



The Harvest

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Hanukkah and the War Between Light and Darkness Part Two

12.12.20 | Weekly Study

START

Start your study by inviting God's presence to meet with you as you study His word.

MAIN VERSES

[Revelation 20:1-6](#)

OVERVIEW

Genesis 3:15 gives the prophecy and promise that the Messiah, who is the Light of God, will come and crush the head of the serpent, who later is identified as the great red dragon, the devil, and Satan. From that time on, until the serpent's head is crushed, both heaven and earth are in an intense and relentless struggle between good and evil. This is often described in the figures of speech called light and darkness. Messiah's Kingdom is even called the Kingdom of Light and the serpent's kingdom is called the kingdom of darkness. In part one of this series, we noted that there was an inaugural fulfillment in Jesus' first advent of the ancient prophecy found in Genesis 3:15. In His death and descent into realm of the dead, he triumphed over Satan and his angels. He took the keys of death away from Satan. Jesus bound him rendering him powerless over the nations. However, at the end of the millennium, the dragon will be released and empowered for a short time to deceive the nations one last time. Jesus will then destroy the serpent (Satan) as symbolized in the crushing of his head. Today, we will continue our journey into this prophecy by taking a closer look at Revelation 20:4 and the verses that follow.

CONTENT

[Read Revelation 20:4](#)

Who are these who come to life and sit on thrones ruling and reigning with Messiah during the time between his first and second advent (known as the millennial reign)?

These are the overcomers! They are the devoted, faithful, courageous followers of Yeshua! They are those who did not compromise in their loyalty and commitment to the commandments of God in the face of overwhelming oppression, persecution, and, in some cases, martyrdom. Their souls (not bodies) are raised into the heavenly throne

room of God where they assist Yeshua in ruling and reigning during the time period between his first and second advent (known as the Millennium). All the other believers who did not overcome are still saved but will rest in Messiah's presence rather than rule and reign with Him during this time. (see previous study for more on how long is the millennium)

Read Revelation 20:5

Who are the “rest of the dead”, and what is the first resurrection?

Who are the “rest of the dead”? The rest of the dead are all the unrepentant wicked human beings along with all the rest of the believers who did not overcome in life. The unrepentant wicked will be raised back into their mortal bodies for judgments, punishments, and an eternal irreversible damnation being thrown and consumed in the lake of fire (see John 5:28–29; Revelation 20:15). The believers who did not overcome will be raised and receive immortal, glorified physical/spiritual bodies and enter forever into the age to come!

What is the first resurrection? The first resurrection is a reference to the spiritual resurrection of the souls who overcame in this life. Their souls (not bodies) are raised and brought into heaven to rule and reign with Messiah. At the end of the millennium when Messiah comes to earth a second time, he will bring these souls and unite them with their resurrected immortal, glorified, physical bodies. This is the second and ultimate resurrection. All believers will experience this transcendent and incomparable resurrection!

TAKE ACTION

During this week of Hanukkah (Dedication), renew your commitment to be an overcomer. Ask God for a steadfast spirit. Become a Maccabee, affirming your faith in the Messiah and your loyalty to the commandments of God. God will reward you in death by raising you immediately to join overcomers in heaven in ruling and reigning with Yeshua until He returns.