

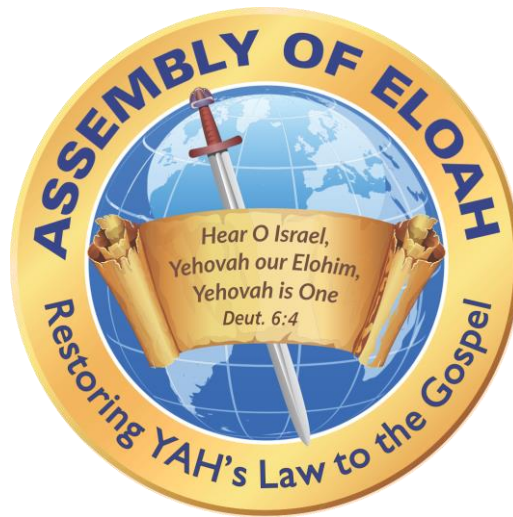
Assembly of Eloah

This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent -- Jesus Christ. Jn. 17:3

Reflection on the return of Jesus Christ and the millennium

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Edition 3



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When Jesus first came, what was his command to the 12 disciples?

Matthew 10:5-6 Do not go to the Gentiles, nor enter into the cities of the Samaritans; ⁶ rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel...

What message were the 12 to bring to these lost sheep?

Matthew 10:7 Go, preach, and say, the kingdom of heaven is at hand...

But what about the other inhabitants of the earth: the pagans, those of the cities of the Samaritans...? Had God simply forgotten or rejected them? Or, did he have a special plan for them?

You will see later that God had, and still has a plan of salvation, not only for them but for all mankind.

Malachi tells us that there is a book of remembrance.

Malachi 3:16-18 Then those who feared Y^ehovah (the LORD) spoke to one another; Y^ehovah was attentive, and he listened; And a book of remembrance was written before him For those who fear Y^ehovah And honor his name. ¹⁷ They shall be mine, said Y^ehovah of hosts; they shall be mine, in the day which I prepare; I will have compassion on them, As a man has compassion on his son who serves him. ¹⁸ And you will again see the difference Between the righteous and the wicked, Between the one who serves God And the one who does not serve him."

As you already know, God's will is that all men be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; ⁴

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. (king James version)

But, what will be the fate of the country of Sodom and Gomorrah whose history you know, perhaps? Will it be automatically lost? Or, will he also have a chance of salvation on the day of judgment?

The land of Sodom and Gomorrah will not automatically be lost.

Matthew 10:15 Truly I tell you, on the day of judgment the land of Sodom and Gomorrah will be dealt with less severely than that city" *(which at that time would not have favorably received the messengers of God)*.

And what about Tire and Sidon? Will they have their chance of salvation?

Luke 10:13-14 Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were done among you had been done in Tire and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, taking sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ Therefore, on the day of judgment, Tire and Sidon will be treated less severely than you.

Hence their chance of salvation!

On the day of judgment, the men of Nineveh and the Queen of the South will also stand up and condemn their contemporaries, as evidenced in Luke 11:31-32.

Luke 11:31-32 The queen of the South will rise, in the day of judgment, with the men of this generation and will condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, a greater than Solomon is here. ³² The men of Nineveh shall arise in the day of judgment with this generation and condemn it, because

they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, a greater than Jonah is here.'

Now consider another important clarification Jesus made about the kingdom.

Matthew 13:47-50 The kingdom of God is still like a net thrown into the sea and picking up fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When it is full, fishermen pull it out; and having sat down on the shore, they put in vases what is good, and they throw away what is bad ⁴⁹ It will be the same at the end of the world. Angels will come to separate the wicked from the righteous, ⁵⁰ and they will cast them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

And what must happen before the end comes?

Matthew 24:14 This good news of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a testimony to all nations. Then will come the end.

1 Corinthians 15:24-25 Then will come the end when he hands over the kingdom to him who is God and Father, after having destroyed all dominion, all authority and all power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all enemies under his feet''.

Remember this: During the millennial reign, there will still be potential enemies on earth whom Christ will have to put under his feet. Note that these same enemies will try to wreak havoc in the kingdom. But, Christ will not let them.

Mathew 13:40-43 Now, as we tear up the weeds and throw them into the fire, so will it be at the end of the world. ⁴¹ The Son of man will send his angels, who will tear up his kingdom all scandals and those who commit iniquity ⁴² and they will cast them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and

gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. Let him who has ears to hear, hear!

What a slap in the face for those who think that, during the millennium, they will be in heaven, in idleness, while the earth will be empty, deprived of its other inhabitants, the lost, like they call them, instantly destroyed by the breath of the Son of God at his coming!

Will Jesus really come to seek out the elect to bring them to heaven with him and ipso facto eliminate all the other inhabitants of the earth, as the supporters of the 'empty earth' think, based on Jeremiah 4:23-26?

We have just seen that it will definitely not be the case. But let us read, for our edification, these famous verses of Jeremiah 4:23-26.

Jeremiah 4:23-26 I looked at the earth, and behold, it is formless and empty; the heavens, and their light is gone. ²⁴ I looked at the mountains, and behold, they were shaken; And all the hills are tottering. ²⁵ I behold, and behold, there is no man; And all the birds of the sky fled. ²⁶ I look, and behold, Carmel is a desert; And all her cities are destroyed before Y^ehovah, before his fierce wrath.

Note that these supporters of the "empty earth" doctrine never take the trouble to read the following verse, which nevertheless explains everything.

Jeremiah 4:27 For thus says Y^ehovah: The whole land shall be devastated; But I will not do complete destruction.

Note in passing that this prophecy had its first fulfillment around the year 587

BCE with Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, during the capture of Jerusalem, at the time of Zedekiah, king of Judah. See Jeremiah 39:8-10 and Jeremiah 52:8-16.

So, some think that when Jesus returns, he will take them to heaven to live with him. Others think that they will only be caught up in the air to meet him and then descend to a place designated by God himself.

To try to understand, let's look at the scriptures they rely on to support their beliefs. Note that these scriptures are often misunderstood.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we the living who are left behind will all be taken up together with them (the risen dead) on clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we will always be with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:1 We know, indeed, that if this tent where we dwell on earth is destroyed, we have in heaven a building which is the work of God, an eternal dwelling which was not made with the hand of man.

Philippians 3:20 But our city is in heaven, from where we also expect the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!

But they forget that it is also said:

Matthew 5:5 Happy are the good-natured, for they will inherit the earth!

Would God be unjust to the point of offering, without warning, the sky to some and the earth to others? Did God promise heaven to Abraham, the father of the faith? And, how do you understand

that the meek will inherit the earth? Don't be afraid to question the teachings you have received from your church. Do as the Bereans.

Acts 17:11 These Jews had nobler sentiments than those of Thessalonica; they received the word with great eagerness, and they daily examined the Scriptures, to see if what they were told was correct.

Let's see again what Jesus will actually do when he comes.

Matthew 25:31-34 When the Son of man comes in his glory, with all the angels, he will sit on the throne of his glory.³² All the nations will be gathered before him. He will separate one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;³³ and he will put the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.³⁴ Then the king will say to those who are on his right hand: Come, you who are blessed of my Father; take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

It is obvious that the goats who will be on his left during this separation will not be in heaven and, if they are not in heaven, it follows that the sheep on his right are not either.

You clearly see here that following the return of Jesus, there will indeed be saved people determined by the result of the righteous judgment that will have been made.

If neither those who will have no part in the first resurrection nor those who will be alive when Jesus returns but will not then be found worthy to meet him; all such should be lost forever, why would God let them have a part in a judgment? And why would Jesus still have to

separate goats from sheep? One might even ask why would there be a second resurrection.

Note that the kingdom of God must grow, and this is exactly what the small stone of Daniel 2:34-35 indicated.

Daniel 2:34-35 "As you were watching, a rock was quarried—but not with human hands—and it struck the iron and clay feet of the statue, breaking them to pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold, were broken together, and became like the chaff that escapes from a threshing floor in summer; the wind blew them away, and no trace was found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Let us note again that this small stone, symbol of the Kingdom of God (at the time of the return of Jesus), did not go up where it came from but rather became a large mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Note that when Jesus operates this separation referred to in Matthew 25, and which can be identified as a 2nd separation, He will have already been seated on his throne, gathering all the nations before Him for the last judgment, also called "the Great White Throne Judgment". Explicitly, it will then be the time of the great harvest symbolized by the last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Let us note in passing that those who will have done the will of God and who will thus take part in the First Resurrection, will not come into judgment according to John 5:24.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death unto life.

The kingdom of God will therefore begin with the first fruits and will grow thereafter, to the point of filling the whole earth.

And what will Christ finally say to those on his left?

Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left: Depart from me, you accursed; go into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and for his angels.

It is the final destruction of all the wicked. However, this is the logical conclusion we could reach given what is said here in Matthew 25:41. But let us also not forget that it is said in Romans 5:19.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many shall be made righteous.

Some consider this to mean that all men, including Satan and the fallen angels, would be saved, since Christ died for all sinners. Note that it does not say that "all will be saved", but "many will be made righteous".

Romans 5:15 But it is not with the free gift as with the offense; for if by one man's offense many died, how much more was the grace of God and the gift of grace from one man, Jesus Christ, abundantly shed on many.

I will not begin to accuse others in relation to their teaching because the

only one who can really judge is God Himself, because only he has the power to do this or that. Of course, God's will is for all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth according to 1 Timothy 2:3-4.

So the important thing is that everyone strives with the grace of God, to come to the knowledge of this truth in obedience and thus to obtain a share in his kingdom of glory.

Will God save Satan? Some wonder. But does this really concern us? If God wants to do it, who can stop Him?

Deuteronomy 29:29 "The hidden things belong to the Lord our God; the things revealed are ours and our children's forever, that we may do all the words of this law?"

During the millennial reign, what will be one of the roles of those who will be with Jesus Christ?

Revelation 2:26-27 To him who overcomes, and keeps my works to the end, I will give authority over the nations. ²⁷ He will rule them with a rod of iron, as one breaks clay vessels, as I myself received the power from my father.

But where will the elect stand to thus shepherd the nations of the earth?

Revelation 5:9-10 ...you have redeemed for God by your blood men out of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them a kingdom and priests (teachers) to our God, and they will reign in the earth.

There will be no idleness in the millennium. And what will be the role of the priest?

Malachi 2:7 For the lips of the priest must keep knowledge, and of his mouth the law is demanded, because he is an envoy of Y^ehovah of hosts.

This is what the attitude of the nations will be during the millennium.

Micah 4:1-5 Come, let us go up into the mountain of Y^ehovah, into the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways, and that we may walk in his paths.

Will the nations finally understand the necessity of keeping the feasts of Y^ehovah?

Zachary 14:16-19 All that remain of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem Shall go up every year To bow down before the king, Y^ehovah of hosts, And to celebrate the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁷ If there are families of the earth that do not go up to Jerusalem to bow down before the king, Y^ehovah of hosts, the rain will not fall on them. ¹⁸ If the family of Egypt does not go up, if it does not come, the rain will not fall on it; She will be stricken with the plague with which Y^ehovah will smite the nations that do not come up to celebrate the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁹ It will be the punishment of Egypt, The punishment of all the nations Who do not come up to celebrate the feast of tabernacles.

Thus, when all the enemies of the truth have been tamed (mastered) and put under the feet of Jesus, it will be the creation of a new era (era from the Latin *aera*=epoch), and that of a new earth where justice will dwell henceforth and for eternity.

With Jesus, paradise lost will finally be reconquered, as we have just seen.

So let us prepare today to have a part with Jesus Christ (Yahoshua) in his

kingdom of glory. For those who are now called and do not keep the commandments and testimony of Christ to the end (i.e., until they die or until the Savior appears), will not be included of the first resurrection. They will therefore have to wait until the end of the thousand-year reign and will undergo the judgment of the Great White Throne, at the second resurrection.

Annex

If, after reading this, you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact us and we will be very happy to assist you in your studies.

You will likely find people who claim to be able to answer all kinds of questions from a biblical or theological perspective, especially if you meet someone who has done extensive theological study, and even has a doctorate in the subject. But biblical teaching does not allow or authorize such a claim. Only God, through the gift of His Holy Spirit, allows us to discover the depths of His word. No one has infused science i.e. no one is omniscient except YAH (Y^ehovah GOD) himself.

We do not claim to have been able to answer or even be able to answer all the questions concerning the hidden things of Y^ehovah. God reveals to us today what He saw fit to reveal to us. He did not think it necessary to reveal everything to us now.

Deuteronomy 29:29 "Hidden things belong to Y^ehovah our God; the things revealed are ours and our children's forever, that we may do all the words of this law.'

1 Corinthians 13:12 Today we see through a mirror, in a dark way, but then we will see face to face; today I know in part, but then I will know as I have been known.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet been manifested; but we know that when it is manifested, we will be like him, because we will see him as he is.

God tells us clearly in his word that things will not remain so indefinitely. At some point, God will make everyone know Him to the point of not needing any teacher.

Jeremiah 31:34 This man shall no longer teach his neighbor, Nor that his brother, saying, Know Y^ehovah! For all shall know me, from the least to the greatest, said Y^ehovah; For I will forgive their iniquity, And I will remember their sin no more.

Habakuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Y^ehovah, as the waters of the sea cover it.

Isaiah 11:9 There will be no harm or damage On all my holy mountain; For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of Y^ehovah, as the waters of the sea cover it.

If you have difficulty understanding the word of God, why not ask Him for the help of His Holy Spirit, which He will certainly not fail to grant you.

Luke 11:13 If then, wicked as you are, you know how to give good things to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.

Matthew 18:19 I tell you again that if two of you agree on earth to ask for anything, it will be granted to them by my Father who is in heaven.

Our Heavenly Father wants us to seek Him and strive to find Him, even though He is not far from each of us.

Acts 17:24-31 The God who made the world and all that is in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, he who gives to all life, breath, and all things. ²⁶ He caused all men of one blood to dwell in all the face of the earth, having determined the length of time and the limits of their abode; ²⁷ he willed them to seek the Lord, and to grope for him, although he is not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for in him we have life, movement, and being. This is what some of your poets have also said: Of him we are the race. ²⁹ So therefore, being the race of God, we must not believe that the deity is like gold, silver, or stone, carved by the art and industry of the male. ³⁰ God, regardless of the times of ignorance, now commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has appointed a day when he will judge the world in righteousness, the man whom he appointed, of which he gave certain proof to all by raising him from the dead.

Let us therefore all strive to do all that Christ himself has recommended to us.

God loves us and is always ready to help us. Let us seek Him with a sincere heart. And go to Him, in the name and by the authority of His beloved Son Jesus (YEHOSHUAH or YESHUA)), and we will certainly never be disappointed. So we can spend the millennium reigning with Christ, our eldest brother in his kingdom and eternity in the kingdom of the Father and the Son;

NOTE: Do not confuse the millennial reign of Christ and the elect (Revelation 20:6) with the eternal reign of the Father in union with His Son (1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. ²⁸ And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

May God help us in our desire to better know and obey Him.

Amen, Y^ehovah