Enjoy Eternal Spiritual Life After Physical Death

Summary

Death isn't the end — but it isn't instant heaven either. This article lays out the library's core doctrine of what actually happens after we die, in three clearly defined stages.

- No inherently immortal, conscious "soul" — death as unconscious "sleep" (Ecclesiastes 9:5, "the dead know nothing") until a future resurrection.
- A "first resurrection" of the Elect/saints to immortality at the Messiah's return, to reign during a literal thousand-year millennium.
- A "second resurrection" after the millennium, to mortal life, giving everyone else who ever lived an opportunity to learn Yahweh's way.
- A final resurrection to judgment, ending in destruction ("the lake of fire"/"the second death") for the unrepentant, rather than eternal conscious torment.
- Related obligations discussed, including "Festival Tithes" and keeping the annual Holy Days.

The full article begins on the next page.

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Some religions teach being reborn again and again, and Christians usually believe humans have immortal souls that live on after death in another, more "heavenly" world. Have these souls of the "saved dead" wafted into heaven? Are they watching us here, now? What about the unsaved dead? Are they already in some horrible ever-burning hellfire? Most Christians would not agree that death ends it all, but they often disagree on the supposed nature of life after death. Ask them, for example, to define the word "resurrection", which simply means "a rising of the dead to life", and you would get a variety of ideas as to what it means.

But why do some Christians even believe in a resurrection when they also believe in the "immortal soul"? Why would an immortal soul need a physical, "resurrected" body after leaving this physical world? Ask a Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim or Jew and you would get still different views.

The truth is, no human being of himself can know what lies on the other side of death. Only Yahweh can fill in the exact outlines of whatever life after death might exist. The Bible explains this mystery like a jigsaw puzzle which must be assembled from scattered references throughout its pages. The prophet Isaiah said: "Who will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? ...Precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little" *(Isaiah 28:9-11).* So let's piece together the truth about life after death.

The Bible mentions more than one resurrection, each fitting into Yahweh's purpose in working with the human family. The sequence of resurrections is briefly sketched out below - the details and significance of each, being filled in later.

1) Until Yah'shua returns all those who lived and died will remain in their graves - dead. At Yah'shua's return, to restore the kingdom of Yahweh to this earth, those select few who were called and "trained of Yahweh" *(chosen - or elect)* through the ages will be resurrected to immortal life. They will rule with the Messiah over the remaining human family, for a 1,000 year period; the millennium. Yahweh will THEN offer salvation to all humans remaining alive *(at the beginning of the millennium),* plus all who will be born into, and live during that time.

2) At the end of the millennium, all those who lived *(and died)* in past ages and were not called by Yahweh as saints in the first resurrection, will be resurrected to physical *(mortal)* life for a short time. They too, will be given an opportunity for salvation; the second resurrection.

These people will compare the civilizations in which they had lived with that of Yah'shua's new civilization established over the 1,000 years under the laws of the kingdom of Yahweh. The vast majority will choose Yahweh's way, and will ultimately be changed from physical, mortal humans, to immortal spirit beings. All who have ever lived, will by this time have had an opportunity to choose salvation.

3) Finally, those who rejected their opportunity will be resurrected to physical, mortal life and Yahweh will pass His judgement on them. They will be destroyed in the lake of fire and cease to exist. This is the "second death".

Until the New Covenant Congregation began in the 1st century, only a handful of Old Covenant personalities such as Abel, Job, Abraham, Sarah, Joseph, Moses, Deborah, David, Jeremiah and Daniel were called by Yahweh through His Spirit. These overcame trials and temptation, receiving a promise during their lifetime of a future life after death. Have they already gone to their reward?

Consider Moses the humblest man of his time *(Numbers 12:3)* with whom Yahweh spoke face to face *(Deuteronomy 34:10)*. What about Sarah - an example of a Godly woman? Are they conscious and watching us now? Have they gone to some kind of eternal reward? The Bible answer is that every single one of these great men and women of Yahweh is still dead, and still buried. Their minds are unconscious and their bodies disintegrated.

Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes 9:5: "For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing". These spiritual giants did not go to heaven. Yah'shua plainly said: "No one has ascended to heaven but He who has come down from heaven" *(John 3:13).*

The Jews of Yah'shua's day understood that those who had died were still dead. The Pharisees challenged Yah'shua when He said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death" *(John 8:51).* Yah'shua was of course, saying that one who was obedient to His Word would not experience the eternal - or second death. But the Jews replied: "Now we know you have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, `If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death. Are you greater than our father Abraham who is dead? And the prophets are dead?'" *(John 8:52-53).*

Yah'shua did not dispute their statement about Abraham and the prophets - they were indeed dead and buried when Yah'shua spoke those words. Paul confirmed this fact by writing about these very Hebrew people of faith, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises" *(Hebrews 11:13);* they trusted in Yahweh, "that they might obtain a better resurrection" *(Hebrews 11:35).*

Yah'shua had to straighten out the Sadducees who taught there was no resurrection, He said, "But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by Yahweh, saying, `I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?' Yahweh is not the God of the dead, but of the living" *(Matthew 22:31-32).* Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are dead and buried. Yet, they are as good as alive because the Almighty Yahweh is able to resurrect them to eternal life.

As Peter says in his inspired sermon on Pentecost: "Men and Brethren, let me speak freely to you of the Patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried". And later, "David did not ascend into the heavens" *(Acts 2:29-34).* Did David have hope of an eternal life? Yes! The prophet Jeremiah said of a time yet future, called the "latter days", that Yahweh promises the following will happen: "And David their king...I will raise up for them *[the House of Jacob]". (Jeremiah 30:8-9,24).*

Many prophecies show that David is to be resurrected an immortal, supernatural king over his people *(Ezekiel 37:24).* So David will come up out of his grave in the future. And so will every party who has been called and trained by Yahweh throughout the ages and later died. But all such parties will remain dead until a certain important event occurs - the Second Coming of the Messiah.

Yah'shua said, "The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation" *(John 5:28-29).* Those coming up in the resurrection of life will do so at the Messiah's return, and those to the resurrection of death, will do so much later.

Paul said, "It is appointed for men to die once" *(Hebrews 9:27)*. That is the fate of every human. The Bible calls death as one who is "asleep" until it is Yahweh's purpose to bring that specific individual back to life. Humans do not have "immortal souls" that remain alive and conscious after death. The two words "immortal soul" are a contradiction in terms. A human "soul" is mortal and is perishable. A "human" is a "soul". We read where Yahweh "formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" *(Genesis 2:7).*

Man is a soul. The Hebrew word translated to "soul" is "nephesh" - it simply means living, breathing creature. The same word "nephesh" or "soul" is frequently used in Genesis and elsewhere in reference to animals. This same word "nephesh" or its English translation, "soul" can also refer to a dead body *(Leviticus 21:11).*

In Ezekiel 18:4 we read, "The soul who sins shall die" and these words are repeated in verse 20. A soul is merely a living, breathing being, human or otherwise, that can die. It is not something "in" the man, it "is" the man. According to the Bible, death is simply death - the absence of life. And the dead stay dead until Yahweh brings them back to life. If Yahweh chose not to resurrect those souls *(men)* who died, they would remain permanently dead and in their graves.

Now there is also the spirit essence in man that gives him the capacity for thought. As Paul says, "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?" *(1 Corinthians 2:11)*. This spirit comes from Yahweh; "Thus says Yahweh, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him" *(Zechariah 12:1)*. This spirit essence Yahweh formed within us, allows us to think, reason and be aware of ourselves. This essence must see through human eyes, hear through human ears, think through the human brain - it has no consciousness apart from the body.

When the body and brain die, Yahweh - one might say - pulls out and stores this human spirit as though extracting a floppy disk from a computer. A disk is functionless without its hardware. A human's spirit essence is in the same situation - it has no function *(consciousness)* apart from its "hardware", the body. By themselves both a computer disk, and the spirit in man, merely store information.

Solomon wrote of death; "then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to Yahweh who gave it" *(Ecclesiastes 12:7). (This was written many centuries before Yahweh gave us His Holy Spirit through faith in the Messiah.)* Yahweh can preserve this spiritual "disk" containing a memory of all that you are, or Yahweh can erase it. Once Yahweh erases memory from a party's spirit essence, that party's memory is utterly wiped out. He or she cannot be resurrected. But Yahweh is still preserving the spirit of every individual who has ever lived and died.

The spirit in each man maintains the identity of one who has lived, and using this as a kind of spiritual data base, Yahweh will resurrect either a physical or spiritual body, providing that one party with this memory again, at the appropriate resurrection. There is only one way for dead saints to be "re-programmed" and live again; "we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Yah'shua the Messiah, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body" *(Philippians 3:20-21).*

This redemption, or change is our only hope for life after death. Paul says: "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body...as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man" *(1 Corinthians 15:35;44-49).* He ended this thought by pointing out that flesh and blood cannot enter into the spirit realm of the kingdom of Yahweh *(verse 50)*; humans would have to be given immortal spirit bodies.

In summary, "Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep *[remain dead]*, but we shall be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" *(verse 51-52).* So Paul tells us firstly, that our only hope for life after death is that we will be raised from the dead by a resurrection, and secondly that this will not happen until after the Messiah's return "at the last trumpet", when the Messiah comes to restore the kingdom of Yahweh on this earth.

Paul said this plan was conceived "before the foundation of the world" *(Ephesians 1:4).* Part of the plan called for Yahweh to select a few individuals during the first 4,000 years of humanity for specific responsibilities, people that Yahweh empowered through His Spirit for very special callings: Noah to build the ark; Abraham to be father of the faithful; Joseph to stand before Pharaoh and bring Israel to Egypt; Moses to lead the people out of Egypt and give them Yahweh's laws; Deborah to judge a nation; David to be a king; Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel to prophesy of future events, and others.

In the process, these people lived and wrote the Bible, which became the foundation of truth, WHICH ALL PEOPLE WOULD ONE DAY NEED TO UNDERSTAND *(Ephesians 2:20)*! Peter said of these individuals, "Of this salvation the prophets come to you...To them it was revealed that, not to themselves,

but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the Gospel to you" *(1 Peter 1:10,12).*

This salvation, of course, was through Yah'shua, who came to pay the penalty for our sins. After Yah'shua's crucifixion, He was resurrected from the dead - the first born of those who would, in their proper time, also be resurrected.

Yah'shua has been seated at the right hand of the Father for nearly 19 centuries. "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, who has passed through the heavens, Yah'shua the Son of Yahweh, let us hold fast our confession" *(Hebrews 4:14)*. During this time, He has been working out the next phase of Yahweh's plan to ultimately bring salvation to every single human who has lived or will live.

For the present, Yah'shua is spiritually purifying Yahweh's Congregation, or congregation of "called out ones"; those called to salvation in this age. This group must preach the message of His soon to come, kingdom, as Yah'shua prophesied: "And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness", just before His return, as the "sign of His Coming" *(Matthew 24:14)*.

These called-out individuals are the "elect" *(Matthew 24:24)*, the saints, who are among those to be resurrected immortal at the Messiah's Second Coming. This group is far smaller than most people think. Every other human being who has lived and died will remain in the grave awaiting another, later resurrection - one to mortal, physical life. Each will then be given the opportunity to repent to obedience to Yahweh's laws and receive understanding leading to eternal life.

Yah'shua said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" *(John 14:2-3).* Yah'shua is preparing places or positions of responsibility for every true Israelite. These positions, "rewards" include living at a location identical to where the Messiah is to be at His Second Coming. The rewards are not yet dispensed, that's why He said: "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven" *(Matthew 5:12).*

It's now being "held in trust" by Yah'shua on behalf of us and it will be meted out as found in the last chapter, last verses of the Bible, "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work" *(Revelation 22:12)*. The reward is now "in" heaven in trust. The Messiah will bring the reward of eternal life, from heaven, to earth at His Second Coming. "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him...Then the King will say to those on His right hand `Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'" *(Matthew 25:31-32,34).*

The time element begins with the Messiah's return, and He is pictured as bestowing eternal life and an inheritance in the "kingdom of Yahweh" or "kingdom of heaven". The kingdom of Yahweh is "heaven", hence it is called also, the kingdom of heaven, as distinct from the kingdoms of men, which this heavenly

kingdom of Yahweh will supersede. "Heaven" is not inherited by those made immortal. "Heaven" is the description of the place where Yahweh *(Elohim)* is from time to time. Compare Matthew 5:3 with verses 5 and 10, and as in the Beatitudes where the Messiah said the meek would inherit the earth but the poor in spirit and those persecuted for righteousness' sake would inherit "the kingdom of heaven".

This does not mean that the meek stay on earth and the poor in spirit go to heaven. The kingdom of heaven will become Yahweh's kingdom on earth simply by virtue of the fact that the Messiah will change the location of His residence to this planet. In other words, living in the heaven of Yahweh, is when we are living in the heavenly presence of either the now-glorified Yah'shua or Yahweh the Father. It is living in their very presence, through His Holy Spirit now, or directly in their presence in "heaven on earth", during and after the millennium. That's why it's called kingdom of heaven now, and why our reward is "reserved in heaven". It will soon become, the kingdom of Yahweh on earth, where all those called by Yahweh from both the "meek" and "poor in spirit" will reside!

"We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Messiah will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Messiah Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of Yahweh. And the dead in the Messiah will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Messiah in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Messiah" *(1 Thess. 4:15-17).*

The following is clear: Whichever saints are alive at the Messiah's return will be changed "in the twinkling of an eye" to spirit beings as Paul told the Corinthians, and immediately preceding this change in the living saints, the dead in the Messiah will be resurrected immortal. Both groups will ascend together, but only as high as the clouds while the Messiah descends from heaven. From that moment on, the resurrected saints will be with the Messiah, not in "heaven", but right here on earth!

It is the kingdoms of this world that become the Messiah's, "Behold the Messiah comes with 10,000's of His saints, to execute judgement on all" *(Jude 14-15).* Yah'shua is not going "back to heaven"; He is coming to earth. In a sense, if you are really intent on going to "heaven", you could say you are, because heaven; the Messiah's presence, is coming to everyone on earth!

Zechariah, as many other prophets do, calls this the "day of Yahweh" *(Zechariah 14:1)*: "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two..." *(verse 2-4)* "...and the Messiah shall be king over all the earth" *(verse 9)*. The Messiah will descend from the clouds with His saints, immediately beginning to institute His government; the kingdom of Yahweh over all the nations. Even over the many nations that WILL OPPOSE Him!

Revelation and other prophecies say His first job will be to obliterate the OPPOSING armies of the heathen! The now IMMORTAL SAINTS will remain with the Messiah on earth and assist Him in the formation of His new government bringing 1,000 years of peace and happiness to humanity. There are

many prophecies describing this wonderful peace to come to earth such as Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 4:1-2; Isaiah 11:9; Jeremiah 31:33; and others.

During this 1,000 year period Yahweh will save billions of humans who will be physically born into it by begetting them spiritually upon their repentance to obedience to His laws. Salvation will be open to all; all having an opportunity to grow in grace and character with the help of Yahweh's Spirit. Upon qualifying, *(at various individual rates)* they will earn responsibilities in the kingdom of Yahweh and be made immortal "in the twinkling of an eye".

These resurrected and immortal saints will have offices of governmental and ecclesiastical services to perform, "Your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, `This is the way, walk in it'" *(Isaiah 30:20-21).* And as John said in Revelation 5:9-10; "and have made us *[saints]* kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth". At the resurrection, the saints will receive a crown of life *(Revelation 2:10)* and the Messiah will give them "power over the nations" *(Revelation 2:26).*

So far we see that Yahweh's purpose has been to call only a small number of people during the 6,000 years of human civilization; only these "few" have had an opportunity for salvation, their minds and hearts being opened through Yahweh's Spirit to His ways and thoughts. But during the 1,000 years of Yahweh's kingdom on earth, all MORTAL humans still alive *(obviously not including the IMMORTAL SAINTS, or the opposing heathen killed in battle),* plus all who will then be born into it *(the millennium)*, as physical, mortal beings, will THEN have an opportunity for salvation, *(except those that wilfully and knowingly reject Yahweh).*

During the millennium the Bible says Satan, who had deceived the "many" during the 6,000 years will be restrained by Yahweh; "so that he should deceive the nations no more till the 1,000 years were finished" *(Revelation 20:2-3).* At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be released for a short time and he will immediately go out and deceive great multitudes of mortal people then living who will have taken for granted what was being taught them in the kingdom of Yahweh. The Bible says they will allow themselves to be spiritually seduced, "They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city *[Jerusalem]*" (Revelation 20:9). Yahweh punishes this final rebellion and Satan is permanently removed from deceiving humans ever again. Jude 13 explains that Satan and the fallen angels become "wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever *[permanent separation from Yahweh's presence]*".

So what about the hundreds of millions through the ages that were not called of Yahweh or who may never have heard of Him. And what about the very few who knowingly and deliberately rejected Him. First we must understand that Yahweh has not been, nor is He trying to save the world for the last 6,000 years, including these last few years. If He had planned to, He most assuredly would have done so.

Paul tells us that; "the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly but because of Him who subjected it in hope" *(Romans 8:20)*. Humanity's suffering is necessary and not without purpose. Yahweh will make life "fair" for everyone by offering all people eternal life - by choice - evidenced by obedience in the face of temptation. Also in verse 21, Paul says "The creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption [death, resulting from being separated from Yahweh's laws] into the glorious liberty of the children of Yahweh".

Yahweh has allowed a rebellious Satan to sway the world for 6,000 years. Satan has been the god of this world since Adam and Eve listened to his lies *(Genesis 3:1-6)*! He is called the "god of this age" who has blinded or deceived mankind *(2 Corinthians 4:4)*, and "deceives the whole world" *(Revelation 12:9)*, and he is the "prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" *(Ephesians 2:2)*.

Once these Satan-inspired human civilizations that we are now living in have been ended and the Messiah has expressed the awesome glory and splendour of Yahweh's kingdom on earth for 1,000 years, then Yahweh is going to take time to "tie up loose ends" so to speak. He can now fulfill His ultimate goal in this great plan; "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of Yahweh our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" *(1 Timothy 2:4)*.

This period after Satan is permanently bound is called the Great White Throne Judgement. There is a time when every single dead party, Israelite or otherwise, who hadn't been called by Yahweh as a saint, will be resurrected to physical life, each opened to spiritual truth. "...and the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books" *(Revelation 20:11-13)*.

The works by which they will be judged are not past works of this lifetime. Rather, the judgement on these people will be based on works they exhibit after their resurrection to mortal life. This coming period of judgement will be one lifetime, in which all will be taught how to grow spiritually. All these previously dead, will learn to trust and obey Yahweh, after which, if they continue in obedience, they will be changed into immortal spirit. The judgement of this lifetime we are now living in, is merely to determine which of the future resurrections we will partake of - the one before, or one of the two after the millennium.

Revelation 20 gives a precise chronological order of these resurrections. John saw in vision those beheaded for their witness to Yah'shua, and he wrote they; "lived and reigned with the Messiah for a 1,000 years" *(Revelation 20:4)*. John called them the saints who are resurrected immortal at the Messiah's Second Coming: "Blessed and holy is he who has a part in the first resurrection...but the rest of the dead did not live again until the 1,000 years were finished" *(verses 5, 6)*.

This, the second resurrection occurs after the 1,000 years, prior to the Great White Throne Judgement. Then there is the third resurrection; "resurrection to condemnation". There are, as explained earlier, two groups of people who have done evil, who are yet in the grave. The vast majority did so in ignorance, and they are resurrected after the 1,000 years to the Judgement period, and judged during a mortal, physical

lifetime during which they will receive their first and only opportunity for salvation. Yah'shua also referred to a small group of unrepentant dead who will be raised later to a sentence of condemnation or damnation. These, together with any who fail during the Judgement period, will be quickly burned up, destroyed forever in a lake of fire reserved for this purpose - the second death.

What happens when this work of salvation is finished - will the Messiah then return to heaven with the saints? No! Salvation is just the beginning of Yahweh's plan. The job of recreating humans in Yahweh's spiritual image and composition is merely the preparatory stage for the real work that Yahweh has in store. Salvation merely produces the tools, the obedient Yahweh-family members, to do the work to come.

Yahweh has a great plan about which He tells us little in His Word except that it does exist. He wants us to concentrate on the task at hand. To kick off His new plan, Yahweh will bring something very special to what is called "a new earth" *(Revelation 21:1).* In His vision John saw that the "first earth had passed away" and Peter refers to this as; "We, according to His promise, look for a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" *(2 Peter 3:13).*

Yahweh's next step in launching His great plan is set out in Revelation 21 and 22; "The holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from Yahweh, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Then John heard a loud voice saying, `Behold, the tabernacle of Yahweh is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and Yahweh Himself will be with them and be their God'".

The enormous revelation of these statements is not that the Messiah or the saints go to heaven, but HEAVEN TRULY DOES COME TO EARTH WHEN GOD COMES TO DWELL WITH US after the work of salvation has been completed! Yahweh will be dwelling with us on earth and He will say "behold, I make all things new" *(Revelation 21:5).* Yes, there will be new works, exciting projects, indescribable vistas of which we know nothing. This soon-to-end period of "salvation" then, is the act of reuniting us with the presence of Yahweh - with heaven!

The making of thousands of millions of immortal spirit beings in the image of the one Creator Yahweh is only the beginning. Yahweh will then start His real project with His new headquarters *(tabernacle)* in New Jerusalem on the New Earth. Earth is destined to become the centre of all activity in every spiritual and physical dimension of the universe. The heaven of Yahweh's throne is actually coming to earth - that's why there is not one single scripture in the Bible that says all people, including Christians will go to heaven when they die.

Revelation sums it up in chapter 21:6-7, "I will give the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son". Here Yahweh tells us that our destiny is to be His sons and that we are to "inherit all things". In the Greek language, the word translated to "all things" literally means the "universe"! It is awesome beyond our human imagination, but whatever the next phase of Yahweh's plan includes, it starts with us being truly the sons of the Creator of the universe, and with us inheriting the creation!

Salvation to eternal life after death is a key element in the overall, long range purposes of Yahweh, a part of which included His sending Yah'shua. "For Yahweh so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" *(John 3:16)*. Yahweh sent Yah'shua into the world so that "the world through Him might be saved" *(John 3:17*). Our salvation is possible only through Yah'shua, as Peter said, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" *(Acts 4:12).*

In Yahweh's plan of salvation we must be justified and made right with Yahweh. Justification is much more than Yahweh pardoning our sins, though it certainly includes that. Yahweh actually rescues us from sin and enables us to trust, love and obey Him through the power of His Holy Spirit. Paul said: "Through one Man's righteous act the free gift [of Yahweh's grace] came to all men, resulting in justification of life" *(Romans 5:18)*, and, "A man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Yah'shua the Messiah" *(Galatians 2:16).*

This means quite simply and literally, that we have been justified in our reconciliation to Yahweh the Father, who will therefore freely give us His Holy Spirit through our faith in the Messiah. With faith then, we receive His Holy Spirit, and with His Holy Spirit, we receive the power to be obedient. Salvation will indeed be offered to all - but to be a saint is a blessing of Yahweh bestowed on only those "few" that Yahweh's Word says have proven through OBEDIENCE, to be "good and faithful servants" during this lifetime.

As John said in Revelation 14:12: "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those that keep the commandments of Yahweh and the faith of Yah'shua". And as written in Romans 7:12; "therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good". This revelation of Bible truth does not in any way condemn all those *("the many")* who are not resurrected as saints to rule with the Messiah at His Second Coming. On the contrary, it does reveal and explain that indeed, ALL of them *("the many")* will be resurrected after the "1,000 years were finished", in order that they too may be blessed with an opportunity for salvation unto eternal life.

It does mean however, that sadly, they *("the many")* will miss out on experiencing the wonderful "utopian" lifestyle that so many Bible prophecies outline that the Messiah will create during the 1,000 years of the Kingdom of Yahweh on earth - the millennium. It also means they will miss out on being kings and priests and rulers during this time.

But Yahweh is a fair God, and they *("the many")* will receive of Yahweh's most precious gift - eternal life and the inheritance of their part in "the new heavens and a new earth" - the universe in the very presence of Yahweh!

It is very well summed up in 2 Timothy 4:7, by Paul's words; "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith", or as in Hebrews 12:1; "let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us". Being "justified" or

"reconciled to Yahweh" through our faith in Yah'shua the Messiah does not mean the "justification" or "reconciliation" takes place because we have faith that Yah'shua died for us, rather, that we have faith in the fact that Yahweh resurrected Him first - the firstborn of many sons, and thereby, Yah'shua did prove that we too, may be resurrected, if we "keep the faith" and follow Yah'shua's example of "keeping the commandments".

Much the same way as if a track and field competitor was disqualified from a race for infractions. As humans, we have been disqualified from the race to salvation by sin. The track and field competitor may pay a fine, or penalty, and be re-entered into the race, but he does not necessarily win the race, until he "runs" the race.

In like manner, Yah'shua did pay the "penalty" for our "infractions"; our sin, and reconciled or justified our right to re-enter the race to salvation.

This reconciliation is not the sole means to the end, rather it provides the opportunity to run the race, and to therefore "win" our inheritance as saints; our salvation through OBEDIENCE to Yahweh's Commandments!

By keeping the faith - by obediently doing the works, which means keeping all of Yahweh's Commandments, including doing good deeds, keeping the Sabbath, managing our own annual Festival Tithes *(giving any annual excess plus each third year Tithe to the poor),* and by keeping the annual Holy Days, and others, we will choose to honour Yahweh, for which Yahweh has promised to "sanctify" us.

Many traditional Christians falsely define doing the "works" as described in the Bible, as only referring to good deeds and charitable activities.

Such good deeds are important, however they are only a small part of the "works" Yahweh has commanded us to keep. ALL of Yahweh's Commandments are indeed the "works" referred to in the Bible!

Yahweh's promise to sanctify those of us that choose to be obedient to His Commandments includes two very special messages.

First, for this life, we will be blessed with the material wealth promised to our forefathers "throughout your generations" *(and we will be expected to further honour Yahweh by preaching this true Gospel of His kingdom).*

Second, Yahweh has promised to set us apart for His holy use and purpose in the eternal kingdom, as priests and rulers with the Messiah - FOREVER!

← Return to the Articles Index