

# The Last Great Day a Time of Judgment

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For decades, the church has taught—the Worldwide Church of God—going back to the 1950's, that the Last Great Day was a time of judgment. As our Father was calling me back in 1964, I ordered the Ambassador College Correspondence Course and I know you old timers are familiar with that. Lesson thirty-nine arrived in 1965 and, as usual, I devoured it. I have kept that whole set and here is lesson thirty-nine and you can see it says, "The Last Judgment". I went through this in research for this sermon; as I said this was copyrighted in 1965 and the church taught it for ten or fifteen years before that time. Here we are in 2022, fifty-seven years later, keeping the 8th day of the Fall Festival and indeed this day—this is my title—The Last Great Day is a time of judgment. We're going to look at that time through five points.

What we need to do is set the stage for this day. The first two points are not addressing this day but setting the stage for it. You old timers will find these very, very basic but the fact is, we have new people contacting Pacific and they have no Worldwide background. Some are from Africa; some are from all over the U.S. and Canada and they write—email generally—asking questions. Everything is new to them, just like us when we were converted; everything that is taught is new. We as speakers, can't forget that we are not just addressing an ex-Worldwide audience, we are addressing an audience who are just learning and coming along. So, the first two points are going to be basics. They are going to be a review for everyone except those that are just now starting.

## 1. Two deaths are possible for humans.

A physical death, which is a certainty if we live long enough. Maybe we'll be changed if we live long enough, until the Father and the Son return. But all humans face a physical death. Then there is a second death—an eternal death. Let's go to Ecclesiastes 3:20 and see a statement by Solomon that is absolutely correct. Solomon is writing towards the end of his life and in many of the verses in Ecclesiastes they are a summary of what he has learned from God Almighty and what he has learned on his own through experience.

**Ecclesiastes 3:20** *All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. (KJV)*

We have a finite life and as James likes to say, we have an "expiration date" and we do. Let's go to the New Testament in Hebrews 9:27 and see something that is added to this death.

**Hebrews 9:27** *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (KJV)*

So there is a judgment after death. Hold that thought as we get further into the sermon. We are told there is a judgment after we die as humans. So we see that all

humans face a physical death and a judgment. But a second death can come after we have been judged. Let's go to Revelation 21:8. With the first death all humans are subject to a physical death. But there is a second death that can come after we have been individually judged.

**Revelation 21:8** *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremonger, [sexually immoral] and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (KJV)*

This is a permanent death. This can come after we've been judged, if we are on the wrong side of that judgment. But also, the good news is, we as humans have a promise that it is possible to avoid this second death. Let's go back to Revelation 2:11. As was pointed out by Allen yesterday, the letters to the churches in Revelation, apply to all of us and they apply to all eras because they are Godly principles.

**Revelation 2:11** *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. (KJV)*

We have an "out". We have a way to avoid an eternal death. So, there is a first death—summing up this first point as background—a physical death that is common to all human beings. There is a second death that is an eternal death for those who refuse to acknowledge and obey our Father's sovereignty; *that He rules in the affairs of men*. If we ignore that, we ignore that to our death. It's up to us individually, whether we suffer that second death or not—that's our choice and entirely up to us.

That's the first point on the background. The second background point is:

## **2. Israel and the Gentiles will be resurrected back to physical life during the millennium.**

We have covered that over the last couple of years, many times and in many ways. Our previous understanding and teaching were that the resurrection of Israel and the Gentiles occurred on the 8th day. However, as has been pointed out by several speakers here at the Feast and in previous Feasts, the context of the scriptures used reveals something very different. We have covered that before. I covered it on the first day also. The scriptures and the context of the scriptures of the resurrection of Israel are clearly millennial. Therefore, we have come to see—and it's not anything great from Pacific—it's the fact that our Father reveals things to us and we are just on the receiving end. We realize that the resurrection of Israel will occur during the millennium. We don't know whether it's all at once or is in stages, the Bible does not reveal that.

But what about the Gentiles? While the Gentiles are not mentioned in these scriptures, we know that our Father is not a respecter of persons. The Apostle James says that; the Apostle Peter says that in 1Peter I. We can assume, knowing that our Father is not a respecter of persons that the Gentiles will be resurrected about the same time as Israel. Christ prophesied the resurrection of the Gentiles. For the sake of time we won't turn there, but in Matthew 12 remember what Christ said in

Matthew 12:41? He said *the men of Nineveh*—they were all Gentiles—*shall rise in judgment with this generation and condemn it*. It says the Gentiles are going to rise at the same time that this generation rises—He’s talking to the Jews who were coming after Him—and He says that they are going to condemn you, these Gentiles, when they rise in the resurrection. The very next verse he says, *the Queen of the south*, who is apparently the Queen of Sheba, *shall rise up in judgment with this generation and shall condemn it*; that’s verse 42. Christ is saying, there is a resurrection of the Gentiles and it occurs about the same time as the resurrection of Israel.

Then Paul mentions the future of the Gentiles in Ephesians 3:4. We don’t want to leave the Gentiles out; we don’t want to leave the rest of the world out. Most of us, if we could have a DNA test, would probably find out that we all have Gentile blood back in there somewhere, somehow.

**Ephesians 3:4** *Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) ... (KJV)*

What is the mystery of Christ?

*5) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; (KJV)*

What Paul is saying is, that the mystery of Christ has been revealed to us—it hadn’t been known before. What is that mystery?

*6) That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: (KJV)*

That they should be given the promise and receive the promise of eternal life, just like Israel has been given that promise. So, I think it’s safe to assume that Israel and the Gentiles will be resurrected sometime during the millennium. Again, all at once or in stages, we don’t know—the Bible doesn’t say. Setting the stage with these first two points, we see that all humans face a physical death and that it’s up to us whether or not we face or are given an eternal death, because of our choices and our works. We see that those Israelites and Gentiles who have never been called, will be resurrected during the millennium and have an opportunity for salvation just as we have an opportunity right now. The joy is, this includes our relatives, our loved ones, our friends and if we attain eternal life, we have this unbelievable opportunity to be with them when they are resurrected and, in my case, go back and make a few apologies. But we can also be able to help them and to teach them a new way. That is the joy—one of the great joys—of us being resurrected as Firstfruits.

Now we come to point three as we come closer to our main subject.

### **3. The Bible tells us that resurrection to life and death occur about the same time.**

For decades, I personally have had an unsettled feeling, and unanswered questions because when the Bible mentions resurrections to life and to death, they are often

mentioned together in the same scripture—the same verse—or the same set of verses. In other words, indicating that they occur at the same time. As I said, they are mentioned together in scripture, time after time. Yet, our previous understanding—this is not to knock our previous understanding, everyone did the best they could at the time with what was given—never accounted for the facts that these resurrections to life and to death, occur at the same time. We have to ask, why would they be mentioned together over and over in scripture? How do they fit in—these resurrections to life and death—to our understanding of prophecy?

Let's look at just three where they are mentioned together and we have never really reconciled it. Let's go to John 5:28; Christ is speaking and He is pretty specific.

**John 5:28** *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming ...* (KJV)

This is a specific point in time.

*28 continued) ... in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29) And shall come forth; [number one] they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; [number two] and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.* (KJV)

They hear a voice, they all come up, some go to eternal life, some go to eternal death. There is a clear implication that this happens on or about the same time. Now let's go to Matthew 13:24; Christ is using a parable here—the parable of the wheat and the tares. We are very familiar with it but let's look at it from the standpoint of time.

**Matthew 13:24** *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, the kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:* (KJV)

We know flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. So, this is talking about a resurrection that ends up in something other than physical life.

*25) But while men slept, his enemy [we know He's talking about our adversary, Satan] came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*

*26) But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.*

*27) So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?*

*28) He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?*

*29) But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.*

*30) Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest, I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.* (KJV)

We see that the wheat and the tares—the wheat implying going to eternal life and the tares implying going to eternal death—are harvested at approximately the same

time. The tares are burned—that's not lost on us, understanding the lake of fire and the tares being burned. But the wheat comes into the master's possession—His barn. It doesn't take a genius to understand the meaning, it's very plain. Resurrection at approximately the same time—some go, as we would say, north and some go south. Now let's go to Acts 24:14. Paul is speaking here; Luke is doing the writing.

**Acts 24:14** *But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers ... (KJV)*

If that doesn't apply to us, I don't know what else does. When we start worshipping the God of our fathers—Yehovah—God Almighty being the God of the Old Testament, we were labeled with the word “heretic”, so I guess we are in good company.

*14 continued) ... believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:*

*15) And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. (KJV)*

Here's a resurrection of dead people, a resurrection of just people and unjust people. The implication being that the just people go on to eternal life and the unjust people face eternal death. This is seemingly at the same time. With no indication of a different time. A different time could have been given. They are going to come later, they're going to come 1000 years later, but it's not there.

Then you have Matthew 25, the parable of the sheep and the goats. One on the right hand and one on the left. Then you have the Great White Throne judgment and those are talking about resurrections of the just and of the unjust, to eternal life and to eternal death at the same time. We'll cover those—Matthew 25 and Revelation 20—a little later. If you put all of these scriptures together, Christ and Paul appear to be saying, that resurrections to eternal life and death occur approximately at the same time. Our previous understanding, going back in my case almost sixty years now, never totally accounted for these scriptures. We read over them and acknowledged them but they never fitted into prophecy or our understanding of prophecy. That was always an unsettling point to me that has been a burr in my saddle for a very long time.

Now we come to the fourth point.

#### **4. A resurrection to eternal life or eternal death occurs at the time of the Father and Son's return.**

I'll preface this by saying about the resurrection to eternal death, we have scriptures that indicate that is the case, although the church, going back decades, has never really addressed that. Let's go to 1 Thessalonians 4:13. Paul is writing because he doesn't want the brethren to be ignorant of those who are dead and buried and in the grave. He says, “I want to let you know what is going to happen to them.”

**1 Thessalonians 4:13** *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

14) *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will [the Greek word 'ho' which means "the" is not translated in most of the modern translations] God bring with him. (KJV)*

In other words, when *the* God returns.

15) *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord ... (KJV)*

Paul at this moment thought that Christ was going to come, the Father was going to come, during his lifetime.

15 continued) *... shall not prevent [most modern translations translate that as "precede"] them which are asleep.*

16) *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

17) *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (KJV)*

This is an eternity.

18) *Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (KJV)*

So clearly, before the millennium begins, as we've taught and known for decades, there will be a resurrection of the Firstfruits to eternal life. Now with that in mind let's go to Revelation 11:18. The context is at the time of the Father and Son's return, before the millennium starts and this great battle that is going to occur. Man will oppose the return of the Father and His Son and there's going to be a war that is going to take place, as we know.

**Revelation 11:18** *And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged ... (KJV)*

This is at the time of the return of the Father and the Son. This is when the Day of the Lord, the Day of Yehovah, the battle takes place. We are told "*the time of the dead, that they should be judged.*"

18 continued) *... and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy [that is a different Greek word that can mean corrupt, under Satan's influence] the earth. (KJV)*

So, the time frame is at the Father and Son's return. Here we have a judgment of the dead. But you can't judge somebody who is dead, they have to be resurrected to be judged. We see that a reward is given to the Father's servants up to that time—all of

His servants up to that point in time of the return of the Father and Son—and the destruction of those who knowingly corrupt the Father’s way on earth—up to that point in time; which is not that far ahead of us.

Daniel 12 nails it down even further. Daniel is very specific about the time he is talking about right now. Let’s go to Daniel 12:1.

**Daniel 12:1** *And at that time [what is the time?] shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. (KJV)*

He’s obviously referring to the Book of Life, which is referred to eight times in the New Testament.

2) *And many [the New International says multitudes] of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awaken [that’s a resurrection], some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (KJV)*

*Everlasting shame and everlasting contempt* can only be the lake of fire because it’s *everlasting*. So, Daniel is very specific about the times of these resurrections. During a time of trouble, the earth has never seen it before and both resurrections occur at that time. That could only be the Day of Yehovah—the Day of the Lord—when the Father and Son return. Mark Sappington covered that in a recent sermon. We see here that the resurrected, if you put the scriptures together, seem to fall in three groups. My mind works in putting things together as A, B, C—it’s just the way my mind works. I apologize to the free-wheelers who go here and there; it just doesn’t work for me. These resurrections seem to fall into three categories.

- A.** Those who are called and who have overcome and lived a righteous life. They are referred to as Firstfruits. Everyone found in the Book of Life will be resurrected to eternal life. This is around the time of the Father and Son’s return.
- B.** Those who are called but rejected their calling. If we put these scriptures together, they will be going into the Lake of Fire at that time.
- C.** Those who have rejected the Father and Son outright. Up to the coming of the Father and Son at the end of roughly 6000 years, there are some who have just rejected God Almighty and His Son. A good example is the Pharisees in Christ’s day. There were some who knew He was the Messiah; they knew the miracles and saw the miracles and yet rejected Him. I would not be surprised at all if they have already had their chance because they knowingly rejected the Son. Then you go back in the Old Testament and there are those who rejected the Father also.

We have to understand that those who are not resurrected at this time—not the multitudes who have yet to be called. Who else could they be? So, closing out this fourth point and putting the scriptures together, at the time of the Father and Son’s return, in addition to the resurrection of the Firstfruits as the church has taught for

sixty plus years, could there be a resurrection to death for those who rejected their calling? Or those who knowingly rejected the Father and the Son during their physical lives, such as some of the Pharisees? Scripture certainly seems to indicate so. Some day we will find out for a certainty. It seems in my mind, at the time of the Father and Son's return, when we are resurrected—hopefully all of us will be resurrected to eternal life—there will be a resurrection to damnation.

Now finally, the fifth point.

## **5. The 8th day is a time of judgment.**

Both resulting in either eternal life or eternal death. This was taught by the Worldwide Church of God for decades. We will see that after the millennium, another resurrection occurs, to eternal life or death. Similar to the resurrection that occurs before the beginning of the millennium when the Father and Son return to this earth. Let's go to Leviticus 23:39, describing why we are here today.

**Leviticus 23:39** *Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land [the great fall harvest], ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. (KJV)*

So, we keep seven days, there is no break and you go right into the 8th day. It's important to know that. The 8th day follows immediately after the end of the 7th day. When sundown at the end of the 7th day—last night—occurred, there is no space, no time gap, you go immediately to the 8th day. There is no separation. God could have said, we're going to have a separate festival two days from now or a day from now or a week from now. The 8th day is right following the 7th and we have to ask, why is that?

We know that Satan is bound at the beginning of the millennium. Let's go to Revelation 20:1 just as a reminder to see that in context. What a good time this will be. All of a sudden, the pressure will be radically reduced on God's people.

**Revelation 20:1** *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.  
2) And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,  
3) And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: (KJV)*

The implication is, he deceived the nations before he was bound and once he is loosed, he will do the same thing again. James was talking about that on the Sabbath.

*3 continued) ... and after that he must be loosed a little season. [to continue to deceive] (KJV)*



Satan's binding occurs just after, in context, the beast and false prophet are cast into the lake of fire. But notice what happens after the millennium is finished in verse 7.

*7) And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison ... (KJV)*

The Greek word for *expired* is Strong's #5055 and it's the Greek word *teleo* and it means "to end or be complete". Not a little bit before the end, it means after it's done.

The NIV translates this as, "*when the 1000 years are over*".

The NLT says, "*when the 1000 years comes to an end*".

If the 1000 years are over at the end of the seventh day, could it be that Satan would be loosed—since he is loosed after the 1000 years are over—at the beginning of the 8th day, today. That's what scripture says. It's right there on the page. The Father's Word seems to say so. Why would Satan be bound for 1000 years, only to be let go again? Why not kill him at the beginning of the millennium and save a lot of time and trouble. Why let him loose now? What's the point? What's the purpose? Why be loosed again? It looks like, at the beginning of the 8th day when Satan is let loose—as James said on the Sabbath—he's been given his old job back. What else would he do? He's the master deceiver, he would go to deceive again. My point is, he will serve the exact same purpose at the beginning of the 8th day as he has served God's purpose for 6000 years. God is in control of Satan. He will only let Satan go so far, but Satan is a tool of God Almighty to do His will. By letting him loose, he becomes a tool to do God's will again. What is that? To attempt to deceive the entire world again, as he is doing today. This time, after the millennium is over and as the 8th day begins, his deception starts again. Look at verse 8.

*8) And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. (KJV)*

It says the four quarters of the earth, so this is great number—it's a worldwide deal; it's all over the earth. They are deceived starting at the beginning of this very day—the 8th day. In order to deceive the whole world, you can't do that at the snap of a finger, it takes time. It took time for Satan to deceive the world up until the time of Noah—It took many, many years. Then to do it again, up to our modern day, so it's going to probably be an extended period of time to start the deception and then have that deception take hold. Verse 9, is out of the NIV.

*9) They marched across the breadth of the earth [that takes times] and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (NIV)*

That's the account in Revelation. When we talked about Ezekiel on the first day, we talked about Ezekiel 36, 37 and the last part of 39 but I purposefully skipped Ezekiel 38 and the first 20 verses of 39 because they are dedicated to this very time of Gog. So let's go back to Ezekiel 38 and pick up the narrative. Yehovah was speaking directly to Ezekiel.

**Ezekiel 38:1** *And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,  
2) Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince  
of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him ... (KJV)*

Gog is the prince of Meshech and Tubal and apparently resides in the land of Magog; that has been speculated and debated for years. We don't have time to get into that.

*3) And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: (KJV)*

*Continuing in Verse 8.*

*8) After many days thou shalt be visited:[as we have seen, could it be at the end of the 1000 years?] in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people [could only be referring to Ancient Israel], against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it [referring to Israel] is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. (KJV)*

This of course, occurs during the millennium and the land has been built up and restored. Those verses have been covered many times.

*9) Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land ... (KJV)*

This is not a minor, localized event, this is a worldwide event and these armies that are coming towards Jerusalem would cover the land, there are so many.

*9 continued) ... thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. (KJV)*

So, we see after 1000 years of peace, Gog is starting to learn war again, after somebody has been loosed and put some thoughts into some people's heads. There will be a huge army of rebels; those who want to decide for themselves, what is evil and what is good. They don't want to listen to God Almighty. Just like Adam and Eve, they want to decide for themselves what the law is—good and evil.

*10) Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same [in the latter years] time shall things come into thy mind ... (KJV)*

Gog's mind—who would plant the things in Gog's mind except the one who has been bound 1000 years and has just been released?

*10 continued) ... and thou shalt think an evil thought: (KJV)*

Sin starts with a thought and if we let that thought percolate, it will lead to more and more sin.

*11) And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely ... (KJV)*

That could only be a result of all the activities of the millennium, after the millennium is over.

*11 continued) ... all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates ... (KJV)*

In other words, they are easy prey for somebody who is learning war again. Verse 12, notice the attitude.

*12) To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited [after 1000 years of development], and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations [which Israel was at the beginning of the millennium], which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. (KJV)*

It takes the entire millennium for Israel to become this developed, living in peace. The beginning of the 8th day is starting to sound like today. It reminds me of what Germany and Japan did prior and during World War II; to start conquering their neighbors and reaping all kinds of evil and havoc on them. It reminds me of what Russia is doing to Ukraine today—taking over a land that is not theirs. They just bomb the pants off of them. Verse 14.

*14) Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? (KJV)*

Of course, they are aware of it.

*15) And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:*

*16) And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, [why?] that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.*

*17) Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them? (KJV)*

Verse 18 I'll read out of the NLT.

*18) But this is what the Sovereign Lord says: When Gog invades the land of Israel, my fury will boil over! (NLT)*

You don't want to be on the receiving end of that. Verse 19 out of the NIV.

19) *In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.*

20) *The fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. (NIV)*

This is a worldwide shaking of the earth because of what Gog is attempting to do. Verse 21 out of the NLT.

21) *I will summon the sword against you [against Gog] on all the hills of Israel, says the Sovereign Lord. Your men will turn their swords against each other. (NLT)*

That has happened before in the Old Testament.

22) *I will punish you and your armies with disease and bloodshed; I will send torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur! (NLT)*

We see here—a look at the wrath of God. Millions if not billions of people—rebellious humans—are going to die, just at the time of the Father and the Son's return before the start of the millennium. It is a repeat.

23) *In this way, I will show my greatness and holiness, and I will make myself known to all the nations of the world. Then they will know that I am the Lord. (NLT)*

This is after the 1000 years and there are people at the end of the 1000 years, who are a little restive, they don't know Yehovah the way they should. They succumb to Satan, to Gog's pressure and God says, you haven't had to face Satan before, you are facing him now and I'm going to show you the result of what happens when people go against Me. They think they can decide or they make the rules. Chapter 39 in the first twenty-two verses continue in the same theme. As James pointed out, verse 9 takes seven years to destroy all of Gog's weapons of war—seven years to get rid of them all.

Gog's rebellion at the beginning of the 8th day has two divine purposes. One that we just read is to show all the nations the power and might of Yehovah so there is no doubt and to also demonstrate the fact that He is supreme. Not Satan, not Gog, it is God Almighty. The second divine reason is to force those who came through, who lived during the millennium or those who were resurrected during the millennium who have never been called before, for them to face Satan. Then to decide, is it black or white? Is it good or evil? Is it darkness or light? Who shall I worship? Yehovah and His Son or Satan? The whole world will have to make that choice, just as we're making that choice right now. All of humanity must confront and reject Satan before our Father is going to give them eternal life. That has to be a determiner of who gets eternal life. Do we reject Satan, reject our human nature and prostrate ourselves before God Almighty and say, God whatever you want, I will do it because I know You are sovereign and You love me and will do what is best for me. All of humanity

has to make that decision. They must confront and reject Satan before being given eternal life. It appears that these nations' final rebellion and the resulting horrendous worldwide battle between our Father and Gog, will occur at the beginning of the 8th day.

Let's see what happens next after the battle with Gog and millions, if not billions, are killed. Matthew 25 was spoken at the end of Christ's ministry. The next chapter 26, and the first two verses tell us it was two days before Passover. So this is at the end of His ministry. We know the first thirteen verses are the parable of the ten virgins—Matthew 25. Verses 14 to 30 are the parable of the talents. Now we come to verse 31 and this is not a parable, it's a fact.

**Matthew 25:31** *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:  
32) And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: (KJV)*

How could this occur at the beginning of the millennium? There are no nations to speak of left and all the people remaining are utterly shell shocked. The earth is a complete wreck so this could not happen at the beginning of the millennium. We've seen that resurrections to physical life occur during the millennium. I mentioned on the first day, in Isaiah 65, that people will live a long time during the millennium because it takes time to come to know the Father and the Son. How many years and decades has it taken us to come to know the Father and the Son? During the millennium, humanity has never faced Satan. So on this 8th day, they are given their ultimate test because they are given their opportunity to not only conquer their human nature, but Satan, as he provokes Gog. Who are you going to listen to and follow?

The Bible records no definite time limits on the 8th day. It's not 100 years as was taught previously by taking Isaiah 65 out of context. There is no mention of how long this takes. But it's not a short period of time for Gog and Satan to begin the deception, for it to take hold, to expand worldwide and then make a decision to go against the land of Israel. This resurrection to life and death in Matthew 25 has to occur after humanity has been tested. How can you have judgment unless people have been tested? The testing occurs at the time of Gog and Magog. Then we come to Matthew 25, after their rebellion of Ezekiel 38 and Revelation 20. Now let's go back to Matthew 25:32.

*32) And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: (KJV)*

On what basis will the nations be divided? The people of those nations?

*33) And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.  
34) Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: (KJV)*

Verse 35 through 40 tells us why they will inherit the Kingdom of God. They obeyed the second great commandment. Then in verse 41.

*41) Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: (KJV)*

That can only be the lake of fire. Verse 42 through to 45 says why they will eternally die— because they lacked love for their fellow man. Here we see another resurrection to death and to life at the same time. Also, Christ talks about people suffering; health problems, hunger, thirst, being imprisoned, etc. It sounds just like today, doesn't it? This is down the road 1000 years. James pointed out on the Sabbath that there is suffering here and what do you do with that suffering? Do you ignore it or go help? Verse 46.

*46) And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (KJV)*

It certainly appears, the resurrections to life and death are tied together time-wise on the 8th day, as the church has taught for sixty plus years. Beginning of the 8th day is in many ways just like today. We are approaching the Day of the Lord, the Day of Yehovah, Satan is here, human nature is here, deception is increasing day by day by day, evil is increasing day by day by day. It appears that the beginning of the 8th day, as it progresses and Satan is let loose it is just like today. Human nature hasn't changed. Like the time of the resurrection of the Firstfruits, the resurrections on this day—the 8th day—go well for some but not so well for others, depending on their choice. Let's go to Revelation 20:10. This is after the destruction of Gog and Magog on the 8th day. I'm going to read this out of the NIV. The rebellion occurs and Gog is defeated, millions if not billions are dead and notice what happens to the one who provokes the whole thing.

**Revelation 20:10** *And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown [more than 1000 years earlier]. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (NIV)*

Verse 11 out of the King James Version.

*11) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.  
12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (KJV)*

What they did in this life. The sea, we have come to understand is not referring to the oceans of the world. That's a sermon in itself, but the sea refers to the nations of the world. We have previously taught that. We could say the whole world—the nations of the world, the land, the sea:

*13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead [by a resurrection] which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. (KJV)*

This sounds just like Matthew 25 that we just read; judged according to their works.

*14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

*15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (KJV)*

The church has taught for well over sixty years—maybe seventy, seventy-five—that the 8th day is indeed a time of judgment and a time of justice. People get what they deserve. It's a time of justice for Satan and his demons and for those who choose or will choose to follow Him. This is a time of judgment for all humans after the start of the millennium, after the millennium begins. We had a resurrection to life and death when the Father and Son returned, before the beginning of the millennium during the Day of the Lord and now we have a similar situation for those who lived after that period of time or through that period of time. Those who don't want the Father to rule over them they are assigned to frankly, a merciful death. You go into the lake of fire and it's over with and as though they never existed. Those who lived a righteous life during the millennium, have overcome Satan, are given eternal life. On this day, all of our Father's accounts are settled. All the books, if you're an accountant, are balanced. Everything comes down to a conclusion. For some people it's a negative and they go into the lake of fire and for other people it's a positive and they are given eternal life. Let's go to Revelation 21:3. What a wonderful time after this is all over with.

**Revelation 21:3** *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people ... (KJV)*

We have talked over and over about that, how our Father wants to be with His children. He wants to dwell with His children. He's not some God Who is far off on a cloud somewhere, some chief executive, locked in a corner office who has nothing to do with everybody else. He wants to be with His children, He wants to dwell with His children, He wants to interact with His children.

*3 continued) ... and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

*4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; (KJV)*

After Gog and Magog and the billions who have been killed and all of that horror, after who knows how many millions and billions will be killed in the days facing us as the beast and false prophet do their mischief, we see here that God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

*4 continued) ... and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (KJV)*

Now have permanence; a permanent Kingdom, permanent earth, permanent life. What we have to look forward to is not in any doubt. You wouldn't say in fear, wondering what tomorrow is going to bring. Are we going to have a tornado or hurricane or am I going to die or get cancer? There's no more fear, there's no more pain, for the former things are passed away.

*5) And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

*6) And he said unto me, It is done. [Finally, it's done] I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

*7) He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (KJV)*

What a wonderful time that is. We know the Firstfruits will be there as spirit beings during this time because our time has already occurred—we've already been resurrected. We will be there as spirit beings to watch this whole culmination of the 8th day. To watch the culmination of the Father's plan for all humanity on the 8th day. It will start off with deception and war and a worldwide conflagration but it will end with a resurrection to life and to death and then after the resurrection to death has been accomplished and the lake of fire has received all of those that it's going to receive, then all you have are eternal beings who have the mind of the Father and the mind of the Son, who will want to live in harmony and unity and worship the Father and view Him as the absolute sovereign. What a time it will be.

Let's summarize now. The beginning of the 8th day sounds just like today. Like the today, we have the resurrection of the Firstfruits ahead of us. It will end well. The 8th day ends well and if we overcome the days ahead of us, even though it's the Day of the Lord and a lot will happen, it will end well for us. So, when the Father's Word speaks of resurrections to eternal life and eternal death in the same time period, in my mind it means exactly what it says. You have scripture after scripture and incident after incident. Resurrection to eternal life or eternal death occurs in the timeframe of the Day of the Lord, at the beginning of the millennium, before it starts actually and another resurrection to eternal life or death occurs after the millennium is finished during the 8th day.

The 8th day is a time of judgment when all of Yehovah's accounts are settled. We know as we've said before and we understand when we study the Bible, our Father is supremely fair. He is no respecter of persons. All humans are offered salvation. All humans will be offered a clear choice; evil—good, Satan—the Father, black—white, darkness—light. All human beings will be offered that choice. All human beings will be able to choose who they want to worship. That choice will determine our future. Do we want to decide for ourselves and put ourselves first or do we want to fall on our faces and submit to the sovereign God—The God Almighty, the Most High God?. After we are resurrected, if we make it into the Kingdom, the whole world is offered that chance during the millennium in the 8th day. The wonderful thing is, we will be there to help them make that choice. We will be there to educate them, to guide them, to encourage them, to correct them, when necessary, so that they make the right choices. It's still their choice, but we will be there to help.



We're talking about things in the future. But in the next two or three days, we have to go home. When we go home, let's not forget our prime directive; the most important directive. What is that? We can't change the world. Some people are trying, but we can't. We can't change our own country. We would like to, but we can't. That's not our prime directive, that's not what God wants us to do. What is our prime directive? It is to prepare ourselves to be the bride of Christ. When you get home read Colossians 3 and Ephesians 4 because they basically talk about our prime directive to transform ourselves through the power of the Holy Spirit to be in the image of the Son of God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, to transform our human nature, to reject Satan so that we can think and act and speak like the Son of God did when He walked this earth. That is our prime directive. It only comes through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our job, our prime directive is, am I in the image of Christ or am I not? Does our Father recognize me as one of His sons? Or am I an outcast—a rebel, like those who follow Gog. We've seen what their end is like. So, as we go home let's set that as our goal. We have a loving Father who offered His only begotten Son and watched Him suffer and die, we have a loving Son who offered Himself and suffered indescribable pain and died. Why? Because they both love us. If they both love us to that extent then why would we not want to be like them? Let's use the power of the Holy Spirit in the coming year to be like the Father and to be like the Son.