

THE RESURRECTIONS

Two resurrections are yet future, which are inclusive of “all that are in the graves” (John 5:28). They are distinguished as the “first resurrection,” which is one “of life” (John 5:28,29; 1 Cor. 15:22, 23; 1 Thess. 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; Rev. 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 Millenium), of the wicked dead, unto everlasting judgment (the second death) - see Rev. 20:5-15. The Lord Jesus was the first one raised from the dead with a resurrection body - the firstfruit from the dead (1 Cor. 15:20). Matthew 27:52,53 seems 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 Thess. 4:13-18). That O.T. saints will be included, I understand from Heb. 11:13-17; 1 Cor. 15:23; 1 Thess. 4:16. The Tribulation saints of Rev. 20:4, who were martyred, I believe are the last cohort of the first resurrection.

The saints of all ages (overcomers) 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; Rev. 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 Millenium. 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 Millenium 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 Rev. 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.