

The Overall Plan of God

By way of explanation, the following is only an **outline**, a handout given at the **Last Great Day** message at the Grand Junction, Colorado fall Feast in 2005. By itself, it's not as fully explained as a transcript or CD of the in-person presentation would be, and calls upon the reader to draw upon understanding previously acquired in the Church of God. It is in no way intended to be irreverent, but to present the various kinds of peoples who exist together in the various ages of mankind in a way that might be memorable and to appeal to a younger audience, making comparisons to movies of which they have some familiarity. The reader should consider these things thoughtfully.

Page 2 presents the various **AGES** in which God worked with or will work with mankind,

Page 3 describes and defines the various kinds of **PEOPLES**, based on their conversion status,

Page 4 presents a 'harmonization' of the two three resurrections passages, given by Christ Himself, to the Apostle John, where He mentions the three all together in one place. Understanding these is essential to correctly understanding the future of humanity and the plan for affording each generation an opportunity for salvation, including those who died **not having had opportunity**.

Pages 5 & 6 presents accounts of various resurrections to physical life that are recorded in the pages of the Bible. We have many accounts of individuals raised back to physical life.

Some Relevant Scriptures to consider:

1. Truly our fathers have inherited lies, vanity and things in which there is no profit Jer. 16:19
2. God is not willing that any should perish 2 Pe. 3:9 (*Not only His WILL but His PLAN!*)
3. We shall reign on the Earth Rev. 5:10
4. Blessed are they which die in the Lord from henceforth... (*notice the time setting*) Rev. 14:13
5. Satan to be bound 1000 years Rev. 20:2 & 7
6. Saints to co-rule for 1000 years Rev. 20:4 & 8
7. After the Third Resurrection. Rev. 22:
8. Those resurrected don't marry Matt. 22:30
9. These all died in faith, not having received the promise Heb. 11:13
10. of whom the world was not worthy...that they might obtain a better resurrection Heb. 11:34-39
11. Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man... 1 Cor. 2:9
12. The prize of the high calling of God Philp. 3:14
13. of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named Eph. 3:14-15
14. any man in Christ is a new creature...all things are become new 2 Cor. 5:17
15. the firstborn of every creature Col. 1:15
16. He shall leave them neither root nor branch Mal. 4:1
17. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death 1 Cor. 15:26
18. Then comes the end... when God shall be all in all. 1 Cor. 15:24 - 28
19. No place for them, Rev. 20:11 suggests they can't justifiably be assigned to life or death yet!
20. Death and the grave shall be cast into the Lake of Fire: the Second death Rev. 20:14

Population Groups and Progression in the PLAN of GOD

(The TRUE Way to Full Atonement (Sonship) and Eternal Judgment.)

God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance... 2nd Peter 3:9

There being the HUGE contingent of 'unconverted' from every age should tell us something!

Either God's Plan for Mankind is ill conceived and inadequate, or our conception of it is!

God's PLAN is commensurate with His WILL. In it, no one will be left without **opportunity** for salvation!

■ **EPISODE I** (Pre-Christian Era)

Old Testament Era (2600 years) Abraham to the time of Christ

Prophets and Patriarchs

Rest of the Dead (those not offered opportunity for salvation)

■ **EPISODE II** (Christian Era)

Christ's Resurrection (2000 years) to the Firstfruits Harvest

Rest of the dead (those not offered opportunity for salvation in this generation)

Conversion Rejecteds (those who had but who spurned their opportunity)

Saints I (The Converted) (only this generation of these becomes the 'firstfruits')

■ **EPISODE III** (The World to Come) (Millennial Age)

The First Resurrection to the Second (1000 years)

Saints Immortal (Spirit Beings (Prophets and Saints I, converted prior 1st resurrection))

Millennial Population (The physical survivors of the 'last days' and their decedents)

Saints II (these become the converted Progeny of Christ & His Bride)

Conversion Rejecteds (millennial population who spurn their opportunity)

■ **EPISODE IV** (Hope in the Resurrection) (Post-Millennial Age)

The Second Resurrection to the Third (100 years?) Isa 65:17-20, Rev 14:13

Saints Immortal (those Spirit Beings raised to Life back in the first resurrection)

Alive Again (formerly were the Rest of the dead) Rev. 20:5 (these are yet physical)

Saints II (additional Children of God, Progeny of Christ & His Bride)

Conversion Rejecteds (Those who spurn their first opportunity here provided)

NOTE: Rejecteds of all prior ages and the Millennium are not brought up in the second resurrection.

NOTE: Consider the placement of the passage in Rev. 14:13. "***Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.***" This is **after** the first resurrection, which is clear from the context of the chapter. This is uttered after the angel (v.6) presents the 'everlasting gospel' to the remainder of humanity! These who live in the millennial age in the flesh die and are buried awaiting their resurrection to sentencing just as we do today! The same would be true of those who live in the 'Last Great Day' "century", the 2nd Resurrection era.

■ **A FINAL Appearance** (Mankind's Final Day) (NOT a Holyday!)

The Third Resurrection – Separating the Sheep from the Goats & Sentencing

All will hear and rise up together. Righteous and wicked will be separated apart from one another.

Matthew 25:31-34 & 41 & 46 The resurrection involving separating the sheep from the goats

Daniel 12:2 Many shall awake to everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt. (Concurrently?)

Revelation 14:14 – 20 The great harvests, two separate reapings. (Also Revelation 7:)

Death and the grave will be eliminated. (There will be none left capable of death.) Rev. 20:14

1st Cor. 15:24-28 The Son (& Saints) to become subordinate to God the Father... "That He may be all in all"

The Major Kinds of Peoples Involved in the PLAN of GOD

(A whimsical Take-Off on the *Star Trek* or *Star Wars* format.)

Star Wars: Jedi , Star Trek: Klingons Lord of the Rings: Hobbits, Orks, Syths

Prophets of God

These are the few individuals God has specifically called in Old Testament times Lk.13:28
See Rev. 11:18 These are not given life before their New Testament counterparts
They without us shall not be made perfect. Heb. 11:40 (referring to spirit bodies)

Church of God (those truly Converted)

These are the individuals God calls and justifies during the New Testament Era,
Whom He will Glorify in their respective (1st or 3rd) Resurrections.
These exhibit Christ's direct likeness spiritually Rev. 14:4
The Church of the Firstborn Heb. 12:23 1st Tim. 3:5 & 15
The Firstborn of many brethren Rom. 8:29 Heb. 2:10
Fellow-citizens with the Saints Eph. 2:18-22 Gal. 4:6
The Church of God...the pillar and ground of the Truth 1 Tim. 3:15
The remnant whom the Lord shall call Joel 2:32 (not a large number)

Dread Ends

These are those who had truly received Salvation, but who later REJECTED it.
Impossible, if they shall fall away, to renew them again Heb. 6:4-6
It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God Heb. 10:31
I self-subjugate, lest... I should become a castaway 1st Cor. 9:27
A certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation Heb. 10:26-27
If we neglect so great salvation... Heb. 2:3
These do not experience any resurrection prior to sentencing in the third.

Rest of the Dead (not called by God in their physical lifetimes prior to the second resurrection)

These are seen in places such as Rev. 20:5
There is no place for them. Rev. 20:11 They can't justifiably be sentenced to anything yet!
Some of these are so, due to their being blinded, some even by God:
Their minds were blinded, until this day remains the same veil 2 Cor. 3:14
Blindness in part is happened to Israel Rom. 11:25-26 & 32
Satan has blinded the minds of most 2 Cor. 4:4
It isn't their fault that they were born in a time not affording an opportunity for Salvation

Alive Agains (neither sheep nor goats when first raised back to life)

Who the Restodeds become after the Second (Post-Millennial) Resurrection Rev. 20:5
The Dreadends are excluded from this re-call to physical life John 5:25 "they that hear..."
indicates there will be those who do not 'hear' this particular call. Some will, some won't!
The purpose of their resurrection is to, for the first time, have opportunity Rev. 20:12

Saints Most High (Daniel 7:27 etc.)

These are the Spirit-Born Saints, raised in the Resurrection, Raised IMMORTAL,
Will bear the radiant appearance of Jesus Christ Phlp. 3:21 1st John 3:2
Man is 'for a little while' (margin) made a little lower than the angels... Heb. 2:7
Flesh and blood can not inherit the Kingdom of God 1st Cor. 15:50 Jas. 2:5
These will be given the Kingdom, NO OTHERS! Dan. 7:18 & 27
Will live and rule with Christ in His Earthly Throne Rev. 5:10 Rev. 3:21
Will be manifest first at Christ's Second Coming and the First Resurrection Rev. 20:6
Others will be added to the Family, but with lesser stature than the Firstfruits Rev. 14:4
Those added into the Family after the 1st Resurrection are children of Christ and His Bride
For unto the angels has He not put in subjection the world to come. Heb. 2:5

Christ's Personal 'Three-Resurrections' Exposé thru John! (John 5 / Rev. 20)

(In these two passages, all three resurrections are presented together, comprehensively in sequence. *Light: John 5 / Bold: Rev. 20*)

¶ *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. ¶ **“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them...And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him for a thousand years.”** These are they in the first resurrection, occurring at Christ's Second Coming, prior to the Great White Judgment Throne, in which they will also co-officiate! (1st Cor 6:2 & Mal 3:18)*

¶ *Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear ¹ will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ¶ **Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.** (to be assigned?) **And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and the books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.** This resurrection provides opportunity for those who **never had a chance** to respond to God's call and live 'by the things written in the books': their names then being added into the Book of Life. No such opportunity is referred to in the next and final resurrection. The only book referred to there is the Book of Life, and that, only for the purpose of seeing whose names are written in it!! And, notice, that final resurrection is all-inclusive! This previous one wasn't, nor did it impose the 'second death'!*

Judgment: Involves an evidentiary period first before proceeding to the sentencing phase.

¶ *Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. ¶ **And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works...This is the second death.** This final 'sentencing and consignment' resurrection involves all who ever lived (excepting only those first resurrected) and is that 'sheep from goats' separation to sentencing Christ explicitly referred to in Matthew 25: verses 31 – 46.*

The **first** resurrection is direct into **Life**. Then the **second** is to afford 'judgment and justice' to those who died never having had opportunity. The **third** is for **final sentencing** of all either to life **or** to condemnation: the second death! The second death is experienced by no-one, without their first having passed through an evaluative judgment. For the Saints of God, that evaluation period is now! ² For the rest, the dead who were never called at least, that period is after the thousand years are finished!

Now that we can understand from the above passages, the essential doctrine of the **resurrections** from the dead, and as a result, another one listed there in Hebrews 6: that of **eternal judgment**, how judgment and justice will come to all in their appointed time, we are ready to understand the vital purpose for the Last Great Day. God has a PLAN that 'not any should perish' (needlessly). That plan also happens to be His WILL! **This Last Great Day is the Day for 'them too'!** After the Millennial Age, and after Satan's brief release, those dead who never had an opportunity to know the Truth, and to respond to it, by having God's Spirit offered to them (which is essential to True Salvation) will be raised again, still physical, to be offered that opportunity. They will live in an age absent of Satan's influence, as did their physical predecessors in the Millennial Kingdom. They will be allowed to live out the remainder of their lifetimes (possibly up to the century mark! (Isaiah 65:20 & context.)) (consider also Matthew 22:30)

¹ Notice here the wording, suggesting that not all in this contingent will hear. In the next resurrection, ALL will hear!

² 1st Peter 4:17...judgment must begin at the house of God... This is for evaluation, (evidence gathering) not condemnation.

Numerous Accounts of a Physical Resurrection:

Job 14:14 “If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.”

Job 19:25-27 “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet **in my flesh** shall I see God: 27: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.” Job anticipated being restored to a physical existence.

1st Kings 17:17-24 Elijah raises the widow’s son in Zarephath.

2nd Kings 4:32-37 Elisha raises the Shunammite couple’s son.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 “The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the **valley which was full of bones**, 2: And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. 3: And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. 4: Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5: Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, **I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live**: 6: And I will lay sinews upon you, and **will bring up flesh upon you**, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. 7: So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. 8: And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. 9: Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. 10: So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. 11: Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are **the whole house of Israel**: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. 12: Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13: And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, 14: And **shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live**, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.”

Matt. 9:25, Mark 5:23-42 & Luke 8:55 Jesus raises the daughter of a certain ruler of the synagogue.

Matt. 10:15 “Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in **the day of judgment** than for that city.”

Matt. 11:20-24 “Then He began to upbraid the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: ‘Woe to you Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they **would have repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the **day of judgment** than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.’ (**Note: How could it be ‘more tolerable’, if judgment meant obliteration either way?**) This passage then inserts an interesting parenthetic-al in the very next verse, (v.25) by adding, “**At that time** Jesus answered and said, ‘I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.’” What things? The **things He had just, ‘at that time’, been saying!** That there would be a day of judgment in which people of different generations would be raised-up together, from their un-repentant (but repentable) state, in the flesh! Further, that it would not be the eminent theologian who would understand it!! (They can’t, having accommodated false teachings.)

Luke 10:12-14 “Woe to you Chorasin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, **they would have repented** a great while ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.”

Luke 11:29-32 “And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, ‘This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation. The queen of the South **will rise up** in the judgment **with the men of this generation** and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed, a greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh **will rise up** in the judgment **with this generation** and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.’”

----- All UNCONVERTED to this point -----

John 12:1, 10 & 17 “Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where **Lazarus** was which had been dead, whom **he raised from the dead.**” ... 17: “The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.”

Matthew 27:51-53 “And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52: And the graves were opened; and **many bodies of the saints** which slept arose, 53: And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.” (WHY? To allow them to experience the Day of Pentecost & 1st Resurrection?)

Each of these, raised to a physical life, all died again and await their opportunity and/or sentencing!

Christ specifically spoke of a resurrection in which the righteous and unrighteous would rise-up together!

Daniel 12:2 “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Matthew 25:31-34 & 41 & 46 Sheep from goats

Revelation 14:14-20 The great harvests: Two separate groups reaped.

Those who NEVER HAD opportunity: (these comprise the ‘rest of the dead’ aka ‘restodeds’)

- Infants and young children who die prematurely, (prior to the ‘age of accountability’)
- Those who lived prior to the time of Christ, (*couldn't* have had God’s Spirit with rare exception.)
- Those who never were presented opportunity to hear (living in pagan lands & closed societies)
- Those who **Satan** has blinded, (even those religious!) **2 Cor. 4:3-4** “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”
- Those who **God** has purposely blinded, to have mercy upon all, **2 Cor. 3:14-15**, “But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.”
- **Rom. 11:25-27 & 32** “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. (WHAT? Blinded for salvation?) And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.” v.32 “For **God hath concluded them all in unbelief**, that he might have mercy upon all.” How and when, if they’re long deceased?