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Will those who do not know Christ Be Raised?

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Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Will those who Do Not Know Christ Be Raised?

Many Christians believe the only people to be raised and given any place in God's eternal plan are those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. This article seeks to find if this statement is true or whether God's eternal plan encompasses far more than this select group. Certainly, in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5) when Christ returns only those who belong to him will be raised, but what about at the Great White Throne Judgment, who is this group that is found standing before God Himself. (Rev 20:11-15).

Before getting stuck in traditional thinking, take a little time to ponder the following five questions with an open mind:

1. If all those who belong to Christ Old and New Testament have been raised at the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5) and the rest of the dead never rise, who are the dead that are standing before God at the Great White Throne Judgment? (Revelation 20:11-15). If it is only those who died during the rule of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords during the millennium age (including both those who rebelled against Christ and those that accepted his rule), why would only those who rejected Christ in this age be raised when in the Old Testament age and the New Testament age those who did not believe in Christ are not raised.
2. What would be the point of raising only the group that have died during the millennium age, especially since they have already seen that Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords whereas those who lived during the Old Testament age and those who lived during the New Testament age after his resurrection have not.
3. If it is only those who rebelled against Christ in the thousand-year millennium age what is the point they already know he is the Christ and all of them would be cast into the Lake of Fire, but the Scriptures imply that some are not (Rev. 20:11-15).
4. If it is only those who have accepted Christ and been obedient to his rule during the thousand-year Kingdom age, then who are the ones that are thrown into the Lake of Fire at the same judgment.
5. If the Old Testament dead, have been told as some mistakenly teach, "the dead rise not" then to raise the unsaved who have died during the rule of Christ in the millennium age would be contradicting Old Testament Scripture.

Bible revelation is constantly revealing something previously hidden especially as we approach the end of the age, we live in. Scripture is being revealed in greater light and clearer detail as it moves from Genesis to Revelations, the closer to Revelations we get the clearer the detail of Old Testament verses becomes.

Following are four verses that imply when a secular person dies, they are not raised.

Remember: this article is not about first resurrection (Rev 20:5) when Christ returns in glory to gather to himself the faithful, but about the group that is found standing before God Himself at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:11-15).

1. THE DEAD WILL NOT RISE

This is one of the most common Scripture used to prove that all who have died outside of Christ will not rise again. Isaiah wrote:

- The dead will not live, they will not arise, God has destroyed them and any remembrance of them is gone (Isaiah 26:14).

But does the verse apply to every person on the planet who dies not knowing Christ? To find the answer to this question we need to put the verse into its context and look at who Isaiah has in his mind when he says, the dead will not arise. The first group of people in these verses are the wicked the corrupt and the unjust (Isa 26:10-13). The words wicked, corrupt and unjust applies to those who deliberately do any kind of harm to other humans, whether that harm is, physical, emotional, financial or spiritual the person who deliberately causes it is classed as a wicked person. The three words combined basically applies to any human that is so selfish they have no compassion for other people and will even use them to gain their own selfish desires.

The words wicked, corrupt and unjust do not apply to people who have compassion toward those less fortunate than themselves or who help the poor and needy. The world is full of these kinds of people who are making sacrifices to help the less fortunate. Just think of all those who don't know Christ who helped the Jews during the time of the holocaust or the multitudes in third world countries giving aid to the sick and hungry. The second group is Kings who have corruptly ruled over God's people and over their false gods (Isaiah 26:13).

Summary of, the dead will not rise: when Isaiah says, "they shall never arise" it cannot be applied to every man women and child on planet earth because not everyone is a wicked, corrupt or unjust person, or have been kings and rulers that have ruled corruptly over God's people and their false gods.

2. MAN IS LIKE THE BEAST THAT PERISHES

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The following is a second verse that is used to support the theory no one outside of Christ will be raised. The Psalmist wrote:

- Man is like the beasts that perish (Psalm 49:19-20).

To find out if this means that no one outside of Christ will be raised we need to put it in its context. The psalmist calls all the inhabitants of the world (rich and poor) to listen to what he is about to say and then says, "I am going to tell you a riddle to the music of the lyre. Do not be afraid when a person becomes rich and prideful or when they boast of the abundance and glory of their houses as they increase in wealth, because even though they count themselves blessed and get praised for being a success, the wise and the foolish all die like the beast of the field that perishes, their graves are their homes forever, the rich cannot trust in their wealth, because no one can buy eternal life by paying God big bucks" (v6, 7, 11, 12, 18).

Remember this is a riddle and probably sung to music, it is not a doctrinal teaching, it is encouraging the poor by showing that no matter how prideful or abundantly rich, successful or wealthy a person is it counts for nothing in regards to gaining eternal life.

Summary of, man is like the beast that perishes: these verses cannot be used to support the theory that no secular person will be raised at the Great White Throne Judgment.

3. THEY WILL SLEEP A PERPETUAL SLEEP AND NOT WAKE

The following is the third verse that is used to support the belief that no one outside of Christ will be raised. Jeremiah wrote:

- They shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake (Jer. 51:57).

To find out whom Jeremiah had in mind when he spoke these words, we need to look at the entire conversation. This is a word from Jeremiah to Babylon regarding all the disaster God is about to bring upon it (v59-60). Babylon is full of guilt because of the evil and violent way they have treated God's people (Israel) and because they are destroying the earth (v9) (v24).

God is against Babylon; He is going to:

- Take vengeance on Babylon (v36).
- Punishment every goldsmith for making idols (they will perish) (v17-18).
- Punish the images and gods of Babylon (v47, 52).
- Judge the officials, the wise men, the governors, commanders, and warriors of Babylon.

These are the ones that the words, they will sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake (v57) are directed to. When God said through the prophet Jeremiah, "They will sleep a perpetual sleep to rise no more, they will not wake" (v39) it is the officials, the wise men, the governors, the commanders, and the warriors of Babylon that will be judged to eternal death because they are leaders who have destroyed God's temple and gone to war against His people (Israel) killing and taking them into captivity.

Summary of, they will sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake: the term, "They shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake" cannot be applied to every human on planet earth. To apply it to those who have not harmed God's people and especially to those who those who have helped them and New Testament brothers and sisters in Christ during times of persecution and done good to the poor and needy is reading far more into the verses than Jeremiah originally intended.

4. THOSE WHO GOD REMEMBERS NO-MORE.

The following is the fourth verse that is used to support the teaching that no one outside of Christ will be raised. The writer of Psalms wrote:

- The dead, lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more (Psalm 88:5).

To find out if the phrase, "Like those whom you remember no more" can be applied to everyone who does not know Christ let's look at the verse in its entire context and see who is saying it. This is a man who feels he is about to die; it seems he is in deep depression or sickness (v6-8). He feels God is punishing him and the two people he loved have left him, he says, he feels like one that lies in the grave and who God remembers no more (Psalm 88:14-18).

Summary of, those who God remembers no-more: the words, "Like those whom you remember no more," are spoken by a man who is praying out of deep depression. It is not a doctrinal teaching to apply his words to every person who God created is reading into the verse far more than it is saying.

Remember: this article is not about first resurrection (Rev 20:5) when Christ returns in glory, but about the group that is found standing before God Himself at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:11-15). From the above verses we see that there are basically two groups of people in the world, those who have compassion for other humans and those who do not. This is in full harmony with the events to take place at the Second Death and the Great White Throne Judgment. Books are opened and those standing before God are judged from what is written in these heavenly

books. The books have recorded each person's deeds (their lifestyle), from what is recorded some are judged to the Lake of Fire, a symbol of eternal death (meaning total extinction) implying that some are not (Rev 20:15). The Great White Throne Judgment is about God judging His creation. Jesus is nowhere to be found, because he has already granted to those that belong to him eternal life in the first resurrection (Rev 20:5). The Great White Throne Judgment is about God Himself judging all those who He created. Whether they are granted eternal life remains a mystery, but certainly it appears that they are granted some place in ETERNITY (Rev. 20:11-15).

HOW WONDERFUL IS OUR GOD!

He gives us a chance to be saved by grace and have an intimate fellowship with Christ and God Himself throughout eternity, all of this comes as a free gift apart from anything we can do, because of God's mercy, grace and love that comes to us through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. But, God's love for his creation does not end here, even for those who have died without knowing the wonderful love of Christ are given a chance according to their works (how they have treated other humans and lived according to the law of love). Death, the grave, the sea all give up the dead and they are judged, it appears that some will be granted some place in ETERNITY, while others are counted unworthy and cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15).

THE BEAUTY, WONDER AND SPLENDOR OF GOD'S EVER ABUNDING LOVE

If you want to enjoy God's love, be guaranteed that you are part of the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5) and granted eternal life believe on the Lord Jesus Christ now. Be part of those in the first resurrection and Christ's eternal government when he returns in glory to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God Kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy on earth, how can life get better than this?

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For further information see the titles:

- Book of Life and the Book of the Lamb in, Articles Index.
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

- Salvation (ON WEBSITE MENU).

FOOTNOTE

This is certainly not a dogmatic teaching, but hopefully will inspire others to question traditional thinking and do their own research and come to their own conclusions. It should also be mentioned that no one needs to understand the detail of Jesus return to be saved to eternal life since we are all saved by our faith in him and by God's grace.

Jesus said:

- I am the door. If anyone enters by me, they will be saved (John 10:9).
- I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me (John 10:14).
- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me I give them eternal life, and they will never perish (John 10:27-28).

No one has to understand every detail of the Bible to attain to the eternal glory of the first resurrection, but they do need to know the Saviour and King who is missing from the bloodstained cross.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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