

TWO RESURRECTIONS

Recently I was talking to a man about the doctrine of the resurrection. He was having a problem believing the Christian doctrine of the resurrection. He remarked that it was “a little too much to swallow.”

I acknowledged that it was quite a phenomenal doctrine to believe. The resurrection presents a picture of a full and complete life after death. I explained that at a funeral of a friend Jesus simplified it by saying, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)

I ask the man if he saw how Jesus simplified the doctrine of the resurrection and the question that Jesus asked. The man was ready to shut down the conversation when I asked, “If he knew that the Bible mentions Two Resurrections?”

This peaked his interest and reopened the discussion for another 30 minutes.

<p>We will study the doctrine of Two Resurrections by the following five points.</p>

1. **The doctrine of Two Resurrections involves two spiritual categories of the human race: saved and unsaved.**

- The resurrection of the **saved** is called the Resurrection of Life.
- The resurrection of the **unsaved** is called the Resurrection of Judgment.

“Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a **resurrection of life**, those who committed the evil deeds to a **resurrection of judgment**.” (John 5:28-29)

Which of these two resurrections a person will experience is directly related to believing or rejecting the grace salvation of the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; **John 11:25-26**).

“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:40)

2. **The resurrection of the saved is also called the First Resurrection while the resurrection of the unsaved is called the Second Death (Rev.20:5-6, 14-15).**

“Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the **first resurrection**, over these the **second death** has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him a thousand years.” (Rev.20:5-6)

The second resurrection will occur at the end of human history at the Great White Throne Judgment (GWTJ) (Rev.20:11-15). “And Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is **the second death, the lake of fire**. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the **book of life**, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Rev.20:14-15)

Those in the first resurrection will have their names written in the book of life - “He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.” (Rev.3:5) [Church of Sardis]

3. There is a dispensational order to the First Resurrection of the saved.

(1 Cor.15:20-23) – “But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His Coming.” (15:23)

- First order is Jesus Christ (1 Cor.15:20)
- Second order is Church age believers by Rapture (1 Cor.15:51-58)
- Third order is Jewish age believers at end of Tribulation Dan.12:13; John 5:28-29; 11:24-26)
- Final order is “rest of the dead” or Gentile age believers and Millennium age believers (Rev.20:4-5: 1 Cor.15:24). “The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the **first resurrection**.” (Rev.20:5)

4. There are five different ways the Bible describes the Second Resurrection of the unsaved.

- **First**, it is called the resurrection of Judgment (John 5:24-29).
- **Second**, it is called the resurrection of Eternal Fire Punishment (Matt.25:41, 46; Rev.20:10).
- **Third**, it is called the resurrection of the Wicked (Acts 24:15; Dan.12:2).
- **Fourth**, it is called the resurrection of the Second Death (Rev.20:6, 13-15).
- **Fifth**, it is called the resurrection of Disgrace and Everlasting contempt (Dan.12:2)

5. At the end of human history, all the unsaved will be removed from the place of Torment of Hades (Sheol) to stand before the GWTJ (Luke 16:19-31; Rev.20:5-6, 11-15).

“And I saw the dead, the great and small, standing before the throne, and **books** were opened; and another book was opened, which is the **book of life**; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the **books**, according to their deeds.” (Rev.20:12)

“And the rich man also died and was buried. And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, **being in torment**, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.” (Luke 16:22-23)

“And **death and Hades** gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds and **death and Hades** were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.” (Rev.20:13-14)

“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been **prepared for the devil and his angels**.’” (Matt.25:41)

Can you answer the question Jesus asked at the funeral of Lazarus?

“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. **Do you believe this?**” (John 11:25-26)