

Today let's about the resurrection of judgment. The big question that vexes people is "what will happen to those who never knew the Messiah?" We know that salvation comes through Yeshua, and those who believe in Him have passed from death into life. Easy one. But then we wonder what will come of those who never knew? Often times the answer is quite morbid but the bible does actually tell us this answer. We've just been conditioned through the bad doctrines of history to not see it.

The only people I have ever heard employ what scripture actually says about death and the last large steps of prophecy are those of us who keep the commandments and believe in Yeshua. Almost all of Christianity has adopted a view of death and judgment that does not come from scripture at all. So we need to refresh on the general outline before getting to the meat of today's message.

Slide 2 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Yeshua standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Yeshua, receive my spirit!" Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep. (Act 7:54-60 NAS95)

The first stop is that we all believe, or rather know, that dead people are actually dead. People do not die and go to heaven or hell right now. When people die, they go to sleep and await one of two resurrections. Almost the entire world, regardless of religion, believes that souls are immortal and are a life apart from our bodies. That's not the case at all. In Genesis 2:7, Adam became a living soul when Yahweh breathed into his body. We begin to exist when we are conceived and we cease to exist when we die. This is why tombstones used to have RIP on them, meaning rest in peace.

Slide 3 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment." (Joh 5:24-29 NAS95)

It's important to read John 5 in the NASB or something other than the KJV. The KJV mistranslates the word judgment here several times to present a doctrine that the bible does not support. The word for judgment here is krisis G2920. The KJV purposely translates that differently even though the Messiah was saying the same word over and over. They do this to make it look like souls and punishment are eternal, when they are not.

Where does this say the dead are? In the tombs. And at some point, they will hear His voice and return to life. They are not in heaven or hell, they are not suffering in purgatory, they are not floating around a haunted mansion, they are dead. Death is the opposite of life. At some point in history the concept of eternal souls was blended into Christianity and is now part of pretty much every religion and even non-religious belief system. Today's message is not about the state of the dead, but keep in mind that Satan's big lie in the garden was "surely you will not die". That has crept into every aspect of humanity in the form of eternal souls.

What's also articulated here is the differentiation in resurrections. We have mankind divided into two groups, those who did good deeds to a resurrection of life and those who did evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. The good deeds include those who believe Yeshua is the Son of God. This is our group and we have passed out of judgment into life. This doesn't mean we can't lose our salvation, but for those who accept Yeshua as the Messiah and Son of God, repent, get baptized, and then continue to persevere, eternal life awaits. That does not mean we do not die, or that our souls live on after our bodies die, it means we are assured of a better resurrection.

Slide 4 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. (Rev 20:1-6 NAS95)

This is about the most comprehensive place to look at what is to come. This shows how those in the first resurrection have passed out of judgment and into life. Those in this resurrection, which is

referred to as the first resurrection, are resurrected 1000 years before the resurrection of judgment. I've been talking a long time but this is really the preface to the message. The resurrection of judgment, aka Judgment Day, doesn't apply to believers. Judgment Day is a long way off, well the literal day is.

Slide 5 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev 20:7-15 NAS95)

Judgment day comes at the end of the 1000 years. That's literally when it comes, but it is based on the deeds, works, of everyone who has ever lived. This is when people who never heard about Yeshua are judged, people who heard and rejected, people who lived in the millennium, and on and on. Most of the billions of people who have ever lived come up at this time and judgment is pronounced. The word for judged here is G2919 krino is a derivative of G2920 krisis. Both of those words are used in John 5 when He talks about the judgment and judging. These words are not talking about condemnation, they are talking about decision time. These are decisions made about people during their time on earth. How did they live according to the knowledge they had?

Slide 6 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left." (Mat 25:31-33 NAS95)

Yeshua spoke plainly about this judgment in Matthew 25. He spoke about separating the sheep from the goats when all the nations are gathered before Him. They probably thought of this like

when Solomon was king of Israel, in earthly terms. Maybe not, though, because He wasn't speaking in mortal terms was He?

Slide 7 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' (Mat 25:34-36 NAS95)

Those who will inherit the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world are described as what? Being kind and thoughtful. There is no doctrine here at all. That's because this is the resurrection of judgment, not the first resurrection. This is when Yeshua is making the final decision for billions of people who never knew Him.

Slide 8 "Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' "Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Mat 25:44-46 NAS95)

You see, in this life we are called out of Babylon while living in Babylon. We enter into life but our lives actually get more complicated because we get our doctrine correct and we stop fitting in, excepts once or twice a year when we gather for Yahweh's festivals. But we have to be able to make judgments ourselves about the people in this life, whether they be believers or not. I'm not saying we are pronouncing the final judgment on anyone, but these verses show us the basic goodness that is expected of every human being. We have to make decisions about who we will associate with, who we will study from, and who we will work for. These verses give us strong guidance on how to identify good people and bad.

In our own lives, we have to make difficult decisions. When we are broke, we have to prioritize which bills to pay. When we are strapped for time, we have to decide who gets our time and for how long. When we are in school and need to pass a class, we have to decide how best to get that done. It appears the final judgment has a similar paradigm. That Yeshua is going to sort the sheep from the goats based on some last minute, out of money, out of time, criterion. Because it is going to be a last minute situation for billions of people. And it appears based on how they showed love for one another, or whether they showed love for one another at all.