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Who will be Raised at the Great White Throne Judgment?

(From the Old Testament)

(2019)

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.



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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.

Who will be Raised at the Great White Throne Judgment?

FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Topics.

- The dead will not awake nor be roused from their sleep.
- Man, like the beast perishes.
- The dead will not rise.
- They will sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake.
- Those who God remembers no more.

INTRODUCTION

The following five verses are the most common Old Testament Scriptures that are used to support the theory that no secular man or woman who has died will rise regardless of whether they have heard the message of the cross and the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ or not.

1. Man lies down and does not rise nor will they awake from their sleep (Job 14:12).
2. Man in his pomp without understanding is like the beasts that perish (Psalm 49:19-20).
3. Like the dead that lie in the grave, they are cut off from your hand (Psalm 88:5).
4. They are dead, they will not arise you have visited them with destruction (Isaiah 26:14).
5. They shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake declares the LORD (Jer. 51:57).

This study examines these five Scriptures to see if they can be used as proof that those who have never known the love and grace of God will never rise.

THE DEAD WILL NOT AWAKE NOR BE ROUSED FROM THEIR SLEEP

- **Job 14:12:** So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, They will not awake Nor be roused from their sleep.

Based on this verse (and the ones following) many believe everyone who dies outside of God's Kingdom will never be raised from the grave, but before accepting this idea let's look at the context this verse is in.

- Job says; "But man dies and is laid away; Indeed he breathes his last And where is he? As water disappears from the sea, And a river becomes parched and dries up, So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more. They will not awake Nor be roused from their sleep. "Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, That You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, That You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! ¹⁴If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. ¹⁵You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands (Job 14:10-15).

This chapter begins with Job saying:

- Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble, he comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not (v1-2).

This shows us that Job has all mankind in focus and not just those who are faithful to God. Job is in extreme sorrow, suffering and despair views

death and the grave as a place of escape from his deep depression, despair and pain (as many do who suffer the mental darkness of depression and despair). This is why some people suffering in this way commit suicide; they see death as an escape from the mental pain and torment they are suffering. Notice Job says:

- Man lies down and does not rise until the heavens are no more.

This immediately takes the mind of the ardent Bible student to the book of Revelation and the following words of John:

- Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them (Rev. 20:11)

Those who were sleeping in Christ have been raised at least one thousand years prior to this verse in the first resurrection to rule and reign with Christ as kings and priests with Christ during his glorious millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. John tells us that over this group of people the second death has no power (Rev. 20:4-6). This implies that the remaining dead will be raised at a later date to face the second death. The second death takes place at the end of Christ millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. At the end of this glorious Kingdom age there is a battle between the kingdom of men and the Kingdom of God (Rev 20:7). The kingdom of men is destroyed by fire from heaven and then God descends to earth on a great White Throne and from His presence earth and heaven are spoken of as fleeing away (Rev 20:11). Then we are told the sea, death and hades give up the dead who were in them. This no-doubt includes the rest of the dead who did not attain to the first resurrection and who John said will not live again until the thousand years were finished (Rev 20:5). The great and small stand before God's throne and the Book of Life and some other heavenly books are opened, whosevers name is not found in the Book of Life is cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e. total and utter extinction) this is also called the second death. If a person name is found in the Book of Life the other heavenly books are opened and they are judged according to what is written in these other books according to what they had done, then death and the grave and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15) this is the second death.

Jobs words:

- They will not awake nor be roused from their sleep until the heavens are no-more.
- Oh, that you would hide me in the grave until your wrath is past.
- I will wait until my change comes.

Show that Job understood he would be resurrected from the grave and that the word sleep in the context of what Job is saying refers to the common mortal death of all mankind. Since Job uses the words until the heavens are no more and until God's wrath is past, it implies that men and women who die without knowing the love and grace of God or hearing the Gospel will not rise until the heavens are no-more and until God's wrath is past which of course would apply to the Great White Throne Judgment when God Himself descends to earth and the heavens and the earth flee from His presence and all things are made new. To use these words of Job to teach that every secular man and woman who died without knowing the love and grace of God or hearing the Gospel will not rise would seem to be reading more into what Job who was in deep depression and despair was actually saying.

MAN, LIKE THE BEAST PERISHES

- **Psalm 49:19-20:** Man's soul will go to the generation of his fathers, who will never again see light. ²⁰Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish.

This verse that is used to prove that no secular man and woman will rise who have died outside of Christ, but when we read the entire Psalm, we find that the psalmist says to all the inhabitants of the world (rich and poor):

- Listen to what I am about to say, 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 ransom another or give God the price of their lives (verses 6, 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. To teach that the words of this Psalm apply to every secular man and woman who died without hearing the Gospel or knowing Christ would seem to be reading far more into what the writer was implying when he wrote the words of this song.

Added to this the focus of the Psalm is upon man in his pomp, meaning those who are full of self-importance and egotistical and the prideful and arrogant rich and wealthy.

THOSE WHO GOD REMEMBERS NO MORE

- **Psalm 88:5:** like one set loose among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more for they are cut off from your hand.

This verse that is used as further proof that no man or woman who has died outside of God’s Kingdom will be raised, but let’s take a look at the entire context and see, who is saying it.

3

- Heman the Ezrahite prays, “O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee: Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry; For my soul is full of troubles and my life draweth nigh unto the grave. I am counted with them that go down into the pit. I am as a man that hath no strength: like one set loose among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more for they are cut off from your hand. You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. Selah You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow (Psalm 88:1-5).

Heman at the time of writing this not only feels he is about to die and is in deep depression and despair (v6-8), but also feels God is punishing him. This is because the two people he loved have left him and because of this he says, he feels like one that lies in the grave and who God remembers no more (v14-18). The words, “Like those whom you remember no more,” are spoken by a man who is praying out of deep depression and despair. Since this is a man’s very deep heartfelt prayer to God and not a doctrinal teaching to apply his words to every man, woman and child who has ever lived on earth is reading into the verse far more than Heman the Ezrahite is saying to God in his very emotional prayer of distress.

THE DEAD WILL NOT RISE

- **Isaiah 26:14:** They are dead, they will not live; they are shades, they will not arise to that end you have visited them with destruction and wiped out all remembrance of them.

This verse is one of the most common Scripture used to prove that all secular men and woman who have died outside of God’s Kingdom will not rise again, but does the verse apply to every man and woman who have

ever lived on the planet? 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 said, "The dead will not arise." Isaiah said:

- If favour is shown to the wicked, he does not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness he deals corruptly (unjust in the KJV) and does not see the majesty of the LORD. ¹¹O LORD, your hand is lifted up, but they (the wicked, corrupt and unjust) do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people and be ashamed. Let the fire for your adversaries consume them (the wicked, corrupt and unjust). ¹²O LORD, you will ordain peace for us; (Israel) you have done for us all our works. ¹³O LORD our God, other LORDS besides you have ruled over us (Israel), but your name alone we bring to remembrance. ¹⁴They are dead they will not live; they are shades, they will not arise to that end you have visited them with destruction and wiped out all remembrance of them (Isaiah 26:10-13)

Isaiah's focus in these verses is upon the wicked, the corrupt and the unjust who have ruled over Israel. Following are the meanings of the words wicked, corrupt and unjust From Strong's Concordance.

- Wicked means to violate and to make trouble, it carries the idea of deliberately annoying, upsetting, agitating, confounding or causing anxiety and distress to somebody.
- Corrupt means to ruin entirely especially by moral influences it carries the idea of destroying someone.
- Unjust means to distort what is right and fair.

Strong's Concordance shows that the words, wicked, corrupt and unjust applies to those who do any kind of harm to other humans, whether that harm is physical, financial, verbal, sexual, emotional or spiritual the person who deliberately causes the harm is classed as a wicked, corrupt and unjust person. The three words combined basically applies to any human that is so selfish that they have no compassion for other people and purposely oppresses and use others to gain their own selfish desires. They cannot be applied to people who have compassion toward those less fortunate than themselves or 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 the secular men and woman who helped (at great risk to their own lives) the Jews during the time of the holocaust or the multitudes of secular men and woman in third world countries giving aid to the sick and hungry at great personal sacrifice to their own lives.

There are two groups of people in the secular world:

1. Those that have compassion for other humans and show kindness toward them.
2. Those who are totally selfish and purposely use and abuse others for their own selfish gain and their own advantage.

This is in full harmony with the events to take place at the second death and the great White Throne Judgment. At the end of Christ's glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total and utter extinction) (also called the, second death) (Rev 20:11-15). Then Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its eternal majestic royal fullness.

Isaiah is saying that: "Other lords (i.e., wicked, corrupt' and unjust kings) have ruled over the people of Israel besides the Lord their God, but they are all dead and brought to destruction and will not arise (to eternal life), but God's name continues on forever. Since not every man, woman

and child on planet earth is a wicked, corrupt and unjust person and since not every man, woman and child on earth fit into the category of people Isaiah is speaking to it seems a far stretch to apply the words, "They will not arise" to every man women and child of every generation who has lived on earth. Remember the prophets of the Old Testament did not have the light that we have today, it is most likely the people the words, "They will not arise" refer to are those whose names have been blotted out of the Book of Life and who will be immediately cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total and utter extinction) at the great White Throne Judgment.

THEY WILL SLEEP A PERPETUAL SLEEP AND NOT WAKE

- **Jeremiah 51:57:** I will make drunk her officials and her wise men, her governors, her commanders, and her warriors; they shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

This is a word from Jeremiah to Babylon regarding all the disaster God is about to bring upon Babylon (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 and is about to:

- Punishment every goldsmith for making idols (they will perish) (v17-18).
- Judge the officials, the wise men, the governors, commanders, and warriors of Babylon (v23).
- Take vengeance on the empire of Babylon (v36).
- Punish the images and gods of Babylon (v47, 52).

5

These are the ones who Jeremiah has in focus when he said, "They will sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake." When God said through Jeremiah, "They will sleep a perpetual sleep to rise no more" (v39) he was referring to the officials, the wise men, the governors, the commanders, and the warriors of Babylon. Jeremiah is prophesying the destruction of Babylon and their leaders because they oppressed God's people while they held them in captivity for seventy-years.

Prior to this verse the LORD through Jeremiah said:

- While they (Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon and his armies) (v34) are inflamed I will prepare them a feast and make them drunk, that they may become merry, then sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake, declares the LORD. I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams and male goats. "How Babylon is taken, the praise of the whole earth seized! How Babylon has become a horror among the nations! (Jeremiah 51:39-41).

In this context the words, "Sleep a perpetual sleep" means that Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon and his mighty men of war will be slaughtered while they are in a stupor and sleeping because they have been feasting, reviling and drinking an excess of wine and in this sense their sleep is perpetual because they will not wake from it since they will be killed in their sleep.

Since this is the context of the words, they will sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake to apply it to every man woman and child who has ever lived throughout all generations is stretching Jeremiah's words far beyond, who his message was intended for, added to this to apply Jeremiah's prophetic words to men and woman who have not harmed God's people and to men and women, who have helped the people of Israel and helped believers of the New Testament during times of persecution, would clearly be reading far more into the verse than Jeremiah originally intended.

SUMMARY OF THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

It is interesting to notice that Jesus is not even mentioned in the great White Throne Judgement he is nowhere to be found, because he has already judged those that belonged to him in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6). The great White Throne Judgement is about God Himself judging all those who He created. Bible revelation is constantly revealing something previously hidden; Scripture is being revealed in clearer detail as it moves from Genesis to Revelation, the closer we get to the end of this age as we know it and the glorious return of Christ the clearer the detail of Old Testament verses become. Before getting stuck in traditional thinking, ponder the following questions with an open mind:

- If the secular dead never rise who are the dead that the sea, death and hades give up to stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment?
- If it is only those who died during Christ millennial Kingdom 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? What would be the point of raising only the group that have died during the millennium age, especially since they have already seen with their own eyes that Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords whereas those in the Old and New Testament age have not
- If it is only those who rebelled against Christ in the millennium (as many believe) what is the point since they already know Jesus is the Christ and none of them would be counted worthy so what is the point of raising them?
- If the Old Testament Scriptures teach (as some believe) that the dead outside of God's Kingdom, do not rise for judgment then to raise the unsaved who have died during the rule of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords in the millennium age would be contradicting Old Testament Scripture.
- If it is only those who have accepted Christ and been obedient to his rule during the Kingdom age (as many believe) then who are the ones that are cast into the Lake of Fire at the same judgement

6

HOW WONDERFUL IS OUR GOD!

He gives everyone a chance to be saved by grace and have and intimate fellowship with Christ and God the Father in this life now and become the Bride of Christ and be part of his majestic and royal government throughout all eternity and all of this comes as a free gift because of God's mercy, grace and love to everyone who honestly humbles themselves before God and by faith repents and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour apart from anything they can do to earn it. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

This is the glorious eternal inheritance of every faithful brother and sister in Christ, but God's love for his creation does not end here, even for those who have never heard the message of the cross and the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and have therefore died never knowing the wonderful love and grace of God are given a chance according to how they have lived before the law of love and Jesus command, "love your neighbour as yourself" meaning according to how they have treated other humans. At the end of Christ glorious Kingdom age God Himself descends to earth on a great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, second death) (Rev 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its majestic royal and perfect fullness.

HERE IS THE BEAUTY, WONDER AND SPLENDOUR OF GOD'S EVER ABUNDING LOVE

Throughout history and the world today. There have been and still are multitudes of men and women who have never heard the message of the cross and the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but nevertheless:

- They do believe in God because of creation.
- They do have a kind and compassionate heart.
- They do what is right and good.
- They do treat other humans with decency and respect.
- They do help those who are less fortunate than themselves.

7

It is very unlikely that God will cast those who fit into this category into the Lake of Fire (a symbol of eternal death) (i.e., total and utter extinction) when He descends to earth at the end of Christ's glorious millennial reign.

For further information see title:

- The Book of Life and the Lake of Fire.
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.
- Both titles are in, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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.
