afterward, they that are Christ's at his coming.

Matthew states that many of the Old Testament saints rose from the grave and were seen in Jerusalem. They had a resurrection. A resurrection does not mean they came back to life. It means they received a new body. In most cases in the New Testament the Greek word for resurrection is 'anastasis,' and it means a standing up again, to rise from the dead.

However, that does not completely explain the meaning of the word. The resurrection is more than that.

Paul explains the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:35-50. He compares the resurrection to planting seeds. The simple matter is, we must die physically, lose our earthly bodies, and receive new bodies that will be eternal.

When we die and leave this earth, we do not quit existing, we simply lose our old bodies. The naturally sinful bodies we live in on this earth are not allowed in the eternal presence of God. For those who are not saved, the naturally sinful bodies we live in could not survive the fires of hell.

In Leviticus 23:9-22 we see the order of the feasts of the harvest. Israel was to observe these feasts annually.

1. The feast of first fruits. 9-14. This was symbolic of Christ the first fruits, and was fulfilled at his resurrection.

2. The wave offerings. 15-21 The wave loaves were the feast of the full harvest. They were symbolic of the second part of the first resurrection, which we call the rapture of the church. It began on the day of Pentecost, so did the church age. There were two loaves, which is symbolic of the church being made up of Jew and Gentile.

3. The gleanings. 22 The third part of the first resurrection will take place at the end of the seven year tribulation. The gleaning is symbolic of this resurrection.

We have already seen the fulfillment of the feast of first fruits. The next part is soon to take place.

The Old Testament saints in Paradise were not dead, they were alive and awaiting their new bodies. Physical death is not the end.

THE WAVE LOAVES

The second part of the first resurrection will be the church. The church age is a different dispensation in the plan of God. Paul calls it the dispensation of the grace of God. (Eph. 3:2)

In this dispensation salvation is the same as any dispensation. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved. This dispensation will end with the church being gathered together in the air.

The church will have their part in the first resurrection, in their own order.

Most people call this the rapture of the church. The most familiar verses pertaining to this event are....(1 Corinthians 15:51,52 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

However, there are many other Scripture references that have to do with the rapture of the church. We will look at a few, however, we must remember that Daniel 12:2 and John 5:28,29 are not in reference to the rapture, they refer to a resurrection in general.

The church and the church age were a mystery to the Old Testament saints. A mystery means 'a truth concealed until the time revealed.' The mystery of the church was not revealed until after Pentecost.

1 Corinthians 15:51,52 Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The first thing we notice are the words, "Behold I show you a mystery." Paul was, for the first time, revealing the truth of the rapture, to the church at Corinth. These words, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit, and written for, not only the Church at Corinth, but the entire church.

There are three questions we must address concerning this mystery. They are....
1. When will this event take place? 2. How will it take place? 3. And why will it take place?

We must remember that the church age and the rapture are no longer a mystery. All of the New Testament truths are now revealed in the complete Word of God. The Bible, which is the Word of God, was complete around 95 A.D. with the book of Revelation. Now we have a complete account of God's plan for the ages.

HOW, WHEN, WHY

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also who sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them who are asleep.

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 who 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.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The previous verses will answer most of our questions. There are many other portions of Scripture that deal with the rapture, even though some are brief. The following is a list of some... (Romans 8:1-39 Ephesians 1:3-14 Colossians 1:12-14 2 Thessalonians 2:1,2 Titus 2:13)

How... When the rapture takes place, the Lord will descend from heaven, bringing with him all those who have trusted Christ as Savior and died. 'sleep in Jesus' They will receive their new bodies in an instant.

Then, the saved who are alive at that time will receive their new bodies, and will ascend to meet the Lord and the others in the air.

Please notice, "them also who sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." They are in heaven, and with the Lord, even though they have not received their bodies.

They will receive their bodies first. ... "that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them who are asleep."

"...the dead in Christ shall rise first;..."

The entire church will be gathered together at one time. Those who are alive at the time will be gathered together with those who have died.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him.

When it is time for the church to be gathered together, those who are alive on the earth will hear a shout. It will be the voice of God, saying, "Come." There may even be the sound of a trumpet. We do not know, except, it will be a distinct sound. Those who have died in Christ will come with him in the air. They will receive their new bodies first, then those who are alive will be changed, then we will meet them in the air.

The Lord will have his church together as one. The church will not have separate resurrections as some believe. The church is called the bride and the body of Christ. The Lord will not take a broken body or half a bride. It will be complete. (Romans 12:4,5 1 Corinthians 10:16,17 12:13,27 Ephesians 1:10 4:4,12 5:30)

It will be in an instant. The lost will not see the rapture. In 1 Corinthians 1:51,52 there are two words that need to be defined. They are the words 'moment,' and, 'twinkling.'

Twinkling = Grk. Rhipe ... a jerk of the eye. A jerk of the eye is 11/100 of a second. The lost world will not see the rapture of the church.

Moment = Grk. Atomos ... Indivisible, uncut. The church will not be divided. The Greek word atomos is where scientist got the English word atom. Originally, scientists thought the atom was un-divisible, not able to be split.

WHEN.. We do not know when the rapture takes place. We only know it will take place before the seven year tribulation begins. In answering the question when, we will also answer the question why, or much rather, the Bible will answer these questions.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Paul explains to the church at Thessalonica that they had not missed the rapture of the church, and they were not going into the tribulation, or the time of God's wrath.

He then explains to them, and us, how this time period in history will begin to unravel.

The following is a verse by verse account of the unfolding future events.

2:1 The gathering together of the church; the rapture.

2:2,3 The day of the Lord (the day of Christ is a mistranslation) will not come unless there come the falling away first. The day of the Lord is the Old Testament promise of the Lord's wrath upon the earth. The falling away comes from the Greek word 'apostasia,' which has various meanings, one of which is, departure.

The Greek dictionary defines apostasia as a 'standing off'. Some claim it is a departure from the faith. The context however, is the gathering of the church prior to the tribulation. The departure is the departure of the church.

2:3,4 The falling away, the gathering of the church, must take place first. Then the man of sin will be revealed. This is the antichrist of Revelation. He will be a manifestation of satan. (ref. Also 2:8-12)

2:5-7 However, before the antichrist is revealed, the Holy Spirit will be removed. The Holy Spirit is the 'with-holder' of verse six. He is also the, 'one who now letteth,' in verse seven.

The 'Withholder' means the same as restrainer. The Holy Spirit is the restrainer of sin and ungodliness. He is the one who convicts us of our sin. Without the Holy Spirit in the world today, things would be absolutely chaotic.

In verse seven the word 'letteth' means to hinder. The Holy Spirit is the one who hinders the working of satan and his demons.

Before the antichrist will be revealed, the Holy Spirit will be removed. If the Holy Spirit is removed, so is the church. Jesus Christ said the Holy Spirit would be in, and with, every believer. He also said the Holy Spirit would "abide with you forever."

If the Holy Spirit is removed, so is the church of Christ. He will never leave the saved, born again, child of God. (John 14:16,17,26)

When will the rapture take place? Just before the seven year tribulation begins.

WHY? Why will the church be removed before the tribulation begins? As we have already stated, rather the Bible has stated, The Holy Spirit will be removed. The Holy Spirit will be removed in order to allow satan to have free reign upon the earth and it's inhabitants. If the Holy Spirit is removed, so is the church.

The seven year tribulation is Old Testament prophecy that is yet to be fulfilled. It is a time of judgement which God has predetermined upon the earth and it's inhabitants. It is called the wrath of God.

The church is not that part of Old Testament prophecy. Concerning the church and the tribulation God says

1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, who delivered us from the wrath to come.
1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

The church is not appointed to the wrath. The wrath, or the wrath to come, is a time of judgement upon all the earth. But not the church

The tribulation will last for seven years. (Daniel 9:24-27) It is also called, "The time of Jacob's trouble." (Jeremiah 30:7) Throughout the Old Testament it is called "that day," and "the day of the Lord." (read Isaiah 13:6-)

It is also called "a day of wrath." It is literally a wrath to come. (Zephaniah 1:1-18)

The church is not appointed to the wrath to come.

At the rapture of the church the second part, or order, of the first resurrection is complete. The third part is soon to take place.

In the book of Revelation in chapters four and five, we see a scene of the church in heaven receiving their crowns and rewards. The church has been raptured, the Holy Spirit has been removed, and the day of wrath is ready to begin.

In Revelation 6:1-16 the first six of the seven seals are opened. This is the first half of the seven year tribulation. (3 1/2 years)

Revelation 6:9,10 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for their testimony which they held.

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

In heaven we see those who died in Christ during the first half of the seven year tribulation. They are under the protection of our altar, Jesus Christ. His blood paid for their sins.

They are asking how long before the tribulation is over because they are looking forward to receiving their glorified bodies. They are awaiting the conclusion of the earths judgement. The answer to them was.....

Revelation 6:11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them that they should rest yet a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

The answer was that they were to wait until those who were to die during the last half of the tribulation was complete.

At the end of the seven years, the third part of the first resurrection will take place. The wrath of God is about to be complete at the battle of Armageddon.

It would be foolish to assume that the first resurrection will be one event and everyone will be involved at the same time. The Bible specifically describes different events for the first resurrection. Even in the middle of the seven year tribulation with the resurrection of two men.

The antichrist will have enough of their testimony and put them to death. They will have a resurrection and ascend into heaven. One cannot enter heaven in this present body of sin. Therefore, they will receive a new body and ascend into heaven and the world will see it. (Revelation 11:3-13 these are the two that Zechariah saw in Zechariah 4:2-14)

During the first half of the seven year tribulation two witnesses will lead many to Christ. Undoubtedly, they will lead the 144,000 to Christ, and 144,000 will lead many more.

Revelation 11:11 And after three days and a half, the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet, and great fear fell upon them who saw them.

THE TWO WITNESSES

The Lord Jesus Christ is about ready to set up the thousand year kingdom. It will not be inhabited by the lost. (Matthew 25:31-46)

It is time for the third part of the first resurrection. Those who have lost their lives for their testimony for Christ during the tribulation will have their resurrection. Those who were under the altar and waiting, and the ones who died during the second half will have their resurrection and serve with Christ in his kingdom, along with the church. (Revelation 6:9-11 with Revelation 20:4)

The ones who go into the kingdom will be sheep and the ones on the Lords right hand in Matthew 25:33,34.

Next, the beast and false prophet will be cast into the lake of fire, (Revelation 19:20) then the entire lost humanity will be cast into lake of fire also.) Rev. 19:20,21 Matthew 25:31-41)

This will be the first time anyone is in the lake of fire. It will be at the end of the tribulation. Anyone who dies in their sins today goes directly into Hades, or Sheol.

NOTE: There will not really be a battle. The Lord will defeat them with the word of his mouth.

Those who are in heaven come with the Lord Jesus Christ. They are called his army. (Revelation 19:11-18 Matthew 24:29-31 Joel 2:1-11)

RESURRECTION OF ISRAEL

When the third part of the first resurrection takes place, another miraculous event takes place at the same time. Israel will be reborn as a nation. This is what Peter thought was taking place on the day of Pentecost.

Those who are under the altar will be resurrected with those who died during the last half of the tribulation. They will reign with Christ for one thousand years, along with the church. (Revelation 20:4)

Since the kingdom was a promise made to Israel, Christ will keep his promise. However, every saved, born again believer, will have a share in the kingdom. The saved Jew who dies before the church age, and those who die during the tribulation will be a part of the nation of Israel who take a part in the kingdom.

NOTE: Many believe that when Christ rose from the grave and many Old Testament saints rose with him, not all of them had a resurrection. Those who have not received their resurrected bodies, will do so when Israel is reborn.

Nevertheless, Israel, as a nation will finally inherit the promised kingdom. There are many references to the kingdom in the Old Testament. The reference to the two resurrections in Daniel 12:2 and John 5:28,29 are in reality Old Testament prophecy. They do not reflect the rapture of the church since the rapture was a mystery. (1 Corinthians 15:51)

The church age, the church, and the rapture of the church, were a mystery to the Old Testament saints.

Isaiah 26:19 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 like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

In this portion of Scripture Isaiah is referring to the rebirth of Israel when they are gathered in the kingdom. (read Isaiah 26:16-21)

In Ezekiel chapter thirty seven the Lord showed Ezekiel a vision of the rebirth of Israel as a nation. He saw a valley full of dry bones. (vs. 1,2) The Lord spoke to the bones. (vs. 3-5) Ezekiel saw flesh come upon the bones and they came to life. (vs. 6-10)

NOTE: There are many types of New Testament truths in the Old Testament. It is ironic that the New Testament truth of the rebirth of the christian is a type of the rebirth of Israel as a nation. It is the Holy Spirit that has a major part in the new birth.

Ezekiel was told to prophesy upon the dry bones. As he did, flesh came upon the bones. Then the wind brought breath into the dry bones, until, finally, there was a great multitude of people.

Then the vision was explained to Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 37:11-14 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 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.

The thousand year kingdom will begin with nothing but saved people. There will be those who were resurrected and have new resurrected bodies, and those who are alive physically.

There will be Jew and Gentile in the kingdom. However, the kingdom reign upon the earth belongs primarily to Israel.

Israel is the woman of Revelation chapter twelve, who God divinely protects from satan.

The 144,000 of Revelation chapters seven and fourteen are Jews.

The Israelite who has trusted Christ as Savior and has died, will reunite with the saved Jew who is alive, and the 'whole house' of Israel will go into the kingdom.

Revelation 20:6 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.

The thousand year kingdom is about ready to begin. The world has been judged. The beast and false prophet have been cast into the lake of fire. The lost world that survived the seven year tribulation has been judged and cast into the lake of fire also.

Satan has been chained in the bottomless pit for one thousand years, during the kingdom.

Most of all, the first resurrection is complete. The second resurrection, called the second death, and the resurrection unto damnation, will take place after the thousand years.

After the thousand years are ended, satan will be loose for a short time.

After one thousand years of a perfect government under the Lord Jesus Christ, a multitude will follow Satan to the final battle. Once again Jerusalem and the Jew will be the focus of the old devil.

Just as the battle of Armageddon was no battle, neither will this be a battle. God will send fire from heaven and they will be destroyed. (Revelation 20:7-9)

Satan will meet his final doom at this point and be cast into the lake of fire, where the beast and false prophet are. You might say, they have been waiting for their leader to join them in punishment.

It is now time for the second resurrection. The second death. The resurrection unto eternal damnation. To those who had part in the first resurrection, blessed are they indeed.

Hades, (Sheol) is now emptied. Every man, woman, and child, throughout all history, who has rejected salvation by grace through faith is gathered at their final judgement.

They will be gathered to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ at what will be called the Great White Throne.

The books will be opened. Imagine, every thing we do is recorded. Everyone is held accountable. We are all held accountable to ourselves. God does not force us to act in a certain way. We cannot blame God for our actions.

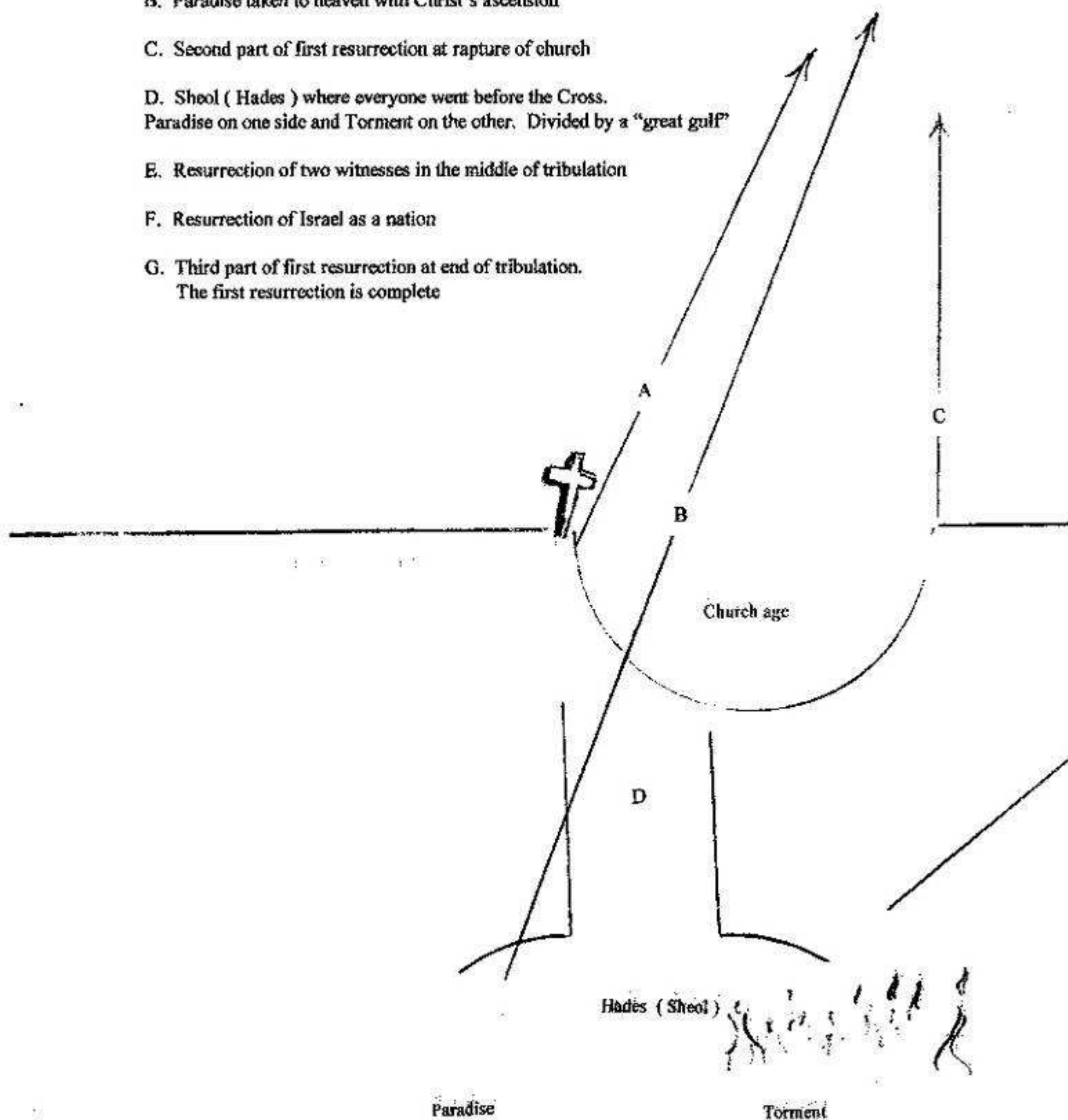
Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

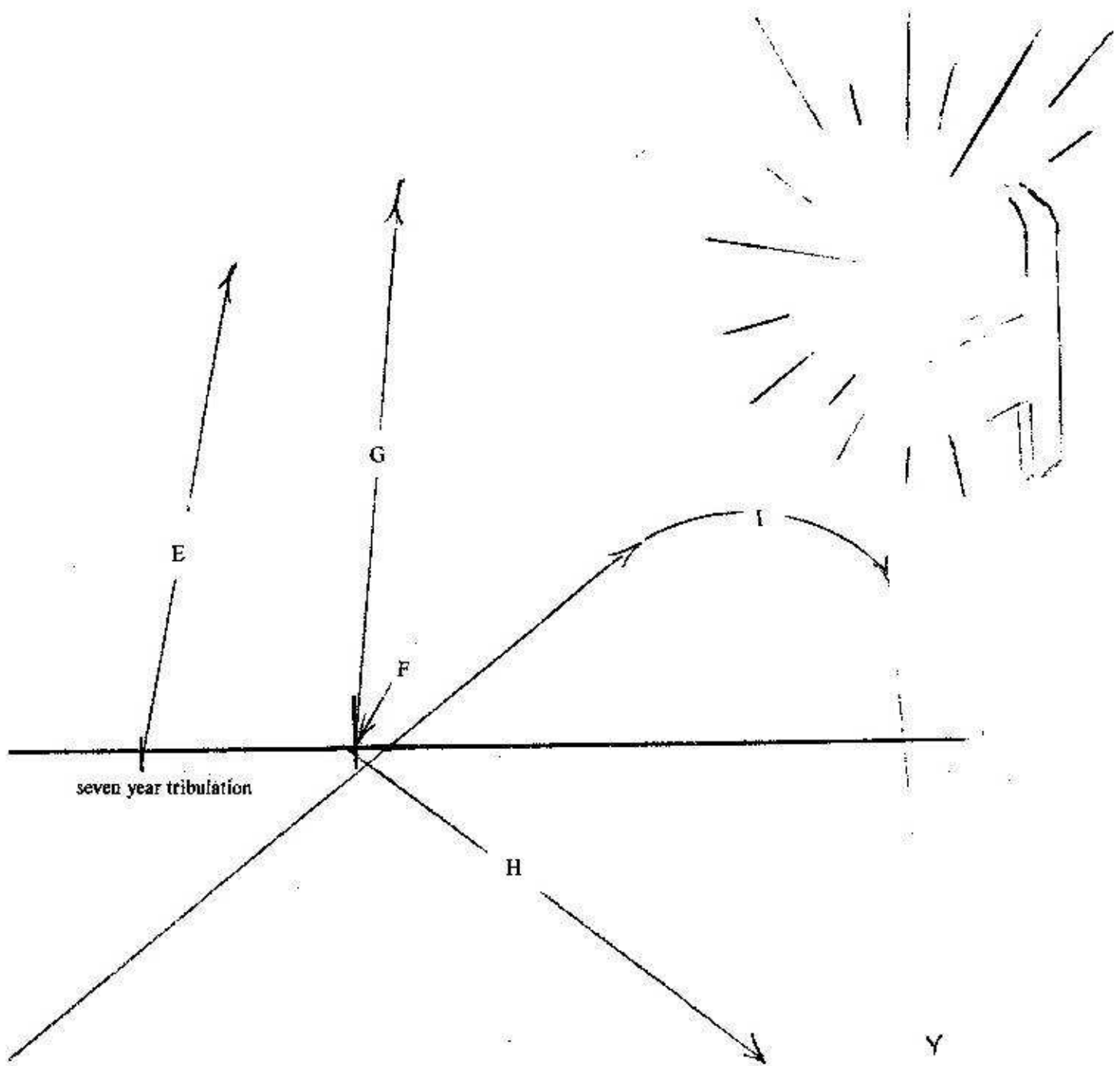
Everyone who is saved by faith in Christ is guaranteed that their name will not be erased from the book of life.

Everyone who does not accept Christ as their Savior will find their names erased upon death. At the great white throne judgement, they will be judged and cast into the lake of fire. Satan, and the beast, and the false prophet, and all mankind that was judged at the end of the tribulation, are waiting for them.

The fact is, they judge themselves. We all do. Christ died on the Cross to pay for our sins. He was buried and rose again. All we must do is believe in, have faith in, his finished work on Calvary.

- A. First part of first resurrection at resurrection of Christ
- B. Paradise taken to heaven with Christ's ascension
- C. Second part of first resurrection at rapture of church
- D. Sheol (Hades) where everyone went before the Cross. Paradise on one side and Torment on the other. Divided by a "great gulf"
- E. Resurrection of two witnesses in the middle of tribulation
- F. Resurrection of Israel as a nation
- G. Third part of first resurrection at end of tribulation.
The first resurrection is complete





H. All lost cast into lake of fire at end of tribulation

I White throne judgement. All lost are judged and cast into Lake of fire. This includes Hades (Sheol)



lake of fire