

April 7, 2021

Two Resurrections

Having considered the effects of the resurrection, Paul concludes in **I Corinthians 15:19**, “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” While our hope in Christ has application to this present life, but it is predominantly future in scope. Read **I Corinthians 15:20-22**. By one man, Adam, death came into the world. By one man, Christ, life is given to overcome death. By one man, Christ, shall all experience a resurrection. Turn to **Romans 5** and read **verses 12, 15, 17, 19, and 21**. What does this have to do with the resurrection? In John 11:25 Jesus said, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.” The doctrine of eternal life implies a resurrection. It is more than just a spiritual life, it is a life lived in a glorified body. The same applies to eternal death. Hell is more than just a spiritual state, it is a place of eternal physical suffering in a body that will never be consumed and will never die.

The resurrection of Christ is the foundation for the resurrection of all men. Read **John 5:25-29**. Jesus was absolutely clear that there are two resurrections. The first, the resurrection of life takes place at the rapture. The second, the resurrection of damnation takes place at the great white throne judgment. In verses 25, 28-29, who will come forth? What will they hear? All that are in the grave shall be resurrected by the spoken words of Christ. Just as Lazarus was resurrected in **John 11:43**. It has been said, if Jesus did not call Lazarus by name, all that are in the graves would have come forth in response to Christ’s command.

The resurrection of life is described in **I Corinthians 15:51-53** and **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**. At the rapture, Jesus Christ will descend from heaven with the soul and spirits of the saints, those who have died in Christ. Their earthly bodies will be reconstructed and resurrected as a glorified body. Those who are saved and alive on the earth will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air. Their earthly bodies will also be transformed into a glorified body. Following the rapture, the earth will enter seven years of great tribulation. During that time, the saved are in heaven with the Lord, participating in the marriage supper of the Lamb.

At the end of the tribulation, the nations of the earth, under the leadership of the antichrist, will come against Jerusalem to fight the battle of Armageddon. Christ will return to the earth again with the saints to fight for Israel and will stand upon the Mount of Olives. Satan will be defeated and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. Christ will then establish His earthly millennial kingdom where His saints will rule with Him. After the millennial kingdom, Satan will be loosed for a little season, before He is finally cast into the Lake of Fire for all eternity.

At this point, those who have died without Christ will face the resurrection of damnation and the great white throne judgment. Read **Revelation 20:11-15**. The word death in verses 13 and 14 refer to the physical body, while the word hell refers to the soul and spirit. When a person dies without Christ, their soul and spirit are cast into hell awaiting the day of judgment. At the great white throne judgment, their bodies will be reconstructed and resurrected as incorruptible to be united with the soul and spirit to be cast into the Lake of Fire for all eternity. This is the second death. Eternal separation from God. The determining factor in which resurrection a person will be part of is whether or not their name is written in the Lamb’s book of life. Salvation is the determining factor. A person who has never been born again, who has never trusted Christ, will face the second resurrection. Blessed are those who are part of the first resurrection. If you are saved, thank the Lord for your salvation and the hope of a resurrection unto life. If you are not saved, asked the Lord to save you today, lest you perish for all eternity.