

## SERMON: RESURRECTIONS

MAY 13 2023

The Bible refers to 4 resurrections: 1. the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead and the pioneer of our salvation; 2. the resurrection of the saints – called the “first resurrection” – at the return of Christ when true believers shall become spirit-composed members of God’s family; 3. the resurrection back to physical life of all who have ever died without having understood God’s way, for their first opportunity for salvation; 4. the resurrection of the incorrigibly wicked – those who have refused to repent and have rejected God’s way – to be consumed in the lake of fire (called the “second death”).

1. I Cor 15:20 Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have died; I Pet 1:3 our living hope is through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; Rom 1:4 Christ is declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead.

2. I Cor 15:22-23 saints are resurrected at Christ’s return; I Cor 15:51 this first resurrection includes all the saints that have lived and died from Adam’s time until Christ’s second coming, including those still alive when He comes (although technically, they shall be “changed” rather than resurrected); Rev 20:6 “Blessed and holy is he who shares in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and they shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

3. Ezek 37:1-14 the whole house of Israel shall be resurrected to physical life and shall receive God’s holy spirit; Rev 20:11-12 all nations shall be resurrected to physical life and be judged according to their works; John 5:25-29 confirmed.

When someone asks what happens when you die, Eccl 3:21 & 12:7 explains that man’s spirit goes back to God Who gave it; then they will be resurrected to physical life as explained above.

4. Rev 20:13-15 the unrepentant – those who have had a chance for salvation but have adamantly rejected it - shall be resurrected to physical life and cast into the lake of fire where they shall be consumed. The death they suffer is called “the second death” which occurs only for those whose names are not found written in the book of life – that is, those who have not obtained salvation. This final resurrection is essentially a mercy killing for those to whom eternal life in their state of rebellion would eventually mean extreme agony and misery.

### **Other Scriptures on Resurrections**

John 5:21-29 summarises the Father’s relationship with the Son; judgements  
John 11:23-25 Jesus is the resurrection and the life; 26 never die = not die forever  
I Cor 15:3-8 Christ’s death & resurrection witnessed by disciples & others  
I Cor 15:20-23 Christ the Firstfruits, afterwards we who are Christ’s at His coming  
I Cor 15:24-26 the end when Christ delivers the kingdom to God the Father  
I Cor 15:35,42-44 resurrection of the dead to a spiritual body  
I Cor 15:50-52 we are changed at the last trumpet  
I Thes 4:13-17 caught up = rapturo (lat) raptured = resurrected

### **Conclusion**

#### **The Bible refers to these 4 resurrections:**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ: I Cor 15:12-14 & 20; I Pet 1:3; Rom 1:4  
The resurrection of the saints at Christ’s return: I Cor 15:22-23 & 51; Rev 20:6  
The resurrection to physical life of the uncalled: John 5:25-29; Rev 20:11-12  
The resurrection of the incorrigibly wicked to the lake of fire: Rev 20:13-15

We can answer anyone who asks “what happens when you die?” with these explanations of the resurrections.