

REVELATION: Lesson 110

Chapter 11:7-12 The Doctrine of the First Resurrection

5 October 2020

Most people believe that one day in the very distant future EVERYONE will be resurrected to determine whether they will go to Heaven or Hell. A careful study of the Holy Scriptures reveals that there are two resurrections and that the first resurrection is divided into three parts occurring at different times. The Lord Jesus uses the common harvest (Mt 9:38) to explain the nature of the first resurrection. A harvest consists of (1) firstfruits, (2) main harvest, and (3) gleanings, in that order, but all part of the same harvest.

WHAT DID JOB KNOW ABOUT THE RESURRECTION? (Job 19:25-27)

- There is a living Redeemer (vs 25).
 - The Redeemer will come to Earth one day (vs 25).
 - After Job was dead and buried, decaying in the grave, God would raise him up bodily and he would see God, his Redeemer on Earth (vs 26).
 - It doesn't matter if your body is completely consumed and turned to dust, God can put it back together (vs 27).
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THE FAITH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS (John 11:23-26)

- Faithful Martha was certain of a resurrection (vs 24). She believed the Old Testament promises.
 - Jesus wants us to believe in a resurrection that is much less distant and much more imminent (25-26).
 - When you know that Jesus could come at any moment, it will affect the way you live.
 - Jesus often spoke of His resurrection to His disciples. They didn't understand (Mt 16:21-23, Mk 9:9-10).
 - The prophets of the Old Testament wrote of it but didn't understand what they wrote (1 Pet 1:10-11).
 - Jesus draws a line when He says, "**I am the resurrection** (to those who are dead, yet shall they live, vs 25) **AND the life** (to those who are living when He comes, who shall never die, vs 26)."
 - In either case, belief in Christ is the only prerequisite.
 - Belief on the Lord Jesus Christ makes you worthy of the resurrection (**Luke 20:35**) and just (**Luke 14:14**).
 - Old Testament saints who died in faith obtained a "better resurrection" (**Heb 11:39, 35**).
 - New Testament saints have been promised something even better (**Heb 11:40**).
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THE FIRST RESURRECTION

Revelation 20:1-6 Everyone who takes part in the First Resurrection is raised up before the start of the Lord's one-thousand-year reign on the Earth.

FIRST FRUITS

John 20:16-17 Jesus had risen from the dead but had not yet ascended up to Heaven.

Matthew 27:50-53 When Jesus died, many of the dead saints were resurrected after His resurrection. These living saints walked the Earth, appearing unto many until they ascended up with Jesus (first-fruits rapture).

Background: Old Testament saints did not go to Hell, but they could not go to Heaven until Jesus paid for their sins (John 14:6). They were held captive in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22) (see Underworld diagram) until Jesus led captivity captive (Ps 68:18). This first-fruits resurrection is part of the First Resurrection.

Hebrews 2:14-15 When Jesus Christ died, He paid for the sins of the world, setting people free from the bondage of death.

Ephesians 4:8-10 When Jesus ascended to Heaven, He took the (dead)saints in Abraham's bosom with Him. Living saints (those that came out of graves) were also caught up with the Lord.

Luke 23:42-43 The thief on the cross called upon the name of the Lord (Rom 10:13) and was saved. He believed that Jesus had the power to raise the dead. Jesus promised to meet him in Paradise that very day.

Matthew 12:38-40 Jonah in the whale's belly illustrated Jesus in the heart of the Earth 3 days and 3 nights. Jonah's body was in the whale, but his soul departed (Jonah 2:5-10). (Gen 35:18). Jesus' body was in a tomb, but His soul departed and went to Hell and Paradise.

2 Corinthians 12:1-4 During the Church Age, a man was caught up to the third Heaven into Paradise. Paradise moved to Heaven. Now there is a void in the heart of the Earth. When Christians die today, their soul goes straight to Heaven (2 Cor 5:8).

Colossians 2:14-15 The enemy (Satan) was spoiled. Satan had the power of death and kept many saints captive in that death, but Jesus came and took it from Him.

THE HARVEST

1 Thess 4:13-17 The condition for this resurrection/rapture is the same: "believe" (vs 14). The subjects are also similar: living and dead saints will be caught up to meet the Lord.

1 Cor 15:51-57 Dead saints (corruptible) shall be raised. Living saints (mortal) shall be changed. Death is robbed of its sting (dead saints raised) and the grave is robbed of its victory (living saints raptured).

THE GLEANINGS

Revelation 7:11-14 Here we find people who died in the Tribulation showing up to the throne of God in Heaven. How did they get there? They were resurrected and caught up to Heaven. Note that this is still before Christ's return to the Earth.

Revelation 6:9-11 The Lord was still waiting for more saints to be killed in the Tribulation so He could raise them up.

Revelation 14:1-3 The 144,000 witnesses were sealed in their foreheads. They could not die (**Rev 7:2-3**). They were seen by John with the Lamb on the heavenly Mount Zion. These are living saints caught up from Tribulation time to meet the Lord.

Revelation 11:7-12 The two Tribulation witnesses are killed and left dead in the street. The Lord resurrects them, and a voice is heard from Heaven saying, "COME UP HITHER," and their enemies watch them get caught up to the third Heaven.

Just as God is a Trinity (1 Jn 5:7), the first resurrection is threefold (first-fruits, harvest, and gleanings).
