

Parson to Person
1 Corinthians 15
(The Resurrection) – Part 17
(The Millennial Age)

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment 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 worshiped 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. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4–6).

After the Great Tribulation, the saints who were martyred under the rule of the Antichrist will be physically resurrected. In fact, not only will these saints be raised, but along with them, the saints from the dispensations prior to the Church Age.

“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:1–3).

This passage requires a little forensic work:

- 1) The *“time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time”* is the Tribulation.
- 2) The *“at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book”* speaks to the resurrection of all the pre-Church Age saints who will be raised up together with the Tribulation saints.
- 3) The *“many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life”* speaks of the believer’s resurrection.
- 4) The *“some to shame and everlasting contempt”* are those who have rebelled against the Lord and are unsaved/unbelievers. They will not be resurrected until after the Millennium.

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 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. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:11–15).

At the Rapture the physical resurrection of only the Church Age saints will occur. Therefore, by the end of the Tribulation, all the saints, from all time periods, will have been resurrected. Therefore, we learn that all the saints, from all time periods, are participants in the *“first resurrection.”*

The bodies of all unbelievers—“*anyone not found written in the Book of Life*”—will remain in their “graves” until after the 1000-year reign of Jesus. Their “resurrection” to judgment is actually referred to as the “*second death*.”

The insight herein shows us:

- 1) That all the saints will reign with Christ for the 1000 years.
- 2) That all those who *reign* with Him during the Millennial Kingdom will be immortal.
- 3) That there will be mortals on the earth during the Millennial Reign.
- 4) That the mortals who live through the Millennial Reign will be provided the opportunity to continue life with Christ or suffer the eternal consequences of the “*second death*.”
- 5) That God is gracious throughout every Dispensation but that His grace is manifestly extended to the greatest degree during the Millennium.
- 6) That those who refuse to serve the Lord deserve every bit of the “*everlasting contempt*” measured out against them.

I must say, it is nice to know that I am among those who will experience the “first resurrection” and reign with Christ. You?

I love you all,
Pastor Paul