

# The History and Significance of Premillennialism

## Lesson #10 The Resurrections and Judgments Associated with the Second Advent <sup>0654</sup>

### I. Introduction

Last week we studied the Second Coming of Christ. This week we will seek to understand the various resurrections presented to us by Scripture.

There are actually only two resurrections. There are various manifestations of these two resurrections that we will lay out in this lesson.

### II. The Resurrection of the Justified (read redeemed) (Scripture passages in this lesson are from the NASU)

**Phil 3:8-11** *More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, <sup>9</sup>and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, <sup>10</sup>that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; <sup>11</sup>in order that I may attain to the resurrection **from the dead**.*

**Greek:** *ἐκ νεκρῶν*

According to Things to Come by Pentecost; p. 396, a more proper translation is: *the resurrection out from the dead*.

The redeemed bodies are resurrected “out from” or “away from” the unredeemed whose bodies remain in the ground until the end of the Millennial Kingdom. Why is this important?

“The Old Testament clearly taught the fact of the resurrection - - -, but no revelation was made concerning the time element involved. In fact, one might have concluded, were it not for the revelation contained in the New Testament, that there would be a general resurrection, in which the saved and the unsaved are raised together to be separated to their final destiny as taught by the **amillennialists**. However, the New Testament contain clear revelation to the contrary.” Things to Come by Pentecost; p. 398-399.

**Rev 20:4-6** *Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. **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 for a thousand years.**

Philippians 3:11, NIV: "and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead."

Philippians 3:11, ESV: "that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead."

Philippians 3:11, KJV: "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

Philippians 3:11, NASB: "in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

Philippians 3:11, NLT: "so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!"

Philippians 3:11, CSB: "assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead."

<https://www.bibleref.com/Philippians/3/Philippians-3-11.html>

Sequence of the bodily Resurrection of the Redeemed:

**1 Cor 15:20-26** *But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.*

<sup>21</sup>*For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But **each in his own order**: Christ the first fruits,*

after that those who are Christ's at His coming, <sup>24</sup>then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

**1<sup>st</sup> Christ as the first fruits of all in the 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection** (about 30 A. D.)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Christians from the Church Age who were born again with a regenerated heart.**

(Prior to the Tribulation - Rapture)

**1 Cor 15:50-58** Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Behold, **Tell you a mystery**; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP <sup>Is 25:8</sup> in victory. <sup>55</sup>"O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" <sup>Hosea 13:14</sup> <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; <sup>57</sup>but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (See also 1 Thess 4:13-18, Heb 11:35 & 39-40)

**3<sup>rd</sup> The two witnesses resurrected in the first half of the Tribulation** (Jewish prophets Rev 11:7-12)

**Rev 11:7-14** When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. <sup>8</sup>And **their dead bodies will lie in the street** of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, **where also their Lord was crucified**. <sup>9</sup>Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. <sup>10</sup>And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup>But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. <sup>12</sup>And **they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here."** Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them. <sup>13</sup>And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. <sup>14</sup>The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly. (Rev 11:3-6)

**4<sup>th</sup> Old Testament Saints resurrected at the end of the Tribulation.** (Jews & Gentiles of faith)

**Dan 12:1-3** "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, **everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.** <sup>2</sup>**Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.** <sup>3</sup>Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

**5<sup>th</sup> Tribulation Saints resurrected at the end of the Tribulation.** (Jews & Gentiles of faith)

**Rev 20:1-4** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup>and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. <sup>4</sup>Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and **they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

### III. The Resurrection of the Dead (read unredeemed/lost)

All of the spiritually dead, from all time, their souls are conscious and currently in hades in torment. Their bodies are still left behind in whatever state they left them (with further decay – decayed body, bones only, or dust only) will be resurrected unto judgment (the Great White Throne judgment) at the end of the tribulation.

**Rev 20:11-15** *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, the great and the 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. <sup>13</sup>And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. <sup>14</sup>Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup>And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

**Note<sup>1</sup>:** There is no resurrection to God's judgment of sin for those who are of faith, consistent with the Abrahamic Covenant (or grafted into that covenant – Gentiles). Such persons, of "saving" faith, their sins are completely covered by the blood of Christ and God has accepted that blood covering for all of their sins for all time. They are all secure in Christ by their saving faith.

**Note<sup>2</sup>:** This forgiveness of sins which is complete and eternal does not exempt saints from various dispensational accountability for our worship and service to God and His Kingdom!



**Rom 6:14-21** *For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. <sup>15</sup>What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup>and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. <sup>20</sup>For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.*



**1 John 5:14-17** *This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. <sup>16</sup>If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. <sup>17</sup>All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.*

## IV. God's Judgments

### A. General Judgment by God:

**Natural Judgments:** God has throughout human history brought **various kinds of natural judgments** on the sinfulness of men. These are often in the form of natural phenomenon controlled and applied by God in accordance with His sovereign and righteous purpose. These include such things as:

- Earthquakes
- Flooding
- Lightning
- High winds
- Famine
- Disease
- Warfare
- Wicked Kings
- Attacks by wild beasts
- Murder by others
- Volcanoes
- Early undue death

**Unnatural judgment:** God uses “Hades” (or Hell) to hold wicked, unsaved men in torment until the final Judgment yet to come.

### **B. Gracious Judgment by God:**

God has also brought gracious judgment on men that He has sovereignly chosen to redeem:

- The crucifixion and death of Christ, the righteous Lamb murdered horribly to cover the sins God’s elect.

**Note:** This atoning work of God is sometimes referred to as “Limited Atonement”, but it really should be referred to a “Particular Atonement” in that Christ’s death on the cruel cross didn’t bring about “potential” salvation for those who would chose faith in Christ, but rather it was an atonement which actually brought salvation to all men that God had chosen to be His own from the foundations of the world.

These are the ones who are regenerated from a heart of stone to a heart of flesh which enables them by nature and by necessity to choose God’s only provision for salvation from God’s righteous and just wrath.

### **C. Final Judgment by God:**

God has reserved the final judgment of the sin and sins of men who are not redeemed for a future more complete judgment and an eternal assignment under God’s righteous and just wrath upon the sin which He utterly abhors. This final judgment is known as:

- The Great White Throne Judgment: (from Section III - repeated below)

**Rev 20:11-15** *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, the great and the 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. <sup>13</sup>And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. <sup>14</sup>Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup>And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

#### **An Important Quote**

“Theologian R. C. Sproul makes a telling point: why would the disciples invent a God "whose holiness was more terrifying than the forces of nature that provoked them to invent a God in the first place/" The God of the three Abrahamic religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - is a pretty exacting fellow, demanding of us purity rather than indulgence, virtue rather than convenience, charity rather than self-gratification. There are serious penalties attached to ultimate failure: for the religious believer, death is a scary thing, but eternal damnation is even scarier. So wish fulfillment would most likely give rise to a very different God than the one described in the Bible. Wish fulfillment can explain heaven, but it cannot explain hell.” **Dinesh D'Souza**; *What's So Great About Christianity*; p. 262