

THE TWO RESURRECTIONS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED JUDGMENTS

Turn in your Bibles to *Revelation 20:4–6*:

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. ⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. 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.
Revelation 20:4–6

What we are going to talk about today is the two types of resurrections that apply to the human body. The Bible teaches that there are two types of resurrections and not the single, unscriptural GENERAL RESURRECTION that is taught by most of professing Christianity. Since the Bible teaches a “first resurrection” in *Revelation 20:5-6*, it naturally follows that there are at least two resurrections. Notice that I was very careful to call the two resurrections two types of resurrections. That is because the FIRST RESURRECTION is a multi-phased resurrection that covers a number of events including the pre-tribulation rapture of all the dead saints from righteous Abel to the dead and living saints that are taken up in *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18* and *1 Corinthians 15:50-58*. The rapture of *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18* and *1 Corinthians 15:50-58* includes all dead Old Testament and New Testament saints and all living New Testament saints at the time the rapture takes place. That FIRST RESURRECTION also includes the dead and martyred saints that die during the tribulation following the pre-tribulation rapture of the saints. The FIRST RESURRECTION also includes the two witnesses who are murdered and lie dead in the streets for 3½ days in *Revelation 11:7-12*. A word about saints is necessary here. The word saint occurs at least 101 times in the Bible. It applies equally to both dead and living Old Testament and New Testament saints.

Perhaps the best way to explain the two resurrections is this way: the “first resurrection” is a resurrection unto eternal life in heaven whereas the “second resurrection” is a resurrection unto eternal death in the lake of fire. The “second resurrection” is eternally bound to the second death and the lake of fire in *Revelation 20:11-15: specifically verse 14*. How is that the “second resurrection” can be eternally bound to death? It is because those who are raised from the dead are still dead in their trespasses and sin when they stand before the Great White Throne Judgment. We will distinguish between the “first resurrection” and the “second resurrection” when we document it from three different passages of Scripture in a few minutes. The term “**resurrection**” always has to do with the **body** — not the soul and spirit. This is because only the **body** dies. All accounts in the Word of God concerning resurrection, whether it be that of Christ, of Lazarus, of the dead saints of *Matthew 27:51-52*, or of the Rapture, refer to the body. It is critical that we understand that it is a literal resurrection of the body because of the heresy of Bible correcting heretics like Westcott of Westcott and Hort fame who taught that the Lord Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead in his literal body, but was only spiritually resurrected from the dead. That is an outright denial of every post

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resurrection appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ in his physical body with his nail pierced hands. It is also reflected in Westcott's heretical Bible translation work. According to 1 *Corinthians 15:12-21*, if Christ did not rise from the dead, then we have no hope of our own resurrection. Let us dive deeper into the doctrine of two resurrections.

I. THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION

The sect of the Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection, (that's why they were "Sad U See!") But the resurrection is a Bible doctrine — mentioned from Genesis through The Revelation.

A. Old Testament Proof Of The Resurrection.

1. Job Believed In Christ's Resurrection And His Own.
See: *Job 19:25-27.*

25 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 19:25-27*

2. David Prophesied Christ's Resurrection And His Own.
See: *Psalms 16:9,10.* A double prophecy.

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. 10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. *Psalms 16:9-10*

3. The Prophets Looked For A Resurrection.
See: *Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2; Hosea 13:14.*

19 Thy dead *men* shall live, *together with* my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew *is as* the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. *Isaiah 26:19*

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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. *Daniel 12:2*

14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes. *Hosea 13:14*

4. **Abraham Believed God Could Raise The Dead.**

See: *Genesis 22:5; Hebrews 11:19.*

5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. *Genesis 22:5*

19 Accounting that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. *Hebrews 11:19*

5. **Several Accounts Of Resurrections Are Given.**

See: *I Kings 17:17-24; II Kings 4:32-35; 13:21.*

17 And it came to pass after these things, *that* the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. 18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? 19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. 20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? 21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. 22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto

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his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. 24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou *art* a man of God, *and* that the word of the LORD in thy mouth *is* truth. *1 Kings 17:17-24*

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, *and* laid upon his bed. 33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD. 34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. 35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. *2 Kings 4:32-35*

21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band *of men*; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet. *2 Kings 13:21*

B. New Testament Proof Of The Resurrection.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ Taught A Resurrection.

See: *John 5:21,28,29; John 11:23-26.*

21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth *them*; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. *John 5:21,28-29*

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that

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believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? *John 11:23-26*

2. **The Apostle Paul Expounded The Resurrection.**
See: *I Corinthians 15* is the “resurrection chapter” of the Bible.

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 11 Therefore whether *it were* I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed. 12 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. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this

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life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. 29 Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead? 30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? 31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die. 33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. 34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame. 35 But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? 36 *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*: 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. 39 All flesh *is* not the same flesh: but *there is* one *kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, *and* another of birds. 40 *There are* also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the

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terrestrial *is* another. 41 *There is* one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for *one* star differeth from *another* star in glory. 42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. 48 As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? 56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. 57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. *I Corinthians 15:1-58*

3. The Apostle John Saw The Two Resurrections.

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See: Revelation 20:4-6,13,14.

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. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. 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. 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. *Revelation 20:4-6,13-14*

4. **Christ Raised People From The Dead.**

See: John 11:43; Luke 8:52-55; Matthew 27:52.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. *John 11:43*

52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. 53 And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. 54 And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. 55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. *Luke 8:52-55*

52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, *Matthew 27:52*

5. **Christ Himself Was Raised From The Dead.**

See: Acts 2:32; 4:10; Romans 1:4; 4:25; I Corinthians 15:4-8; etc.

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are

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witnesses. *Acts 2:32*

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole. *Acts 4:10*

4 And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: *Romans 1:4*

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. *Romans 4:25*

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. *1 Corinthians 15:4-8*

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

The importance of the Christian's resurrection is seen in that of the Lord Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Christ is both important and essential because:

A. It Declares His Death To Have Been Of Redeeming Value.

If Christ had not risen, we would never have known if His death was sufficient to save us. See: *1 Corinthians 15:17*.

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins. *1 Corinthians 15:17*

B. It Declares The Extent Of Power Available To Us.

Resurrection power (the greatest power there is) is that which God makes available to the believer in his daily walk. See: *Romans 1:4; Philipians 3:10a; 1 Corinthians 15:58*.

4 And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the

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spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: *Romans 1:4*

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; *Philippians 3:10*

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. *1 Corinthians 15:58*

C. It Declares The Fact Of Our Own Resurrection.

See: *1 Corinthians 15:22.*

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. *1 Corinthians 15:22*

The only credence for the Christian's faith is the empty tomb.

III. THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION

A. It Is Literal And Bodily.

In detailing the resurrection in *1 Corinthians 15*, the Word of God makes it clear it refers to the body of man. See: *verses 37,38,40,44.*

37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*: 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. 40 *There are* also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. *1 Corinthians 15:37-38,40,44*

B. It Is Universal.

In general terms, the resurrection applies to all men, believers and unbelievers. All shall be raised. See: *John 5 :28,29; Acts 24:15.*

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. *John 5:28-29*

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15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. *Acts 24:15*

C. It Is Two-Fold.

In specific terms, the resurrection is in two distinct stages:

1. The Resurrection Of The Just.

See: *Luke 14:14.*

14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. *Luke 14:14*

2. The Resurrection Of The Unjust.

See: *John 5:29b; Acts 24:15.*

From the Book of The Revelation, it is evident these two phases of the resurrection are NOT simultaneous, but are separated each side of the Millennium. See: *Revelation 20:5.*

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

IV. THE ORDER OF THE RESURRECTION

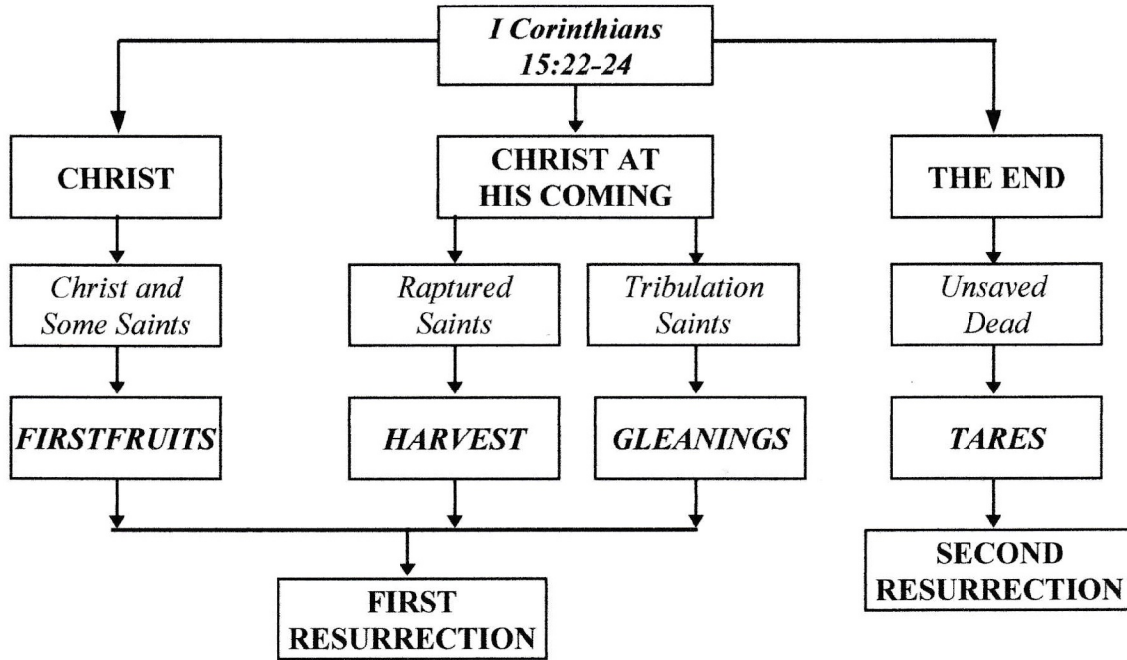
I Corinthians 15:22-24 suggests a definite order in the resurrection — not only that of the first and second resurrection, but an order within the first resurrection. The first resurrection of the righteous dead is likened to the laws of a Jewish harvest, and is in 3 distinct stages.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. *I Corinthians 15:22-24*

Note the following diagram concerning the two resurrections:

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A. The First Fruits.

The Lord Jesus Christ represents the ‘first fruits’ of the first resurrection.
See: *I Corinthians 15:23b*.

Included in this stage are the saints who arose at the time of the crucifixion —
Matthew 27:52,53.

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. *Matthew 27:52-53*

B. The Harvest.

This is the major stage of the first resurrection, and corresponds to ‘The Rapture.’
See: *I Corinthians 15:23c*.

C. The Gleanings.

The Bible teaches the salvation of many during the Great Tribulation — *Revelation 7:9-14*. Multitudes will also be slain.

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could
number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood
before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and
palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying,

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Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. *Revelation 7:9-14*

These saints will consist of believing Jews and Gentiles — *Revelation 14:3*. According to *Revelation 20:4*, both raptured saints and tribulation saints will reign with Christ during the Millennium.

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. *Revelation 14:3*

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. *Revelation 20:4*

The actual time of the resurrection of these tribulation saints is difficult to determine. *Revelation 6:9-11* suggests it will be a definite time, though *Revelation 7:9,10* sees them at the throne.

9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it

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was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. *Revelation 6:9-11*

V. THE BODY RECEIVED IN THE RESURRECTION

Since the resurrection involves the body, of interest is the nature of the resurrection body.

A. The Resurrection Body Of The Believer.

The Bible indicates several facts concerning our resurrected bodies:

1. A Redeemed Body.

See: *Romans 8:23.*

Romans 8:23

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Our resurrection body is our present body refashioned, renovated, and repaired — *Philippians 3:20,21.*

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:
21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. *Philippians 3:20-21*

A seed of corn, when planted, yields similar seeds of corn. Our present corruptible bodies shall be planted in death, but shall be raised incorruptible — *I Corinthians 15:42,53.*

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. *I Corinthians 15:42,53*

2. A Glorified Body.

See: *I Corinthians 15:43; II Corinthians 5:1-5.*

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43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: *1 Corinthians 15:43*

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. 5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. *2 Corinthians 5:1-5*

3. **A Christ-Like Body.**

See: *1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:21.*

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. *1 John 3:2*

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. *Philippians 3:21*

Our glorified resurrection bodies will have similar characteristics to the resurrection body of Christ.

a. **Recognizable** — *Luke 24:31.*

31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. *Luke 24:31*

b. **Touchable** — *Luke 24:39; John 20:27.*

39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I

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myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. *Luke 24:39*

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. *John 20:27*

c. **Unlimited** — *John 20:19.*

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. *John 20:19*

d. **Able To Eat** — *Luke 24:42,43; John 21:12.*

42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took it, and did eat before them. *Luke 24:42-43*

12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. *John 21:12*

e. **Able To Vanish** — *Luke 24:31.*

31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. *Luke 24:31*

B. The Resurrection Body Of The Unbeliever.

Little is said in the Word of God about the resurrected body of the unbeliever.

Matthew 5:29,30 indicates the body will be a corrupt one, subject to the pains and torments of the second death.

29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee:

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for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. 30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. *Matthew 5:29-30*

Now let us dig deeper into the **SECOND RESURRECTION** and the **JUDGMENTS** associated with both the first and the second resurrections.

As noted in our previous discussion, the doctrine of the resurrection is one of the great subjects of the Bible. As we follow the doctrine of the resurrection through our Bibles we are enlightened with progressively more details concerning it. The details of the resurrection are progressive — beginning with a simple statement of fact in the Old Testament and concluding with a full exposition in the new Testament. Herman Hoyt documents the progressive nature of the Biblical revelation concerning the resurrection as follows: ¹ He states that it is **IMPLIED** in *Deuteronomy 32:39*; *Exodus 3:6*, and *Matthew 22:32* which state:

39 See now that I, *even I, am* he, and *there is* no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: *neither is there any* that can deliver out of my hand. *Deuteronomy 32:39*

6 Moreover he said, I *am* the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. *Exodus 3:6*

Matthew 22:32

32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Hoyt states that it is **REVEALED** in *Job 14:13-15*, *Job 19:25-26*, *Psalms 16:10-11*, *Psalms 17:14-15*, *Psalms 49:14-15*, *Psalms 73:24*, *Isaiah 25:7-8*, *Isaiah 26:19-20*, *Isaiah 53:10*, *Jeremiah 31:15-17*, *Daniel 12:2*, *Hosea 6:1-3*, and *Hosea 13:14* which we now quote:

13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!
14 If a man die, shall he live *again*? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. 15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands. *Job 14:13-15*

¹Hoyt, H. A. **The End Times**. Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1981: pp. 194-6.

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25 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: *Job 19:25-26*

10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore. *Psalm 16:10-11*

14 From men *which are* thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, *which have* their portion in *this* life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid *treasure*: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their *substance* to their babes. 15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness. *Psalm 17:14-15*

14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling. 15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah. *Psalm 49:14-15*

24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory. *Psalm 73:24*

7 And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken *it*. *Isaiah 25:7-8*

19 Thy dead *men* shall live, *together with* my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew *is as* the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. 20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. *Isaiah 26:19-20*

10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. *Isaiah 53:10*

15 Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, *and* bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they *were* not. 16 Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they

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shall come again from the land of the enemy. 17 And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border. *Jeremiah 31:15-17*

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. *Daniel 12:2*

Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. 2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. 3 Then shall we know, *if* we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter *and* former rain unto the earth. *Hosea 6:1-3*

14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes. *Hosea 13:14*

Hoyt states that it is **CONFIRMED** in *I Kings 17:17-24*, *II Kings 4:32-35*, *II Kings 13:21*, and *Jonah 2:1, 2* which read as follows:

17 And it came to pass after these things, *that* the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. 18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? 19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. 20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? 21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. 22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. 24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou *art* a man of God, *and* that the word of the LORD in thy mouth *is* truth. *I Kings 17:17-24*

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, *and* laid upon his bed. 33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD. 34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. 35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. *2 Kings*

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4:32-35

21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band *of men*; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet. *2 Kings 13:21*

¹Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, 2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, *and thou heardest my voice. Jonah 2:1-2*

Hoyt states that it is **AMPLIFIED** in *John 2:19-21* and *John 5:28-29* where we read the following:

19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? 21 But he spake of the temple of his body. *John 2:19-21*

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. *John 5:28-29*

Hoyt states that it is **CERTIFIED** in *Luke 7:12-15*, *Luke 8:41-42*, *Luke 8:49-56*; and *John 11:41-44* where the Bible reads:

12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. 14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare *him* stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. 15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. *Luke 7:12-15*

41 And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: 42 For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him. 49 While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's *house*, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. 50 But when Jesus heard *it*, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. 51 And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. 52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. 53 And they laughed him to scorn,

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knowing that she was dead. 54 And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. 55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. 56 And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done. *Luke 8:41-42,49-56*

41 Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up *his* eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. 43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. 44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. *John 11:41-44*

Hoyt states that it is **DEMONSTRATED** in *1 Corinthians 15:20*; *Acts 26:23*; and *Romans 6:9* where the Bible states:

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. *1 Corinthians 15:20*

23 That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles. *Acts 26:23*

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. *Romans 6:9*

Finally Hoyt states that it is **FULLY REVEALED** in *1 Corinthians 15:12-20* where it is written:

12 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. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. *1 Corinthians 15:12-20*

That concludes the ideas derived from Hoyt's work. Let us continue on.

When studying the doctrine of the resurrection, there are two important facts to keep in mind: *first*, resurrection always refers to the human body as opposed to the false teaching of "soul sleep" by

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Seventh-Day Adventists, Christadelphians, and so forth, who believe the resurrection refers to the awakening of the soul from the grave); and *second*, the resurrection has two distinct stages as we have previously discussed.

Some Scriptures speak of the resurrection generally, while others distinguish the stages. When the Bible speaks generally, it most often uses the expression “resurrection of the dead;” when the Bible speaks specifically, it often uses the expression “resurrection from the dead.”

The purpose of this second session on the two resurrections is to study the second stage of the resurrection of the dead — called the **second resurrection** which is implied from *Revelation 20:5-6*. The second resurrection concerns only the unsaved dead — those who die without ever having put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. 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. *Revelation 20:5-6*

If you're born once, you'll die twice!
If you're born twice, you can only die once!

I. THE MEANING OF “DEATH” IN THE BIBLE

Too often, the ‘every-day’ concept of death (“the end,” “six-feet under,” etc.) colors our right understanding of the Biblical teaching. Regardless of what anyone may think or feel at the graveside, death is not the end.

A. Death Is A Separation.

In the Bible, death means “separation”

1. Physical Death.

This is the separation of the soul and spirit from the body. See: *Genesis 35:18; John 19:30,33; and Ecclesiastes 12:7* which we quote:

18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin. *Genesis 35:18*

30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. 33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: *John 19:30,33*

7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and

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the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.
Ecclesiastes 12:7

2. Spiritual Death.

This is the spiritual separation of natural man from God and a result of sin — We see that in *Ephesians 2:1,5; Luke 15:18-19, 32; I Timothy 5:6; and John 5:24* where the Bible Declares this:

And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) *Ephesians 2:1,5*

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found. *Luke 15:18-19,32*

6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. *I Timothy 5:6*

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. *John 5:24*

3. Eternal Death.

This is the eternal separation of the lost from God. See: below.

B. What Happens When A Man Dies In Christ?

Death is no respecter of persons, and Christians die just as often as the unsaved. However, the difference is seen at the end of the way.

According to *Luke 16:22*, whereas the lifeless body of the saint is returned to the dust his soul and spirit are carried by the angels into the presence of the Lord. *Philippians 1:23* and *II Corinthians 5:6, 8* confirm this. Let us read those passages now:

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels

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into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; *Luke 16:22*

23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: *Philippians 1:23*

6 Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. *2 Corinthians 5:6-8*

The deceased believer is consciously in the presence of Christ, but will not receive his new body until the Rapture.

C. What Happens When A Man Dies Without Christ?

According to the true story found in *Luke 16:19-31*, the soul of an unsaved man passes immediately into Hell where it remains in conscious and constant torment. We read of all his senses functioning in this awful place. The Bible says this in *Luke 16:19-31*:

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. *Luke 16:19-31*

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His physical body, like that of the believer's, also returns to the dust.

There is a differences in Hell before and after the resurrection of Christ, and between Hell and the Lake of Fire which we have talked about quite extensively in our preaching and teaching.

II. THE FIRST AND SECOND RESURRECTIONS DISTINGUISHED

The following table shows the basic distinctions between the first and second resurrections. *Revelation 20:5* reveals there is a considerable time difference between the two resurrections — 1,000 years to be exact. That this is not unusual is demonstrated by what the Bible teaches concerning the first resurrection, where “Christ the first-fruits” (*I Corinthians 15:23b*) and the Rapture (*I Corinthians 15:23c*) are themselves separated by almost 1,970 years thus far. Note what the Bible says in *Revelation 20:5* and *1 Corinthians 15:23*:

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

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. *1 Corinthians 15:23*

<u>FIRST RESURRECTION</u>		<u>SECOND RESURRECTION</u>
to everlasting life	<i>Daniel 12:2</i>	to everlasting contempt
of life	<i>John 5:28, 29</i>	of damnation
of the just	<i>Acts 24:15</i>	of the unjust

Daniel 12:2, John 5:28-29, and Acts 24:15 state the following:

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. *Daniel 12:2*

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. *John 5:28-29*

15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. *Acts 24:15*

III. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

The second resurrection is coincidental with the judgment of the Great White Throne — *Revelation 20:11-15*. All the (wicked) dead will stand before God at a literal judgment after a literal resurrection, *verse 12*. The Bible says this in *Revelation 20:11-15*:

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11 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.
Revelation 20:11-15

A. The Resurrection.

After spending up to thousands of years in the “remand” torments of Hell, every man, woman, and child of years will be brought before their Creator and judged.

This resurrection involves two things:

1. A Body.

The sea will give up its dead (Gk.. ‘nekrov”;;’ “nekros” = corpse) — *verse 13a.*

Death (‘qavnato”’, “thanatos” = physical dying personified, as in *I Corinthians 15:55a*) will give up its dead — *verse 13b.*

55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? *1 Corinthians 15:55*

We can only assume that these second-resurrection bodies will be of a corruptible nature. There is no promise of a glorified body given.

2. A Reunited Soul And Spirit.

Hell = the region of the dead) will give up its dead. This refers to those in the same condition as the rich man in Luke 16. It was his soul and spirit which ‘woke up’ in Hell — his body received a (no doubt lavish) funeral.

At the end of the judgment, death and hell (i.e. all the unsaved) will be cast into the everlastingly (*Matthew 25:41, 46*) unquenchable (*Matthew 3:12*) Lake of Fire — *Revelation 20:15*. We quote *Matthew 25:41,46; Matthew 3:12; and Revelation 20:15:*

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41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. *Matthew 25:41,46*

12 Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. *Matthew 3:12*

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:15*

B. The Judgment.

1. The Time Of The Judgment.

- a. After the Millennial kingdom of Christ — *Revelation 20:7a.*
- b. After the final rebellion of the nations — *Revelation 20:8 -10.*
- c. After the dissolution of the present creation. Look to *Revelation 20:11; Revelation 21:1; and II Peter 3:10-12* where we hear the following:

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11 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. *Revelation 20:7-11*

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¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. *Revelation 21:1*

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

¹¹ *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, ¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? *2 Peter 3:10–12*

2. The Place Of The Judgment.

Exactly where, we are not told. Not within the confines of the atmospheric or stellar heavens, nor on the earth. See: *Revelation 20:11*.

3. The Judge In The Judgment.

It will be the Lord Jesus Christ — *John 5:22; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:16*. Not one sinner will be able to look Him in the eye and claim that no one loved them, that no one cared for them, or that the way of escape was not provided for them. We read the following in *John 5:22; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:16*:

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: *John 5:22*

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead. *Acts 17:31*

16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel. *Romans 2:16*

4. The Defendants In The Judgment.

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The dead — *Revelation 20:12*. These would be the “rest of the dead” of *Revelation 20:5*, i.e. those who ‘missed out’ on the first resurrection because of their unregenerate condition. *Revelation 20:5,12* states:

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. 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. *Revelation 20:5,12*

5. The Nature Of The Judgment.

At this great day of judgment, the “books will be opened” (*Revelation 20:12*). These books will no doubt include:

- The Book of God : *John 12:48*:

48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. *John 12:48*

- The Lamb’s Book of Life *Revelation 20:12, 15*;and *Revelation 21:27*:

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. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:12,15*

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life. *Revelation 21:27*

- The Book of Works: *Revelation 20:12*:

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- The Book of Words: *Matthew 12:37*:

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. *Matthew 12:37*
- The Book of Excuses: *Luke 14:18* and *Luke 19:22*.

18 And they all with one *consent* began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. *Luke 14:18*

22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, *thou* wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: *Luke 19:22*
- The Book of Conscience: *Romans 2:15-16*:

15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. 16 *Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. *Romans 2:15-16*
- The Book of Memory: *Luke 16:25*:

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. *Luke 16:25*
- The Book of Nature: *Luke 19:40*:

40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. *Luke 19:40*
- The Book of History: *Matthew 11:23-24*:

23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the

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mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee. *Matthew 11:23-24*

Every lost person will “have their day in court” — they will receive their “fair trial!” The problem is all are guilty and condemned already because of the one sin God is unable to forgive: *John 3:18*:

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. *John 3:18*

The purpose of the Great White Throne judgment is not to determine eligibility for Heaven or Hell, but to determine degrees of everlasting punishment depending on works. The Bible states the following in *Matthew 23:14*; *Romans 2:6*; and *Matthew 11:20-24*:

14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. *Matthew 23:14*

6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: *Romans 2:6*

20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: 21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, 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. 22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. 23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

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Matthew 11:20-24

6. The Outcome Of The Judgment.

The saddest words that will ever be spoken — “I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” See *Matthew 7:23* and *Luke 13:27*:

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. *Matthew 7:23*

27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. *Luke 13:27*

There is no hint given in the Bible that people will recognize one another in this awful place. The presence of God will be absent. The only known company will be Satan, the Man of Sin, the False Prophet, and the angels that sinned. *II Thessalonians 1:9* states this:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; *2 Thessalonians 1:9*

C. The Punishment.

The Lake of Fire is described as:

1. Everlasting.

That everlasting nature is described in *Matthew 18:8; 25:41, 46; II Thessalonians 1:9; Jude 13; Revelation 14:11; 19:3; 20:10* as follows:

8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast *them* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. *Matthew 18:8*

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. *Matthew 25:41,46*

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13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. *Jude 13*

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. *Revelation 14:11*

3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. *Revelation 19:3*

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. *Revelation 20:10*

2. Burning

The word “gehenna” is an Aramaic form of the Hebrew word *gehinnom*, “the valley of Hinnom.” This alludes to the ever-burning garbage dump outside of Jerusalem, (which also was used for the pagan ritual of burning children alive. The valley of Hinnom is described by the Bible in *II Kings 23:10* and *Jeremiah 7:31* with the following words:

10 And he defiled Topheth, which *is* in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech. *2 Kings 23:10*

31 And they have built the high places of Tophet, which *is* in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded *them* not, neither came it into my heart. *Jeremiah 7:31*

The Lake of Fire is God’s eternal garbage dump — *Luke 12:5; Mark 9:47, 48.*

5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. *Luke 12:5*

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47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:
48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. *Mark 9:47-48*

3. Totally Dark.

That darkness is described as follows in *Jude 13* and *2 Peter 2:17*:

13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. *Jude 13*

17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. *2 Peter 2:17*

D. The “Great White Throne” Judgment And The “Throne Of Glory” Judgment Contrasted.

Those who teach a general resurrection equate the judgment of Revelation 20 with that of *Matthew 25:31 -46*. Not a few have preached from *Matthew 25* to teach that entrance into Heaven’s glory will not be decided until the last great day of judgment.

These are two distinct judgments, as the following comparison shows:

THRONE OF GLORY

Matthew 25:31-46

Occurs after Christ’s return — 31

Living nations judged — 32

On the earth — *Matthew 24:30*

No books consulted

Two classes of subjects — 33

Basis: treatment of Jews — 40, 45

Entrance into kingdom for some

GREAT WHITE THRONE

Revelation 20:11-15

Occurs after millennium — 7

The dead judged — 12

Earth is dissolved — 11

Books are opened — 12

Only the wicked judged — 12

Basis: name not in Book of Life

Entrance into Lake of Fire for all

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31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me. 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. *Matthew 25:31-46*

11 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. *Revelation 20:11-15*

Some may argue that these two judgments are one and the same based on the absolute finality of the outcome (“everlasting fire/punishment, life eternal” — *verses 41, 46*). However, hell (as it is right now) can be considered as everlasting because there is no escape (*Luke 16:26*), and because it and all its contents will eventually be

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cast into the lake of fire (*Revelation 20:15*). Furthermore, the new birth (and its resultant “life eternal” — *Matthew 25:46b*) is the unchanging qualification for any man to enter the kingdom — whether it be the present form of the kingdom of God or the coming Millennial kingdom of God.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. *Luke 16:26*

IV. THE JUDGMENT OF ANGELS

We assume the judgment of angels immediately precedes or coincides with the Great White Throne judgment — based on the context of *Revelation 20:7-10* where this is written:

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. *Revelation 20:7-10*

The judgment of the angels that sinned in Satan’s pre-Genesis 3 rebellion is declared in *Jude 6* and *II Peter 2:4*. Evidently church members will take part in this judgment — *I Corinthians 6:3*. Those passages read as follows:

6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. *Jude 6*

4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; *2 Peter 2:4*

3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? *1 Corinthians 6:3*

Note: Contrary to popular opinion, *Revelation 20:10* is the first time Satan is mentioned as being in ‘Hell’.