**The Last Great Day .**

Why have countless millions of people died without ever having had a chance to understand the reason for life and to be saved? At this time, it is only orthodox Jews and a remnant (or small number) of the members of the lost sheep of the house of Israel who have returned to the covenant they made jointly with God at Mount Sinai, who believe that Messiah is coming to rule the world from Jerusalem to usher in the Kingdom of God on earth, as it is now in heaven. The reason being that Messiah’s true Gospel about the coming Kingdom of God has been suppressed for almost 2,000 years and even if those who hear the true gospel finds it too incredible to believe and understand, Satan snatches away what has been sown in their hearts as Y’shua confirmed in the first part of Matthew 13: 19, saying: ***“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.”***  A second witness to this comes from 2 Corinthians 4: 3 & 4, as follows: ***‘And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,*** (4) ***in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Messiah, wo is the image of God.’*** Think about it! – Such people have not really had a chance to understand or to be saved.

But, are they all ‘lost’ forever, through no fault of their own? Definitely not! Shocking as it may sound; God does not want everyone to understand His truth at this time! We need to understand that HASHEN our God is Almighty and if He wanted them to understand at this time, they would definitely understand. God, in that sense, is responsible for having allowed the majority of mankind to be blinded by Satan to His truth. The point is, that it is God’s plan and purpose, that until Messiah’s return, only those whom He chose from the house of Judah (as per Psalm 78: 67 & 68[[1]](#footnote-1)) and those whom He has chosen specifically from the house of Israel during this age, including a small number of real Gentiles (as per Romans 11: 5[[2]](#footnote-2)), will understand, provided they remain faithful, as we read from John 6: 44[[3]](#footnote-3), but more specifically from Matthew 13: 11 & 12, as follows:***‘And He*** (Y’shua) ***answered and said to them*** (His disciples)***, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.*** (12) ***For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.”’*** Y’shua severely criticized the towns in which He performed many of His miracles in Matthew 11: 21, saying: ***“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”*** The people of Tyre and Sidon eventually died in their idolatry, but, are they as some Christian denominations teach, eternally condemned? Y’shua was implying here that if God had sent Him to these people in earlier ages, they would have repented. But, why were they allowed to be punished by the Babylonians, the Persians and the Greeks? Was God trying to save them? We see further in Matthew 11: 23, Y’shua also admonished Capernaum, saying: ***“And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades*** (the grave)***; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.”*** Sodom and Gemorrah was destroyed by God because of their severe sins, as witnessed in Genesis 19: 24 & 25[[4]](#footnote-4). Some Christian denominations would like to condemn these people to eternal punishment, but Y’shua showed that if he had performed miracles in those cities, the people would have repented and they would not have been destroyed. The question is: Is God fair? Yes, He is, and it is because He is a merciful God and knows that the people of those towns were never taught His truths, they will be given their first opportunity to repent and be saved during the day of Judgment, as recorded in verses 22 & 24 of Matthew 11, in this way: "***Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you.*** (24) ***Nevertheless I say to you, that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.”*** God is a perfect example of love (mercy) and justice (severity). He punishes the wicked, who sins willfully, but the millions of people for whom Y’shua died, yet through no fault of their own did not come to know Him, God has a plan to offer them salvation at a later time.

It is my purpose today, to give you a glimpse into this final step in God’s master plan of salvation for all mankind. After Messiah returns to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, He will ensure that millions are taught God’s way of salvation. As mentioned in the teaching for Tabernacles, all those who survive the Great Tribulation and the Day of HASHEN, as well as their children born during the Millennium will have their opportunity to understand God’s truth and be born into His Family during that time. But what about the millions who have died before, without ever hearing or understanding God’s way of salvation? They will be resurrected to mortal life, after the Millennium and be given their chance to understand God’s truths, to be begotten by God’s Spirit, to grow in His character and to become spirit-born members of God’s Family. Even after telling this to some Nazarene/Messianic believers in the past, they found it too good to be true. So, allow me to show this truth to you from your own Scriptures. We see from Leviticus 23: 34 – 36, that God commanded His people to observe an eighth day of worship immediately after the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, as follows: ***“Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to HASHEN.*** (35) ***On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind.*** (36) ***For seven days you shall present and offering by fire to HASHEN. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to HASHEN; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work.”*** We see further from verse 39 that God’s people are to keep this eighth day as a separate festival, distinct from the Feast of Tabernacles, in this way: ***‘On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of HASHEN for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day.’*** The last annual Sabbath is observed immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles. Even though it is associated with the Feast of Tabernacles, it is clearly a separate festival. Because the eighth day is the final annual Set-apart Day, it came to be known as the Last Great Day.

We see that even after God allowed the sons of Judah to return from their exile in Babylon with Ezra and Nehemiah, they learnt to observe the Feast of Tabernacles, including the Last Great Day again, as recorded in Nehemiah 8: 18, in this way: ***‘And he*** (Ezra) ***read from the book of the law of God daily, from the first day to the last day. And they celebrated the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.’*** Y’shua commissioned His disciples (including us His modern day disciples) to follow His example to teach others in Matthew 28: 19 & 20, saying: ***‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Set-apart Spirit,*** (20) ***teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*** Y’shua kept all the Feast Days according to the Jewish calendar, including the Feast of Tabernacles, as witnessed in John 7: 2, in this way: ***‘Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was at hand.’*** Y’shua instructed his disciples to go up to the Feast in verse 8 of John 7 and according to verses 10 & 14, He observed the Feast of Tabernacles with them, in this way: ***‘But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publically, but as it were, in secret.*** (14) ***But when it was now the midst of the feast Y’shua went up into the temple, and began to teach.’*** We read further from verses 37 & 38, that He also kept the Last Great day, as follows: ***‘Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Y’shua stood and cried out, saying, “If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.*** (38) ***He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.”’***

Y’shua said this on the eve of the Last Great Day, after the traditional water-pouring ceremony, which occurred on the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles. But, He was not talking about physical thirst; He was revealing that if any man has a spiritual thirst, he can receive the Set-apart Spirit by coming to Him. However, Messiah made it clear in John 6: 44 & 65 that no one can come to believe on Him unless the Father calls that person. Those from the house of Judah who remain Torah observant and the remnant whom God calls from the house of Israel during this age have access to His Set-apart Spirit now. But for the vast majority, the realization of Y’shua’s words will only occur during the spiritual fulfillment thereof on the Last Great day. In addition, returnees need to be ever mindful of what Rav Kepha told members of the lost ten tribes who asked him what they should do to also obtain the Set-apart Spirit like Messiah’s disciples did on the first Shavuot (Pentecost) after Messiah’s death, resurrection and ascension to heaven in Acts 2: 36 - 39, as follows: ***‘Therefore let all the house of Israel*** (not Judah) ***know for certain that God has made Him*** (meaning Y’shua) ***both Master and Messiah—this Y’shua whom you crucified.”*** (37) ***Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Kepha and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”*** (38) ***Kepha said to them, “Repent, and each of you be immersed in the name of Y’shua Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit.*** (39) ***For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off*** (those from the house of Israel who were scattered into mainly the western world, because of idolatry)**, *as many as HASHEN our God shall call to Himself*** (and not those whom we would like to see saved, from our family and friends)***.* *”’***

We see according to 2 Peter 3: 9, that God eventually wants to save everyone, in this way: ***‘HASHEN is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.’*** This is confirmed in first Timothy 2: 3 & 4, as follows: ***‘This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,*** (4) ***who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.’*** However, we understand from 1 Corinthians 15: 22 – 24 that there is a definite time-order or sequence according to which people will be saved, in this way: ***‘For as in Adam all die, so also in Messiah all shall be made alive.*** (23) ***But each in his own order: Messiah the first fruit***(***s***)***, after that those who are Messiah’s at His coming,*** (24) ***then comes the end*** (ones) ***when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.’***  So we see that the only way to be saved for Israelites who did not remain faithful to God (including Gentiles) is through Y’shua our Messiah, as is also confirmed in Acts 4: 11 & 12, as follows: ***“He*** (Y’shua Messiah) ***is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone.*** (12) ***And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”*** Even as all men die, all will be made alive through Messiah (1 Corinthians 15: 22). Everyone who has ever lived and died will be resurrected. Messiah was the very first to be resurrected and born (again) from the dead (Colossians 1: 18), then at Messiah’s return true believers from both houses who lived before Messiah’s Second Coming, as well as our fathers in the faith Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and others will be resurrected. But, when will the rest of mankind, who never kept Torah, or believed in Messiah the embodiment of Torah, have their first chance to salvation? In 1 Corinthians 15: 24Rav Shaulincluded them in *‘the end’* – when Messiah completes His function of putting down every enemy (verse 25). We also get more details in the first part of Revelation 20: 5 and verses 11 & 12, where we are informed that it will only happen after the Millennium***,*** in this way: ***‘The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.***  (11) ***And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, an no place was found for them.*** (12) ***And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.’*** Those who have not heard or understood God’s truth have not been irrevocably condemned to eternal death. Even if they lived up to the best they knew while alive, the Scriptures teach that there is only one way to salvation for returning non-Jewish Israelites and Gentiles and that is through believe in Y’shua Messiah, followed by spiritual conversion and growth as defined in the Scriptures. Most of our loved ones who have died *‘unsaved’* are not lost forever. They were most likely not called during this age, but their call will come after the Millennium, when they will be resurrected to mortal life and given spiritual understanding and the opportunity to become members of God’s Family. Rav Shaul understood that both houses of Israel were blinded spiritually and wrote accordingly in in Romans 11: 32, ***‘For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.’***

Even though the house of Judah is Torah observant, believe in the coming Kingdom of God, with a Messiah as ruler, they are at this time blinded to Messiah’s identity, to allow a definitive number of us from the lost ten tribes to return to the covenant relationship we made with God at Mount Sinai, at which time He will save the first fruits from both houses, to serve as kings and priests, like He wanted us to, when He gave us the Torah at Mount Sinai (as per Exodus 19: 6). Similarly is mankind in general (consisting of Israelites and most of the Gentile nations of the world) blinded to the truth by HASHEN, until after the Millennium, when He will open their minds to the truth, as is confirmed in Isaiah 25: 7 – 9, as follows: ***‘And on this mountain he will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations.*** (8) ***He will swallow up death for all time, and HASHEN God will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for HASHEN has spoken.*** (9) ***And it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is HASHEN for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”’*** Y’shua revealed for us when the second resurrection will be, in His prophecy to Yochanan in the book of Revelation. But, suffice it to say at this point, that Isaiah 25: 8 shows that the removal of the veil mentioned in verse 7, will occur during the Great White Throne judgment, before death and the grave will be thrown into the lake of fire as recorded in Revelation 20: 14. But, before going there, let’s consider what Rav Shaul wrote about this in Philippians 2: 9 – 11, saying: ***‘Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,*** (10) ***that at the name of Y’shua EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth,*** (11) ***and that every tongue should confess that Y’shua Messiah is Master, to the glory of God the Father.’*** The question is; when will every knee bow before Y’shua? The vast majority of people lived and died without knowing Y’shua the Messiah, let alone the true gospel of the coming Kingdom of God. This will only happen after the second resurrection as David testified in Psalm 22: 27 – 29, saying: ***‘All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to HASHEN, and all the families of the nations will worship before Thee.*** (28) ***For the kingdom is (HASHEN)’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*** (because he never knew Y’shua the Messiah)***.’***

The Scriptures speak about those of us called at this time, who will be resurrected during the *‘first’* resurrection as first-fruits, if we remain faithful to the end in James 1: 18, saying: ***‘In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.’*** Logically, this implies that there will also be *‘second-fruits’* during the second resurrection, as is also confirmed in Revelation 20: 4 – 6, (verse 5 quoted earlier included, because of its importance), in this way: ***‘And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Y’shua and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years.*** (5) ***The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This*** (resurrection mentioned in verse 4) ***is the first resurrection.*** (6) ***Blessed 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 Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years.’*** This clearly tells us that the second resurrection will only occur after the thousand year rule of Messiah. Also note that these are not ‘*the dead in Messiah’*, but simply those millions who never knew the true Messiah and who never heard or understood the true gospel. The second resurrection will also be a resurrection to mortal life.

As normally mentioned during the Day of Atonement, Satan will be restrained throughout the millennium, to prevent him from deceiving the people during that time. We see from verse 7 of Revelation 20, that after the thousand years, he will be released from his prison and true to his nature, will again deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, namely Gog and Magog, to gather them together for war (verse 8). These are the nations who even though the truth was abundantly available throughout the Millennium, did not follow God’s way to be changed into His spirit-born children. We read what happens to Satan as well as to these nations from verses 9 & 10, in this way: ***‘And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.*** (10) ***And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.’*** This will prove to anyone who might doubt, that Satan will not repent, even after seeing the results of a thousand years of righteous rule. The humans, whom Satan will have deceived after his release, will prove that they were not interested in what they were being taught at the close of the thousand years. Satan and his demons will then be cast into the lake of fire. Some Scriptures use italics to show that the word *‘are’* used in verse 10 was added by the translators. The correct translation in the Amplified Bible reads: *‘where the beast and the false prophet were cast.’* The beast and the false prophet will have been cast into the lake of fire at the beginning of the Millennium as recorded in Revelation 19: 20. Like all human beings, made from physical matter, these two mortal beings will have been consumed by the fire, at the time Satan and his demons will be cast into the lake of fire and will have been dead for more than 1,000 years. The Great White Throne judgment will occur only after Satan’s final rebellion and punishment. It will only be then that the rest of the dead will be resurrected as shown before in Revelation 20: 11 & 12. This will be the second resurrection, when all those who died in spiritual ignorance and deception in the past, will be resurrected to mortal life. Their time of salvation will only occur then! This is when the Books of the Scriptures will be opened to their minds, as we’ve read from Isaiah 25: 7 (quoted before).

As mentioned before in Matthew 11: 21 – 24, people who lived during Messiah’s time on earth, as well as those who lived in Tyre and Sidon and Sodom and Gomorrah many years before, will be resurrected at that time. We read similarly from Matthew 12: 41 & 42, Y’shua telling the scribes and the Pharisees of His time, saying: ***“The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.*** (42) ***The Queen of the South*** (Sheba) ***shall rise up with this generation at the judgment and shall condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.”*** Y’shua spoke of a time of judgment when those ancient peoples would be given an opportunity to understand what is written in the Scriptures and what He has been preaching to the people in Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum. They too, will hear the true gospel at that time. They will most likely repent of their past sins and accept Messiah as their personal Passover. Y’shua gave enough examples of people living at different times to prove that most of humanity will be brought back to life at the same time. They will rise in the second resurrection because they had not been called by God during their first lifetime. This group includes all people of all times, except those who will have already been born of God and relatively few people who will have had their first opportunity to receive eternal life, during this age and during the millennium, as well as those who during the 100 year Great White Throne judgment period deliberately rejected it and sinned willfully. They will simply be resurrected to be destroyed in the lake of fire, as recorded in Malachi 4: 1, as follows: ***“For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says YHVY of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”***

In fact the prophet Ezekiel described the 2nd resurrection to mortal life clearly in Ezekiel 37: 11 – 14, saying: ***‘Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.’*** (12) ***Therefore prophesy, and say to them, ‘Thus says HASHEN God, “Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel.*** (13) ***Then you will know that I am HASHEN, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people.*** (14) ***And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, HASHEN, have spoken and done it,” declares HASHEN,’”’*** Ezekiel also tells us in Ezekiel 16: 55 that the Gentile nations will also be resurrected and return to their *“former state”*, saying:  ***“And your sisters, Sodom with her daughters and Samaria with her daughters, will return to their former state, and you with your daughters will also return to your former state.”*** So we see that both Israelites and Gentiles who died in spiritual blindness and ignorance will be given a chance to receive salvation. God is willing to overlook sins done in ignorance, but once spiritual understanding of His Master Plan is made available, He expects us to repent, be immersed into Y’shua’s saving name, and grow in grace and knowledge. We see from Y’shua’s own words in John 5: 21 – 22 that He will be the chief judge in the last Great Judgment, as follows: ***“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom he wishes.*** (22) ***For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.”*** We also see from the first part of 1 Corinthians 6: 2, that resurrected true believers will assist Y’shua in judging the world, in this way: ***‘Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world?’*** The Hebrew word translated *‘books’* in Daniel 7: 10 where Daniel saw the Great White Throne Judgment in a vision in verses 9 & 10, (correspond to the Greek word translated *‘books’* in Revelation 20: 12), in this way: ***“I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire.*** (10) ***A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat and the books were opened.”*** The transliterated Hebrew word for books here is *‘sepharim’* and the Greek word for books in Revelation 20: 12, is *‘Biblia’* from which the English Bible is derived. This means that the books of the Scriptures will be opened to the minds of these people in the second resurrection, so that they may fully understand what is written in them, similar to the way in which Messiah opened the minds of His disciples, after His resurrection, as recorded in Luke 24: 45, in this way: ***‘Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.’***

Many assume falsely that the word ‘judgment’ as used in the Scriptures, only means the pronouncement of a sentence based on past behavior. Such people came to believe that these people who lived and died in sin in the past, can do nothing to change their fate, even if they repent of their past sins. Thankfully, we serve a merciful God, always willing to forgive upon true repentance. We see from 1 Peter 4: 17 that those of us from the congregation of God are presently in the process of being judged by God, as follows: ***‘For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?’***  But, we understand from 1 Corinthians 11: 32, that this judgment is such, that we might avoid condemnation, in this way: ***‘But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Master in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.’*** God judges His people today by evaluating how well they live by His written word. Their rewards in His eternal Kingdom will depend on their character development during their mortal life. It is a process requiring time and opportunity for learning and growth. Those resurrected after the Millennium will be judged in exactly the same way. They, like spirit-begotten believers today, will be given enough time to prove that they are willing to live God’s way through a life of overcoming and obedience to God. In this period of judgment after the 1,000 years, not only will the Scriptures be opened to their understanding, but the Book of Life will also be opened. Yes, these people will be given an opportunity to receive eternal life! God, in fairness, will give them an opportunity for salvation, just as He gives to those He calls at this time. However, in this last great judgment, people will not be subject to Satan’s influence as we are today. With God’s Spirit freely available and freed from Satan’s influences, they will be given their one and only opportunity for receiving salvation through repentance, immersion, receiving God’s Spirit and growing in God’s character during a second mortal life.

The prophet Isaiah envisioned the final days of the judgment period when the resurrected billions will receive their call to participate in God’s plan in Isaiah 65: 20 – 24, in this way: ***‘No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed.*** (21) ***And they shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall also plant vineyards and eat their fruit.*** (22) ***They shall not build, and another inhabit, they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My chosen ones shall wear out the work of their hands.*** (23) ***They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they are the offspring of those blessed by HASHEN, and their descendants with them.*** (24) ***It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.’*** We see that these resurrected multitudes will be made participants in God’s Master Plan and given the opportunity to enter God’s family. We see further from verse 24 that they will have a close relationship with God. Just think for a moment, the surprise of those resurrected at the beginning of the period of judgment. Each person will be in his first moment of consciousness since death; some might think they are in heaven, whilst others might think they are in hell or purgatory, depending what they were taught before they died. Most will be confused or even bewildered. Nothing that they have been taught about the afterlife will turn out to be true. They will suddenly be faced with undeniable evidence that their old teachings and ways were false and they will be totally willing to start over and be taught the truth. But, who will teach these multiple millions? The millions of priests who will have been born into God’s Spiritual Family in the first resurrection and during the Millennium will teach them, under Messiah’s direction. After all God’s children are born into His Spiritual Family, the earth befouled by sin, will be cleansed of all defilement in the immersion of fire. We see from Revelation 20: 14, that finally man’s greatest fear, namely death and the grave will be abolished, in this way: ***‘And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire, this is the second death, the lake of fire.’*** After the lake of fire, a new heaven and a new earth will appear. The new earth will become the headquarters for all future creative projects of the God Family. What a wonderful plan of salvation for all mankind has God revealed to us in His annual Set-apart Days. What a marvelous, wonderful God do we serve? We conclude by reading Rav Shaul’s inspiring words in Romans 11: 33, saying: ***‘Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!’*** Halleluyah!

1. *Psalm 78: 67 & 68: ‘****He also rejected the tent of Joseph, and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, but chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.’*** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Romans 11: 5:* ***’In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time, a remnant according to God’s gracious choice.’*** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *John 6: 44:* ***“No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”*** [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Genesis 19: 24 & 25:* ***‘Then HASHEN rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from HASHEN out of heaven, and he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.’*** [↑](#footnote-ref-4)