



How Many Resurrections Will There Be?

Psalms 45:10: (NASB) *Listen, O daughter, give attention and incline your ear: Forget your people and your father's house.*

Special Guest: David Christiansen



Resurrection. It is synonymous with the most basic tenets of Christian belief no matter what sect, denomination, or group one may come from. For most of us, we think about Jesus and the fact of his resurrection and we think about the prospect of our own resurrection. On the surface it sounds pretty simple - be faithful, die and then go to heaven - but - what if the doctrine of resurrection entailed more than that? What if what we normally envision with our "resurrection eyes" was only the beginning of something much bigger and even more amazing?

David is from the West Coast, living in a suburb of Seattle. He and his wife Joanna are out to visit for the weekend because David will be speaking at a Bible Student convention later this day.

Dave is going to be talking with us about our theme Scripture and its context throughout the program and outlining the several aspects of resurrection.

Psalms 45:10-17: (NASB) ¹⁰Listen, O daughter, give attention and incline your ear: Forget your people and your father's house; ¹¹Then the King will desire your beauty. Because he is your Lord, bow down to him. ¹²The daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; the rich among the people will seek your favor. ¹³The King's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is interwoven with gold. ¹⁴She will be led to the King in embroidered work; the virgins, her companions who follow her, will be brought to you. ¹⁵They will be led forth with gladness and rejoicing; they will enter into the King's palace. ¹⁶In place of your fathers will be your sons; you shall make them princes in all the earth. ¹⁷I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the peoples will give You thanks forever and ever.



DAVID: We are going to have some different groupings here. We're going to see as we go just how that does fit into the resurrection.

We have this daughter who is supposed to leave her father's house. We believe that's one group. Those are Christians who leave worldly ambitions to follow the Lord.

RICK: Are you saying the Scriptures break up all of mankind into different groups? This one set of scriptures in **Psalm 45** deals with everybody who has ever lived?

DAVID: That indeed.



JONATHAN: Interesting.

RICK: This should be good. Let's see how that unfolds as we go through this program. So let's take this apart and go verse by verse to try to get ourselves into the context of how to get there as Dave is talking about these different groups.

Our theme text:

¹⁰Listen, O daughter, give attention and incline your ear: Forget your people and your father's house.

RICK: Who does the *daughter* represent and how do we know?

DAVID: We believe that the *daughter* are those who dedicated their life to Christ to follow him unto death, and the key is that it says *forget your people and your father's house*. Well, we're told as Christians to do exactly that in Matthew 10:35-37:

Matthew 10:35-37: (NASB) ³⁵*For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶and a man's enemies will be the members of his household. ³⁷He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*

RICK: So you are taking that Scripture and applying the principles to Psalms 45:10.

DAVID: Yes, I am. If you look at the relationship between father, mother and children that is a tight bond. Who do you love more than your parents? But it says *if you love them more than you love me*, meaning the Lord, *you are not worthy of me*. So we are in essence to *leave our father's house*.

RICK: And so when it says in this verse, *forget your people and your father's house*, that's like a big red flag saying to look at *Matthew 10*, because it is talking about the same kind of a thing. So you are making the connection.

As we go through this, we are going to be talking about several aspects of resurrection, many of which you probably have not considered before. It can be somewhat new to you, maybe even somewhat controversial to you. The idea is to follow the Scriptures and build the New Testament on the foundation of the Old Testament. When we see things like this in the Psalms, we can see the connections to the New Testament. We need to take both of those together.

JONATHAN: And, Rick, when it says forget your people, it makes me think of focusing on the future prospect of being with the Lord in heaven versus anything else. Something greater, something further beyond.

RICK: Right. And that's what the Matthew Scripture says. Jesus isn't saying to hate everybody in the world and just love him. Instead, your focus, your primary objective in your entire life is to be focused on following after Christ and his footsteps. Dave, part of how you express that love for Jesus in your own life is some of the work that you do in the Philippines.



DAVID: I felt a call to go there. I have a ministry there, and there are some wonderful brethren over there. And I would rather do that than many other things I could possibly be doing that are more fun, maybe.

RICK: Easier.

DAVID: Easier, closer to home.

RICK: So you've gone to the Philippines several times?

DAVID: Seven times in the last six years.

RICK: That's a lot! You have been actively drawn in that area of drawing people into Christ, drawing people into Bible study and so forth.

DAVID: Yes, and helping with challenges of language and things. It has been kind of slow, but there are some wonderful faithful brethren there that are eager to learn.

RICK: I wanted to bring that out because Dave has some wonderful experiences we will try to sprinkle throughout the program. That is a living example of the kinds of things we want to talk about with the picture of this daughter giving attention, forgetting your people and your father's house.

If the true follower of Jesus is being pictured in Psalm 45 then how does the following fit in?

2 Peter 1:5-8,11: (NASB) ⁵Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,⁶and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,⁷and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ... ¹¹for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

RICK: What is this telling us about the picture of this daughter?

DAVID: Well, the picture of this daughter is you have a list of principles here. It talks about faith, moral excellence, knowledge and self-control. These are things the Lord wants to see you build in your own life and your own heart, and that requires some diligence. And we look at that as those who have left their father's house to seek after something greater. It does not mean they should discard their literal parents, absolutely not.

RICK: The interesting thing is that the first scripture was really about a decision. The 2 Peter scripture was really about the *action* that *follows* the decision. The idea of being a true Christian is not just saying, "I love Jesus more than these." That is great to say that but how do you *live* those words in your everyday life? This is about more than just *loving* Jesus. This is about *living* that love for Jesus by *changing yourself*.

DAVID: Exactly. People say, "Do you believe in Jesus?" To me that means, do I believe *into* Jesus? Do I believe that he is the Savior and that I want to be like him someday? It's not just, "Oh, I believe he exists." I think the 2 Peter text tells us there is much more to it than that. It is a lifetime growing process into the likeness of him.



RICK: I really like that phrase, "I believe *into* Jesus." And that really talks about what our job is. Then the conclusion thus far is really simple. The daughter in Psalms 45 represents who?

DAVID: The daughter represents those who would follow our Lord and try to grow in these principles - true Christians who are wanting to be like their Lord.

The Psalm talks about a party in a palace! Who is invited?

Psalms 45:11: (NASB) *Then the King will desire your beauty. Because He is your Lord, bow down to Him.*

DAVID: This is still part of that class of people who want to follow the Lord and be like God's son. We are talking about a glory within or the beauty within. As human beings, we dress nice, we put on shirts and ties, nice dresses and we like to try to look nice. But the Lord doesn't care about that. He cares about what is in our heart. He wants us to be all glorious *within*.

RICK: It is inner beauty that is what is most appealing to our Lord Jesus.

Galatians 5:22-24: (NASB) *²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

RICK: That really fits into what you are saying. It is that inner beauty, that inner development, that character development, the crystallization of making ourselves to be more Christ-like in our everyday life.

DAVID: Absolutely. We're trying to grow in that daily, believing *into* Jesus.



A caller from the Philippines whom David has visited several times: This topic of the resurrection of the dead is such a wonderful topic that whatever problems we have come across in this life, when we know of resurrection, there is always hope for the life to come. Matthew 16 it is about leaving your household, forget your father's household. In Matthew 15:34, *if anyone come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*

There is another resurrection of the dead also after that because these are people we will be blessing. They will be examples and models of greatness to bless all the families of the earth. In both our country and in America, thinking about Halloween and All Saints Day, there is a lot of confusion about resurrection. How beautiful, more simplified and more God-glorifying to know that not only the church but also, Jesus is the propitiation for our sins but also for the sins of the whole world. In 1 Timothy 2:6 he is a "ransom for all."

Psalms 45:12: (NASB) *The daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; The rich among the people will seek your favor.*

RICK: Wedding, gifts, royalty, sounds like a big party. Who is the daughter of Tyre? Who are the rich? How does this all fit into the picture that you're talking about in relation to the resurrection that God has planned?



DAVID: We are talking resurrection here, and the church before the resurrection does not grant this kind of favor to the rich. The rich do not need Christianity.

Tyre was a town of great commerce and a lot of money, known for their rich people. And even they will bow down eventually, after a resurrection. This does not happen before that. There are those who are faithful until death (the first daughter mentioned) and receive this reward after the resurrection; everyone else (daughter of Tyre) who didn't strive for faithfulness will show favor toward the glorified church.

RICK: Historically, Tyre had not been a place where you would go to show honor to true Christianity. But you are saying because it shows Tyre will bow down, it has to be a future picture. Tyre, this city of great commerce which had no desire toward God, will actually bow down before God.

DAVID: Yes, but obviously that hasn't happened yet. That is after a resurrection.

RICK: Not "after *the* resurrection" he says, but "*a* resurrection." We will develop that a little bit further.

Psalms 45:13: (NASB) *The King's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is interwoven with gold.*

RICK: The King's daughter is glorious with clothing interwoven with gold, what does that suggest to us?

DAVID: Gold is a picture of the divine, of heaven, something incredibly valuable.

Revelation 21:18, 21: (NASB) ¹⁸*The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass...* ²¹*And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

Revelation 3:18: (NASB) ¹⁸*I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.*

RICK: There's a picture of the refining process in the future, indicating resurrection.

Psalms 45:14: (NASB) *She will be led to the King in embroidered work; The virgins, her companions who follow her, will be brought to You.*

RICK: You said that the *daughter* in Psalms 45:10-13 is the truest followers of Christ. It is not just anybody who claims the name of Christianity.

DAVID: That is correct. And, of course, we have no way of knowing who is who. We don't make that choice. The Lord knows who are His.

RICK: But it is a smaller type of a group because these are the footstep followers living their lives in sacrifice, as you said, believing *into* Christ, not just believing *in* Christ.



DAVID: That is correct. The Scripture says *strait is the gate, narrow is the way and few there be that find it*.

RICK: Who are these companions of the truest most faithful followers of Christ?

DAVID: The Scripture says *many are called but few are chosen*. Many are called to this following. Let's expand with Matthew 25:

Matthew 25:1-2: (NASB) *¹Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.*

RICK: It is talking about virgins there as well.

DAVID: Right. But some were foolish because they didn't keep the oil of the Holy Spirit in their lamps. This is a parable, so it is also picture language. Five of them were prudent and faithful, who followed the scriptural principles and built their heart to where they needed it to be. The others were a bit lax; however, they are still virgins.

RICK: That is an interesting point. We have a picture of followers of Christ broken into two categories.

JONATHAN: It's like a wedding with bridesmaids following behind the bride.

RICK: Exactly. And that's what's shown in Psalms 45. But you are saying that within the followers of Jesus there are two basic categories: those that really, really follow through and use the oil of God's Spirit and so forth, and then those who follow along, "should have," "know how to," but they don't seem to quite measure up. That doesn't sound like a very nice thing to talk about, the ones that don't measure up. How do we describe them?

Revelation 20:4,6: (NASB) *⁴Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...**This is the first resurrection.** ⁶Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.*

RICK: If we overlay resurrection to the pictures we are talking about, this Revelation scripture is specifically talking about who?

DAVID: The "footstep followers" who were faithful unto death and will receive that ultimate prize of glory, honor and immortality.

RICK: Is that talking about all of the virgins or just the five?

DAVID: The five prudent virgins. I have a scripture for you that might help:

Revelation 7:9: *After these things I looked and behold a great multitude which no one could count from every nations and all tribes, people and tongues **standing before the throne** and before the lamb **clothed in white robes** and **palm branches in their hands**.*

The first group is on the thrones, but here is a *great multitude* standing before the thrones.



RICK: We are going through Psalms 45 and looking at the different categories of people and applying different levels of resurrection to the different categories and now all of a sudden there are certainly more than one.

DAVID: In Revelation 7:9 there is a group who are not *on* the thrones like the first group, but rather they are *in front of* the thrones. Their location implies they are also a heavenly group.

RICK: Because how do you get from earth to heaven but by resurrection...! This is starting to make sense. You have the truest followers of Christ - in Revelation - they are on the thrones. (Previously pictured by the wise virgins.) That is the first resurrection.

DAVID: Correct.

RICK: "First" implies others to follow. Revelation calls the next group the *great multitude*. What are their characteristics?

JONATHAN: White robes. White means purity - they were virgins.

DAVID: We think they did not have the same zeal as the wise virgins. They did not have quite the trust in our Heavenly Father. They still believed and many of them were probably trying to do the right things. We don't judge that. Before any resurrection, we don't say "this one is in this group, this one is in that group." The Lord knows. So here is one group, but it is divided up after they are resurrected.

RICK: The idea is, by the grace of God through Jesus, you have a necessary judgment and a necessary separation within those who are following after Christ.

So they have purity. What else, Jonathan?

JONATHAN: They have palms in their hands, and palms we know represent victory. They are a great multitude before the throne in heaven, and they are pure.

RICK: It does sound like a victory, but...

Revelation 7:14-15: ¹⁴I said to him, my lord, you know. And he said to me, these are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them.

RICK: We just said it sounds like victory, but now it talks about this *great tribulation*. How does that help us understand what the Scriptures lay out for us as the different aspects of the result of a dedicated Christian life?

DAVID: Well, of course we can't define what tribulation is for any given person. It may be mental anguish; it may be actual physical things. The Lord is working with them to try to steer them back in the right way. There are a myriad of examples you could bring up. But it is still that group that didn't quite make it. The Scriptures describe *overcomers* and *more than overcomers*. The *more*



than overcomers are more than conquerors, depending on the Bible translation. These are those two groups of conquerors. Romans 8:37

RICK: All right, so there are more than overcomers and overcomers. Again, there is victory but just a different level of victory.

RICK: And let's go back to the parable of Jesus to see the separating between those two groups.

Matthew 25:8-10: (NASB) ⁸*The foolish said to the prudent, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. ⁹But the prudent answered, No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves. ¹⁰And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.*

RICK: That sounds pretty dramatic - we have got the oil. You don't have the oil. Go to the dealers. Go find it. That sort of reminds me of the tribulation you were just talking about. You have to go do something that you should have been prepared for already.

DAVID: I think you're right. And this is a picture, a parable. We do not have literal lamps and literal oil. But it says they won't give their oil and share.

And you think, well, that doesn't sound right. But the point is, God deals with Christians on an individual basis. We are responsible for ourselves to fill our lamp, so to speak, with the oil of the Holy Spirit. We cannot fill it for someone else, as much as we would love to, someone we can see is having issues or something, but we cannot do it. That is something they need to do. And if they don't do it and don't do it, eventually they are going to be left out of the *more than overcomer* group when the bridegroom comes.

RICK: So you are saying this is like a different phase or different type of resurrection?

DAVID: It is a different phase. You have the *more than overcomers*, the *daughter*, the *bride class*: Faithful until death. Then there is another group that ran the race but were lacking something. The Lord knows what that was. That second group will be resurrected, as well, in heaven.

RICK: So Psalms 45 is showing us a picture that encompasses every human being that has ever lived. So far we have only touched on a very small part of that picture - those who are the really faithful Christians. We haven't even touched on people who haven't taken their Christianity seriously. And we certainly haven't touched on heathen, pagan or atheists or anybody else.

This Psalm helps us to understand in a lot of picture language what the future holds for everybody. It is really fascinating when you begin to get it. We have a heavenly call with two aspects of resurrection: those who are *more than overcomers* and the *overcomers*.

Psalms 45:15: (NASB) *They will be led forth with gladness and rejoicing; They will enter into the King's palace.*

DAVID: It says *they will enter into the palace* - both groups. But one is there to marry God's son, in picture language, a wedding. The other is there to



observe and be in front of the thrones. There is a difference in their resurrections. The second group will not receive immortality. That is the big difference. The divine nature is life within yourself like God and Jesus have. Remember it says in the Scriptures, *we shall see him as he is and we will be like him*. That is only that very top group. The others are in a very special group, but they fell a little bit short in the race.

Luke 12:32: (NASB) *Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.*

RICK: When we see the phrase *little flock* when Jesus is speaking, he is talking about whom?

DAVID: Before the resurrection, it is talking about those who follow him. Comparatively few follow him. But if you translate that to after the resurrection, it is an even smaller flock - *many are called and those few are chosen*. That's a point of semantics, but either way, it is a small group.

HEAVENLY RESURRECTIONS	
"Church class"	"Great Company"
More than overcomers	Overcomers
Bride	Companions to the bride
Wise virgins	Foolish virgins
Sitting on thrones	In front of thrones
Little flock	Great multitude
Reward: heavenly with immortality	Reward: heavenly

RICK: That is another interesting point. When you think about it, we have the whole world of mankind with the billions and billions and billions of people that have ever lived, and yet Jesus is addressing this world of mankind and saying, don't be afraid, little flock - this little tiny group amongst the billions and billions and billions of people. It is a very small, select, elected group that, like you said, *many are called but few are chosen*.

Revelation 7:9: (NASB) *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...*



RICK: You said the *great multitude* represents those who are in heaven but were not as faithful as the *more than overcomers*. It is interesting that both groups are pictured as being in heaven, but they occupy a different space and role in heaven.

In Psalms 45, all we have done is touch on the first few verses. We've touched on the idea that this daughter is the ultimate faithful class, those very, very few that become what we would recognize as the scriptural term, the *bride of Christ*. For the others who are faithful but not *as* faithful, God's mercy brings them there but they do not get the same reward.

DAVID: They do not. And yet it will still be marvelous to be in heaven with our Lord. It will still be a wonderful thing.

RICK: And that's an important point. What about the rest of everybody? What about the people in the Old Testament who are really, really, really faithful?

JONATHAN: That didn't know Jesus.

RICK: Right, who lived before Jesus? What happens to them? What happens to the Jewish nation who were God's chosen people? *You only have I known of all the families of the earth*. Right?

DAVID: Exactly.

RICK: What happens to the rest of the world, to the rest of "the everybody," to the rest of humanity? Do they get a resurrection? Are they all pictured in Psalms 45? Do they get a resurrection?

DAVID: Yes!

RICK: And what about Israel?

DAVID: Yes!

RICK: And what about those faithful ones in the Old Testament?

DAVID: Yes!

RICK: If you are willing to take a slow walk through some Scriptures and look at the pictures, symbols and interpretations, it really does make sense.

The bottom line is that the plan of God puts us in a position of knowing and understanding who is involved where. His plan does include every man, woman and child that ever lived.

Quick sidetrack:

RICK: Dave has done extensive work in the Philippines in terms of supporting and developing Christianity there. I asked him during the break for observations about the people of the Philippines. You were there a couple of months after the huge storm Yolanda went through there. What did you see?



DAVID: We saw a lot of devastation. I mean it was incredible. We also saw a lot of smiles. They are a very resilient people. The Filipinos are a wonderful people. This wasn't something new. They have had these typhoons for years and years, and they rebuild. I'm not talking about the big cities like Cebu City and Manila, but out in the villages their homes are made out of coconut lumber and grass, and it doesn't take a lot of wind to destroy their homes. Yolanda was the largest recorded storm ever - 200 mile an hour winds, 235 mile an hour gusts, and the devastation was incredible. But they put a smile on their face, they rebuild and they go about their business. It was wonderful.

A Christian brother on an island of Latay, which got hit the hardest, he and his wife had one of these grass and coconut lumber homes next to a little building they built for the brethren to meet in. They both blew down. They were rebuilding the chapel and I asked, "Where is Br. Henry's home?" And this young man pointed over to a pile of rubble and said, "That's their home."

But they wouldn't let anybody help them rebuild their home until the chapel was repaired so they could meet together. They did have a place to stay, they had some shelter. I love the attitude.

RICK: Thanks for sharing that experience. It is a great example of resiliency in a very devastating situation. Let's get back to our subject matter.

Where do the "best of the best" from the Old Testament fit in?

Psalms 45:16: (NASB) *In place of your fathers will be your sons; You shall make them princes in all the earth.*

RICK: Who are these *fathers* and what does this have to do with resurrection? What does it mean *in place of your fathers will be your sons*?

DAVID: It was quite common, especially in Jesus's day, in Israel to call those leaders like Abraham, Isaac and Moses, "fathers," such as Father Abraham. The people looked up to these leaders and studied them in the Old Testament writings. In the resurrection, instead of being those fathers, they will be the children.

RICK: Wait. Instead of being the fathers, the fathers are going to be the children? Is that what you're saying?

DAVID: Correct. This is picture language again, but they're going to be as the children. So they won't have the same station, a heavenly reward, because they did not know Christ. There's only one name under heaven through which you can be saved for a heavenly reward - through Jesus Christ. That name did not exist in the Old Testament.

RICK: We are focusing on certain individuals of great faith, not necessarily on the whole Old Testament, and those are representative of fathers.

1 Peter 1:18-19: (NASB) *¹⁸knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your **forefathers**, ¹⁹but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.*



This highlights many of the worthy faithful of Old Testament times:

Hebrews 11:39-40: (NASB) ³⁹*And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,* ⁴⁰*because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.*

RICK: Dave, how does that help us grasp the idea of the role that these ancient individuals of great faith played in relation to the role that the true followers of Christ play?

DAVID: First of all, they had faith. They were very faithful to our Heavenly Father. Then it says they *did not receive what was promised*. The promise was to Israel and the ancients even before Israel. Their promises were earthly. They were going to get this land. It is spelled out in a couple of different places that they would get this land and they would excel in *basket and store*. All these blessings would come upon them, whether through the Law or even before just for being faithful. But nowhere is there a promise that they would be like Jesus; it is never mentioned in the Old Testament.

So they would receive a resurrection back on earth - to the land promised them. And as doing such, that makes them then the sons. They would be less than the church class, the bride class, which is in heaven.

DAVID: Very important station, very wonderful but it is not the same as the heavenly reward obtainable only through Jesus.

RICK: This becomes a very important point of understanding when we look at how the resurrection really works in its overall picture.

What we're saying here is that you have the true followers of Christ who are given that heavenly reward because Jesus opened up the door to heaven. But you have all of those incredibly faithful people before Jesus. And, Dave, when you look at the lives of those ancients who lived in those early times, their faithfulness was staggering!

DAVID: It was. Read all of Hebrews 11 and it tells you some of those stories briefly.

RICK: You are saying they get their reward, but it is not a reward in heaven, *because they were never offered that reward*.

DAVID: That's correct.

RICK: But the scripture in Psalms 45 says *you shall make them princes in all the earth*.

DAVID: *In all the earth*...you are not going to be princes in heaven.

RICK: I'm starting to get why Psalm 45 is about resurrection!

JONATHAN: So, this is the third resurrection we have identified, is that right?



RICK: Yes. This is a third category of humanity that is going to some kind of end result that is different from where they are, depending on when they lived, depending on what they did. We can see that when we live and what we do have very direct input into *where* we end up and *what* we end up doing later on.

DAVID: It is not that we are judging these people. It says right here, *they gained approval through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised*. He's talking to Christians here. The promise to a Christian is something different. If you read Micah 4:1-4 - I'll just read part of it - it says *the word of the Lord will go out from Jerusalem, from Zion will go forth the law*. We believe Zion is the resurrected glorified church. That's where the Law is. The principles will go out to mankind, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be the earthly capital and these princes will be the ones that are dispersing this information.

JONATHAN: So, they have a special role in resurrection.

RICK: A very special role.

Hebrews 11:32-35: (NASB) ³²*And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,* ³³*who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,* ³⁴*quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.* ³⁵*Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection;*

RICK: Where describing many of these worthy ancient individuals for their faith, Hebrews talks about a *better resurrection*. How does that fit into the context of what we are talking about?

DAVID: It is better. And if we look back at Hebrews 11:39-40, it says that *apart from us, they would not be made perfect*. *Us* meaning the church class, the true Christians. So those described in Hebrews 11 will come back on earth as perfect human beings.

RICK: They have an earthly resurrection, not heavenly, but it is called a *better resurrection*, which must mean there's a worse resurrection. So far there are three categories of resurrection.

DAVID: The two heavenly ones: the church, the most faithful who receive divine nature. The most faithful end up being called a bride of Christ. The second is those before the throne with palms of victory in heaven. The third category did not have the promise of the heavenly reward, but they will come back perfect on earth, a *better resurrection*.

RICK: *Princes in all the earth*. The last thing we mentioned here was the idea that these ancient individuals will be resurrected on earth. Let's just back up and establish why you think they are going to have a resurrection on earth. Because a lot of Christian denominations look at the earth as terminal, the earth is going to be burned up or something like that.



DAVID: *Ecclesiastes 1:4 says the earth abideth forever, which means it won't be destroyed.*

Isaiah 45:18: *For thus said the Lord who created the heavens God himself who formed the earth he established it he created it not in vain. He formed it to be inhabited. I am the Lord and there is none else.*

That was the whole point of it. He wanted his earthly family to be on earth.

RICK: What about Armageddon? What about all the great destruction that's coming?

DAVID: The Scriptures teach that it is a time of trouble which never was nor shall ever be.

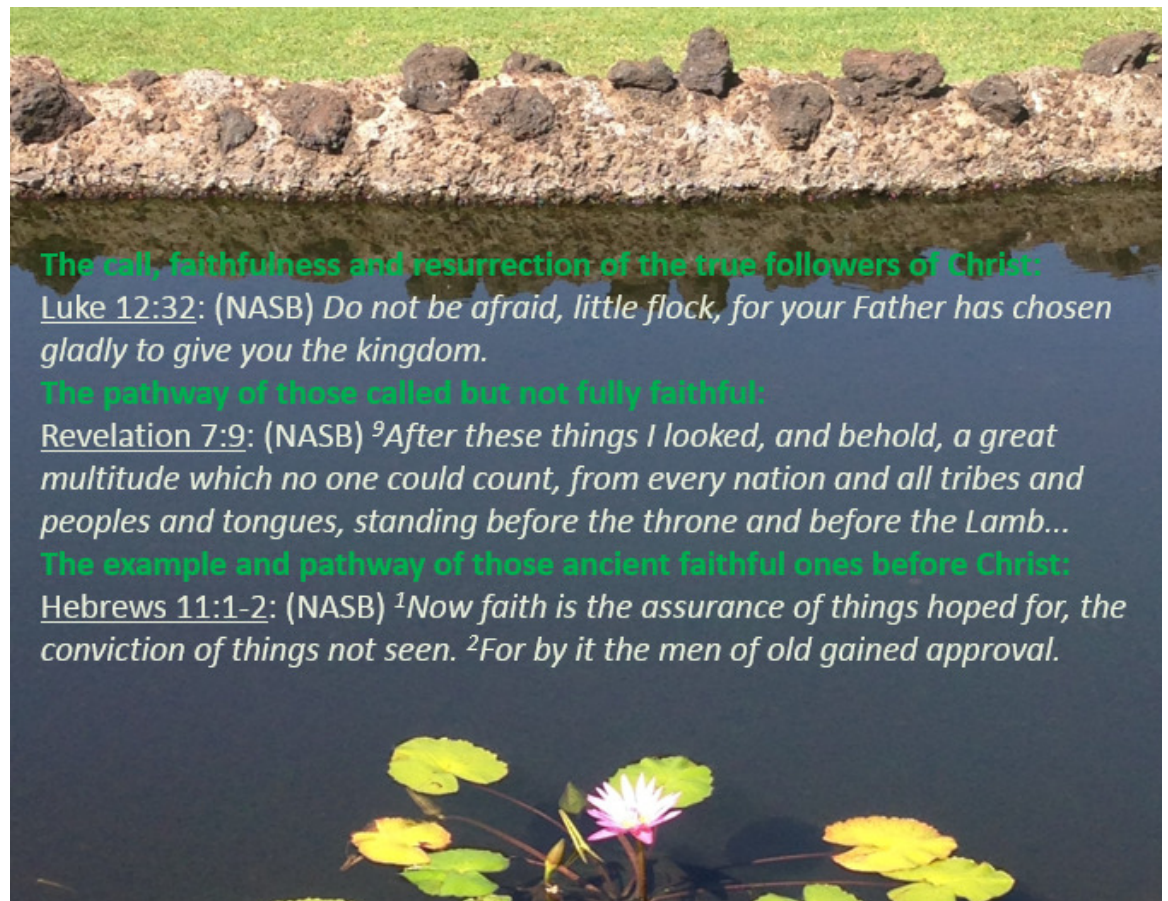
RICK: But it doesn't end with the destruction of the earth.

DAVID: Not according to Ecclesiastes 1:4. The earth abides forever.

RICK: What we are saying is the earth is here for an eternal purpose.

DAVID: Exactly.

RICK: The eternal purpose is for the blessing of all mankind. We see that in the Abrahamic promise: *In thee and thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.* We're going to expand on that concept.





What kind of resurrection does everyone else get?

Psalms 45:17: (NASB) *I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the peoples will give You thanks forever and ever.*

JONATHAN: That's a long time.

RICK: That's an important point, because the last verse was about being *princes in all the earth*, and now this is another aspect of *people*. It says *your name to be remembered in all generations*. Who are all the generations in Psalm 45:17?

DAVID: That is everybody other than who we have been talking about. That is the whole rest of the world of mankind.

RICK: We've been talking about the faithful Christians, the less faithful Christians, those ancient individuals who are really, truly faithful and now the "everybody else." So this is the fourth aspect, then, of resurrection.

DAVID: *All generations*, it says.

RICK: Jonathan, like you said, it is right after the verse that describes *princes in all the earth*.

Jesus tells us the basics:

John 5:28-29: (NASB) *²⁸Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. (The King James Version says resurrection of damnation, but the word actually means "judgment.")*

RICK: These are very well-known, often quoted words of Jesus. It sounds like he is dividing the world into actually two big categories, but we are saying there are four categories.

DAVID: Right, Jesus speaks of one spiritual, heavenly. That would include both the heavenly groups we talked about. The other one Jesus speaks of is earthly, the two groups we are talking about.

RICK: It really does make sense that the four subsets of resurrection are part of two major sets: earthly resurrection and heavenly resurrection. Now it makes sense when you think about the Lord's prayer that every Christian knows: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...

DAVID: ...on *earth* as it is in heaven.

RICK: Let's go over this idea of resurrection on earth, because it is such a difficult thing for so many of us to grasp. But it is not just those couple of scriptures that Dave just quoted about the earth. There are several prophecies. We are only going to quote a verse from each of four different prophecies to make the point that this is not some fluky scripture you come across and build a whole doctrine out of. This is a continual scriptural theme that keeps coming up over and over again.

Isaiah 26:9: (NASB) *At night my soul longs for You, indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently; For when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.*



DAVID: This tells me that judgment is a good thing. When the earth comes under judgment, it is going to be done in righteousness. The whole point of it is to teach the world what they've been doing wrong AND THEN judge them after they have been taught.

RICK: That's a different take on the Day of Judgment.

DAVID: Most look at it as this awful thing, the Day of Judgment. But it is going to be when the inhabitants will learn righteousness. That doesn't sound like a bad thing to me.

RICK: Not at all. And that's what the Scriptures say is going to happen.

Habakkuk 2:14: (KJV) *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

DAVID: The knowledge of the Lord does not cover the earth right now. Only about a third of the population of the earth right now claim any even small part of Christianity. That is only a third. And this says the whole earth *shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord*. That would have to be after the resurrection and after - that is what the judgment time is.

Micah 4:1-4: (NASB) *¹And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. ²Many nations will come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. ⁴Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.*

That is what it is to teach and then judge on what they were taught. Many in the Middle East, except for Israel, were not taught at all.

RICK: It really gives a sense of the broad stroke God's plan has - not according to the philosophy of Dave Christiansen or Jonathan or Rick - but according to biblical principle and prophesy.

Psalms 22:27: (KJV) *All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.*

RICK: I know this one has not come true yet.

DAVID: Yes. All the nations of the world are not worshipping the true Heavenly Father.

RICK: When you read these prophecies, how do you put them into the space of your belief system? What are these prophecies telling us that we need to understand? There are a myriad of these prophecies. We are only touching on just four single verses from four different prophecies. There are many more, but this is another really good one that is very specific.

Isaiah 11:9: (KJV) *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*



RICK: So, again, Dave, you have that same analogy about the waters covering the sea, but it talks about a holy mountain here. What is that about?

DAVID: The word *mountain* in the Old Testament is often used to represent a kingdom or a nation. *My holy mountain* is the Lord speaking. His government will cover the whole earth. It certainly doesn't now. Not even a majority of people believe in Him. So that is what that mountain is. It is God's government.

RICK: Not only do we see the "earth abiding," but now we see the government of the earth as God's government. The Scriptures say the earth is meant to be inhabited. Well, great, it could be a really bad place and still be inhabited. But no, that's not what the plan shows us. The plan shows earthly resurrection, *thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth*, is actually about the physical earth for the inhabitants, the inhabitation of mankind under the government of God. That's what these prophecies are saying.

DAVID: To show mountains:

Isaiah 66:20: (NIV) *And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations, upon horses and in chariots and in litters, and upon mules and upon swift beasts, to My holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.*

My holy mountain, Jerusalem - that makes a connection. There are other scriptures that call Jerusalem *His holy mountain*. Well, Jerusalem wasn't a mountain. It might have been *on* a mountain, but Jerusalem itself was a government. It was the governing body of Israel.

RICK: So what we're given in Scripture is a clear-cut vision of the future through the eyes of these several resurrections that we have been talking about. And you don't get those resurrections in all one neat little package unless you go to Psalm 45.

JONATHAN: And it doesn't even use the word resurrection!

RICK: Right. But it gives us a sense of what the future looks like, and the future looks like God has His hand on every aspect of humanity throughout all of history and everybody is included in that Psalm.

JONATHAN: It sounds like good news to me!

RICK: It is good news. Now, it's good news that comes through a lot of trial and tribulation and difficulty. And, Dave, you were talking a little about Armageddon and the *time of trouble such as never was*. Do you think we're in the time of trouble?

DAVID: I think we're approaching it very quickly. It's a *time of trouble such as never was*. That includes the flood, the Dark Ages, the plague, World War I, World War II, and so such as never been.

RICK: Nor shall there ever be again.

DAVID: It is not going to be a good time. But it is a purging and cleansing time.



RICK: Purging and cleansing of what?

DAVID: Mankind's reluctance to worship God. Eventually, mankind is going to come to the point where they are going to be on their knees, symbolically speaking, and they will look for God. And they will finally find Him.

RICK: A lot of that comes through the role that Israel as a nation plays. When we see that Israel as a nation has been God's chosen people, even though you have the "spiritual Israel," but you have mentioned Jerusalem several times through the prophecies. Israel plays a key role. So as Israel goes, so goes the plan of God. If we watch what happens with Israel, we will see and understand much more of what happens with the plan of God.



A caller from Tennessee suggests: I just want to thank you so much. I feel I am jumping up and down. I'm so excited about this because the word of God is so rich and so full of wonderful, wonderful news. This shows the love of God, His love for creation and Christ died for us all. We all will have an opportunity to know God and be in His presence. That is huge and it made my week. I love you guys so much, and I'm crying and I have to hang up, but thank you so much. I really appreciate the topic. I feel like a cheerleader for God. I'm just jumping up and down. It's so wonderful. Thank you so much, Mr. Christiansen. I really enjoyed hearing you speak.

RICK: She summed up something that we have been trying to say. Basically she said, she's crying, she's jumping up and down with tears of joy because God is a God of love. God is a God of compassion, and God is a God of a plan.

That is the thing I think we forget. He is a God of a plan from beginning to end, and He loves the human creation! He made it for a purpose and He will see it through to the end. It is marvelous.

Let's get back to the idea of the earthly resurrection. There are really two basic paths of enlightenment here. The first path of enlightenment is the one I think all Christians are familiar with, the path of present enlightenment to the true follower of Jesus.





Mark 4:10-12: (NRSV) ¹⁰When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹And he said to them, to you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; ¹²in order that they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.

RICK: That really is talking about an exclusivity in terms of what Jesus is teaching.

DAVID: Right. And it is also found in Matthew 13 starting about verse 9. It tells us that Christianity is not for everyone. But that doesn't mean God is going to discard the rest. No, He has a wonderful plan for them as well.

RICK: That is the beauty of this. And that is why Psalms 45 is such a great picture. You know, at the beginning I was skeptical saying, "Where is the resurrection? Show me the resurrection!" Now it makes perfect sense, because it lines up the four categories of all of humanity. In this Scripture we just read in Mark, obviously it is talking about those called to the spiritual calling.

Let's talk about those called to the earthly resurrection, the "everybody else" that we so often talk about. And this is really the second general path, the path of future enlightenment. This is to all of the human race.



1 Timothy 2:3-4: (KJV) ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the **knowledge <1922>** of the truth.

Knowledge: Strongs #1922 epignwsiv epignosis ep-ig'-no-sis; recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement:—(ac-knowledge (-ing, -ment)).



DAVID: *All men to be saved*. Right now is the salvation of the church, the true followers of Christ.

John 12:47: *Those who hear me and believe me not I judge not*.

This tells us those who do hear him are the ones being judged. But the earth will be judged later. We call it "the kingdom" or "Judgment Day."

RICK: So that gives us again the comparison of present enlightenment versus future enlightenment.

DAVID: Yes.

RICK: Also when it talks about *all men to be saved*, it puts *being saved* first. THEN it says, *and come to the knowledge of the truth*. So that is the "future enlightenment" part. It is saying the ransom will be paid AND THEN they will learn.

DAVID: Exactly.

RICK: Versus we have to learn as Christians. We have to learn now and then our salvation comes through resurrection.

JONATHAN: The word *knowledge* here means "a full discernment," so the human family will have a full discernment of truth and knowledge of Jesus Christ *later*.

RICK: When you see that and put it into the context of that Mark scripture that said, "I'm not letting the world understand what I'm saying," Jesus is basically saying, "Yes, there is full disclosure but they don't get it, not now, not yet." This scripture is saying they WILL get it in their due time. That's why Jesus says some to a *resurrection of life*, the present enlightenment, some to a *resurrection of judgment*, the future enlightenment. This future judgment is not to be feared, but it is a time of great learning.

DAVID: Absolutely. When you are judged in righteousness that can only be a good thing.

RICK: Right. So let me diverge for a second and go to the fairy tale ending. What's the ending of the fairy tales?

JONATHAN: Happily ever after.

RICK: Yes. But this is not a fairy tale. This is biblical prophecy that gives us a sense that this fourth level of resurrection is a good thing. Remember, we were talking about those ancients in Hebrews 11 given what was called a *better resurrection*? Now we're defining the "worst resurrection." If you have a *better resurrection*, it's got to be better than something else.

DAVID: The last resurrection we are talking about is the whole world of mankind, the *all generations* it says in Psalms 45. Everyone will be resurrected. But they will still need a mediator, because they will not be perfect, unlike the ancients we talked about who will come back perfect. So, they will be taught perfection. They will be judged on what they are taught. They have to gain that position of perfect human beings. That is what the kingdom time is for, to



be taught. They are taught from the glorified church down through Jerusalem and out through these princes in all the earth.

RICK: So, there is a hierarchy put in place to make all of this work.

DAVID: Yes. And each level of that hierarchy is going to be wonderful.

JONATHAN: I had a question. Does the nation of Israel have a special place in this since they were God's chosen people?

DAVID: Yes.

Zechariah 8:23: *Thus says the Lord of hosts in those days, (clearly meaning future,) ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, Let us go with you because we have heard that God is with you.*

That certainly can't be now. People are not grasping for Jerusalem or Israel to find truth. They are more shunning them and wanting them to go away. This is after the resurrection, and Israel will recognize their Messiah. They will still be God's chosen people. And these ancient ones will work with them as the governing body on earth.

RICK: Let's put it all in perspective. The government of God has two aspects, a heavenly aspect and an earthly aspect. How do you visualize the whole process working? What role do each of the four different categories of resurrected people play in relation to the other? We have the little flock, the great multitude, the ancients who were faithful, and then the rest of the world. How do they interact with one another in the future kingdom of God?

DAVID: Briefly, the bride of Christ, those who receive the divine nature - immortality - will be part of that mediator, "Christ head and body." They are the go-betweens between imperfect man and God, because even though they are learning perfection, they are not there yet.

RICK: This is during the Day of Judgment.

DAVID: Right. The ones from the *great company* or *great multitude* will serve at their feet. We don't know exactly how. The Bible does not explain what their job is, but they will be serving.

RICK: When you figure there are probably 25 billion people that have ever lived, there's a lot of job opportunities there to be helping in that heavenly class! There is scripture that talks about the true church judging the world.

1 Corinthians 6:2: *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?*

Well, that's interesting because we are told not to judge one another. So, this clearly has to be after the resurrection, and when the church is in glory they will judge in righteousness.

1 Peter 2:9-10: *⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*



RICK: You don't have a priesthood unless you are there to serve somebody. The heavenly resurrection is there for the purpose of teaching, guiding and directing the earthly.

Those ancients are sort of as governors on earth. Is that how you envision them, the Abrahams and Isaacs and Jacobs and Josephs?

DAVID: Or *princes*, that is how they're described.

RICK: Then you have the rest of the world that have to grow up.

DAVID: *Into* Christ.

RICK: How do they do that?

DAVID: Satan is bound according to Revelation 20.

RICK: What does that mean in terms of the opportunity given to the vast numbers of humanity?

DAVID: Well, it says further on in Revelation 20 that *he shall deceive the nations no more* while he is bound. He will not be able to deceive. They will get that junk out of their brains and open it up to what God's Holy Spirit has to teach people.

RICK: They can grow up without the disadvantage of darkness and evil permeating their thinking, but with the advantage of godliness and holiness based on the fact, hey, guess what? You just came back from the dead! There is something pretty miraculous that you have to be observant of and obedient to.

DAVID: Right. And they will learn those principles that Christians are learning now.

RICK: This is an incredibly detailed, organized plan that is laid out in Scripture. That plan includes everybody, no matter who they are, no matter when they lived, no matter *how* they lived. They are held up under the umbrella of one thing that makes this all work. We have been spending all of our time talking about the resurrection of this group and that group and this group. That one thing is the ransom price of Jesus!

1 Timothy 2:5-6: (NAS) ⁵*For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,* ⁶*who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.*

DAVID: Now is the proper time for the church to learn about these things, and in the future after the resurrection is when mankind will learn. If Jesus died as a ransom for ALL, shouldn't ALL benefit?

RICK: Well, I think that's a good question. And I know the answer. I think yes! That's the beauty of it. All of us suffer as a result of the sin of Adam. All of us, therefore, can be blessed because of the sacrifice of Jesus. You have the perfect man who sins and then the perfect man who gives his life for that sin. Justice is satisfied and the plan of God rolls on.



The plan of God shows us that God is unequivocally a God of love, mercy and justice. Four resurrections in one glorious plan!



*So, how many resurrections will there be?
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1 Corinthians 15:22-23: (NASB) ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

John 5:28-29: (NASB) ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

The true church (and her companions) are called, begotten and judged in this life to be found worthy of a position of heavenly responsibility over the world. The world is raised back to life, and then held accountable.

1 Peter 2:9-12: (NASB) ⁹But you are a chosen race, A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. ¹²Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.



There is a resurrection to heavenly glory - this is divided into two levels - *the bride* and her companions.

There is a resurrection to earthly glory, again divided into two levels - perfection and rehabilitation.

More on the role that the human family is destined to fit into as a result of the sacrifice of Jesus:

Romans 8:19-22: (NASB) ¹⁹*For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.*

The world does long for the bridge - they just don't describe it that way.

Acts 17:30-31: (NASB) ³⁰*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising him from the dead.*

Again, justice is a centerpiece - this bridge for the world by rights must lead thru judgment to its eventual end result.

Romans 2:5-9: (NASB) ⁵*But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶who will render to each person according to his deeds: ⁷to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; (these are the true followers of Christ) ⁸but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. (Everybody else) ⁹There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek.*

Again we have the idea of justice and two separate applications of it into two separate classes.

The idea of a just judgment for the world is not one that is hard to find in the Bible!

Matthew 12:36-37: (NASB) ³⁶*But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the Day of Judgment. ³⁷For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (Pronounced guilty)*

Romans 5:12-14: (NASB) ¹²*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned. ¹³for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.*

Adam was entirely responsible for inherited human sin. Death reigned even before the Law was given - therefore the penalty was clearly upon all humanity.



Romans 5:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵*But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, (the many MUST mean all humanity according to the above context) much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. (This MUST mean the same "many")* ¹⁶*The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.* ¹⁷*For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, (again, whom did death reign over? Everyone!) Much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. (Aha! There IS a qualifier here applying to the called out ones! Shows a reign for them - an authority that they are given)*

Romans 5:18-21: (NASB) ¹⁸*So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. (Okay - no qualifier - all humanity MUST be included)* ¹⁹*For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. (Again - this is about ALL humanity)* ²⁰*The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,* ²¹*so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Grace replaces sin on a wholesale scale!)*

God's Desire for Man as expressed to David:

The following verses are from the 22nd Psalm, the Psalm that details the suffering of Jesus on the cross. These verses represent the victory that follows the cross.

Psalms 22:27-29: (NASB) ²⁷*All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You.* ²⁸*For the kingdom is the LORD'S and He rules over the nations.* ²⁹*All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive.*

God's Desire for Man as expressed to Zephaniah:

Zephaniah 3:8-9: (NASB) ⁸*Therefore wait for Me, declares the LORD, for the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal.* ⁹*For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.*

Zephaniah 3:15: (NASB) *The LORD has taken away His judgments against you; He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you will fear disaster no more.*

Zephaniah 3:20: (NASB) *At that time I will bring you in, even at the time when I gather you together; Indeed, I will give you renown and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.*

God's Desire for Man as expressed to Isaiah:

Isaiah 45:22-24: (NASB) ²²*Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.* ²³*I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.* ²⁴*They will say of Me, only in the LORD are righteousness and strength. Men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him will be put to shame.*

Isaiah 62:1-2: (NASB) ¹*For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, and her salvation like a torch that is burning.* ²*The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you will be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will designate.*