

The Hope of the Resurrection to Eternal Life

PREFACE:

I was going to speak on the resurrection on the last Day of Unleavened Bread, however, we all supported Barbara at Peters funeral.

Hope of growth, hope of peace, hope of healing, hope of restoration and hope of positive change keeps the heart of man going. See just a few scriptural examples.

*Heb 6:19 This **hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,***

*Heb 7:19 for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there **is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.***

*Heb 10:23 Let **us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.***

*1Pe 1:3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has **begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,***

*1Pe 1:13 ¶ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, **and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;***

Aim:

I would like to encourage, enlighten you and provide some clarity on the resurrection.

*Tit 1:2 **in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,***

We are told by scripture not to be sad about all those who have died.

*1Th 4:13 ¶ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, **lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.***

Paul argues with the sceptics.

*1Co 15:16 For **if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.***

*17 And if **Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!***

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

*19 If **in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.***

21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

*22 For as in Adam all die, even **so in Christ all shall be made alive.***

The Gospel is inclusive and gives us hope that all mankind will eventually have an opportunity to be in God's Family. Will God lose some. I hope not, however, scripture indicates that some will be cast into the lake of fire and suffer immediate extinction, not suffer eternally in hellish torture, as depicted by the Satan inspired Christian depiction of hell. I believe that the famous evangelist – bishop Pearson, who the movie COME SUNDAY was made about, was partially correct, however, he went on to dismissed Satan and demonic activity, completely.

BODY:

(a) Let's go to the well-known scripture as we contemplate the resurrection:

*1 Cor 15:23 But **each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.***

*1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.***

*15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.***

*16 For the **Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.***

*17 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 thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. (NKJV)

There is a common denominator. All those resurrected will be Christians.

*1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.***

51 ¶ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

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

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

NB. This is clearly a resurrection to God's Family, a spiritual resurrection and one that Transends any physical state.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ was the forerunner of our resurrection and fulfilled the Wave Sheaf Offering, on Sunday, after His Sabbath resurrection.

*1 Cor 15:20 But now **Christ is risen** from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

Ac 3:18 "But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

20 "and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

*21 "**whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.***

We all know the story of Mary Magdalene at the tomb, Sunday morning:

Joh 20:13 Then they said to her, "Woman, **why are you weeping?**" She said to them, "Because they have **taken away my Lord**, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and **did not know that it was Jesus.**

15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, **why are you weeping?** Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "**Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'**"

Re 20:1 ¶ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years;**

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But **after these things he must be released for a little while.**

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I **saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.** **FIRST RESURRECTION!**

6 **Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**

The resurrection spoken about in 1 Corinthians 15:, 1 Thessalonians 4:, and Revelations 20: is all the same resurrection and is a gift given to people that have repented and yielded their lives to God and are filled with the Holy Spirit.

(b) Let us look at some examples of a resurrection of a different kind: A resurrection back to physical life as a mortal human being. This is not the gift of life that Paul talked about.

Joh 11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

41 Then they took away the stone from the place **where the dead man was lying.** And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "**Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.**

42 "And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come forth!**"

44 And **he who had died** came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "**Loose him, and let him go.**"

45 ¶ Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

Another example:

Mt 27:50 ¶ And **Jesus cried out** again with a loud voice, and **yielded up His spirit**.

51 Then, behold, the **veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom**; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, Christ opened our way direct to the Father in the Holy of Holies in heaven.

52 and the **graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised**;
53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city **and appeared to many**.

Another example:

Eze 37:1 ¶ The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was **full of bones**.

2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed **they were very dry**.

3 And He said to me, "Son of man, **can these bones live?**" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."

4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!

5 'Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "**Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live**.

6 "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin **and put breath in you**; and you shall live. **Then you shall know that I am the LORD.**"

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.

8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.

9 Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, **and breathe on these slain, that they may live.**"

No mention of Eternal Life! Only a physical life.

10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, **these bones are the whole house of Israel**. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, **our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!**'

12 "Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, **O My people, I will open your graves** and cause you to **come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel**.

13 "Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.

14 "**I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken** it and performed it," says the LORD."

15 ¶ Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

16 "As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.' Then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.'

17 "Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.

18 "And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Will you not show us what you mean by these?' - **Unification of Israel!**

19 "say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand."

20 "And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.

21 "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;

22 "and I will make them **one nation** in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and **one king shall be king over them all**; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.

23 "They shall **not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things**, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, **and will cleanse them**. Then they **shall be My people**, and I will be their God.

24 "**David My servant shall be king over them**, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.

25 "Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, **where your fathers dwelt**; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; **and My servant David shall be their prince forever**.

26 "Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.

27 "My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

28 "The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore." (NKJV)

This is clearly a resurrection back to physical life! All the evidence points to this fact.

Around the same time God is repatriating people from all around the world back to Israel. These events have to take place sometime after Christ's return and I assume during the millennial rule of Christ and His Kings and Priests, the converted Christians.

Eze 36:21 "But I had concern **for My holy name**, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.

22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went.

23 "And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.

24 "**For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land**.

25 ¶ "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; **I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols**.

26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 "**I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them**.

28 "Then **you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God**.

29 "I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.

30 "And I will **multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations**.

31 "Then you will **remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight**, for your iniquities and your abominations.

32 "Not for your sake do I do this," says the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!"

33 "Thus says the Lord GOD: **"On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt.**

34 "The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by.

35 "So they will say, 'This land that **was desolate** has become like the **garden of Eden**; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'

36 "Then the **nations which are left all around you** shall know that I, **the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate.** I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it."

37 "Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will also let the house of Israel inquire of Me to do this for them: I will increase their men like a flock.

38 "Like a flock offered as holy sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem on its feast days, so shall the ruined cities be filled with flocks of men. **Then they shall know that I am the LORD.**" (NKJV)

We know another scripture like this one: the nations that are left after the great and terrible day of the Lord.

Zec 14:16 ¶ And it shall come to pass **that everyone who is left of all the nations** which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to **keep the Feast of Tabernacles.**

NB. Showing His incredible mercy God decides to resurrect Israel and bring Israel back from all lands of the earth. Both these events clearly take place in the millennium or in God's earthly Kingdom of reign. If you don't believe read all of chapter Ezekiel 38 where God discusses Gog the land of Magog and how they decide to attack Israel which is without God, defenceless.

Eze 38:10 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan:

11 "You will say, '**I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'** –

Eze 38:16 "You **will come up against** My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. **It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.**"

Eze 39:1 ¶ "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal;

Eze 39:7 "So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

Eze 39:9 "Then **those who dwell in the cities of Israel** will go out and **set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years.**

10 "They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them," says the Lord GOD.

11 "It will come to pass in that day that **I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog.**

This is a human or physical people burying a physical army (inspired by Satan), for seven long months. The timber from weapons will supply fuel for seven years.

12 "For **seven months** the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land.

13 "Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified," says the Lord GOD.

14 "They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. **At the end of seven months they will make a search.**

15 "The search party will pass through the land; and when anyone sees a man's bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog.

Read about God releasing Satan after the 1000-year reign of Christ and His Kings and Priests.

(c) There is yet another example of a physical resurrection to mortal life:

I spoke above of Gog and Magog. Christ releases Satan from the pit that Stan was put in at His return.

Re 20:7 Now when the thousand years have expired, **Satan will be released from his prison**

8 and will go out to **deceive the nations** which are in the four corners of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of **the saints and the beloved city**. And **fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them**.

10 The **devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are** (were cast). And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

What amazing event happens next! Verse 6 clearly says what we read about earlier is the FIRST RESURRECTION! Is it not perfectly logical that the next white throne judgement resurrection in verse 11 is the second resurrection? It is inferior as it is a resurrection to mortal life. Repeat verse 6.

Re 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Re 20:11 ¶ Then I saw **a great white throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

12 **And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.**

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. **And they were judged, each one according to his works.**

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (NKJV)

I love this scripture. Simply says the dead are standing before God and books were open. The dead are now alive before Christ. Many people think that these people, just resurrection will be zapped back to extinction by being thrown into the lake of fire, once God has read their individual books, depicting their life's recordings. Compare that with what we only just read about God's love mercy and restoration of Israel. He describes the evil that Israel did and probably the worst was sacrificing their children to Molech.

The God I serve has just resurrected these people to share with them His love, His Holiness and His gift of Grace through Christ Jesus. **Their individual BOOKS can now be written with the gift of forgiveness around their shoulders and in their hearts.** These people will have time to connect with the Living God and decide their futures under the leadership of the Almighty God through our King and ruler Christ. After a lifetime of loving leadership by Jesus Christ and His servants (you and I) most people, if not all people, will decide that they want eternity in the God family. They will, at the end of their 2nd resurrection to mortal life, be resurrected into the God Family along with you and I who have been there for over a thousand years.

Gods Guidance and Teaching of Holiness:

Israel and all those resurrected in the white thrown judgement will be taught by Righteous loyal teachers who will not hide away. They guidance will be clear to see and hear by all people.

*Isa 30:18 ¶ Therefore the **LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.***

*19 For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; **You shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; When He hears it, He will answer you.***

*20 And though the Lord gives you The bread of adversity and the water of affliction, **Yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, But your eyes shall see your teachers.***

*21 Your **ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.***

*22 You will also defile the covering of your graven images of silver, And the ornament of your molded images of gold. **You will throw them away as an unclean thing; You will say to them, "Get away!"***

*23 Then He **will give the rain for your seed With which you sow the ground, And bread of the increase of the earth; It will be fat and plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed In large pastures.***

24 Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground Will eat cured fodder, Which has been winnowed with the shovel and fan.

*25 There will be on every high mountain And on every high hill Rivers and streams of waters, **In the day of the great slaughter, When the towers fall.***

*26 Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, As the light of seven days, In the day that **the LORD binds up the bruise of His people And heals the stroke of their wound.***

*1Jo 3:1 ¶ See **what great love the Father has given us in naming us the children of God;** and such we are. For this reason the world does not see who we are, because it did not see who he was.*

*2 My loved ones, **now we are children of God,** and at present it is not clear what we are to be. We are certain that at his revelation we will be like him; for we will see him as he is.*

*3 And everyone who has this hope in him **makes himself holy, even as he is holy.***

Mt 13:43 Then will the upright be shining as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him give ear.

44 ¶ The **kingdom of heaven** is like a **secret store of wealth in a field**, which a man came across and put back again; and in his joy he goes and gives all he has, to get that field.

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a trader searching for beautiful jewels.

46 And having come across one jewel of great price, he went and gave all he had in exchange for it.

2Pe 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Heb 12:21 And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

23 to the **general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven**, to God the Judge of all, to the **spirits of just men made perfect**,

24 to **Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant**, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

1Ti 2:1 ¶ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and **giving of thanks be made for all men**,

2 for kings and all who are in authority, that **we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence**.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

Lu 3:4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth;

6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Re 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "**Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!**"

The resurrection stories confirm the great love God has for all mankind and the inclusive nature of the Gospel.