

Revelation 20:1-6, focusing especially on verses 4-6

**Revelation 20:1-6** KJV

- 1) And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
- 2) And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,
- 3) And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.
- 4) 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 worshipped 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.
- 5) But the **rest of the dead lived not again** until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.
- 6) 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.

**Verse 6**, Reigning priests. Is this something which is only future to the believer?

Verse 5, the rest of the dead lived not again. Does this mean that there are separate resurrections for both the righteous saved and the unrighteous sinner?

Paul says that the righteous dead will not be raised after the righteous living:

If there was a distinction in the resurrection for judgment, are we really saying that all the righteous dead are raised just to sit and reign with Christ while the unrighteous dead remain dead? This is not a Biblical answer.

Moreover, when Christ returns, then the graves are open and death is defeated.

There is no separation that is possible to make separate resurrections. It is a general resurrection of all to judgment and reward.

**So, what then, who are these that reign with Christ?**

Verse 4 says

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 worshipped 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.**

Who can deny that Christ reigns today

Thus there is a kingdom and we are in it.

So, what is the character of these who are reigning with Christ?

What is the first resurrection? Is it something we don't have yet?

Now, what is the first death?

What is the second death?

If there is a "first" resurrection, what is the second?

Thus, while all are appointed to the first death (Hebrews 9:27), not everyone has to die the second death (Matthew 10:28). The only escape is to have faith in Jesus, (John 11:25-26) through Whom even when we die (the first death) we shall live by faith in His name. (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17) As such, we have the final resurrection unto life, but one must have the first resurrection to be spared that second death. (Revelation 20:6 & Ephesians 2:1, 5)

While we are currently in the Kingdom, (Luke 12:32 & 17:20-21, Colossians 1:13) we reign with Christ spiritually as we are present with the Lord who reigns over all from Heaven (Revelation 20:4, Matthew 28:18, & 2 Corinthians 5:8) and the righteous dead reign with Him in Heaven from His ascension until the end. (Revelation 20:4 “the souls,” Revelation 20:5 “dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished,” Revelation 20:6 “shall reign with Him a thousand years”) As such, already we have been made kings and priests to God. (Revelation 1:6 & 20:6)

When Christ returns, the grave will lose its power, (1 Corinthians 15:52-54) the dead will be raised, (Revelation 20:5, 1 Thessalonians 4:15) all will come forth unto judgment, (John 5:28-29) some unto life with reward and others unto damnation. (Revelation 11:18)