

Beyond Armageddon

Understanding the Prophesied

FINAL Judgment of the WORLD

*“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
(Hebrews 9:27)*

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. ... Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” (2nd Peter 3:9 & 13)

*“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:
And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.
Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:
And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”*

----- Excerpts from Matthew 25 : 31 - 46 -----

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; ... And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.” (Isa. 61:1-4)

“And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded: And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better unto you than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ezek. 36:10-11)



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BEYOND ARMAGEDDON – FINAL Judgment of the WORLD

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❧ Foreword ❧

Few subjects hold the riveted interest of students of the Bible than what is commonly referred to as scenarios of 'the End of the World'. Owing to a low level of familiarity with what the Bible actually reveals about the long-term future, the general awareness, and its resulting consensus, represents the great Battle of Armageddon as being the 'final battle', or series of events, ending all human life on Earth.

This booklet is designed to acquaint the sincere seeker of Truth and Understanding with information not usually presented in established church denominations. Much is left to 'the professionals' under the presumption that their denomination's scholars, who profess to understand such matters, are adequately informed and are able to accurately represent the full Truth of God's Word on the subject. Most rest quite comfortably, taking the position that we need not attempt to investigate incongruities ourselves, as their esteemed theologians' conclusions are well documented.

What is absent in the spectacular scenarios presented by well-known eschatologists is an accurate presentation of what the world condition will be like after this 'last battle' occurs. Bible Prophecy reveals a whole **new age** beyond this momentous event.

It's the purpose of that new age, often referred to as 'the millennial Kingdom', that is by far the greater story. Not only that there is to be a new societal condition beyond the end of this age, but that it has a far greater purpose than any main-stream denomination represents in their presentations. To understand that new age, believers must have a general awareness of the major doctrines of the Christian religion, those being: the process of conversion, the receipt of God's Holy Spirit, the resurrections from the dead, and the assignment of the individual to 'eternal life', being provided immortality by a flesh-to-spirit change as is explicitly revealed in places such as 1st Corinthians chapter 15: And, not to disregard, the understanding of the world-ruling Millennial Kingdom of God on Earth and its all-important purposes.

What is a profound enigma among average churchgoers, or their leadership for that matter, is the question of why so many peoples (the overwhelming majority) remain unconverted at their times of death. In fact, it is the rare individual through history that has had an opportunity for Salvation. Few in human societies were adequately evangelized until the last 2000 years, and only a minority during those millennia were provided a full and fair opportunity to repent (which is a "God given" ability) a pre-condition to being led through the conversion experience. Then, there are the multiple millions who died in infancy or too young to be reasonably aware of what repentance and conversion is. Are these all consigned to everlasting torments in hell fire?

While Bible students are aware of the adage that, "God is not willing that any should perish", they just don't understand what provision God has made in His Overall Plan to provide all who have ever lived with the opportunity to pursue Conversion and to attain Eternal Life. That is the profound subject that this booklet will present.

Set aside former perceptions so that God's Truth may resound clearly in your mind.
The 'Battle of Armageddon' is NOT the end of the world! Rich Traver

Christ's Personal 'Three-Resurrections' Exposé thru John! (John 5 / Rev. 20)

(In these two passages, all three resurrections are presented together, comprehensively in sequence. *Light: John 5 / Bold: Rev. 20*)

¶ *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. ¶ **“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them...And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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 for a thousand years.”** These are they in the first resurrection, occurring at Christ's Second Coming, prior to the Great White Judgment Throne, in which they will also co-officiate! (1st Cor 6:2 & Mal 3:18)*

¶ *Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear ¹ will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ¶ **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.** (to be assigned?) **And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and the 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.** This resurrection provides opportunity for those who **never had a chance** to respond to God's call and live 'by the things written in the books': their names then being added into the Book of Life. No such opportunity is referred to in the next and final resurrection. The only book referred to there is the Book of Life, and that, only for the purpose of seeing whose names are written in it!! And, notice, that final resurrection is all-inclusive! This previous one wasn't, nor did it impose the 'second death'!*

¶ *Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. ¶ **And 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...This is the second death.** This final 'sentencing and consignment' resurrection involves all who ever lived (excepting only those first resurrected) and is that 'sheep from goats' separation to sentencing Christ explicitly referred to in Matthew 25: verses 31 – 46.*

The **first** resurrection is direct into **Life**. Then the **second** is to afford 'judgment and justice' to those who died never having had opportunity. The **third** is for **final sentencing** of all either to life **or** to condemnation: the second death! The second death is experienced by no-one, without their first having passed through an evaluative judgment. For the Saints of God, that evaluation period is now! ² For the rest, the dead who were never called at least, that period is after the thousand years are finished!

Now that we can understand from the above passages, the essential doctrine of the **resurrections** from the dead, and as a result, another one listed there in Hebrews 6: that of **eternal judgment**, how judgment and justice will come to all in their appointed time, we are ready to understand the vital purpose for the Last Great Day. God has a PLAN that 'not any should perish' (needlessly). That plan also happens to be His WILL! **This Last Great Day is the Day for 'them too'!** After the Millennial Age, and after Satan's brief release, those dead who never had an opportunity to know the Truth, and to respond to it, by having God's Spirit offered to them (which is essential to True Salvation) will be raised again, still physical, to be offered that opportunity. They will live in an age absent of Satan's influence, as did their physical predecessors in the Millennial Kingdom. They will be allowed to live out the remainder of their lifetimes (possibly up to the century mark! (Isaiah 65:20 & context.)) (consider also Matthew 22:30)

¹ Notice here the wording, suggesting that not all in this contingent will hear. In the next resurrection, ALL will hear!

² 1st Peter 4:17...judgment must begin at the house of God... This is for evaluation, (evidence gathering) not condemnation.