

Jewish Spiritual Life

PEACE THROUGH THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

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Resurrection From The Grave

By George Gruen

What is the truth that God would have us know regarding the resurrection from the dead? Is the resurrection foretold in the Jewish Holy Scriptures, the Bible? Is there any hope for personal peace for ones self now and for eternity after death? We share with you the truth of the resurrection and the peace that it brings to us in the day in which we live.

We consider the Scriptures about resurrection in the Jewish Bible that bring to our hearts the resurrection of the body after physical death. In the Hebrew prayer book, the Siddur, on pages ninety and ninety-one in an older Siddur, we have "The 13 Principles of the Faith." These are the principles that Jewish people should follow. The 12th and 13th principles of faith for Israel found in the Jewish prayer book read: "I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah, and though He tarry, I will wait daily for His coming. I believe with perfect faith that there will be a resurrection of the dead at the time when it shall please the Creator, blessed be His Name, and exalted be the remembrance of Him for ever and ever. For Thy salvation I hope, O Lord, for Thy salvation, O Lord, for Thy salvation, I hope." We have here in the Jewish prayer book that Jewish people are to believe in the coming of the Messiah and the resurrection of the dead at a future time when it pleases God.

The Jewish Holy Scriptures teach that there will be a resurrection from the grave. In the Jewish Bible book of Job we read what God inspired him to write about life after death. The God of Israel wrote through Job, chapter 19, beginning with verse 25: "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the later day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." These Bible verses are positive! There is no doubt what will happen after death. He did not say, "I think" or "I feel," or "maybe," but I know! Job said in the Jewish Holy Scripture, "I know my Redeemer liveth." Today, every true Bible believer can say with Job, "I know my Redeemer liveth." I know God is real, and Messiah Jesus is alive! According to the Bible (Isaiah 53; Daniel 9:24-27 and other Jewish Holy Scriptures) Messiah Jesus has died to provide for us the blood of atonement so that God will forgive our sins. Job knew that the One who redeemed him from his sins was alive. He also said that his Redeemer from sin will stand at the later day upon the earth (Zechariah 14:1-4). Comparing this Scripture with other Holy Scriptures in the Jewish Bible, we know that the Messiah would come the *first time to earth* to die for the sins of people so that by their trusting in God's atonement for sin, men and women could be forgiven and cleansed of all sin. God's Messiah Jesus would die for our sins, be buried and then He would be raised from the grave and ascend to Heaven. He would remain in Heaven at the right hand of God the Father, until God, at a future time would send Messiah again *to earth the second time* to bring peace to the entire world after defeating the enemies of Israel.

The following Bible verses of Holy Scripture in the Jewish Bible substantiate what I have shared with you. God says in Isaiah chapter 53, verses 5-12: *“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before his shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living [death]: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet is pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”*

This is a remarkable portion of Scripture in the Jewish Bible that was written about 700 B.C. Yes, it is in the Jewish Bible. If you are Jewish you probably have not read it, for Isaiah chapter 53 is not listed in the suggested readings in the Haftorah. The Bible readings in the Haftorah go up to Isaiah 52:12 and then begin again in Isaiah at Isaiah chapter 54. Chapter 53 is skipped! Why? Most people who read this entire chapter say that it speaks of Jesus! And it does. Rabbis up until about 1,000 A.D. said that Isaiah 53 spoke of the Messiah. It was not until a year around 1,000 A.D. that a leading Rabbi said that the one spoken of in Isaiah 53 was the Jewish people or Israel. A careful reading of these verses of Holy Scripture make it clear that the “he” of this chapter cannot be Israel or the Jewish people. “He” dies so Jewish people can be forgiven of their sins. If “he” is the Jewish people, then they would all be dead; who then is left to be forgiven of their sins? Israel has the perfect right to defend herself against her enemies even as God defeated many nations that came against Israel as is recorded in the Bible. The “he” in this chapter does not even speak back against his oppressors or try to defend himself but willingly dies so the sins of people can be forgiven. “He” cannot be the Jewish people and “He” is not Israel. “He” is the Messiah as Rabbis of old clearly understood.

Psalms 16:9, 10, and 11: *“Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope [resurrection]. For thou wilt not leave my soul in Sheol; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”* King David of Israel who wrote this Psalm knew he would die. He also knew that he would be resurrected and would have pleasures for evermore with God. The Holy One who dies in verse 10 and does not see corruption in the grave is the Messiah. Messiah Jesus is raised from the grave after He dies for our sins and ascends to the right hand of God in Heaven as we read in Psalm 110:1 *“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”* King David wrote this Psalm and there was no Lord over David for he was the king. Almighty God said unto another Lord to come sit at His right hand [which would be in Heaven]. The Lord to whom God spoke was Messiah who is a member of the Godhead. You will find the three members of the Godhead revealed to us in Isaiah chapter 48 and verses 16 and 17 as well as many other places in the Jewish Bible.

Isaiah chapter 9 and verses 6 and 7: *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, jupon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth and even for every. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.* This is a prophecy that was partially fulfilled when Messiah came to earth the first time born as a son to be a man to die for our sins. But the main part of this prophecy will be fulfilled in the future when Messiah returns to earth to end all wars and bring world peace to Israel and all people. Notice that the names given to this son are the names of Almighty God!

Another Jewish Bible prophecy in Jeremiah chapter 23 and verses 5 and 6 tells us more about the Messiah: *“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”* The LORD God sends One to earth to bring peace and this One is called THE LORD! This is Messiah Jesus who is of the Godhead.

In the God-breathed writings of the Jewish prophet, Isaiah, we read in chapter 26 and verse 19: *“Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust, and the earth shall cast out the dead.”* Isaiah said, in recording the Word of God, the dead in the Lord would live again, together with Isaiah they would be raised from the dead, or the grave. Notice the words here: *“Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust.”* These people, who trusted God and knew their sins were forgiven by God’s way, had died, and their bodies were in the ground, or in graves. After death they would be resurrected and see new life and sing! They would sing for joy in the presence of Almighty God as many other promises in the Bible reveal to us.

Resurrection is a reality! For the one who trusts in Messiah Jesus’ death and resurrection for our sins, there is resurrection to life, it is real. But, for the one who rejects God’s plan of forgiveness of sin, the Bible says there will be a resurrection to condemnation and judgment for unforgiven sins, and eternal suffering in hell. In which resurrection will you have a part? As Bible-believers, we thank God that we look forward to the resurrection to new life in the peace, joy and wonders of Heaven. In Heaven, we will be in the presence of God and Messiah Jesus who loves us and has provided such a great future for us and for all those who trust Him. One glimpse of Heaven is give in the Bible book of Revelation, chapter 21 and verses 3 and 4: *“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, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; 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.”* What great joy to be with God in peace in the Heaven He has prepared for those who love and trust Him and Messiah Jesus as their sin-bearer.

Revelation has a verse of stern warning for people who reject God’s plan of the forgiveness of our sins. We read in chapter 21 and verse 8: *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, 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” [Separation from God in eternal suffering for people who die with unforgiven sin in their lives]. Many Bible verses tell of this place called Hell. The first separation is from this world by physical death, the second separation is from God for eternity.

We read in the Jewish Bible, Isaiah 33:14 *“The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?”*

In the Bible book of Luke, chapter 16 and verses 19 through 31 there is a graphic description of two men who died and were buried. One man’s spirit, soul and a spiritual real body immediately went to be with Abraham in the place of peace and joy. The other man went to a place of suffering from which he could see Lazarus sitting with Abraham. There was a great gulf between them and one could not pass to the other. The man who died with unforgiven sin in his life cried to “Father Abraham” to send Lazarus with water to cool him in his place of suffering. Abraham said that it could not be done. The man then asked Abraham to send Lazarus back to his brothers on earth to warn them so they would not come to this place of suffering. Abraham said to the man that if they would not believe Moses and the prophets [the Bible], they would not believe even if one came back from the dead to warn them.

What a solemn warning this is to all people to seek God now through the pages of the Bible while you are still alive.

One last Scripture in the New Covenant or Testament in Revelation chapter 1 and verses 5, 17, and 18: “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood...I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore....” Do you know this risen Messiah Jesus as your Savior from sin? Write to us, or send an e-mail for free literature and CDs that will give you the God of Israel’s plan for forgiveness of sin and real peace for this life and for all eternity in Heaven.

I am a Jewish Bible believer and I know resurrection to eternal life in Heaven awaits me when I die; I praise God! Shalom!