

The Seven Resurrections of the New Testament

The resurrection of every person, good or evil, is assuredly taught by the Holy Scriptures.

A general, universal, simultaneous resurrection, taking place at an appointed, specific moment of time, is absolutely without scriptural foundation or authority.

Several passages of scripture viewed in the abstract and separated from other passages seem to indicate a “general resurrection”. For example:

Daniel 12:1-3 (KJV)

- 1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.
- 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.
- 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

John 5:26-29 (KJV)

- 26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;
- 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.
- 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.

Thorough investigation of every scripture bearing upon the subject certainly indicates the fact various resurrections take place, each separated from the other by an interval of time and differing as to subjects, character, and results of the resurrection.

Revelation 20:4-6 (KJV)

- 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.

Luke 20:35-36 (KJV)

- 35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:
- 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

Luke 14:14 (KJV)

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

Heb 11:35 (KJV)

- 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

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1 Thes 4:16-17 (KJV)

- 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Phil 3:11 (KJV)

- 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Here are the seven resurrections found in the New Testament:

1. The Resurrection of Christ

Acts 2:31-32 (KJV)

- 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.
32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

1 Pet 1:3 (KJV)

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Pet 3:16 (KJV)

- 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

2. The “Out-Resurrection” from among the dead

Phil 3:11-12 (KJV)

- 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.
12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

3. The Resurrection of the earlier tribulation saints

Rev 7:9-14 (KJV)

- 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, 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.

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4. The Resurrection of the two witnesses

Rev 11:3-12 (KJV)

- 3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.
- 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.
- 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.
- 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.
- 7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.
- 8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.
- 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.
- 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.
- 11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.
- 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

5. The Resurrection of the One Hundred Forty Four Thousand

Rev 14:1-5 (KJV)

- 1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.
- 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:
- 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.
- 4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.
- 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

6. The First Resurrection (or “Former Resurrection”)

Rev 20:4-6 (KJV)

- 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.

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7. The Latter Resurrection

Rev 20:4-6 (KJV)

- 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.

Remember, we said that various resurrections take place, and each one is separated from the other by an interval of time and differing as to subjects, character, and results of the resurrection.

Let's look at the chart to study the characteristics, time, subjects, and destiny of those involved in these seven resurrections.

INTERPRETATION AND INSTRUCTION				
I. THE TITLE OF THE RESURRECTION	II. THE CHARACTER OF THE RESURRECTION	III. THE TIME OF THE RESURRECTION	IV. THE SUBJECTS OF THE RESURRECTION	V. THE DESTINY OF THOSE INCLUDED IN THE RESURRECTION
<p>1. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST: ACTS 2:31. 1 PET. 1:3. 1 PET. 3:18.</p>	<p>1. THE PHYSICAL RESURRECTION OF CHRIST: ACT. 1:3. LUKE 24:36-46. ACTS 2:31. ACTS 10:40-41. 1 COR. 15:3-8. REV. 1:18.</p> <p>2. A "FIRST FRUITS" RESURRECTION: 1 COR. 15:20, 23. ACTS 26:23.</p>	<p>1. A. D. 30: 2. "THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS" AFTER 'HIS DEATH AND BURIAL': MATT. 12:40. 16:21. 20:19. 1 COR. 15:3.</p>	<p>THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: "HIS SON"; "SON OF GOD"; "DAVID'S SEED"; "OUR LORD"; ROM. 1:3-4. 2 TIM. 2:8.</p>	<p>1. CHRIST ASCENDED ON HIGH: EPH. 4:8-9. 1 PET. 3:18, 22. 2. CHRIST EXALTED TO THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD: ACTS 2:31-33. EPH. 1:18-23. PHIL. 2:9-11. <i>STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER</i></p>
<p>2. THE "OUT-RESURRECTION FROM AMONG THE DEAD": PHIL. 3:11. (Greek "Ek Anastasis Ek Nekron")</p>	<p>1. A PHYSICAL RESURRECTION OF CERTAIN BELIEVERS OUT FROM AMONG THE MYRIADS WHO SLEEP IN THE DUST OF THE EARTH: 2. ALL REMAINING IN THE DUST OF THE EARTH WILL SO CONTINUE FOR A TIME:</p>	<p>AT THE EXACT MOMENT WHEN THE CHURCH WHICH IS "HIS BODY" IS MADE COMPLETE OR PERFECT: PHIL. 3:11-14.</p>	<p>THOSE ONLY WHO ARE MEMBERS OF "HIS BODY": EPH. 3:1-5. 4:11-16. 5:23. PHIL. 3:11-14. PHIL. 3:20. COL. 1:24-27. Cf. 1 THESS. 4:13-18.</p>	<p>1. "CALLED ON HIGH": PARTICIPATING IN A SPECIAL CALL—A PRIZE TERMED "GOD'S CALL ON HIGH"; 2. CHANGED—MADE LIKE HIMSELF: PHIL. 3:20-21. 3. APPEAR WITH HIM IN GLORY: COL. 3:1-4.</p>
<p>3. THE RESURRECTION OF THE EARLIER TRIBULATION SAINTS: REV. 7:9-14.</p>	<p>A PHYSICAL RESURRECTION OF CERTAIN MARTYRS—SAINTS WHO RISE AND ASCEND OUT OF THE PERIOD OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION: REV. 7:14. Cf. MATT. 24:21. JER. 30:5-7. DAN. 12:1-2.</p>	<p>1. AT SOME POINT OF TIME DURING THE PERIOD OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION; 2. A PERIOD SUBSEQUENT TO THE RESURRECTION OF THOSE WHO COMPRISE "HIS BODY";</p>	<p>THE EARLIER TRIBULATION SAINTS: A GODLY, SUFFERING, MARTYRED REMNANT: REV. 7:16. Cf. REV. 6:9-11. 7:4-8.</p>	<p>THIS COMPANY "SHALL SERVE GOD DAY AND NIGHT BEFORE HIS THRONE": REV. 7:15-17.</p>
<p>4. THE RESURRECTION OF THE TWO WITNESSES: REV. 11:3-12.</p>	<p>A PHYSICAL RESURRECTION OF TWO UNIDENTIFIED WITNESSES—SLAIN, UNBURIED, DISHONORED BY MEN—BUT REVIVED, RAISED AND EXALTED BY GOD TO HEAVEN: REV. 11:7-12.</p>	<p>IN THE MIDST OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION PERIOD: REV. 11:2.</p>	<p>THE TWO DIVINELY APPOINTED WITNESSES: REV. 11:3-7.</p>	<p>THE TWO WITNESSES ASCEND INTO HEAVEN IN A CLOUD: REV. 11:12.</p>
<p>5. THE RESURRECTION OF THE ONE HUNDRED, FORTY AND FOUR THOUSAND: REV. 14:1-5.</p>	<p>A PHYSICAL RESURRECTION OF A DISTINCT COMPANY OF REDEEMED, UNDEFILED, GUILTESS, FAULTLESS PERSONS WHO STAND STEADFAST THROUGHOUT THE GREAT TRIBULATION PERIOD: REV. 14:1-5. Note: v. 3.</p>	<p>PROBABLY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE CLOSE OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION:</p>	<p>THE ONE HUNDRED, FORTY, AND FOUR THOUSAND, A SEPARATED, DISTINCT COMPANY: REV. 14:1-5.</p>	<p>1. THE FATHER'S NAME TO BE WRITTEN IN THEIR FOREHEADS; 2. TO BE WITH THE LAMB; 3. A FIRST-FRUITS TO GOD AND THE LAMB: REV. 14:1-5.</p>
<p>6. "THE FIRST RESURRECTION" (Literally "The Former Resurrection"): REV. 20:4-6. Explanation: The term "FIRST" here is only in contrast with the resurrection occurring one thousand years later.</p>	<p>A PHYSICAL RESURRECTION, TERMED: 1. "THE 'BLESSED' RESURRECTION"; 2. "THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST"; 3. "THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE"; 4. "THE BETTER RESURRECTION"; REV. 20:4-6. LUKE 14:14. ACTS 24:15. DAN. 12:2-3. JOHN 5:29. HEB. 11:35.</p>	<p>AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST: REV. 20:4-6.</p>	<p>1. THE REMAINING RIGHTEOUS DEAD OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION PERIOD: REV. 20:4. 2. THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD OF THE AGES PRECEDING THE EARLIER RESURRECTIONS NOTED ABOVE: JOB 19:25-27. ISA. 26:19. DAN. 12:2-3. HOS. 13:14. JOHN 11:24.</p>	<p>1. LIVE AND REIGN WITH CHRIST A THOUSAND YEARS; 2. TO BE "KING-PRIESTS": REV. 20:4-6. Cf. EX. 19:6. 1 PET. 2:9. PSA. 49:14.</p>
<p>7. THE LATTER RESURRECTION: REV. 20:4-6.</p>	<p>A PHYSICAL RESURRECTION, TERMED: 1. "THE RESURRECTION OF THE UNJUST"; LUKE 14:14. ACTS 24:15. 2. "THE RESURRECTION TO SHAME AND CONTEMPT"; DAN. 12:2. 3. A RESURRECTION TO "DAMNATION": JOHN 5:29.</p>	<p>AT THE CLOSE OF THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST: REV. 20:5.</p>	<p>THE UNRIGHTEOUS DEAD OF ALL THE AGES: REV. 20:5, 11.</p>	<p>1. THE LAKE OF FIRE: REV. 20:11, 14, 15. 2. THE SECOND DEATH: REV. 20:14. Cf. 2 THESS. 1:7-9. REV. 21:8.</p>