

Parson to Person
1 Corinthians 15
(The Resurrection) – Part 18
(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).

As believers who trust the Lord and take His word seriously, we must embrace the facts concerning the future aspects of the coming Millennial Kingdom.

With this in mind, please allow me to have a little fun and present a few arguments in support of Pre-millennialism:

- 1) The Bible declares that Christ is coming back to rule and reign in Jerusalem for a literal 1000 years.
- 2) The Bible declares that all believers will reign with Christ during the thousand years.
- 3) The Bible declares that all believers will be physically resurrected to reign with Him.
- 4) The Bible declares that “living” believers will be transformed into glorified bodies prior to our reign with Him.

- 5) There are many believers who have died and have yet to be resurrected.

Therefore, we know that before the Millennial Reign, there must be a physical resurrection and overall transformation of all “saints” from every dispensation.” Yet, the timing of the resurrection is of some confusion. Therefore, below you will find an itemization of the five phases of the believer’s physical resurrection. This “resurrection” is also known as the *“first resurrection.”*

The Chronological order of the 5 Phases of the First Resurrection

1) Jesus

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him” (Matthew 28:1–8).

2) Many Earlier Dispensation Saints In and Around Jerusalem—Those from Adam to Jesus

*“Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of **the saints** who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many”* (Matthew 27:51–54).

3) The Church Age Saints

“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. Therefore, comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).

4) The Tribulation Witnesses

“Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here.’ And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them” (Revelation 11:1-12).

5) Saints – At the Second Coming

a. Pre-Church Age Saints

“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; 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” (Daniel 12:1–3).

b. Tribulation Saints

“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” (Revelation 20:4–6).

With these five phases of the *“first resurrection”* in mind, we note that no *“saints”* are omitted.

Therefore, if all five phases of the *“first resurrection”* have not yet occurred, then we must accept that the *“resurrection”* of the believer must be one or more of the following:

- 1) Allegory—and there is no physical resurrection of the saints.
- 2) Literal—and there will be a physical resurrection of the saints.
- 3) Past—and therefore we are foolishly deceived into thinking that when we die there is a hope of future resurrection.
- 4) Future—and the physical resurrection has not yet occurred.

Now, if the Scriptures tell us that *“we shall all be changed,”* that there is a *“resurrection,”* that we will *“live and reign with Christ for 1000 years,”* and the *“resurrection”* has not yet occurred, then we should expect to be resurrected and reign with Christ—at some time in the future.

Therefore,

- 1) We believe the Scriptures.
- 2) We do not believe that the literal language of the Scripture should be allegorized.
- 3) We believe the Scriptures are reliable.
- 4) We believe that God declares the end from the beginning.
- 5) We do not believe God has lied.
- 6) We believe God can be trusted.
- 7) We do not believe God is playing games with us.
- 8) We are futurists—and look for a glorious resurrection and new beginning.

I love you all,
Pastor Paul