

The Dead Shall Rise  
(Isaiah 26: 19; I Thess. 4:16-17; I Cor. 15: 51-54)

The word resurrection is a word that brings hope and victory for the believer in YAHSHUA. It will be the ultimate victory's song the believer will sing: death has been swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death where is your sting? But thanks be to YAHWEH, who gives us the victory through our Lord YAHSHUA the Messiah (I Cor. 15:54-57). The resurrection will come through YAHSHUA; He is the first fruit of those who have fallen asleep in Him. Through His death and resurrection we are made alive at his coming for us. Those of us, who have passed to eternity before His return, will rise to life first before we all will meet the Lord in the air at the sound of His trumpet (I Thess. 4:16-18). At the death of Lazarus, YAHSHUA told Martha, I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live; everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die-ever. Do you believe this (Jn. 11:25)?

The Patriarchs believed in the resurrection: Abraham considered YAHWEH to be able even to raise someone from the dead, from which he also got (his son Isaac) back as an illustration (Heb. 11:19). Job, going through his sufferings showed hope on the resurrection. He said, But I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last He will stand upon the earth, and after my skin, even this body, has been destroyed, then from my flesh or without it I shall see God! Whom I, even I, shall see for myself and on my side! And my eyes shall behold Him, and not as a stranger (Job. 19: 25-27a). It was his hope in the resurrection that kept Job strong. I know that my Redeemer lives... and after my skin, even this body, has been destroyed, then .... I shall see God! Do you believe this for yourself?

There are two types of resurrections: (1) the resurrection for life. (Jn.5:28-29) YAHSHUA said, Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come out- those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life; for the Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first (I Thess. 4: 16); blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:6)! (2) The resurrection for judgement and condemnation; it is separated from the first resurrection by a 1,000 years as we read in Revelation 20: 5: The rest of the dead did not come to life until the 1,000 years were completed; the apostle John describes the second resurrection in chapter 20: 11-13: Then I saw a great white throne and One seated on it ... I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. Then the sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead; all were judged according to their works. . This is the second death, the lake of fire. **And anyone not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire** (Rev. 20 11-15). The first stage of the first resurrection will take place at the time of the rapture when the trumpet of God will sound and His bride, who died, will rise to be raptured with the living ones. The second stage of the first resurrection will take place after the tribulation, which will be that of the Old Testament and of the tribulation saints (Isaiah 26:16-21; Dan. 12:1-3). But the second resurrection will take place after the millennium is over and YAHWEH will sit on His throne to judge all who rejected Him. In this final judgement, Satan and

all the host of demons will be cast into the lake of fire, where the beast (antichrist) and the false prophet are (Rev. 20:10).

Life on earth offers us the opportunity to decide whether we will go through the first resurrection or the second. The choice is ours. The way to the first resurrection has been shown to us. YAHSHUA said that He is the way, the truth and the life; He is the only way to YAHWEH for us to receive salvation; no, heaven is not Rome, and not every way will lead us to it. Many have tried, only to realize that true peace comes from the One Who is Peace; the way to YAHWEH is found only through His Son, YAHSHUA. In search of truth many have taken many turns, only finally to discover that YAHSHUA is the only truth. Life eternal is not by our doing, but it is through the gift of the life of our Lord and Savior, YAHSHUA. The gift of life will come to us through the first resurrection; YAHSHUA Himself will raise the dead in Him at the sounding of the trumpet. But those who have died without Him will not hear the calling of the first resurrection.

Paul describes the first resurrection as Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption; sown in dishonor, raised in glory; sown in weakness, raised in power; sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body (I Cor. 15:42-44). John says, but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He is; and everyone who has this hope on Him cleanses himself just as He is pure ( I Jn. 3: 2b-3). Death and Hades will both be thrown in the lake of fire. They will never touch the redeemed of the Lord again at that time when salvation will be completed in us. When the corruptible is clothed with incorruptibility with immortality, then we will sing our ultimate song of victory: Death has been swallowed up in victory; O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? Thanks be to God, Who gave us the victory through our Lord YAHSHUA the Messiah. No more tears, no more pain, no more death, no more sin, always present with our Lord, rejoicing in His presence in the likeness of His holiness. We will be reigning with Him for 1,000 years; we will follow Him to earth on white horses when He comes to earth to strike the nations and to rule over them in righteousness and truth. No more condemnation for those who are in Christ YAHSHUA. But for those who continually reject the gift of salvation there is only one thing left for them: a kind of awful and fearful prospect and expectation of divine judgment and the fury of burning wrath and indignation which will consume those who put themselves in opposition [to God] (Heb. 10:26-27).

Prepare yourself my friend, to meet God while there is time and opportunity for you to do that. The future is always certain; eternity is for sure; where will you find yourself to be in the first or in the second resurrection? It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God (Heb. 10: 30b)! Life after death exists; we were created in the image of YAHWEH; this separates us from the rest of His creation. We are eternal, for the spirit never dies, but it goes somewhere after death; heaven or hell. YAHSHUA has provided men the way out of hell; He suffered the pain of hell, when He experienced the separation of His Father on the cross. It was the worst pain; worse than any physical pains, so you don't have to go through it. Believe in Him and be part of the first resurrection.