

02-05-12

Series: [The Resurrections](#)

The Resurrections (57)

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[Matthew 28:1-10](#)

(Continuation from [01-29-12](#))

The Doctrine of the Resurrections

The Intermediate State

So, the question is where are those that were in [Abraham's bosom](#) prior to [Christ's resurrection](#)? i.e., where are the Old Testament saints today? Are they still in [Abraham's bosom](#), or are they in heaven with Christ and all of the New Testament believers who have died? My personal opinion is that they are still in [Abraham's bosom](#) waiting for the resurrection of their bodies just after the Second Coming.

Now, before we begin to address these issues, let me make a couple of affirmations relative to this subject. The **intermediate state** is only temporary and will be replaced by the eternal state in which everyone lost or saved, will have a resurrected body. Whether in the kingdom of God or in the Lake of Fire, everyone will have a literal physical body united to their soul and/or spirit. The saved will receive their resurrected bodies in a series of resurrections that begin with the Rapture of the church and continue with later resurrections at the Second Coming. **The unsaved** will not be raised until the end of the millennium at which time they will be brought to the **Great White Throne judgment** and be cast into the **Lake of Fire**. Once again, it is not clear as to whether or not they will actually receive new bodies at that time prior to their being cast into the **Lake of Fire**.

Now, as we approach this subject, I want us to appreciate that there are two distinct time periods that we have to deal with relative to the **intermediate state** of believers, or saints. The two time periods are divided by the resurrection of Christ. His resurrection is the dividing line that separates what happens to both after death. I.e., we have an **intermediate state** for the Old Testament saint that is different from the **intermediate state** for the New Testament believers. When the Old Testament saint died, their body remained in the grave and their soul went to a place called *Sheol*. When a New Testament believer dies, their body also remains in the grave, but their soul is present with the Lord. So, the New Testament believer is still waiting for their bodily resurrection which will happen at the rapture. So, even though the New Testament believer is present with the Lord and is certainly active and conscious, there is still a great expectation relative to the resurrection of their bodies. What happened to the Old Testament saints when they died is different from what happens to New Testament saints, or the *dead in Christ*, when they die.

It is important to understand the order of the resurrections and that all bodily resurrections fall into two distinct categories. The first is called the *resurrection of life* or the first resurrection, and the second is called the *resurrection of condemnation* or the second resurrection.

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[John 5:28-29](#) says,

[John 5:28-29 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁸ "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,

²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

These are two separate **types** of resurrections, and they occur at different times. But the distinguishing attribute between the two is not the time differential, but the simple fact that one relates to **eternal life** and the other to **eternal death**. First in the order of resurrections is the resurrection of Christ. Obviously, He was not the first to be resurrected. He resurrected Lazarus and several others during His earthly ministry, so when we say that He was the first to be resurrected it means that **He was the first to be raised from the grave with a body that was no longer subject to death**. Obviously, all those that He raised from the dead actually died again. Lazarus died; Jairus' daughter died again; the widow mother's son from Nain died again - but not Jesus. He never died again.

[Romans 6:9](#) declares,

[Romans 6:9 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, **is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him**.

[Revelation 1:8](#) declares the same,

[Revelation 1:18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁸ and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

So, that is why He is called the *firstborn from the dead* in [Colossians 1:18](#).

[Colossians 1:18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead**, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

So, even though the resurrection of Christ was not the first resurrection, **it was the first where the individual did not die again**, and therefore is the most pre-eminent of all of the resurrections that will ultimately occur.

So, even though there are 7 actual resurrections in Scripture, there are **only two distinct types** of resurrections. The first is the resurrection of **all of those people who died with salvation**. It includes both Old Testament saints and New Testament saints – all who ultimately belong to Christ. They will be resurrected at one of His comings – either at the Rapture or immediately after the Second Coming. All of the New Testament saints who lived and died during what we call the church age will be resurrected at the rapture of the church.

[1 Thessalonians 4:16](#) says,

[1 Thessalonians 4:16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

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All of the Old Testament saints and all of those who will be martyred during the Tribulation will be resurrected immediately after the Second Coming so that they might enjoy the millennial kingdom with Christ. [Daniel 12:1-2](#) speaks of the time of Tribulation and of the fact that their resurrection will happen **after** the *time of trouble*, or the time of great distress – what we call the Tribulation / Great Tribulation. These various resurrections all occur on behalf of the redeemed of all of the ages and constitute what?

[Revelation 20:6](#) calls the *first resurrection*.

[Revelation 20:6 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.