

END TIMES



End Times (Student Lesson Two)– Resurrection Doctrine, Body Transformation Doctrine

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Resurrection Doctrine Illustrated

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

I Corinthians 15:21 – For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

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

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

(I Corinthians 15:20)— The Apostle refers to Christ's resurrection as an accomplished work, affirming that He has risen from the dead. The resurrection was not an event to be celebrated at some point in the future; it was a victory to be celebrated in the present moment. He is the resurrection's first fruit, the first and only to rise from the dead and remain alive as a testimony to others that will follow.

(I Corinthians 15:21- 22) Adamic sin caused the curse of death, which is eternal separation from God. One man's sin affected all mankind, and the work of one man resolved the curse. Adam's sin brought death to all men (eternal separation from God), but all men will be made alive by the resurrection of Christ.

(I Corinthians 15:23)— There are three different resurrections mentioned in the Bible: the resurrection of Christ, the resurrection of the tribulation witnesses (called the "first" resurrection in Revelations 20:4-7), and the final resurrection to judge the living and the dead (known as the second resurrection in Revelations 20:11-15). Each of these resurrections occurs in a specific order.

The resurrection of Christ comes first and is independent of the other two resurrections.

Christ is the "first fruit" of the resurrection, and the other two resurrections are only possible because of Him. Without the resurrection of Christ, there would be no basis for the other two resurrections.

The First Resurrection

Revelation 20:1 – And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 20:2 – And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Revelation 20:3 – And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that, he must be loosed a little season.

(Revelation 20:1-3) – “The Angel and the Great chain” – the Angel is identified as “Abaddon” in Revelation 9:11, a fallen star (Angelic) empowered to unleash scorpions and locusts for five months to torment man and nature except for the Tribulation witnesses sealed in their foreheads by God. The fallen Angel’s new assignment is to take “Lucifer,” the deceiver, into custody, binding him for 1000 years in the bottomless pit. The pit is a place for a time-limited term of punishment. It is not a final termination for the Great deceiver of men.

A seal was set upon Lucifer. Seals retained judgments reserved for future execution that could not be changed or altered. Lucifer was incarcerated for one thousand years, relinquishing his ability to roam to and fro throughout the earth (Job 1:7) to allow the Millennial Reign of Christ to establish an era of uninterrupted peace. When the term of incarceration ends, he will be released for a little season.

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

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

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

(Revelation 20:4) – Two groups are identified in Heaven: twenty-four Elders seated in thrones of Judgment (*Rev. 4:4), and the sealed witnesses preached the gospel during the first half of the tribulation period. (*Rev. 7:3-4)

The martyred witnesses will be resurrected and privileged to reign with the resurrected Christ for one thousand years.

(Revelation 20:5) – The resurrected witnesses are noted to be the first resurrection, which implies the first in succession order for others to come. The term *first* used here is from the Greek word “*protos*,” which means foremost in time, place, or order. Using the word first in this context implies that at least one more event must follow. The martyred witnesses are a precursor to others who refuse to receive the mark of the beast and remain steadfast in their faith.

The rest of the dead will be awakened at the end of the millennial reign.

(Revelation 20:6) – God's blessing awaits all who remain faithful to Him, and the second death, the death of judgment, will have no power over them. The resurrected witnesses are elevated to become priests of God because they will reign alongside the resurrected Christ and Great High Priest.

Revelation 20:7 – And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Revelation 20:8 – 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.

Revelation 20:9 – 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.

Revelation 20:10 – 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) – When the thousand years of peace expire, Lucifer-Satan will be loosed and released to return to a limited portion of the earth. Although limited in where he can travel, He will go out to deceive Gog and Magog, figurative nations against God. The innumerable anti-God nations will be gathered in a single location to contend with the resurrected saints of God residing in the beloved Holy City of Jerusalem.

The anti-God nations will be devoured by fire falling from the heavens, a sign of purging the earth of the last vestige of human life that is opposed to their creator. The “devil” that deceived them will be cast into the lake of Sulphur brimstone accompanied by the beast and the false prophet. These deceivers will remain in a constant purging fire, removing the influence of deception from God’s creation, which has existed since the creation of man.