

# Resurrections

By Scott Huckaby

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## **For Discussion: Raised Into Eternity: Examining Distinct Resurrections In The Bible**

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<https://harbingersdaily.com/raised-into-eternity-examining-distinct-resurrections-in-the-bible/>

### **Who will be resurrected?**

Everyone...

John 5:28-29 – *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.*

There is a *resurrection of life* for those who trust in Christ and a *resurrection of condemnation* for those who have not.

### **Why does it say that the resurrection of life is for those who have done good, is this salvation by works?**

No, that would be contradictory...

Ephesians 2:8-9 – *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

So, doing good here must reflect that it is good to believe in God's provision for salvation.

- Also, those in the *resurrection of life* will receive rewards for their doing good works.
- In contrast, good works will be of no value for those in the *resurrection of condemnation*.

### **How does the resurrection of condemnation reveal that the doctrine of annihilation is false?**

Why would unbelievers need to be resurrected if they are to cease to exist? One aspect of being made in the image of God is that all people are eternal beings.

- While we had a beginning and God did not, all humans designed to last forever.
- The fact that the beast and the false prophet are still present 1000 years after the millennium, as stated in Revelation, further disproves annihilationism.

### **Why are people attracted to the doctrine of annihilation?**

Because it appeals to their emotions and offers a more comfortable alternative to the traditional biblical teaching of eternal conscious torment in hell.

- Ceasing to exist seems less harsh & more merciful. Annihilationism also “takes the pressure off” the urgency of evangelism and missions.

### **What was the Old Testament expectation of resurrection?**

The Old Testament faithful had a similar understanding of resurrections of life and of condemnation...

Daniel 12:3 – *Any many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

The Old Testament faithful knew there would be life after death...

Isaiah 26:19 – *Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.*

The Old Testament hope was in a bodily resurrection, not simply existence as a disembodied spirit:

Job 19:25-27 – *For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

### **How has the New Testament refined the Old Testament view of being resurrected?**

While Jewish tradition believed there would be one general resurrection, this is contrary to Scripture...

1 Corinthians 15:22-23 – *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.*

So, since there is clearly an order to the resurrections, let's consider what they are...

### **How is Christ the first-fruits of the resurrection?**

The Scriptures affirm, through the reference to first-fruits that the resurrection harvest into glorified bodies could not take place until Christ was resurrected.

### **How was the concept of the first resurrection developed in the Feast of Firstfruits (Lev 23:9-14)?**

Just as the first portion of the harvest anticipated the full harvest still to come, the resurrection of Jesus anticipated the full resurrection to come for all those who are part of the resurrection to life.

### **What did the resurrection of Jesus reveal about our own resurrection?**

Jesus showed us what we can look forward to when He rose from the dead.

- Eternal life will not be some ethereal, spiritual existence;
- We will have physical bodies much like our current ones, but better (Luke 24:39).
- We will enjoy food just like we do today (Luke 24:41-43).
- We will not be subject to pain, sorrow, or death (Revelation 21:4).
- We will have an ability to travel through the spiritual realm to get around this vast physical universe (John 20:19 in light of John 14:3).

And eternal life in our resurrected bodies will hardly be boring... we will be spending eternity getting to better know our Creator-God and He is far from boring.

### **What does it mean we will reign with Jesus (2 Timothy 2:12)?**

We will be given responsibilities in the Millennial Kingdom and in the Eternal State. Thus, we will have plenty of opportunities to express our God-given creativity in exercising our stewardship over our assignments.

### **What was the raising from the dead of the Old Testament saints in Matthew 27:50-53?**

Did they receive glorified bodies and ascend with Jesus at His ascension or were they raised into their natural bodies and die again? We cannot say for sure but it is likely their being raised from the dead was more of a resuscitation than a resurrection like Lazarus (John 11).

### **What will be the next resurrection?**

It will be the rapture of the church. This event, which we believe will occur prior to the Tribulation Period, will involve church-age saints who have died in Christ and those who are alive at the time...

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – *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. Then we who are alive and remain 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.*

The world will be aware of this but since it will occur in the “*twinkling of an eye,*” many will believe “*the lie*” about it instead of recognizing it as the supernatural intervention of God.

### **When will the rapture take place?**

God intentionally does not provide us with a date.

- He only asks that we wait and understand that the rapture is ever imminent!

### **What will be the next resurrection after the rapture?**

The two witnesses of Revelation 11. The interesting thing about this is that the whole world will see their resurrection and being taken up to heaven.

### **When will the Old Testament saints be resurrected?**

At the end of the Tribulation Period...

Daniel 12:13 – *But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.*

What days? The days spoken of in the preceding two verses (Daniel 12:11-12) – the final days of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week, leading into the Millennial Kingdom.

### **Why would the New Testament saints be resurrected before the Old Testament saints?**

Because God is sovereign and that is the order of His redemptive plan. Also, God has a way of reversing what men think should be the order of things...

Matt 20:16 – *the last will be first, and the first last*  
While this passage is primarily referring to the humble being ahead in heaven of the prominent in this life, it could also apply to the order of God’s people being resurrected.

### **When will the Tribulation saints be resurrected?**

There will be many people martyred during the Tribulation Period and although some believe that they receive their glorified bodies immediately upon death, it is more likely they will experience their resurrection at the same time as the Old Testament saints...

Revelation 20:4 – *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgement was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

### **When will the Millennial saints be resurrected?**

Death during the Millennial Kingdom will not exist for believers considering their life spans will be “*as the days of a tree*” (Isaiah 65:22). However, they must be resurrected to enter into the Eternal State...

1 Corinthians 15:50 – *flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption*

It is likely this occurs at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ when He renovates heaven and earth...

Revelation 21:5 – *Behold, I make all things new.*

### **What is the distinction between the first and second resurrections?**

Revelation 20:6 – *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 a thousand years.*

The first resurrection is for the righteous, believers in Christ granting eternal life and reigning with Christ. The second resurrection is for the unrighteous leading to judgment and eternal punishment.

Revelation 20:13-14 – *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. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

Unlike the First Resurrection that happens in multiple stages, the Second Resurrection involves all unbelievers at one time just prior to the Great White Throne Judgment.

### **What happens at the Great White Throne Judgment?**

The Great White Throne Judgment is a future, final judgment described in Revelation 20:11-15, which takes place after the 1,000-year Millennial Kingdom.

- At this judgment, all the unsaved dead from all ages whose names are not found written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, are resurrected bodily from Hades and stand before God’s throne to be judged according to their deeds as recorded in the books.
- The unsaved are judged based on their works, but since their names are not in the Book of Life, they are found guilty and are cast into the Lake of Fire, which is eternal punishment.

### **What other judgments are there besides the Great White Throne judgment?**

- The Bema Seat Judgment which is for believers and it concerns rewards.
- The Sheep and Goat Judgment which deals with tribulation survivors... who will enter the Millennial Kingdom and who will be executed.

### **What applications do we see from this discussion?**

- There are multiple resurrections... everyone should seek to be in the First Resurrection.
- The First Resurrection has multiple stages starting with Christ, the first-fruits.
- The Second Resurrection is for unbelievers... help them see their need to be in the First Resurrection.