



## The First Resurrection

Christians do not take part in any resurrection, not in the first and not in the second.

*Christians will be innocent bystanders, granted front row seats at every future event after the great and noble gathering together of all saints.*

But, what about the first resurrection? Many believe that it is reserved for Christians.

(Rev 20:4-5) And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which



had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. {5} But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

The people who will be raised at this “first resurrection” are people who went through the tribulation period. The tribulation period follows the gathering together

and immediately precedes the first resurrection.

Who are these people?

1. Souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the word of God and:
  - a. which had not worshipped the beast,
  - b. neither his image,
  - c. neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or
  - d. in their hands.

These people are the ones raised in the first resurrection. In order to be raised at this time, they will have had to follow God’s instructions regarding dealing with the beast. They will have had met this entire criterion. No

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exceptions! Verse four says, “but the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” No other dead people will be raised at the first resurrection. All other dead people will be raised at the second resurrection.

What shall be the sign that the first resurrection is imminent?

(Rev 20:1-3) And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. {2} And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, {3} And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Immanency (marking the time) will be when an angel comes down from heaven with the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. We Christians won't even be on earth at this time so we won't see this from an earthly vantage point. But we will certainly see this from heaven.

*Jesus Christ was first raised from the dead as a “prototype” of that which was to come.*

(1 Cor 15:12-14) Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? {13} But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: {14} And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain,

and your faith is also vain.

God made Christ alive again when He raised him from the dead. From this, we know that God has the ability to raise people from the dead.

Many Christians believe that they will be raised in the first resurrection. Christians will not be raised in a resurrection of the strictest Biblical sense. I caution you on the usage of this work “resurrection.” If you don't use it properly, you can easily misconstrue its meaning. Yes, to be made alive after death is a type of resurrection, no doubt. But, the actual event of this for Christians is called a “gathering together.”

(2 Th 2:1-3) Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, {2} That ye be not

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soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. {3} Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Here's how it will transpire.

(1 Th 4:14-18) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. {15} For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep. {16} For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and

the dead in Christ shall rise first: {17} Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. {18} Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Those Christians who are already dead [sleep in Jesus] will be the first to be gathered together. Then, those Christians who are alive and remain will be gathered together. From this point on, all Christians will ever [always] be with the Lord. *This one verse repudiates all the false teachings of Christians going to hell, limbo, purgatory, or any other fearful place.* By the end of this gathering together, all Christians everywhere and from any state of life or death, will be with the Lord.

(1 Th 4:18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Let's get back to the first resurrection. Why will these folks be raised from the dead at such a special time? What will they do once they are raised from the dead?

(Rev 20:6) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

The short answer is that they will be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. Any future death, yet to be experienced by some after this, will have no effect on these folks raised at the first resurrection.

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You really should know what these folks did to deserve this awesome privilege? A little background on this crazy beast is in order.

(Rev 13:11-17) And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. {12} And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. {13} And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, {14} And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image

to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. {15} And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. {16} And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: {17} And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

A really insane time will unfold after the Christian's gathering together. Be thankful that you won't be here to endure it. *One consequence will issue from disregard of this "lamb-looking, dragon-speaking" beast.* Bottom line: if a person

won't worship this nasty creature and receive a "666" mark, he will be killed. But some people won't receive this mark!

(Rev 14:9-12) And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, {10} The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: {11} And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. {12}

Here is the patience of the

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saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

First of all, I'm SO GLAD that I am a Christian. *I am SO GLAD that I WILL NEVER HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS CRAZINESS!*

These people will know God's Will concerning receiving the mark of the nasty lamb-dragon beast. These people are people who will refuse the mark no matter the cost. They will give their lives in order to not receive this mark and have to worship such nastiness.

(Rev 14:13) And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

These who die in the Lord from henceforth ARE NOT CHRISTIANS. They are people who refuse the mark of the beast and who refuse to worship it. Because of the gathering together, at this time, Christians, every one of them, will be with the Lord.

Do you know what will happen to those who do worship and receive the mark of the beast?

(Rev 16:2) And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

One of the seven plagues mentioned in Revelations will be just for them. Talk about misery upon misery. Oh well. They could have chosen a better way

even though they would have had to stare death in the face, and die. Sounds like death will be the better option.

What will these special folks do after they are raised at the first resurrection?

(Rev 20:4) And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

The answer is at the very end of verse four. "They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." And that's just for starters. I already mentioned that

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they will be priests for Christ and for God. Once these guys are raised from the dead, they will have eternal life. They will also be on the new heaven and earth once this one is removed.

All other dead people will have to wait another thousand years to be raised from the dead, some to judgment and some to eternal life.

*(Rev 20:5) But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

Of course, they won't realize a thing because they will still be dead, but those of us who have eternal life and are with the Lord will certainly enjoy the fruit of our labors. *We'll be able to be back on earth with Christ, reigning with him right alongside of those who were*

*raised at the first resurrection.* Remember, we will forever be with the Lord. So we have to be here too!

Here's a snapshot of the "second" resurrection.

*(Rev 20:11-15) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. {12} And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. {13} And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every*

*man according to their works. {14} And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15} And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Christians will not take part in this judgment. Verse 12 tells us clearly that "the dead, small and great, stand before God." It also says that "the dead were judged." Only the remaining dead will take part in this judgment. Christians will have already been made alive.

Christians do get to face something very unique, but it is not a judgment.

*(Rom 14:10-12) ... for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. {11} For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall*



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confess to God. {12} So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

The judgment seat of Christ is a super special place. In the Greek, it is the Bema, a rewards platform, still used in our Olympic ceremonies. It is not a place of judgment, rather, of rewards.

***Christians will NOT BE JUDGED, rather, WILL BE THE JUDGES!***

(1 Cor 6:2-3) Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? {3} Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

What great news this must be to

you! Perhaps all of your life you have lived under terrible pain and pressure, thinking that you must face some horrific judgment and then be sentenced to a most certain hell and suffering. Shame on those who still teach such treasonous concepts. But no shame on you after you believe and become free from these binding spiritual onslaughts of despair. You are free because you are a Christian!

Let us lift up our eyes AND visions to those of God's Word. Christians are the MOST special people ever, greater in favor than those who do not receive the mark of the beast or worship it; greater than any who have already lived, either small or great, and take part in the second resurrection. We are more favored than those whose names are crafted in the book of life at the second resurrection even though, our names, too, are found in that same

marvelous book. We are more favored than the angels whom we will judge. We are God's favorite people, set apart from all time, from all past and future judgmental events hosted by God Himself. ***We are, in fact, innocent bystanders, granted front row seats at every future event after the great and noble gathering together of all Christians.***

Much love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown