

Thanks for your replies to my comments...

Of course, I have a few of my own on your response...

RT comments and replies in bold italic.

1. Those resurrected in the 2nd resurrection... I personally don't believe they (those who died of disease) will be resurrected totally healed. This mitigates a huge lesson of law and cause and effect. Of course, they will be given life that will sustain itself, but I believe that the natural health laws God has given us today will be a lesson they likely didn't learn in their first life, and will see the results being applied to their new lives as they heal naturally. ***Those who had committed physical sins which resulted in health consequences certainly paid for those sins in pain, suffering and premature death. Why would they need to be resurrected in a still suffering state? The 'lessons' should already have been impressed upon them with the years of suffering and the premature death they experienced. Then again, there were many who suffered poor health for no fault of their own. Would God want afflicted people to suffer the consequences again for up to a full lifetime duration? And many throughout history suffered genetic issues passed on to them from their ancestors. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in royal bloodlines due to inbreeding. What about those in desperate poverty where no choices were available? And, in order to not have second-resurrected people dying again, wouldn't their health have to be reasonably normal? Let's not lose sight of the purpose for the second resurrection, that of providing opportunity for salvation that wasn't previously afforded. If their opportunity period is to be without Satanic / demonic influence, wouldn't it be similarly logical that they would be free of the distractions of illness-caused physical pain and suffering? Anyone who has been injured or severely sick will attest to the distraction pain imposes and the detriment to focused and meaningful bible study that occurs as a result.***

Now, I could read your reference above to suggest that they rise with their afflictions still present, but that they are healed of them after obeying natural health laws. I can see your point in that.

2. Somewhere, you mentioned the possibility of there being more humans AFTER the new heavens and new earth... "of the increase of His government and Peace there shall be no end..." is what I thought when I added the comment below. If there is going to be an "increase" of His government, how can it "increase" unless there is something over which God will be expanding His governing? Just creation? other created family members? ***What I and others before me have speculated is that WE, after attaining full sonship in the Family, and after the work of evangelizing the human race is complete on Earth, WE may be placed in positions to 'do as Christ did', establishing other worlds on other planets, and repeating the experiences in different parts of the universe. This is deep into speculation territory, but the 'never-ending increase' idea would allude to such a thing. Why would God be content with 100 billion members of His greater Family, when he could share the joys of life with many times that? Why waste all of that infinite space, when productive things could be going on out there!?***

More humanity... yes, I tend to agree... but this, then leads to more eternal death as well... if there is sin, which there seems to be as a natural result of human physical life... or even spiritual life. ***True, the experiences under that possible scenario will be similar to human life on Earth. The capability of death will be fully concluded on Earth after the Final Judgment, but not necessarily in repeat worlds. (The possibility of death is absent in Heaven also, so such a thing isn't unprecedented.) But, let's not lose sight of the purpose for living experiences, to develop the character qualities worthy of inclusion in God's Eternal Family. Sin and death purifies the breed!***

3. "Those who will hear?" This can only be those God calls to hear, which eventually will be everyone. ***Yes, everyone eventually! ALL are destined to be called. Called to their opportunity to salvation AND called up from the grave to stand before God for sentencing. But, 'those who hear' in the limited resurrection occasion (John 5:25) will be those who come up in the second for their opportunity, which they were denied in their first lives. At the very END, ALL (who remain in their graves) (John 5:28) will hear the call to arise and stand with the then-living for their sentencing. This latter group will include the wicked from the past and present ages, before Christ's second coming, along with the dead of the millennial age, both converted and unconverted. They will stand with those still living who were raised in the second resurrection to be assigned their appropriate reward: some to Life, some to Eternal Death. Hebrews 9:27 will still be a true and applicable scripture throughout the millennial age. Revelation 14:13 affirms the same.***

4. I'm still struggling with the concept that all those living and dying throughout the millennium, not being around Satan, his spirit or attitude unlike today where it is everywhere and is deceiving billions. If we have, perhaps billions who live and die in this perfect society, to then await the resurrection (maybe a few who didn't make it), then have the last generation or two at the end of the millennium who are then subjected to the same deceiving spirit seems "unfair" to those who never had to face such testing seeing they received salvation without having to face the serpent... **Good point, and an understandable one. But, that exposure to Satan, just after the 1000 years is completed, will be brief, not generations long as it has been in our time. The effect of Satan's release will impact only those who have lived in a better age, and despite that, have not opted to pursue conversion. They will have HAD their opportunity period already. Those living in the last millennial generation will know this is coming (just as we do today). Satan's deception will resonate with these still-unconverted peoples only, not the converted majority. So the "unfairness" consideration won't really be that unfair. It isn't a matter of converted people being deceived and then for them to lose their salvation, it is more a deception that envelops the self-deceivable, who are already set in their ways, having proven themselves profoundly unconvertible by this point in time. Those are the ones that need to be removed from the society that the second resurrected peoples will arise into. They and those to be raised who lived in our Satanic world would be a bad combination!**

5. Laodicean era extending into Millennium? OK, for argument's sake, the Laodiceans are a part of the church... presumably the bride of Christ (remnant/5 foolish virgins??). This would mean they "buy the gold "tried in the fire" so they would not be found naked, and be prepared, even if it takes death. Are you feeling they will not be part of the church and live into the millennium? **This one poses a number of potent considerations. True, the Laodicean Era is a part of God's True Church. But the thing is, we have always presumed that all seven Eras will be completed at the time of Christ's return. Evangelicals have long held that view, not just our WCG genre. I realized this as a kid sitting in a Baptist Church in the late 1950's. They all presume that all seven must be completed by the second coming! Why do we assume that? What is the problem that the Church Era extends on to the completion of all time? I know this may come across as radical. Laodicea may have already begun. That I wouldn't doubt. Now, the WCG (Gerald Waterhouse in particular) alleged that the Laodicean Era was just between the flight of Philadelphia into a place of safety, to the second coming. I have a transcript done in 1980 that sets his position out very clearly. (Available on request) This was our teaching for decades. But, that would make the Laodicean ERA (as opposed to a Laodicean spiritual condition – which can occur at any time in any individual or group) one of the shortest of all! I don't rule out that the Era could continue on into the millennium, which provides the greatest era of universal peace and prosperity of all time. In that, it would make lackadaisical personal and group attitudes the major thing needing to be overcome. That's not inconsistent with the narrative in the message to that Church group. There WILL BE a Church in the millennial era. Just what we will call it remains to be determined. But its primary spiritual characteristic is quite predictable.**

Now the Ten Virgins matter. This narrative refers us to the Bride of Christ in rather unmistakable terms. What it impresses on us is that there is a distinct time-cutoff after which those who 'come to the door' are too late to be a part of the Bride, but they are not barred from conversion itself. They go and they DO receive the 'oil', but just not in time. I have an article on this. There will be people converted AFTER the marriage of Christ and His Bride, just that they will not be of Bride status. Uncountable billions will be converted during and after the millennium, but they will be children of Christ and His Bride, just not a part of that firstfruits generation! Though members of the Family, their station will be below that of the firstfruits.

Laodiceans who are converted prior to Christ's return will be a part of the Bride, but IF that era continues on beyond the Second Coming, extending on into the millennium, then there will be a Church Age much like it in attitude and motivation, which will yield-up additional Children for the Family. But these will not be of the high-status of the Bride herself. Whatever it's to be called, there WILL be a Church Age in the millennium.

6. 144,000. Well, Rev 7 speaks of only 144,000 of the tribes of Israel. We KNOW there are more people other than the 12 tribes as part of the true church, yet this speaks of a specific 144,000. Rev 14 speaks of the "firstfruits" and only 144,000, "who were redeemed from the earth." Certainly if only 144,000 of the church is "Israel," then there would HAVE to be more than 144,000 "redeemed from the earth" who were NOT of the tribes but part of the called and true saints (resurrected at Christ's return-first resurrection), but there is nothing stating anything about

a hypothetical "other" group beyond 144,000 that still comprises the true body of Christ... ***This is interesting, and, I feel, warrants a separate article. As your previous questions explained, IF these are the full and total yield of the 'first harvest' (the 'firstfruits' – they ARE the firstfruits) then this is a disturbingly small count! Now, let's consider a possibility. Ezekiel 37 describes the second resurrection. It very graphically portrays a PHYSICAL resurrection. But it involves ONLY the two 'houses of 'Israel''. Are we to conclude from that – that Israel ONLY will comprise the totality of the second resurrection? No! That can't be! But, why focus on these and remain silent of other ethnicities which WILL also be raised at that time? Here's a possible answer: God focuses on these as they will comprise the Model Nation which will be His primary instrument in bringing salvation to the rest of the world! The 144,000 are the leading members of God's Government, 12,000 each serving under the 12 Apostles. (Mt. 19:28) These are the firstfruits from that spiritual re-generation, NOT the totality of the first harvest. Just a possible explanation for consideration. That is a more comforting explanation than the idea of the 144,000 being the totality of the first resurrection.***

It appears to me that the Rev 7 144,000 are NOT in the first resurrection, as they are, like you say, a "last minute" repentance and being convinced and convicted by the two witnesses' preaching. ***No, actually, I don't believe this is the case. Why would 'last-minute' type converts be placed ahead of long-term Christians?*** This does not mean they have achieved the stature of Christ, not at all. It just means they are converted and convinced, and have had some "training" to some degree. It is these **we** possibly will work with, since they came to be convinced to believe God even in the age of Satan, so they will be "apprentices" as it were of the saints, and help begin the human family once again, except as the model nation "Israel." ***Who are you suggesting is the "we"? A WE would suggest there are converted peoples who are longer-term and more established in the Faith, and thus of higher status than they. Now, Revelation 14 shows that they in fact ARE in the first resurrection, standing with Christ on the Mount of Olives. The day in which that happens will be the Second Coming! (Zech. 14:4) Also, there apparently aren't others worthy of mention in that scene BUT the 144,000. It's important to understand what the chapter reveals. Revelation 14 is a picture of EACH of the "Harvests" of humanity. So Rev. 14:1-5 describes the essence of the First Resurrection (Harvest), where the latter third of the chapter describes the second Harvest. (The righteous are reaped in the 'white cloud' scene.) The 144,000 are not those who survive on over into the millennial age still physical. If that were the case, how could they be 'firstfruits'?***

7. Have you, by chance, read the book... "The Islamic Antichrist," by Joel Richardson? He postulates that the end time power/antichrist will be Muslim and the antichrist will be a Muslim "savior" who comes (which they expect). He has some things clearly wrong in theology, but some of his ideas are interesting. I don't believe it will be a Muslim power. He wrote this book when the Muslim religion was the fastest growing in the world, but that is no longer the case. Christianity (traditional) is now the single fastest growing religion in the world, and with this new pope... well... it should get interesting. ***I've heard a number of speculations. I reject this one. The antichrist will be of European powers, aka 'the king of the north', supported by the religious beast (the Catholic church) who already controls a great deal of what goes on in the world. The 'king of the south' will more likely be that Muslim conglomeration of nations. We have to put it all together first, before affirming an identity. Ten kings (old monarchies) in Europe will coalesce to form the Beast Power. They will later come to regret what they did. (Rev. 17:13-18)***

But it's the ecumenical movement, and the efforts (with surprising success) of corralling back all of the 'separated brethren' (the Protestants) into a one-world religion that presents the greatest significance. Even Billy Graham and other evangelicals have endorsed the legitimacy of the papacy! HWA in a sense did also!!

8. You bring up the post-millennial battle with Gog and Magog... Richardson also brings this up equating Gog and Magog with Muslim/Islamic ties. ***Won't the Muslim religion be extinct after 1000 years?*** The issues I have is with the time frame of this particular battle. The bible states that those who are part of the post millennial battle coming against Jerusalem, are "consumed" by fire from God. Usually "consuming" doesn't leave bodies. Second, if there are dead bodies which it takes 7 months to bury... and they will burn these instruments as wood for, if I remember correctly, several years... (**seven**) this is into the second resurrection period. I'm still working on the pre Gog and post Gog battles and descriptions... ***My article: "Great Battles in Prophecy" addresses this subject. Prophesarians sometimes blend passages into one another that are actually describing separate events. The Gog and Magog scriptures are more identified with Satan's release battle, not the antichrist battle. Those two***

are 1000 years apart! The army that opposes Christ at His return is largely European. The army that Satan raises is largely Asian with named middle-eastern allies. (Ezek. 38 & 39)

9. I can see how this might conflict with 1 Cor. 15, when Christ hands it all back to the Father, and the "forever" reign... **This hand-over takes place after the 'last enemy' (death) is conquered, which is after the Final Judgment. The Father cannot interface with sin-capable humanity. When that element is removed from the Earth, then the Father can be among the spirit-born Saints. (vs. 24-28)**

Isa 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Interesting that the Father's names are also co-applicable to the Son. We need to meditate on that.**

v.7 "Of the increase of **his government and peace** there will be no end. He will **reign** on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and **forever**. (NIV)

10. It seems to me that the dissolution of the earth and heavens with the heat mentioned, is synonymous with the lake of fire's finally fulfillment... the final burning OUT of the lake of fire which seems to be here from when the beast and false prophet were cast into at Christ's return... **The institutions of Death and the Grave will finally be consumed in the Lake of Fire. (Re. 20:14) This is after any who could die are consumed there first. There will be no NEED for these thereafter. The 'elements melting' passage I see as the result of the approach of the Father whose presence is as a flaming fire, brilliant energy (a light) than no man can approach unto. (1st Tim. 6:16) Let's not visualize this event as destruction, but a surface reformation, to purify out of it the works of man.**

Rev 19:20 "Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were **cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.**" **This occurs, as you indicate below, at the onset of the millennium. The Beast and False Prophet are so Satanic, they're given 'special consideration'.**

Seems these two are incorrigible, and the first to be destroyed in this second death, doesn't it? **Yes. They warrant special consideration for their desperate evil: an early extinction! Those living in the millennial age will be aware of their extinction as an illustration of the wages of wickedness.**

Rev 20:10 "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are." (better rendered "were cast.") **Yes. This event is at the onset of the millennial age.**

11. The Holy City, New Jerusalem which comes with the Father to the New Earth... Seems to me that because of the size of the city... 1500 miles square, the "new" earth would have to be the size of our sun or even one of the larger suns that dwarf our sun... unless we are speaking of a spiritual "earth" and physics no longer apply. Imagine a city that size on this size planet, and you'd have instant destruction of the planet due to the rotational factors and weight of the city itself. **Likely pyramidal in shape, not a cube. On earth, it'd be a structure one-fifth of the earth's diameter. Made of matter, you have a good point, but if made of some other material without the same specific gravity, density and weight, then the whole dynamic could/would be different.**

12. I make all things new... and wiping away all tears... could mean we might be able to see our beloved pets and those animals that were part of our lives that taught us lessons, etc. **Let's consider that we might not be limited to seeing in the present only in that time.**

Jeff M

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little." — Edmund Burke