

NOON BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION 20 (PART 2)

LAST WEEK WAS A LOT TO START WITH, SO WE ARE SLOWING DOWN A BIT AND LOOKING AT SOME OF THE MAJOR THEMES THAT ARE ADDRESSED IN THIS CHAPTER SO WE CAN MAKE SOME SENSE OF WHAT GOD HAS PUT IN SCRIPTURE FOR US TO UNDERSTAND. REVELATION 20 SPEAKS OF A FEW MAJOR TOPICS - THE DEFEAT AND ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION OF THE DEVIL, THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, AND JUDGMENT DAY. A LIKELY UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIMING OF THESE EVENTS FOLLOWS THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCE

1 - JESUS RETURNS TO THE EARTH AS KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (REVELATION 19:11-16).

2 - THE DEAD IN CHRIST ARE RAISED TO LIFE AT HIS COMING. THE FAITHFUL THAT ARE ALIVE WHEN HE COMES WILL BE CHANGED. NEW, IMMORTAL BODIES FOR THOSE TWO GROUPS THAT ARE ONE PEOPLE - THE RIGHTEOUS. THIS IS CALLED THE "FIRST RESURRECTION" (REV. 20:5)

3 - THE DEVIL IS CAPTURED AND IMPRISONED IN THE ABYSS FOR 1000 YEARS. AT THE END OF THE 1000 YEARS HE WILL BE RELEASED AND ATTEMPT A FINAL REBELLION, DECEIVING THE UNBELIEVING NATIONS. THIS WILL BE A FUTILE EFFORT AND HE WILL BE THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE. (REVELATION 20:1-3, 7-10)

4 - DURING THOSE 1000 YEARS, JESUS CHRIST RULES UPON THE EARTH WITH HIS PEOPLE JOINING HIM IN THE ADMINISTERING OF JUSTICE AND GOODNESS. WITH CHRIST RULING AND THE DEVIL REMOVED, THE EARTH BEGINS TO BE RESTORED AND HEALED. THE EFFECTS OF THIS TIME ARE WIDESPREAD AND PERVASIVE AND ARE PROPHETICALLY PICTURED AND DESCRIBED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. (REVELATION 20:6, ISAIAH 2:1-4, ISAIAH 11:1-9, MICAH 4:1-7, ZECHARIAH 14:8-21, ETC)

5 - THE UNBELIEVING MORTALS THAT SURVIVE THE TROUBLES UPON THE EARTH BEFORE CHRIST'S RETURN WILL SUBMIT TO HIS RULE AND ALSO EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS OF THIS TIME. WHEN THE DEVIL IS LOOSED AT THE END OF THE 1000 YEARS, THEY WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THE CHOICE TO CONTINUE TO SIDE WITH CHRIST AND HIS GOODNESS, AS THEY AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE EXPERIENCED DURING THIS TIME, OR JOIN THE DEVIL'S FINAL DECEPTION AND REBELLION. (REVELATION 20:7-10).

6 - A 2ND RESURRECTION OCCURS FOR ANY AND ALL WHO WERE NOT IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION. THOSE WHO ARE RAISED ARE JUDGED AND ANYONE NOT IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WILL BE THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE. THIS IS CALLED THE "SECOND DEATH" (REV. 20:11-13, 15).

7 - FINALLY, DEATH AND THE GRAVE (HADES) WILL BE THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE, SIGNALING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE "LAST ENEMY" OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. (1 CORINTHIANS 15:26; REVELATION 20:14-15).

REVELATION 20:4-6 - 1ST RESURRECTION

THIS IS THE *FIRST* RESURRECTION (FIRST BECAUSE THERE IS A SECOND/FINAL RESURRECTION AFTER THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST, MORE ON THAT WHEN WE LOOK AT 20:11-15).

THE *FIRST* RESURRECTION IS THE TIME WHEN ALL OF THE FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF GOD WILL BE RAISED TO ETERNAL LIFE. OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS, THE SAINTS OF EVERY GENERATION RAISED TO LIFE WITH THE COMING OF THE KING. REVELATION 20:4 LISTS THOSE WHO ARE A PART OF THIS FIRST RESURRECTION, BUT THIS IS NOT AN EXCLUSIVE LIST, BUT RATHER A LIST THAT WOULD BE RELEVANT TO THE EARLY CHURCH AND THE CALL TO "OVERCOME" IN THE EVIL DAY THEY LIVED. MEANING, THE FIRST RESURRECTION IS NOT *JUST* FOR MARTYRS BUT FOR ALL THOSE WHO

HAVE KEPT THE FAITH UNTO THE END. (EX: IF YOU WERE A CHRISTIAN BORN IN THE YEAR 1475 AD AND DIED PEACEFULLY IN YOUR SLEEP AT 100 YEARS OLD, YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE THE MARK OF THE BEAST, EVEN THOUGH YOU WEREN'T BEHEADED). HERE IS WHAT PAUL TELLS THE THESSALONIANS:

1 THESSALONIANS 4:14-15 - FOR IF WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN, EVEN SO GOD WILL BRING WITH HIM THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP IN JESUS. 15 FOR THIS WE SAY TO YOU BY THE WORD OF THE LORD, THAT WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN UNTIL THE COMING OF THE LORD, WILL NOT PRECEDE THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP. *(AKA DIED)*

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17 - FOR THE LORD HIMSELF WILL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT, WITH THE VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL AND WITH THE TRUMPET OF GOD, AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST. 17 THEN WE WHO ARE ALIVE AND REMAIN WILL BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR, AND SO WE SHALL ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD.

NOT ONLY IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS A CORNERSTONE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, THE BELIEF IN A LITERAL, PHYSICAL, BODILY RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD IS A FOUNDATIONAL BIBLICAL TRUTH.

DANIEL 12:2 - "MANY OF THOSE WHO SLEEP IN THE DUST OF THE GROUND WILL AWAKE, THESE TO EVERLASTING LIFE, BUT THE OTHERS TO DISGRACE AND EVERLASTING CONTEMPT.

JOHN 5:28-29 - "DO NOT MARVEL AT THIS; FOR AN HOUR IS COMING, IN WHICH ALL WHO ARE IN THE TOMBS WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, 29 AND 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.

JOHN 11:25 - JESUS SAID TO HER, "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE: HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE EVEN IF HE DIES

CONTRARY TO GREEK MYTHOLOGY AND POPULAR CULTURE (AND SADLY, EVEN SOME POPULAR CHURCH TRADITION), THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH THAT PEOPLE ARE *INNATELY* IMMORTAL. INSTEAD, THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT IMMORTALITY WAS SOMETHING *EXTERNAL* TO HUMANS, PROVIDED BY GOD. IN GENESIS IT WAS THE TREE OF LIFE WHICH PROVIDED IMMORTALITY AND THEIR EXPULSION FROM THE GARDEN WHICH LED TO THEIR DEATH (GENESIS 2:9; 3:22-24). THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES THAT IMMORTALITY IS A GIFT FROM GOD GRANTED TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL AND HAVE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST:

ROMANS 6:23 - FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE FREE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

2 TIMOTHY 1:9-10 (NLT) - FOR GOD SAVED US AND CALLED US TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE. HE DID THIS, NOT BECAUSE WE DESERVED IT, BUT BECAUSE THAT WAS HIS PLAN FROM BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF TIME-- TO SHOW US HIS GRACE THROUGH CHRIST JESUS. 10 AND NOW HE HAS MADE ALL OF THIS PLAIN TO US BY THE APPEARING OF CHRIST JESUS, OUR SAVIOR. HE BROKE THE POWER OF DEATH AND ILLUMINATED THE WAY TO LIFE AND IMMORTALITY THROUGH THE GOOD NEWS.

THE RESURRECTION IS WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE BECOME IMMORTAL, WHEN THEY ARE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE, GIVEN NEW BODIES AND RE-CREATED WITHOUT SIN TO LIVE FOREVER! HERE IS HOW PAUL TAUGHT THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH:

1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-55 (NLT) - WHAT I AM SAYING, DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IS THAT OUR PHYSICAL BODIES CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. THESE DYING BODIES CANNOT INHERIT WHAT WILL LAST FOREVER. 51 BUT LET ME REVEAL TO YOU A WONDERFUL SECRET. WE WILL NOT ALL DIE, BUT WE WILL ALL BE TRANSFORMED! 52 IT WILL HAPPEN IN A MOMENT, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, WHEN THE LAST TRUMPET IS BLOWN. FOR WHEN THE TRUMPET SOUNDS, THOSE WHO HAVE DIED WILL BE RAISED TO LIVE FOREVER. AND WE WHO ARE LIVING WILL ALSO BE TRANSFORMED. 53 FOR OUR DYING BODIES MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO BODIES THAT WILL NEVER DIE; OUR MORTAL BODIES MUST BE TRANSFORMED INTO IMMORTAL BODIES. 54 THEN, WHEN OUR DYING BODIES HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO BODIES THAT WILL NEVER DIE, THIS SCRIPTURE WILL BE FULFILLED: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY. 55 O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

AND WHAT WILL BE THE FIRST JOB OF THIS RESURRECTED MULTITUDE? TO ADMINISTER THE WAYS OF GOD UPON THE EARTH FOR 1000 YEARS WITH CHRIST AS ROYAL PRIESTS (REVELATION 20:4 ,6)

REVELATION 20:11-15 - THE SECOND RESURRECTION & GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

AT THE END OF THE 1000 YEARS, AFTER THE DEVIL IS DESTROYED, JOHN SEES A "GREAT WHITE THRONE". THE GLORY OF THE ONE SEATED ON THE THRONE CAUSES "HEAVEN AND EARTH" TO FLEE! JOHN THEN SEES A COURTROOM SCENE WHERE BOOKS ARE OPENED AND RECORDS ARE EXAMINED BASED ON THE DEEDS OF EVERY PERSON.

STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE IS EVERYONE WHO WAS NOT A PART OF THE FIRST RESURRECTION, NOW BROUGHT TO LIFE AGAIN TO FACE JUDGMENT (AND THE JUDGE). THE TEXT IS CLEAR THAT EVERYONE WHO EVER LIVED WILL BE A PART OF THIS JUDGMENT (THE SEA, THE GRAVE, ETC). THIS IS THE "SECOND RESURRECTION." THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT HAVE FAITH AND DID NOT LIVE FOR GOD.

THE TEXT IS PRETTY CLEAR ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS HERE - EACH PERSON STANDS BEFORE THE JUDGE AND WILL BE JUDGED BASED ON THEIR "DEEDS". THIS ISN'T A SURPRISE BASED ON SCRIPTURE:

OLD TESTAMENT - PROVERBS 24:12 - IF YOU SAY, "SEE, WE DID NOT KNOW THIS," DOES HE NOT CONSIDER IT WHO WEIGHS THE HEARTS? AND DOES HE NOT KNOW IT WHO KEEPS YOUR SOUL? AND WILL HE NOT RENDER TO MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WORK?

JESUS - MATTHEW 16:27 - "FOR THE SON OF MAN IS GOING TO COME IN THE GLORY OF HIS FATHER WITH HIS ANGELS, AND WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

PAUL - 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10 - FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, SO THAT EACH ONE MAY BE RECOMPENSED FOR HIS DEEDS IN THE BODY, ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE, WHETHER GOOD OR BAD.

PAUL - ROMANS 2:5-11, 16 (NLT) - BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE STUBBORN AND REFUSE TO TURN FROM YOUR SIN, YOU ARE STORING UP TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT FOR YOURSELF. FOR A DAY OF ANGER IS COMING, WHEN GOD'S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT WILL BE REVEALED. 6 HE WILL JUDGE EVERYONE ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY HAVE DONE. 7 HE WILL GIVE ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO KEEP ON DOING GOOD, SEEKING AFTER THE GLORY AND HONOR AND IMMORTALITY THAT GOD OFFERS.

8 BUT HE WILL POUR OUT HIS ANGER AND WRATH ON THOSE WHO LIVE FOR THEMSELVES, WHO REFUSE TO OBEY THE TRUTH AND INSTEAD LIVE LIVES OF WICKEDNESS. 9 THERE WILL BE TROUBLE AND CALAMITY FOR EVERYONE WHO KEEPS ON DOING WHAT IS EVIL-- FOR THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO FOR THE GENTILE. 10 BUT THERE WILL BE GLORY AND HONOR AND PEACE FROM GOD FOR ALL WHO DO GOOD-- FOR THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO FOR THE GENTILE. 11 FOR GOD DOES NOT SHOW FAVORITISM.

16 AND THIS IS THE MESSAGE I PROCLAIM: THAT THE DAY IS COMING WHEN GOD, THROUGH CHRIST JESUS, WILL JUDGE EVERYONE'S SECRET LIFE.

THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WILL BE THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE. THAT IS THE "SECOND DEATH" (REV. 20:14-15).

WHY RAISE THE DEAD ONLY TO HAVE THEM DIE AGAIN? THIS MAY SEEM ODD AT FIRST READ BUT IS ACTUALLY AN IMPORTANT MOMENT. THIS DESCRIBES JUDGMENT BEING ENACTED AND JUSTICE BEING DONE. THERE WILL BE NO PERSON WHO WILL HAVE LIVED AND DIED THINKING THEY WERE JUSTIFIED OR WISE TO LIVE IN OPPOSITION TO GOD. NO RULER OR KING WHO WILL GET AWAY WITH CORRUPTION OR EXPLOITATION OR DEFIANCE TO THE RULER OF ALL. NO AVERAGE PERSON WHO HATED THEIR NEIGHBOR, IGNORED THE CRIES OF THE POOR OR WHO LIVED FOR THEMSELVES WILL END THEIR LIFE WITHOUT KNOWING THE TRUTH. NO PEASANT WHO CURSED GOD BECAUSE THEY FELT IGNORED AND THUS CHEATED AND STOLE TO GET BY WILL BE OVERLOOKED BY GOD'S JUSTICE.

THIS IS A REALLY IMPORTANT PART OF THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS AND THE GLORIFICATION OF GOD THAT WILL ENDURE FOREVER. SO WHILE IT MIGHT SEEM TRITE TO RAISE THE DEAD ONLY FOR THEM TO DIE AGAIN, THIS ACT IS DECLARING THE VINDICATION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD TO ALL OF GOD'S CREATION - AND SPECIFICALLY TO EVERY PERSON WHO HAS EVER LIVED.

GALATIANS 6:7 - DO NOT BE DECEIVED, GOD IS NOT MOCKED: FOR WHATEVER A MAN SOWS, THIS HE WILL ALSO REAP.

LUKE 12:2 (CSB) - THERE IS NOTHING COVERED THAT WON'T BE UNCOVERED, NOTHING HIDDEN THAT WON'T BE MADE KNOWN.

HEBREWS 4:13 (NIV) - NOTHING IN ALL CREATION IS HIDDEN FROM GOD'S SIGHT. EVERYTHING IS UNCOVERED AND LAID BARE BEFORE THE EYES OF HIM TO WHOM WE MUST GIVE ACCOUNT.

KEY TERMS FROM THIS SECTION:

THE FIRST DEATH - THE DEATH THAT ANYONE EXPERIENCES BEFORE THE MESSIAH RETURNS. RIGHTEOUS/UNRIGHTEOUS BOTH EXPERIENCE THIS.

THE SECOND DEATH - THE *FINAL* DEATH OF THE WICKED AFTER JUDGMENT DAY. THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST, WHO ARE IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION WILL NOT DIE FOR THE "SECOND" TIME.

THE FIRST RESURRECTION - THE RESURRECTION OF GOD'S PEOPLE THAT OCCURS WHEN JESUS CHRIST RETURNS. THEY ARE MADE IMMORTAL AND GIVEN NEW, RESURRECTED BODIES.

THE SECOND RESURRECTION - A SECOND RESURRECTION THAT OCCURS AFTER THE 1000 YEAR REIGN OF CHRIST. THIS RESURRECTION IS FOR ALL HUMANS NOT IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION. WHEN THIS RESURRECTION OCCURS, HUMANS WILL STAND BEFORE THE GREAT WHITE THRONE AND BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR DEEDS, WHICH HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN THE "BOOK OF LIFE". IF SOMEONE'S NAME IS NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE, THEY ARE THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE (AND THUS EXPERIENCING THE SECOND DEATH).

FINAL THOUGHTS ON REVELATION 20:11-15 - WHAT THE TEXT *DOESN'T* SAY

BEFORE WE FINISH, I WANTED TO HIGHLIGHT ONE MORE THING FROM THIS SECTION. THIS FINAL POINT HAS BEEN HELPFUL TO ME IN ANSWERING SOME DIFFICULT QUESTIONS THAT ARISE IN MY OWN HEART AND ARE CERTAINLY BEING ASKED BY OTHERS.

REVELATION 20:12-13 -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. 13 AND THE SEA GAVE UP THE DEAD WHICH WERE IN IT, AND DEATH AND HADES GAVE UP THE DEAD WHICH WERE IN THEM; AND THEY WERE JUDGED, EVERY ONE OF THEM ACCORDING TO THEIR DEEDS.

WHO IS A PART OF THIS SECOND RESURRECTION? THE SHORT ANSWER IS "ANYONE WHO WASN'T IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION." THE FIRST RESURRECTION IS FOR THE FAITHFUL *ONLY* AND THE SECOND IS FOR EVERYONE ELSE WHO HAS EVER LIVED. THE WAY TO BE PART OF THE FIRST RESURRECTION IS TO HAVE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST - WHETHER THAT WAS FAITH IN THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING BEFORE (AS IN THE CASE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BELIEVERS) OR FAITH IN HIS NAME AND THE WORK HE DID ONCE HE CAME (AS IN THE CASE OF ALL THOSE AFTER HIS APPEARING). THAT IS THE TICKET TO THE FIRST RESURRECTION. NOT IN THAT GROUP? SECOND RESURRECTION IT IS.

HOWEVER, WHAT YOU WILL NOTICE THE TEXT *DOESN'T* SAY IS THAT EVERYONE WHO WAS IN THE SECOND RESURRECTION IS THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE. THAT'S A SMALL BUT REALLY IMPORTANT DISTINCTION. HERE IS WHAT IT SAYS:

REVELATION 20:15 - AND IF ANYONE'S NAME WAS NOT FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE, HE WAS THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SECOND RESURRECTION IS TO RAISE THE REMAINING DEAD FOR JUDGMENT DAY. BUT REVELATION DOESN'T SAY THAT EVERYONE WHO IS RAISED AT THIS TIME IS THEN THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE. WHAT DO WE MAKE OF THIS? COULD THERE BE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST AND YET ARE NOT THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE AFTER THE JUDGMENT?

I PROPOSE THAT THE ANSWER IS *YES* NOW BEFORE YOU ACCUSE ME OF BEING A UNIVERSALIST AS IF IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU BELIEVE THE GOSPEL, YOU'LL BE SAVED ANYWAY IN THE END - I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT NOR AM I SAYING THAT. BUT WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT THE TEXT LEAVES ROOM FOR A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO DID NOT FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST BUT YET HAVE NAMES FOUND IN THE BOOK OF LIFE AND ARE GRANTED ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD. NOW, THESE INDIVIDUALS WOULD NOT BE IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION, THEY WOULD NOT RULE WITH CHRIST DURING THE MESSIANIC AGE - BUT GOD WILL JUDGE THEM IN THE END AND THEY WILL BE WITH HIM FOREVER IN THE END.

NOW, WHO WOULD POSSIBLY FIT IN THIS CATEGORY? I THINK IT WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO ARE ABLE TO BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR DEEDS (WHICH IS WHAT THE TEXT SAYS WILL HAPPEN) AND BE FOUND FIT FOR THE KING. THIS COULD INCLUDE THOSE PEOPLE IN REMOTE PLACES OF THE WORLD WHO NEVER HEAR THE GOSPEL BUT WHO RECOGNIZE A CREATOR THROUGH THE CREATION AND LIVE ACCORDING TO THE CONSCIENCE THAT GOD GAVE EVERY PERSON - INSTINCTIVELY DOING GOD'S LAW IN THIS WAY. THIS WOULD INCLUDE CHILDREN THAT DIE PRIOR TO HEARING THE GOSPEL OR HAVING FAITH - WHO TRAGICALLY HAVE THEIR LIFE CUT SHORT AT A YOUNG AGE OR IN THE WOMB. THIS COULD ALSO INCLUDE MENTALLY OR EMOTIONALLY DISABLED.

THIS UNIQUE POSSIBILITY BASED ON THE WORDING OF THE TEXT DOES NOT IMPLY THAT WE SHOULD EASE UP IN OUR PRAYER OR GOSPEL SPEAKING EFFORTS AS IF SAYING SOMETHING LIKE "*OH I WON'T TRY AND SUPPORT THE GOSPEL BEING CARRIED INTO DARK AND UNREACHED PLACES BECAUSE GOD'S GOING TO SAVE PEOPLE ANYWAY...*" IS ADMIRABLE OR EVEN CHRISTIAN. IT'S NOT. THE GOSPEL MUST BE SPOKEN IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND IN THE "REMOTEST PARTS OF THE EARTH." (**ACTS 1:8**). IT IS A CRITICAL CHRISTIAN WORK TO ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND THE VULNERABLE IN OUR WORLD. AND AS WE STRIVE IN THESE AREAS OF EVANGELISM, COMPASSION AND JUSTICE, WE SEE THIS TEXT SHOWING US THE HEART OF OUR FATHER WHO "WISHES FOR NONE TO PERISH BUT FOR ALL TO COME TO REPENTANCE. (**2 PETER 3:9**)." AND HE IS OUR MAKER, AND HE IS THE JUDGE AND HE WILL DO WHAT IS RIGHT.

PSALM 96:2-3, 7-13 (NLT) - SING TO THE LORD; PRAISE HIS NAME. EACH DAY PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS THAT HE SAVED. 3 PUBLISH HIS GLORIOUS DEEDS AMONG THE NATIONS. TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THE AMAZING THINGS HE DOES.

7 O NATIONS OF THE WORLD, RECOGNIZE THE LORD; RECOGNIZE THAT THE LORD IS GLORIOUS AND STRONG. 8 GIVE TO THE LORD THE GLORY HE DESERVES!... 9 LET ALL THE EARTH TREMBLE BEFORE HIM.

10 TELL ALL THE NATIONS, "THE LORD REIGNS!" THE WORLD STANDS FIRM AND CANNOT BE SHAKEN. HE WILL JUDGE ALL PEOPLES FAIRLY. 11 LET THE HEAVENS BE GLAD, AND THE EARTH REJOICE! LET THE SEA AND EVERYTHING IN IT SHOUT HIS PRAISE! 12 LET THE FIELDS AND THEIR CROPS BURST OUT WITH JOY! LET THE TREES OF THE FOREST RUSTLE WITH PRAISE 13 BEFORE THE LORD, FOR HE IS COMING! HE IS COMING TO JUDGE THE EARTH. HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD WITH JUSTICE, AND THE NATIONS WITH HIS TRUTH.