

## **Revelation 20:5-8 –Preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: We have already examined the rule of Christ during the Millennium. I hope by now you are clear:

**a. That Christ will NOT return on earth for a 1000 literal years to rule.**

**b. That the saints in heaven and on earth are ruling with Christ NOW.** (Ephesians 2:6).

**c. That Christians do not rule as political entities but as a spiritual force.** That spiritual authority you have comes from heaven not Parliament Hill. You rule by the power of the Sword of the Spirit – the Word of God. You teach the Word of God and the Holy Spirit brings men and women into submission to Christ and into his kingdom.

**d. That as you work, Christ begins to rule more and more in the world through you, the new Israel.**

Today you will hear the beginning of the culmination of all things at the end of the world.

Our headings are:

**After the 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection**

**Before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection**

Our goals are: That **seeing Christ's love for you, you will confidently look forward to your 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection in the future and you will worship the Lord better now.**

### **After the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection**

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

**1. This verse begins with a parenthetical statement: Christians who have died will have their 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection at the end of the world – when the millennial reign of Christ ends.**

(This is an explanation based on verse 4.)

**2. If Christians have a 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection, it means you have a 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection.**

**What is this 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection?**

You, Christians, were made alive at your regeneration! Ephesians 2. Romans 11.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and **raised us up together**, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Look also...

John 5:24 "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.** 25 "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 will live.**

Paul talked about the first resurrection in detail...and he was talking of being saved – being raised from **the spiritual dead.**

1Corinthians 15: 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.

Look at a clearer passage that speaks of your first resurrection – a resurrection that gave you the ability to reign with Christ.

Colossians 2: 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also **were raised with Him through faith** in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

**3. Those who are not Christians and have no hope in Jesus will have only 1 resurrection in the future – after the millennium (what we are going through now).**

Jehovah Witness and Seventh Day Adventists are wrong in teaching there is annihilation 完全毁灭 –the teaching that death is the end and the soul sleeps or ceases to exist. After death comes judgment. Consider these and 50 other passages, if we had time!

John 5:28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which **all who are in the graves will hear His voice** 29 "and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Acts 24: 15 "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but **after this the judgment,**

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.

**4. Because Christians already have the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection, you can enjoy life now.**

Furthermore, because Christians have the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection you are assured of the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection. And because you are assured of the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection, you can face death in this life without fear. You do not face death as non-believers. They are hopeless.

**These 2 types of resurrection were pictured for you in the Old Testament.**

Numbers 19: 11 'He who touches the dead body of anyone shall be unclean seven days. 12 'He shall purify himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not be clean.

One who touched death, had to be cleaned twice. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day and on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. That person, as it were, was figuratively raised from the dead twice.

### **5. This first resurrection that Christians have is most important and it came through Christ's death.**

Because he was raised from the dead, so are you.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

### **Before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection**

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...

#### **1. At the end of the Millennium, when God is ready (for he only goes by his timetable, and he only goes for what suits his glory) he will let Satan out from hell for a short period of time to make one final stand and tempt the church.**

Why will God allow Satan to come out of his chains for a time so that he might deceive the nations? That is the same question you might ask about a lot of things, like: Why did God allow Adam to sin? Why do bad things happen to good people? Answer: God has a sovereign purpose that you might or might not know. God doesn't always tell you. He simply does what he does for his own glory. You have to accept that! But you also remember that God never allows you to be tempted beyond your abilities!

#### **2. From this you can see that the whole world will never be converted.**

Most will be converted but not all. Look at an example of how God allowed some corrupt people to remain. God used a figurative picture about fishes.

Ezekiel 47:10 "It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many. 11 "But its swamps 沼泽 and marshes 湿地 will not be healed; they will be given over to salt.

Jesus pointed to this. He said the wheat will grow with the tares and be separated on judgment day? Yes, the wheat might be dominant 占优势的, but there are always some tares. (Mt 12:37-43).

#### **3. But do you see the stubbornness of the Devil?**

He will know that he is defeated but he will try one last time to deceive the nations.

His goal is to stop Christians at any cost from having dominion in the earth for the glory of Christ her Creator. That is his modus operandi. Consider how there was an increasing spiritual warfare and demonic 恶魔的 possession during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry. Satan wanted to destroy the covenant people of God. But the Bible teaches that the Devil's plan backfired 产生反效果 during Jesus' earthly ministry. What he thought was for destruction was used to show the power of Christ – as Christ authoritatively cast out demons. As a result of Christ's power, many believed and had their faith strengthened. And Christ's death backfired on Satan also. Satan's plan to kill the Lord caused him to be bound in hell – in fulfillment of Genesis 3.

1Corinthians 2: 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Yes, at the end of the Millennium the Lord will let Satan go for a time, but only after the church has blossomed and has been strengthened so she can win this epic 壮丽的 cosmic 宇宙的 struggle and give Christ the glory for her redemption and spiritual strengthening.

#### **4. But what about Gog and Magog?**

John said that the Devil will gather Gog and Magog together in battle against Christians!

First, learn what one of the common, but erroneous, teaching is about Gog and Magog. Many teach this is a war between Russia and Israel, not against Christians, that will soon take place – before the millennium. But Satan is let out of bondage after 1000 years and then brings Gog and Magog together to war against the church. So their timing is wrong.

Second, consider how irrational this interpretation is. According to their interpretation Russian must invade Israel for silver. (Ezekiel 38:11-13). But Israel is poor today. They don't have much wealth.

Third, they teach that the Russian soldiers are on horseback, carrying wooden swords, wooden shields, and wooden helmets – with wooden bows and arrows? (Have you looked at Russia's weapons recently?)

But where do they get the idea that the Bible spoke of Russia?

Ezekiel 38: 3 "and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.

This idea comes from trying to make “rosh,” which means “main” or “chief,” to be a short form for Russian. They take the other names to mean other cities in Russia, Georgia, and Germany. John described Gog and Magog as forces that join with the Devil to attack God’s people.

#### **5. Now the proper meaning. Let’s look at what Ezekiel said:**

Ezekiel 38:4 "I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.

Ezekiel described **Gog** as a prince (prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal). Gog joined neighboring forces, Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer and all its troops, and the house of Togarmah) and came together against God’s people who had just returned from captivity. But God destroyed them and led them away with fishhooks. The **peoples of these lands, ruled by Gog, are called Magog.**

So now in **Revelation**, Gog is also the prince – except he is wicked. He is the Devil. And the Devil would gather Magog from the 4 quarters of the earth... a large number and come against God’s people. We don’t know who these people are. But they will lose.

8...whose number is as the sand of the sea.

#### **6. And note the number of Magog (sand by the seas) is simply hyperbole 夸张– as God used in Josh. 11:4 for the Canaanites, and in Jud. 7:12 for the Midianites.**

In both of these cases the large army of people against God’s people was soundly defeated by God. Large numbers never stopped God before – but these large numbers were often described to show the power of God to destroy his enemies.

#### **7. What happens then to Gog and Magog?**

Ezekiel pointed out that Prince Gog and his alliances Magog were defeated by God’s people and they burned Magog’s weapons for 7 years. What comfort this must have given to God’s people who were reading this under severe persecution. Victory, either by submission or destruction, was theirs.

#### **Conclusion:**

While the wicked die and are controlled by death and must wait for the resurrection of condemnation, God’s people are raised to newness of life now and are reigning with Christ and fighting in his army now. Only when the church is well equipped will she be exposed to the Devil for a brief time at the end. And even then God would show one last time the greatness of his power and confirm his great love for his Bride – the church – by destroying the Devil and his agents.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

**Rejoice** that death and the Devil do not have power of you. Rejoice that you are reigning with Christ today. Rejoice that God will make a spectacle of the Devil at the end of the world – as he did on Calvary – but with greater finality.

**Work** for the kingdom of God. Use the Sword of God to bring men and women, boys and girls into submission to Christ. Live it. Speak it.

**But you have to know the Word**...and know how to use the Word. Those who have a weapon and don’t know how to use it end up hurting themselves, or those around them...and they certainly can’t protect others if they can’t use the weapon. Do you know how to use the Sword of the Spirit? Plan to be skilled in the Word.

Finally, Christ will conquer. It is better to submit. If you submit you will have hope. If you don’t submit, you die. May you call upon Christ to make you his child because he died for the freedom of the world.