

The End Times and Israel

Some people get excitement from thinking about the end times. I wonder if they realize it mostly has to do with judgment. When we die, we will be judged. The Bible also talks about Israel and the end times. The end time for believers in the true God is a time of joy, the beginning of eternal life with God and Yeshua. We should first talk about the judgment that takes place when we die.

Heaven and Sheol

The Bible talks about different places that mankind goes to after death and where some of the angels are sent temporarily.

* When people died in the Old Testament, they either went to the righteous side of sheol ("Abraham's side" Luke 16:23 CJB), or to the unrighteous side of sheol (Luke 16:22). The Rich Man and Lazarus is not a parable (in Luke 16:19-31). The rich man tells Lazarus to let his brothers know how terrible the suffering is for those who do wrong and are on the unrighteous side. The different words for sheol are Abbadon, the pit, hell, hades, or sheol.¹ The righteous actually do what is right not just think they are right (Heb. 2:2-1, 3:12-14).

* There is a place where the angels are kept that caused the sin at the time of the flood. 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 1:6-7. Kefa (Peter) uses the word "tartarōsas"² in 2 Peter 2:4. These evil angels will remain there until the final judgement and then be thrown into the lake of fire.

* There is a place called the abyss where rebellious angels are sent temporarily. Luke 8:31. Rev. 20:3

* The reason the righteous in the Old Testament portion could not go to be with God yet is because the blood of animals cannot fully take away sin (Hebrews 10:1-4). When Yeshua (Jesus) died, he went to the righteous side of hell (Matt. 12:40; Eph. 4:9) and told both the righteous and unrighteous sides of hell He had come (1 Peter 3:18-19).

* Yeshua (Jesus) ascended into heaven and brought those on Abraham's side with Him (Ephesians 4:8-10). When believers in Yeshua die, they go to be with Yeshua in heaven (2 Cor. 5:6-8). Those who have died since the coming of Yeshua who are unrighteous go to the unrighteous side of hell to suffer (Luke 16:23-25) and await judgement before being sent to the lake of fire.

* The final place for those who did evil and fallen angels for all eternity is the lake of fire where they will suffer forever (2 Peter 3:7; Rev. 20:10,15). Gehennah and the Lake of Fire are used for the same place in the Bible.³

So far, we have covered the 2 places of sheol for the righteous and unrighteous. Again, righteousness actually means doing what is right not just thinking you are right. There is the place, tartarosas, where the devil spirits were sent from the time of Noah; they waiting for the final judgement. There is an abyss where devil spirits are sent temporarily. There is heaven where the righteous from the Old Testament are and the believers in Yeshua who have died are. We don't always know how God will judge someone; that is up to God. It makes sense to accept the Messiah Yeshua if you haven't yet, and begin to keep God's commandments.

There are also different heavens referred to in the Bible. The first heaven is our air where the birds fly. The second heaven is where the stars and planets are located. The third heaven is the place where God is.

¹ Arnold Fruchtenbaum, The Place of the Dead.

² Novum Testamentum Graece 28th Edition, Ed. Barbara and Kurt Aland, Karavidopoulos, Martinin, Metzger, Deutsche Biblegesellschaft, p. 710. Translated "hell" in the NKJV.

³ Arnold Fruchtenbaum, The Place of the Dead, p. 18.

The Judgments

There was a judgment of those upon death of those who lived before the Messiah came. The spirits of the righteous were sent to the righteous side of sheol and the unrighteous to the unrighteous side of sheol. When the Messiah ascended to heaven, he took with him those on the righteous side of sheol.

When those who believe in the Messiah Yeshua die they go to be with God. Anyone who refuses the Messiah will go to the unrighteous side of sheol. Yeshua said we must believe in the Messiah (John 14:6). It is up to God who will be accepted as righteous or if anyone else will be accepted as righteous. Those who believe in the Messiah will be in the 3rd heaven with God until the 1,000 year reign of Yeshua.

There is a special judgment for some of the Israel in Revelation 7 who did not defile themselves (Rev. 14:4). They will be allowed to be in close proximity to Yeshua (Rev. 14:5). We have to be concerned with the timing when working with the book of Revelation.

The Judgment on the Rebellious

Beginning with the first seal in the book of Revelation 6, it is an overview of the time since the coming of the Messiah. There are many sufferings to come before the end (seals 1-6). The 6th seal matches the prophecy of Yeshua concerning the very end of time (Joel 2:10-11; Isa. 13:9-11; Matt. 24:27-31). Yeshua said **no one** knows the time (Matt. 24:36). Kefa (Peter) says there will be an end time and those who are skeptical (unbelievers) and don't follow God's commandments will be judged and punished (2 Peter 2:4-9, 3:3-4,11).

Those who have been martyred for Yeshua are still with God in the 3rd heaven in Rev. 6:9-11.

The 7th seal then shows the judgment on man during the final end times as the 7 trumpets are sounded. Mankind did not repent. Rev. 9:20-21

The judgments on mankind continues. Rev. 8:1-11:14; and, there are more judgments to come.

The 7th trumpet talks about the beginning of the 1,000 year reign in the future. Rev. 11:15-19

Another judgment begins in Rev. 14:14-20 followed by more judgments.

The final judgement is when God will raise all the remaining dead and judge all of mankind for what they have done. Those that are not written in the book of life will be thrown in the lake of fire. "Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire;" Rev. 20:15 CJB. There are levels of suffering in the lake of fire. Judah (Jude) said, "For whom the blackest darkness has been reserved forever;" Jude 1:13 CJB. This verse implies there are levels of suffering. Also, 2 Peter 2:13 says those that do evil will be paid back.

The False Doctrine of the Judgment of Purgatory

The false teaching of purgatory is a teaching that says one can make up for the bad they did in life by suffering in the afterlife. It is not biblical. In the present, when a person dies, they either go to be with God or they go to the unrighteous side of hell to await the final judgement and then the lake of fire. Hebrews 9:27 CJB says, "Just as human beings have to die once, but after this comes judgment." The support for purgatory comes from non-biblical ancient fiction.

The Thousand Year Reign of Yeshua

There is a 1,000 year reign of Yeshua that is to occur before the final judgment. Before the final judgment, the devil will be put in the abyss for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-3) and this will coincide with the 1,000 Year Reign of Yeshua (Rev. 20:4-5).

"And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years:" Rev. 20:4-5

It appears we have a list for those who will reign for 1,000 years with the Messiah Yeshua. Those who 1) died as martyrs for Yeshua, 2) those who proclaimed the word of God, and 3) those who did not get mark of the beast on their hands or foreheads. Rev. 20:4-5. There has been a lot of speculation on this, but we will see that this list makes sense.

The word "and" in the Greek can refer to a list of different things or to emphasize a point. Since the list here contains different elements it doesn't appear to be an emphasis. If they were martyred for Yeshua, they obviously don't have the mark of the beast. They are different points. Yeshua said, "But whoever disowns me before others I will disown before my Father in heaven." The 1,000 year reign of Yeshua not only includes martyrs, but those who faithfully professed to be believers (for the word of God). They did not disown Yeshua.

Those who are in the 3rd heaven at present are believers from the Old Testament portion and those believers who have died in the New Testament portion (including martyrs). It makes sense then that all the believers for all of time will be part of the 1,000-year reign of Yeshua. Also, remember that Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah. Those from the Old Testament portion also believed in a Messiah. For example, Abraham looked forward to the Messiah (John 8:56).

So first of all, those who were martyrs for Yeshua will be part of His 1,000 year reign. God being just will allow them to reign with Him for 1,000 years before the final heaven and earth. Is there anything we can use to understand Rev. 20:4-5 better?

Shaul refers to what Yochanan (John) is talking about in Rev. 20:4-5 and says we will reign with Yeshua. He calls it a saying of the early believers. 2 Timothy 2:11 NKJV says, "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him,⁴ we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself." This is about believers who are dead (including martyrs) and those who endured; they will reign with Yeshua. This verse alone shows us who is to be in the 1,000 year reign and makes Rev. 20:4-5 clear. Believers will reign with Yeshua.

Yeshua in His message to Smyrna expected them to be faithful to the point of death and He expects that for us too. "Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the Adversary is going to have some of

⁴ Shaul also must be referring to a good confession of faith in 2 Tim. 2:11 We are said to die with Yeshua when we made our confession of faith in Yeshua during water immersion (baptism). The symbolic idea of immersion is that when a person goes under the water, they left the old person of sin there (dead to sin), and when they come out, they are to be a new person and live right. We came out of the water to follow the Messiah and if we live in Him, we will also live with Him in His future kingdom. We must endure it says whether that is by being a martyred or by boldly believing in Him. It says we will "**reign with Him**" clearly indicating we will be with Yeshua in the 1,000 years reign. 2 Tim. 2:11 is a clear reference to what Yochanan is talking about in Rev. 20:4-5.

you thrown in prison, in order to put you to the test; and you will face an ordeal for ten days. Remain faithful, even to the point of death; and I will give you life as your crown;" Rev. 2:10 CJB. The messages from Yeshua to the believers in various cities were actual messages to them not just some cryptic message to be interpreted.

Believers who are alive along with those who have died and have been faithful will be raised from the dead in the breathable air the Greek says (1 Thes. 4:13-18). "Then we who are left still alive will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord;" (1 Thes. 4:17 CJB). It says in Strong's Enhanced Dictionary the word for air⁵ means: the air, particularly the lower and denser air as distinguished from the higher and rarer air." We will always be with the Lord (v. 17) because **after** the 1,000-year reign, the devil and those who are unrighteous are thrown in the lake of fire; believers for all of time will be part of the final heaven and earth forever. Yeshua said, "I will return to take you with me; so that where I am, you may be also;" John 14:3 CJB. So, wherever we are, in the 3rd heaven or still alive, Yeshua will have a place for us in the breathable air in His 1,000 year reign.

Faithfulness to the end is important; we become sharers with the Messiah in His reign. "For we have become sharers in the Messiah, provided, however, that we hold firmly to the conviction we began with, right through until the goal is reached;" Hebrews 3:14 CJB. Whether we believe in a rapture⁶ or not, it is important to remain faithful (Hebrews 12:14). Some believe in what is called a "rapture." I am saying the scriptures support a post-tribulation rapture.

The mark that Yochanan is referring to is given to those who continue to practice idolatry. There is a lot of crazy speculation about the mark. Acts 17:29 uses the word for **mark** that is used in Rev. 20:4. Acts 17:29 says, "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something **shaped** by art and man's devising." The word "shaped" is the Greek word charagma⁷ translated "mark" in Rev. 20:4.

Whether that mark comes from actual idolatry, or obeying the Islamic command to convert or die, or it comes from following the command from a leader to accept them as God or society as god, we are to remain faithful. Yeshua expects us to be faithful to death and be bold. Most Bible teachers think the mark will come from the command of a future demonic inspired leader. During the end times the Bible says there will be a devilish leader. The Roman Empire killed a million believers in Yeshua just to create their own religion in the 4th century and many people still believe the religion of the Roman Empire will be the future demonic led religion. A lot of people thought Hitler was that leader or the anti-messiah. It's hard to believe anyone could be worse than Hitler and Stalin. Islam continues to kill countless believers in Yeshua every day.

Believers have dealt with a lot of persecution over the years. When Yeshua talks about the deliverance from trials for those in Philadelphia, He is going to do something supernaturally to protect them. It is not talking about the tribulation as some say (Rev. 3:10). We know the believers faced a lot of persecution from Rome. After the Bar Kokhba revolt around 135 AD, both Jews and believers in Yeshua were persecuted by Rome.

⁵ The word for air in the Greek is "g0109. ἀήρ aēr; from ἄημι aēmi (to breathe)."

⁶ Some believe we will not have to face the troubles of the end time and go to the 3rd heaven.

⁷ The Greek word charagma is translated "mark" in Rev. 20:4 and "shaped" in Acts 17:29.

The believers in Yeshua have faced troubles all along. The pre-tribulation "rapture" is a theological fabrication made up by the Puritans in the 18th century. It was not a doctrine of the early believers.⁸ There will be a resurrection followed by the 1,000-year reign of Yeshua. It is described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The believers who have died will rise from the dead and those who are live will be gathered together to reign with Yeshua during the 1,000-year reign of Yeshua. It will occur after the tribulation – some call that a post tribulation rapture. We will always be with the Lord because believers will be with Yeshua during the 1,000-year reign followed by the final heaven and earth.

Yeshua said we will face troubles and others will hate us. "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world;" John 16:33 CJB. "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you;" John 15:19 CJB. Again, whether or not we believe in a pre-tribulation rapture, we are to remain faithful.

There are many countries now working together to get rid of godly and good biblical laws and spread unbelief about God. They are trying to get people to accept sinful behaviors and they are trying to impose these things on people who believe in God. There seems to be a great falling away or apostasy in our day. That is what is talked about in 2 Thes. 2:1-4. Shaul said the end will not come until there is a falling away.

Be faithful to do what is right and good. Shaul said there is nothing against the fruit of the Spirit: "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self control;" Gal 5:22-23 CJB. There is nothing wrong with being a believer in the Messiah Yeshua. We have nothing to be ashamed of.

We know for sure that the 1,000-year reign of Yeshua is associated with the last age before the final judgement and there we find out that the final Jerusalem is 1,500 miles x 1,500 miles. It makes sense then that land of the 1,000-year reign will also be large enough to contain all the believers.

Abraham is given a specific territory that is promised to him. "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates;" Genesis 15:18 NKJV. That has not been fulfilled yet and must be fulfilled. When the devil is then released, this territory is then surrounded by unbelievers. This promised territory is called the "camp of God's people;" Rev. 20:9 CJB. The unbelievers that go up to battle against God's people will not enter the territory, but fire will come down and consume them it says in Rev. 20:9 (see below).

The Devil is Released

After the 1,000-year reign, the devil will be released for a short time. He will deceive the world and the unbelievers will surround the territory that was promised to Abraham (Gen. 15:18). Fire will come down from heaven and consume the unbelievers.

Rev. 20:7-9 CJB:

"When the thousand years are over, the Adversary will be set free from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for the battle. Their number is countless as the sand on the seashore; and they came up over the breadth of the Land and surrounded the camp of God's people and the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them."

⁸ "Pre-tribulation rapture theology originated in the eighteenth century, with the Puritan preachers Increase and Cotton Mather, and was popularized extensively in the 1830s by John Nelson Darby and the Plymouth Brethren," – Wikipedia, [Rapture](#).

After this it says, devil spirits, false prophets, the unbelievers of that time, and those who did evil will be sent to the lake of fire forever. Rev. 20:10

The Final Resurrection and Judgment

There will be a final judgement for the rest of mankind (Rev. 20:11-13). God will raise all the dead and judge them. If their name is not written in the book of life they will be thrown in the lake of fire. "Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire;" Rev. 20:15 CJB. We don't always know how God will judge someone; that is up to Him. Again, it makes sense to accept the Messiah Yeshua if you haven't yet, and begin to keep God's commandments.

There are levels of suffering in the lake of fire. Judah (Jude) said, "For whom the blackest darkness has been reserved forever;" Jude 1:13 CJB. This scripture implies there will be levels of suffering. Also, 2 Peter 2:13 says those that do evil will be paid back. The judgment then is for the level of suffering the person will go in the lake of fire.

The lake of fire is a place of suffering for all of eternity.

Rev. 20:10 CJB, "The Adversary who had deceived them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

Rev. 20:15 CJB, "Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire."

God's Final Rule and Reign

Someday God's rule and reign will be restored, and all those who believed in the true God, lived for God, and kept His commandments will be with Him in His eternal kingdom where He is both ruler and King. Ye-ho-VAH, יהוה (the true name for God as it says in Exodus 3:15; it will be His name forever)⁹ will restore the kingdom to what Ye-ho-VAH, יהוה originally intended someday and it will be perfect. Rev. 21:1-4

- * There will be a new heaven and earth. Rev. 21:1
- * "New Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband;" Rev. 21:2 CJB. Those who are in heaven will now come down from heaven. Notice the word "bride." Believers from all of time are God's pure and holy people, His bride.
- * No more tears, pain, death, or mourning. Rev. 21:4
- * Jerusalem will look like a jewel. Rev. 21:11
- * Jerusalem will be 1,500 mi. by 1,500 miles Rev. 21:16
- * "The foundations of the city wall were decorated with all kinds of precious stones - the first foundation stone was diamond, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh turquoise and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, with each gate made of a single pearl." Rev. 21:19-21 CJB
- * Main street of Jerusalem will be like translucent gold. Rev. 21:21
- * Sparkling water will flow from the throne of God and Yeshua (the Lamb). Rev. 22:1
- * The throne of God and Yeshua will be there. Rev. 22:4
- * There will be the light of God forever. Rev. 22:5

⁹ Ye-ho-VAH, יהוה, is the pronunciation for the true and eternal name of God as shown in over 1,721 manuscripts, attested to by the ancient rabbis (<https://www.nehemiaswall.com>), and also by an early believing Father in Yeshua.

* We will eat from the tree of life. Rev. 22:14

The End Times for Israel

The Bible talks about 2 regatherings of Israel from the nations. The first regathering of Israel is presently going on. There will come a time of tribulation followed by the 1,000-year reign of Yeshua and then the final judgment.

1) There is a regathering followed by a judgment. "As I live, 'says Adonai ELOHIM,' I swear that surely with a mighty hand, with a stretched-out arm and with poured-out fury I myself will be king over you. I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you were scattered, with a mighty hand, with a stretched-out arm and with poured-out fury; then I will bring you into the desert of the peoples and judge you face to face. " Ezek. 20:33-35 CJB. This time of judgment will culminate in Jerusalem the Bible says (Ezek. 22:17-22). That is where the 3rd Temple will be desecrated that Yeshua talked about (Matt. 24:15). This is the present regathering and it is also described in Ezek. 38.

2) There will be a second regathering followed by a time of blessing according to Isa. 11:11. "On that day Adonai will raise his hand again, a second time, to reclaim the remnant of his people who remain from Ashur, Egypt, Patros, Ethiopia, 'Eilam, Shin'ar, Hamat and the islands in the sea;" Isa. 11:11. "See! God is my salvation. I am confident and unafraid; for Yah ADONAI is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation!" Isaiah 12:2 CJB.

* Isaiah 12:2 literally says He, God, has become my Yeshua. This is the future regathering referred to in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 takes place after the tribulations; this regathering signals the 1,000 year reign with Yeshua that Yochanan talks about in Rev. 20:4-5.

The end time before the 1,000 year reign of Yeshua is signaled by the abomination of the Temple. So, the 3rd Temple must be built.

* Yeshua said, "So when you see the abomination that causes devastation spoken about through the prophet Dani'el;" Matt. 24:15

*In order for the 3rd Temple to be built, Israel will make an agreement to build it. After 3 ½ years, the agreement will be broken. Daniel 9:27 CJB says, " He will make a strong covenant with leaders for one week [of years]. For half of the week he will put a stop to the sacrifice and the grain offering. On the wing of detestable things the desolator will come and continue until the already decreed destruction is poured out on the desolator."

* When the treaty is broken, the events during the 6th seal will begin to take place (Isa. 28:14). Yeshua said, "For there will be trouble then worse than there has ever been from the beginning of the world until now;" Matt 24:21 CJB.

* Daniel says there will be one week referring to 7 years. Daniel 9:27

In the middle of the 7 years, 3 ½ months,¹⁰ the agreement will be broken.

The person responsible will stop the sacrifice.

* Shaul (Paul) said, "He will oppose himself to everything that people call a god or make an object of worship; he will put himself above them all, so that he will sit in the Temple of God and proclaim that he himself is god." 2 Thes. 2:4 CJB

* Daniel said, "From the time the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. How blessed will be anyone who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. But you, go your way until the end comes. Then you will rest and rise for your reward, at the end of days;" Daniel 11:11-13 CJB

* Yochanan (John) writes, "But the court outside the Temple, leave that out; don't measure it; because it has been given to the Goyim, and they will trample over the holy city for forty- two

¹⁰ 6 months = 1248 days

months;" Rev. 11:2 CJB. Forty-two months is about 1260 days. This means that it will be 30 days before the temple area can be made clean again (1260 days + 30 days) plus another 45 days before the resurrection.

* The final end will come at day 1,335. **That is when the 1,000-year reign of Yeshua will begin.**

* There are then 1,335 days minus 1,260 days after the trampling of the Gentiles which is a 75 day period.

* A 75 day period then follows the defeating of the evil person and his armies. Ezek. 38:18-23.

* After the 75 days, the 1,000 year reign of Yeshua begins.

** Note, **only God knows how everything will work out.** In the past, people have made predictions only to find they were not true and they hurt a number of believers with their false prophecies.