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THE BRIEF

Brief
#116

The Dead in Christ Will Rise First

In the last Brief, we saw Satan mustering forces to attack those living in and around Jerusalem at the end of Christ's one thousand year reign on earth. However, it is important to note that God issues warnings prior to major upheavals,

Surely the Lord does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets (Amos 3:7; cf. John 15:15; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Historically, when God's prophets warn nations about the consequences of their sinful behavior, it rarely changes their conduct,

And I (God) will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth (symbolic of mourning) (Revelation 11:3; Ed. notes in parentheses).

*Now when they finish their testimony, the beast (Gr. *therion*; venomous creature; viper, per: Acts 28:3-5) that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them* (Revelation 11:7; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days,



Caught Up Together with Them

Apparently, many people will be vexed or distressed by what the two prophets are saying; probably because their sinful behavior is being exposed; similar to the following example,

This is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the Lord;¹⁰ Who say to the seers, "Do not see (God's truth)," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; (instead) speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits."¹¹ Get out of the way, turn aside from the path (of righteousness), cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us." (Isaiah 30:9-11; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Following the death of these two prophets, and prior to Satan's army attacking Jerusalem, seven thousand people will die during an earthquake (Rev. 11:13). After this, Satan's forces are defeated for a final time as prophesied by Ezekiel (cf. Ezek 38:1-23; 39:1-16). In the Brief #117, we will look at what is referred to as "*the second resurrection of the dead*", because "*the first resurrection*" occurs at Christ's return as described in the following scriptures,

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain (at that future time) shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord (1Thessalonians 4:16-17; cf. 1Cor. 15:23, 51-54; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added)

For the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear his (Christ's) voice²⁹ and come forth - those who

and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.

¹⁰ *And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented* (vexed or distressed) *those who dwell on the earth* (Revelation 11:9-10; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

have done good, to the resurrection of life (1st resurrection of the dead), *and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of* (Gr. *krisis*) *judgment* (2nd resurrection of the dead; at the end of Christ's millennial rule) (John 5:28-29; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

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