

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
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The Resurrections

- Introduction
 - Much confusion has resulted from the notion that all men will be raised at the same time.
 - Scripture reveals many resurrections, some of which have already occurred while most of them are yet future.
 - In many cases these resurrections are separated by long periods of time.
 - There are several biblical accounts of resuscitations (1 Kgs 17:17-23; 2 Kgs 4:32-37; 13:21; Luke 7:12-15; 8:49-55; John 11:28-46), but resurrections are different in that those who are resurrected do not face the prospect of physical death.
- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - First in order of the resurrections is the resurrection of Jesus Christ as prophesied in Psalm 16:9-10.
 - His resurrection is described in all four gospels (Matt 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-13; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18).
 - His resurrection is dealt with theologically in the book of Acts (Acts 2:22-27) and the N.T. epistles (1 Cor 15:1-19).
 - As we consider the various resurrections described in Scripture, it is critical for us to understand that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a distinct event which has already occurred.
- The Resurrection of the Saints in Jerusalem
 - At the time of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, another resurrection also took place (Matt 27:52-53).
 - From this text we can see that the tombs were opened on Friday when Christ was crucified, but these saints were not raised until Sunday after Christ had been raised.
 - No explanation is given concerning this very unusual event.
 - It is possible that these saints were raised to fulfill the type of the first-fruits of the “harvest” (Lev 23:9-14).
 - In any case, this event shows us that Jesus is not the only person who will be resurrected from the dead.
- The Resurrection of the Church
 - As we have previously studied, at the Rapture event Jesus Christ will come for His saints to take them to place He has prepared in heaven (John 14:2-3).
 - According to 1 Thess 4:13-18 and 1 Cor 15:51-57, both the dead in Christ who are resurrected and the living saints who are translated will receive spiritual bodies which are prepared for glory and are patterned after that of Christ’s own resurrection body (1 John 3:2).

- The resurrection of the Church is the first massive resurrection and is the forerunner of others to follow.
- The Resurrection of the O.T. Saints
 - Daniel 12:2 gives us a description of two resurrections which follow the Tribulation (verse 1) – the first a resurrection unto everlasting life and the second a resurrection unto disgrace.
 - Job 19:25-26 indicates that the resurrection unto life will happen when the Redeemer takes His stand on the earth.
 - Isaiah 26:19-21 states that this resurrection will take place when the Lord has come to judge the inhabitants of the earth.
 - Although Rev 20:4 makes specific reference to Tribulational martyrs, the first resurrection mentioned in verses 5-6 includes the Old Testament saints.
 - From these passages we can see that Old Testament saints will be resurrected just prior to the Millennial Kingdom.
 - This begs the questions, “What about the dead that are raised at the Rapture? Aren’t O. T. saints part of that group?”
 - In 1 Thess 4:16 the Apostle Paul describes the sequence of events at the Rapture and uses a very specific term, saying the “dead in Christ” will rise first.
 - The phrase “in Christ” is a reference to the union with Christ that believers in the Church have because of the baptism of the Spirit – a position no Old Testament saint ever attained to.
- The Resurrection of the Tribulational Saints
 - As we have already seen, Rev 20:4-6 makes special mention of the saints who are martyred during the Tribulation being raised to reign with Christ in His Kingdom.
 - This resurrection, which includes the Old Testament saints, is called the “first resurrection” in this passage even though there have been several prior resurrections.
 - The key to understanding this language is that this passage relates back to the two resurrections of Daniel 12 and is merely stating that, of those two resurrections, the resurrection of the saints one comes first – before the Millennial Kingdom.
- The Resurrection of the Millennial Saints
 - The longest living person mentioned in Scripture is Methuselah who lived 969 years (Gen 5:27).
 - From this, we can surmise that none of the saints who survive the Tribulation and enter the Millennial Kingdom will live to the end of the 1,000 years.
 - There is no specific mention in Scripture of the resurrection of the saints who die during the Millennial Kingdom.
 - The only clue we have is the language of Rev 20:15 which indicates that some of the people who stand before the Great White Throne for judgment will be listed in the Book of Life.
- The Resurrection of the Wicked
 - Rev 20:11-15 describes the resurrection of all unbelievers of the human race to face judgment at the Great White Throne.
 - This is the final resurrection before the creation of the New Heavens and the New Earth.

- The resurrection of believers is a beautiful thing of hope, but this resurrection unto damnation is an awful spectacle.
- These people who rejected Christ will be judged and then thrown into the Lake of Fire with Satan and the fallen angels where they will suffer anguish and pain, separated from God and His Light for all of eternity.
- Questions
 - Will all people who die ultimately be raised from the dead?

 - What is the difference between the resuscitations and the resurrections?

 - Who is the first person to be resurrected?

 - Explain the resurrection mentioned in Matt 27:52-53.

 - Describe the resurrection of the Church.

 - What evidence supports the resurrection of O.T. saints at Christ's Second Coming?

 - What does Scripture reveal about the resurrection of Tribulational saints?

 - Will saints die during the Millennial Kingdom?

 - Do we know what happens to the living saints at the end of the Millennial Kingdom?

 - Describe the resurrection of the wicked.

 - Why does the eternal punishment of unbelievers compel us to give the gospel?