

## The Resurrections

Two resurrections are yet future, which are inclusive of “all that are in the graves” (Jn 5:28). They are distinguished as the “first resurrection,” which is one “of life” (Jn 5:28, 29; 1 Cor 15:22, 23; 1 Thes 4:14-17; Rev 20:4-6), and a “second resurrection” which is one of “damnation,” (more properly translated as judgment). See John 5:28, 29 and Revelation 20:5-15. They are separated by a period of 1000 years (Rev 20:5).

Bear in mind that the first resurrection (Rev 20:5, 6) is not an event, but rather an order of resurrection. It is first in contrast to the last raising or second resurrection, (after the Millennium), of the wicked dead, unto everlasting judgment (the second death). See Revelation 20:5-15. The Lord Jesus was the first one raised from the dead with a resurrection body - the first fruit from the dead (1 Cor 15:20). Matthew 27:52, 53 seem to indicate another actual resurrection, of a token number of saints - “graves were opened” and later “many bodies of the saints which slept arose.” Other saints (O.T. and N.T.) will be raptured, when the Lord returns “in the air” to gather up His own, prior to the Tribulation period (1 Thes 4:13-18). That O.T. saints will be included, I understand from Hebrews 11:13-17; 1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:16. The Tribulation saints of Revelation 20:4, who were martyred, I believe are the last cohort of the first resurrection.

The saints of all ages (over comers) will be associated with Christ in the millennial reign (Rev 3:21; 5:9, 10; 11:15-18; 15:3, 4; 19:16; 20:4, 6). Daniel prophesied of the time coming when “the saints (Old, New, Tribulation) will possess the kingdom.” For reference see 1 John 5:4, 5; Revelation 2:11; 3:21; 20:4, 6.

Those saints who shared in the first resurrection will inhabit the eternal state in the heavenlies, after the Millennium. Abraham, as typical of saints, desired “a better country, that is an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He hath prepared for them a city” (Heb 11:10-17). After the Millennium, the new Jerusalem (Rev 21:2) will be the dwelling place throughout all eternity for saints of all ages (Heb 12:22, 23). Those born and saved during the Millennial kingdom period will inhabit the new earth forever. I believe Revelation 21:1 and 2 Peter 3:1-13 give confirmation.

You will find very interesting and instructive an Emmaus course *Rightly Dividing The Word of Truth*. Much of it deals with dispensational truths.