

# WHOLE WHEAT

The truth is simple...just simply not known.

A PUBLICATION FOR BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

## Who Will Be Partakers of Resurrection?

One solid proof that the Bible is still the greatest of all mystery books is the fact that there are so many different concepts of the resurrection. The question of who will be resurrected is a mystery to most people today.

John 5:29 says those who did good deeds will receive a resurrection of life. No wonder the apostles were confident about telling people to be careful to engage in good deeds (Titus 3:8). They taught the people that doing good is something they would have to learn to do (Titus 3:14). Every man will be recompensed according to his deeds (Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12). Romans 2:6-7 says that Christ will render to every man according to his deeds and those who seek eternal life must persevere in doing good. Of course, all good deeds must be done in the name of Jesus Christ, as He commanded (Col. 3:17).

Yes, each one of us will give account of himself to God (Rom. 14:12). Jesus Christ searches our hearts and our minds and He is going to reward us according to our deeds, both the bad and the good deeds (Rev. 2:23; Col. 3:25). "But who is there to harm you if you prove zealous [enthusiastic] for good deeds?" (1 Peter 3:13). No one can harm you because one who is zealous in doing good deeds is wearing the full armor of God (Eph. 6:11, 13). God's word cautions us that we will reap what we sow, for it is impossible to mock or fool God (Gal. 6:7).

We are not to get weary in doing good deeds because this is how we overcome our evil natures (Gal. 6:8-10; 2 Thess. 3:13; Rom. 12:21).

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# Who Will Be Partakers of Resurrection?

It is also how we live to the Spirit and put to death the deeds of the flesh (Gal. 5:24-25; Rom. 8:13).

***Those who live in this way, being zealous for good deeds and overcoming their evil natures to the end, will come up in the first resurrection.***

Those who live in this way, being zealous for good deeds and overcoming their evil natures to the end, will come up in the first resurrection. The word of God calls those who are partakers in the first resurrection the first fruits, or the firstborn (James 1:18; Heb. 12:23). The second fruits are the rest of the dead who will not come alive until after the 1,000 year reign of Christ (Rev. 20:5, 12-13).

Right now, judgment has come upon the household of God (1 Peter 4:17-19). Judgment means a space of time in which a person is allowed to overcome his or her nature. He does this by keeping Christ's deeds or works daily, overcoming the world and the pulls of the flesh and living like Jesus lived (Rev. 2:26; Luke 8:21; John 14:12, 15; Col. 3:5; 1 John 2:6).

Remember, the majority of the people who have lived in the past have not heard the complete message of Jesus Christ (Matt. 7:13-14). Most people have not been called of Jesus Christ in this age. Thanks to God, everyone who ever lived will eventually have a chance to be born of God by practicing righteousness (2 Peter 3:9). They will be partakers in the second resurrection (John 8:51). At that time, those who have not known the truth or been called, will have the opportunity to overcome their evil natures, just as we who are called now must live our lives daily to please the One who called us to righteousness.

***If we have not yet started to please God in all our ways, right now is a perfect time to begin!***

Either way, each person will have an opportunity for salvation. Each person will also be judged according to his or her deeds, whether good or evil (Jer. 17:10). If we have been called now and our deeds are pleasing to God, we will partake in the first resurrection and receive eternal life (1 Cor. 15:23-24; 1 Thess. 4:16-17). If we have not yet started to please God in all our ways, right now is a perfect time to begin!□



# When is the First Resurrection?

With the use of deductive reasoning and the wisdom that God gives us, we can determine when the first resurrection will take place, that is, in what time frame.

***No rain will fall from the sky for the last three and one-half years before the first resurrection.***

No rain will fall from the sky for the last three and one-half years before the first resurrection (Rev. 11:6). Then, just before the first resurrection takes place, people around the world will rejoice over the death of God's two anointed ones because they preached to the people to repent and repent from taking the mark of the beast (Rev. 11:10; 14:9-11). It will be like the days of Noah, when the wickedness of man was great and every intent of the thoughts of his heart was continually evil (Matt. 24:37; Gen. 6:5). People will praise the beast for murdering God's true prophets, for God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they believe what is false (2 Thess. 2:10-12). They will have had their chance to know the truth, but they refused to believe it when they heard it preached by the two witnesses of God. Matthew 24:22 says that those days must be cut short for the sake of the elect or no life would be saved on this earth.

***The first resurrection will take place at the last trumpet. The dead will rise first.***

The first resurrection then, will take place at the last trumpet. Jesus Christ is the first fruits—the first one resurrected to eternal life. Then, all dead disciples of Jesus Christ that are asleep, and waiting for His coming at the end of this age, will then be resurrected to reign with Him (1 Thess. 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:18, 20, 23-24, 51). That is when all bond-servants of Jesus Christ will receive eternal life (Heb. 11:39-40). The Lord is going to perform wonders for the dead. The departed spirits will rise to praise God (Psalm 88:10).

Then, and only then, we who are alive and remain will be changed in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15:51-52). Again, this will take place after the two witnesses have finished giving their testimony, just before the third woe, as the seventh angel sounds the last trump (1 Thess. 4:15-17; Rev. 11:3, 7-12, 14-17). This will be at the end of the beast's three and one-half year reign.

***We also know that after the first resurrection, the marriage supper of the Lamb will take place on a mountain and those who are His bond-servants will be invited.***

We also know that after the first resurrection, the marriage supper of the Lamb will take place on a mountain and those who are His bond-servants will be invited (Rev. 19:5-10; Is. 25:6-9; Matt. 8:11). The Bible says this wedding feast will take place directly east of Jerusalem. It will most likely be at Mount Nebo in Jordan, because Christ will be coming from the east and will go west to Jerusalem (Matt. 24:27).

***Are you ready for these things to take place?***

We know that when Christ comes to fight the armies of the earth, which will be gathered to fight Him at His return, His disciples will be following Him on white horses (Rev. 16:14; 19:11-16, 19). Then the 1,000 year rest will begin (Rev. 20:4). This will be a time when Christ must reign so He can put all of His enemies under His feet (1 Cor. 15:25). He will teach all nations concerning His Ways (Is. 2:3; Micah 4:2-3). This will be a time when the Lord will be King over all the earth and if any nation refuses to go up to Jerusalem to be taught by Christ, God will withhold rain from that nation (Zech. 14:9, 17; Psalm 102:15; 100:1; 99:1; 97:1; 93:1). Are you ready for these things to take place?

# The Second Resurrection



The first resurrection is mentioned many times throughout Scripture. It is a resurrection of the righteous (Luke 14:14). But not everyone was being called in Christ's day, or for that matter, in the Old Testament. The Bible says a partial hardening happened with the Jews and it will continue until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled (2 Cor. 3:14-15). This hardening is prophesied to end at the return of Jesus Christ to this earth (Zech. 12:10; Rev. 1:7). What is to become of all the Jewish people and many other people who did not have a chance for salvation?

Elijah thought that he was the only one who knew the truth of God, but God said that He was working with 7,000 others at that same time (1 Kings 19:18; Rom. 11:3-4). Jesus said that if the miracles He did in other cities had been done in Sodom and Gomorrah, they would have repented (Matt. 11:23). But God did not allow them to repent, did He?

God Himself is picking and choosing, calling and teaching those who were predestined to be called in this era. You can pray and ask God to call someone now. Some people may seek God with their whole heart and He will not turn away from them (Prov. 8:17; 2 Cor. 3:16). But the majority of people are not being called at this time, nor were they in Christ's day or any other era.

***Those being called now will teach the people in the future and will help Jesus Christ reign***

***and put His enemies under His heel.***

God is just calling those now who will be priests and kings and teachers (Rev. 2:26). Those being called now will teach the people in the future and will help Jesus Christ reign and put His enemies under His heel (1 Cor. 15:25). That's what we will be doing during the first 1,000 years following the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4).

***The rest of the dead will not come to life until after the 1,000 years are completed!***

The rest of the dead will not come to life until after the 1,000 years are completed (Rev. 20:5)! Who are the rest of the dead? They are all those people from the time of Adam to the time of the return of Christ who did not have a chance for salvation. Their eyes and ears were closed. In mercy, they were closed, for God does not wish any to perish but that all men be saved (Rom. 11:32; 2 Peter 3:9).

***Those resurrected at this time will be given their chance for salvation.***

Ezekiel 37:1-10 describes that great second resurrection in vivid detail. Notice in Ezekiel 37:5-6 that the dead bones are given skin and breath is put into them. This is not a spiritual resurrection, where those who are resurrected are given spiritual bodies, but rather it is a physical resurrection to a physical life of 100 years, instead of 70 years as we have been given today (Is. 65:20; Psalm 90:10). Those resurrected at this time will be given their chance for salvation. Isaiah 65:20-25 speaks of the reign of Christ, when a lion will eat straw like an ox. It is speaking of the end of the millennium. It is speaking of the second resurrection. Isn't it a blessing to clearly see God's plan for the future?

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# Now is the Time



***Now is the time to glorify God in heaven by the Way we live on earth each day.***

Now is the time to glorify God in heaven by the Way we live on earth each day. Now is the time to let our lights shine before men by glorifying God the Way He desires to be glorified and worshiped—by doing good works towards others (Matt. 5:16; Col. 3:17; Rom. 12:1).

***Now is the time to do good works so we're sure we have good fruit on our trees (godly good character) and we will rise in the resurrection of those who had good works.***

There is no praising God in the grave (Psalm 146:4; Is. 38:18-19). True followers of Jesus Christ rest from their good works when they die and their good works follow them to the grave (Rev. 14:12-13). Now is the time to do good works so we're sure we have good fruit on our trees (godly good character) and we will rise in

the resurrection of those who had good works (Matt. 3:10; John 5:29). Now is the time to continue in righteousness so we will come up in the resurrection of the righteous (Luke 14:13). We must practice righteousness to be considered righteous by God (1 John 3:7).

***Now is the time to put to death the bad habits and deeds of the body by living each day for the Lord, who is the Spirit.***

Now is the time to put to death the bad habits and deeds of the body by living each day for the Lord, who is the Spirit (Rom. 6:8, 11; 2 Cor. 3:17). Now is the time to imitate God daily by living as Jesus Christ lived and to keep His words (Eph. 5:1; 1 Cor. 11:1; John 8:51).

***Now is the time to stop following men and esteeming them, and start following God and respecting and glorifying Him by doing good works.***

Now is the time to stop following men and esteeming them, and start following God and respecting and glorifying Him by doing good works (Is. 2:22; Jer. 17:5; Psalm 146:3-5; Mal. 3:16; Matt. 5:16). Let God teach you by studying His word daily (1 John 2:27; John 6:45; 2 Tim. 2:7). Stop reading other books and pamphlets written about the Bible, which continually keep many in a state of religious confusion (Eccl. 12:12; 1 Cor. 4:6). Now is the time to stop worshiping men who preach religious concepts and ideas of men and worship the Lord in vain by doing so (Matt. 15:9; Mark 7:7).

***Now is the time to not look up to Christ, but imitate Him, live like Him and talk like Him.***

# Now is the Time

Now is the time to imitate Christ, live like Him and talk like Him. If He had wanted us to simply look up to Him instead of imitate Him, He would have come in the majestic form of a king or ruler; but He came as a humble servant to show us the attitude we must have toward others if we are to be pleasing to Him (1 Peter 4:11; Matt. 20:28; Phil. 2:6-8).

***Now is the time to change, to repent and to live the rest of your days to be pleasing to the Lord on a personal, one-to-one, day-to-day basis.***

Now is the time for many to stop playing church and start being holy by living holy, for without holiness, no one will see the Lord (Heb. 12:14, King James Version). Now is the time to discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness and start building godly character on your tree, which is typified in God's word as good fruit (Col. 1:10; Matt. 3:10; 7:19; 1 Tim. 4:7). Now is the time to look up these Scriptures in God's word and prove that what you are reading is true. Now is the time to change, to repent and to live the rest of your days to be pleasing to the Lord on a personal, one-to-one, day-to-day basis.

Now is the time—because we who are in this world are running out of time (Luke 13:3, 5).□

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Everywhere you turn people are talking about meditation and how good it is for your health. The meditation they are referring to is *not* of God. Find out what kind of meditation is truly healthy for your soul in our new feature... [Meditate on Scripture](#).



# Letter From the Editor

Dear *Whole Wheat* Readers,

When I was in college and attending a mega church, the minister of that church said that we will all be resurrected and stare into the face of Jesus for all eternity. I thought, really, that's it? Most people today don't know any more than that, but is that all there really is? What does the Bible say about the resurrection? That is what this issue of *Whole Wheat* is about. God's plan for mankind is far more marvelous than what most believe or know.

In our lead article, *Who Will Be Partakers in the Resurrection*, it pulls together the Scriptures that clearly show who will be part of God's resurrection. It also tells us that God does not desire the death of anyone, but that all men should come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). But how does God determine who will participate in the resurrection and who will not? That question is also answered in this article.

So many do not realize there is more than one resurrection. John himself wrote about the *first* resurrection in Revelation 20:5-6. Our article, *When is the First Resurrection*, unravels the mystery of God's timetable and the order for His plan of salvation. If John, *the writer of Revelation*, wrote that there is a first resurrection, then that implies there is a second. Otherwise, he would not have used the word *first*. In our article, *The Second Resurrection*, it explains why there is more than one.

Yes, Jesus said the Kingdom of God is at hand, it is right now (Mark 1:15)! The world is experiencing the birth pangs of His Kingdom (Matt. 24:8). Our article *Now is the Time*, shows

how God is sending out a last call, a last days invitation so to speak, for those who will be given ears to hear and eyes to see (Matt. 13:16,17). The Scriptures continually tell people to wake up and get ready (Rom. 13:11; 1 Thess. 5:6, 8).

Lastly, God has the ultimate retirement plan that not only covers you in this world, but in the next. It's called laying up your *Treasures in Heaven*. It's the very best plan and coverage, for protection and blessings in this life and His Kingdom to come.

It is my hope and prayer that all reading and listening to this issue of *Whole Wheat* on [wholewheatonline.com](http://wholewheatonline.com) are truly stimulated to take heart, and more importantly action, for what is just ahead of us. There is no time like the present. Stop putting off what you can do today, so you will be ready for tomorrow. This way when the Lord returns you will not shrink away at His coming in shame because you wasted this precious opportunity He has given you (1 John 2:28).

Be sure to check out our new podcast, *Ready for Place of Safety*, for a riveting sermon that truly motivates. Also, if you are looking for a great way to keep God's word on your heart and mind, check out our new *Meditate on Scripture* feature. When you learn what kind of meditation truly pleases God, and is healthy for you, you quickly realize it is not the kind most are doing. If you are looking for peace, this feature brings it in spades. Who couldn't use more peace in this crazy world?

In His Love,

Scott

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# Treasures in Heaven

What did Jesus Christ mean when He said in Matthew 6:20-21, **“But lay up for yourself treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal; for where your treasure is, there will be your heart also.”** What was He saying in this parable—this riddle or dark mysterious statement (Psalm 78:2; Matt. 13:35; Mark 4:33-34)?

The answer is found by knowing what the Will of God is. Notice what is revealed when we compare other Scriptures, and how this unlocks the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Luke 12:16-21 is a parable about a rich man whose only concern was himself and his own well-being. Because this individual was living to please only himself and not God in heaven, he was unaware that there was a God in heaven who could call for his life to end at any time. The man should have been rich towards God by storing up treasures in heaven. Then, God would not have called for his life to end so abruptly.

One more Scripture, and we will have the mysterious parable of Matthew 6:20-21 revealed. This Scripture is 1 Timothy 6:17-18. It says to

instruct those who are rich (well-off materially) in this present world not to be conceited (think they are better than others and thus, look down on the needy) or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God instead, who is the one who supplies us with all these things to enjoy. Now, here is the key! Instruct them to do good with their money, with their possessions and with their time, for this is how to be rich in good works done for the glory of God, as Jesus gave example to do (Matt. 5:16). Being generous, then, is how we glorify God in our daily lives.

**Be sure to do all that you do in good works or good words—like cheering up people—in the name of Jesus Christ for the glory of the Father** (Col. 3:17). Those works, then, will be written in the book of life, and you will be judged by them (Rev. 20:12). The good works are for your repentance, for your blessings and for your spiritual growth (Acts 26:20; 3:26). If you do good works from a pure heart for repentance and endure to the end doing so, you can rest assured that you will be considered worthy to attain to the age of the resurrection from the dead (Luke 20:35; 21:19; John 5:29). **This is the treasure of treasures!**□



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