

APRIL

RESURRECTION FROM THE GRAVE

What is the truth that the Almighty God would have us know regarding the resurrection of the dead? Is the resurrection foretold in the Jewish Bible (Old Testament)? Is there any hope for personal peace for us now and for eternity after death? We share with you the truth of the resurrection and the peace that it brings to Bible believers in the day in which we live.

The Jewish Bible teaches the resurrection of the body after physical death. This truth is also in the Hebrew prayer book on pages ninety and ninety-one in an older Siddur where we have "The 13 Principles of the Faith." These are the principles that Jewish people should believe and practice. The 12th and 13th principles of faith 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.

The Word and promise of God recorded in the Bible clearly says 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 Abraham 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 verses are positive! There is no doubt or question about what will happen after death. Job did not say "I think" or "I feel" or "maybe" but ***"I know"***! Because he knew God and trusted God's Word, Job said, ***"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 chapter 9, verses 24-27 and other prophecies in the Holy Scriptures), Messiah Jesus 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, chapter 14, verses 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 their sin, men and women could be forgiven and cleansed of all sin. God's Messiah Jesus would die so we could be forgiven of our sins, He would be buried in a grave and then He would be raised from the grave and ascend to Heaven. He will 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 end all war,

and bring peace to Israel and the world (Zechariah, chapter 14 and many other Bible verses). The power of almighty God will bring this peace after He silences the nations' weapons of destruction. This is in the future, but conditions in the world indicate that it might come to pass before very long.

The following Bible verses 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 it 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 prophecy in the 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 chapter 52, verse 12, and then begin again 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 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 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 we (the Jewish people) would all be dead; who then is left to be forgiven of their sins? Other Bible verses in the Psalms say that no man can redeem his brother from sin. Only God can forgive us of our sins.

The “he” in this chapter does not talk 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” in Isaiah chapter 53 is the Messiah as Rabbis of old clearly understood, believed and taught.

In Psalm 16, verses 9-11: ***“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 show 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 someday. He also knew that after death and the grave, he would be resurrected and would have pleasures for evermore in the presence of God in Heaven. 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, verse 1: ***“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”*** King David wrote Psalm 110 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, verses 16-17 as well as many other places in the Jewish Bible.

Further proof of who the Messiah is can be found in Isaiah, chapter 9, verses 6-7: ***“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, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth and even forever. 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 his son are the names of Almighty God!

Another Jewish Bible prophecy in Jeremiah, chapter 23, verses 5-6 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, 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, that 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 according to God’s plan, 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 to be forgiven by God, there is resurrection to a wonderful, joyous, peaceful 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 forever. 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 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 given in the Bible book of Revelation, chapter 21, verses 3-4: ***“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 forgiveness of our sins. We read in chapter 21, 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 as we read in the Jewish Bible, Isaiah, chapter 33, verse 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?”*** What a solemn warning this is to all people to seek God now through the pages of the Bible while you are still alive.

I am a Jewish Bible-believer, and I know resurrection to eternal life in Heaven will be a reality for me someday. I praise God! We pray you will have this same assurance.