

The First Resurrection

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Revelation Commentary Manual

The first resurrection is described in Revelation 20:4-6. Verse 4 begins,

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were

beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Let's look very carefully at this group of people. These people were beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the Word of God. They had not

worshiped the beast or his image, and had not

[repentance], spiritual burial [baptism], and

foundation of the world.



Calvary

received his mark upon their foreheads or in their hands. They obviously lived on earth at the time of the great tribulation.

Notice also that they have the witness of Jesus. The purpose of Jesus coming to the earth was to purchase a plan of salvation. He called it being "born again", and He authored that plan on the cross of Calvary.

There were three steps to that plan: His death, burial, and resurrection. When we are born again, we follow these three steps: spiritual death

spiritual resurrection [receiving the infilling of the Holy Ghost]. These people were beheaded because they were witnesses of the salvation plan of Jesus Christ. They were born-again Christians.

Revelation 13:8 it says about the Antichrist,

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the

This passage states that all upon the earth will worship the Antichrist except for those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. The people in Revelation 20 did not worship the Antichrist so obviously their

names were written in the Lamb's book of life. Your name is written in the Lamb's book of life when you become a partaker of the salvation purchased by the Lamb of God by being born again.

The Bible also teaches that these people lived and reigned with Christ for 1,000 years. Scripture teaches that the bride of Christ will rule and reign with Jesus Christ. The 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ is the kingdom of God on earth. Therefore, if these people are going

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to be in the kingdom of God, they must be part of the born-again church.

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Revelation 20:5-6 says,

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Many people have said that the people in Revelation 20:4 are not in the church. They believe that the rapture has already occurred, and the church has been caught away. Whether or not you believe in a pre-tribulation or a post-tribulation

rapture makes no difference. It is not a salvation issue.

However, it is interesting that in describing the resurrection of these who went through the tribulation, verse 5 says, “This is the first resurrection.” If this was the first resurrection, there could not have been a resurrection seven years before this. Verse 6 goes on to say that these people lived and reigned with Christ for 1,000 years.

Then comes the wonderful promise, “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power.” For all who are ready at the first resurrection, their eternal destiny is forever settled. They don’t have to worry about eternal life. Their destiny is assured! ■