

First Resurrection

There has been some confusion over whether or not all the saved of all ages will be included in those referred to in I Thessalonians 4:16: "and the dead in Christ shall rise first." I believe Paul was inspired to write that only members of the body of Christ will rise on that occasion. The rest of the saved, which are the "kingdom saints," will be raised just before the establishment of the long-awaited kingdom on earth by Jesus Christ Himself. The "kingdom saints" would include all those who have been saved since Adam up through the "gospel of the kingdom" and the changeover to the church the body of Christ and its attendant "gospel of the grace of God" committed to the Apostle Paul. Also those saved during the Tribulation after the Rapture of the Body of Christ will be included in this first resurrection. The following Scriptures are those that pertain to this:

Revelation 20:4-6

4 ...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.

Job 19:25,26

25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet **in my flesh** shall I see God:

Daniel 12:1,2

12:1 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.

(It should be understood that there is a thousand years between "some to everlasting life," and "some to shame and everlasting contempt.")

Matthew 19:28

28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the **regeneration** when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Luke 22:29,30

29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

30 That ye may **eat and drink** at my table in my kingdom, and **sit** on thrones **judging** the twelve tribes of Israel.

John 5:25-29

25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall **live**.

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.

(Here again, it should be understood that there is a thousand years between "**the resurrection of life**;" and "**the resurrection of damnation**.")

