

CHAPTER 15 - THE BODILY RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD

There is a great need to clarify this subject today, for it deals with the issue of whether there is life after death or whether death is the end of existence. All humanity feels that they were made for more than this life. Solomon said, “He has put _____ in their heart” (Eccl. 3:11).

The teachings of false cults, often called “New Age,” have invaded the world with an old false doctrine that was already prevalent in Jesus’ day. Namely, that of “the Sadducees who say there is _____” (Matt. 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-26; Luke 20:27-36; Acts 23:6-8).

Others said that the resurrection was already past, which had overthrown the faith of some (2 Tim. 2:18). Some of the Corinthians also denied the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:29). Celsus was an early opponent of Christianity, and he made jokes about the

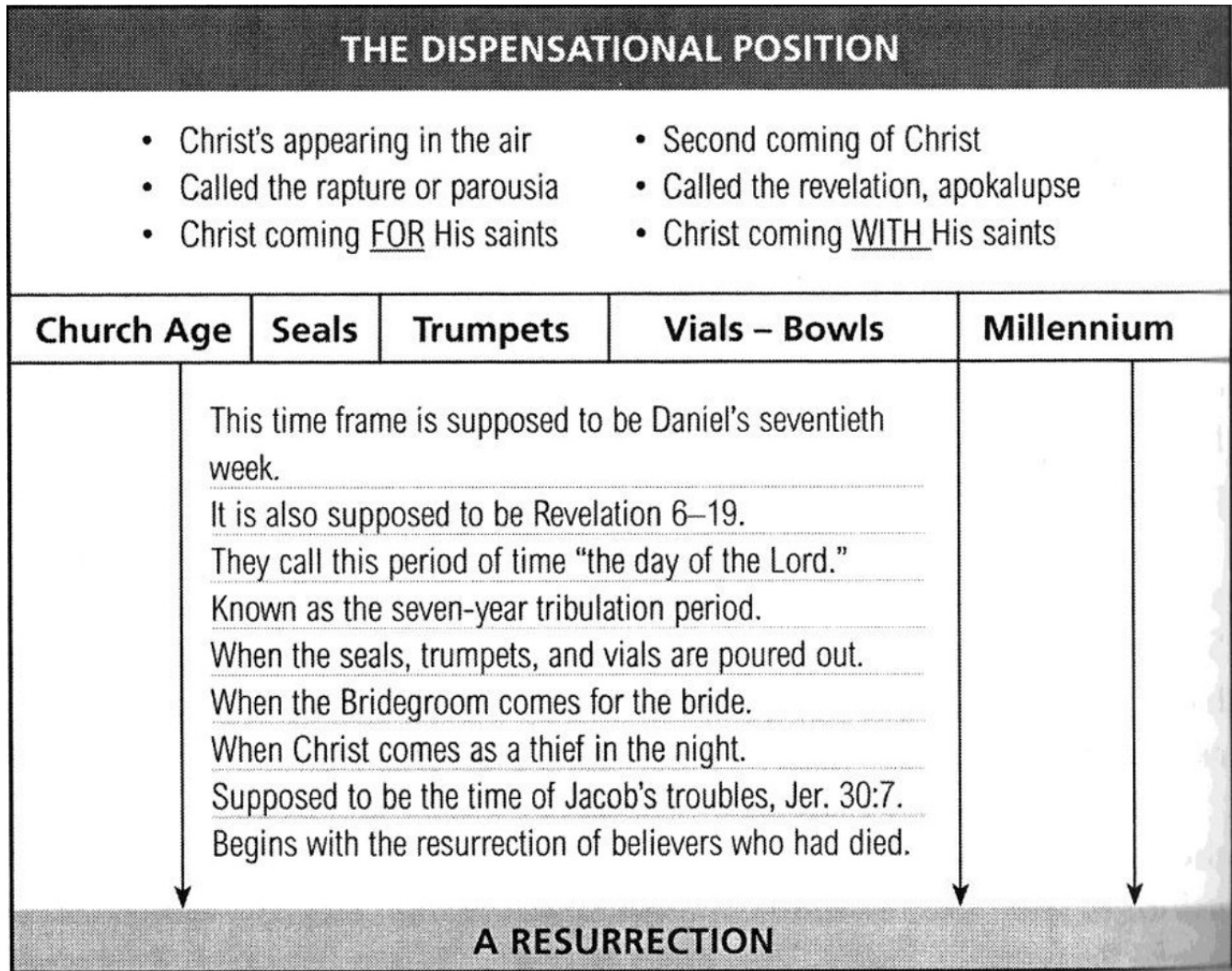
resurrection. In Acts 17:32, Paul on Mars Hill was mocked because he preached the resurrection. Gnostics believed that matter was evil, and therefore they _____.

A final reason as to why this subject is necessary today is there has arisen in theology a doctrine that teaches there will yet be two or maybe three bodily resurrections from the dead.

The Bible speaks of only one _____ to come. It will be at the second coming of Christ, which will occur at “the last day” or “the end of the age.” However, dispensationalists teach there will be two comings of Christ and, therefore, two bodily resurrections. In reality, they teach _____ resurrections: one at the rapture _____ the tribulation, another _____ the tribulation, and yet another _____.

Take note that the word *resurrection* in the Bible is never found _____.

The following chart depicts the position of dispensationalists.



Listed below are scriptures that prove their position, as depicted in this chart, to be contradictory to the Bible.

EVENTS THAT HAPPEN AT THE RAPTURE

The Bible says that the following events will happen at the rapture before the consummation¹ of all things:

¹ consummation n: the act of bringing to completion or fruition

1. There will be a resurrection of dead believers in Christ (1 Thess. 4:16).
2. The rapture (*parousia*) will catch up into the clouds all the believers (1 Thess. 4:17).
3. The Bridegroom will come for the Bride (Matt. 25:1-13).
4. Jesus will come as a thief in the night (Matt. 24:42-43).
5. Believers will be changed in a moment in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15:51-52).

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY WILL HAPPEN
WHEN JESUS COMES AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT?

6. Matthew 24:42-43: It will be unexpected and unannounced.
7. First Thessalonians 5:2: It is called “the Day of the Lord.”
8. Second Thessalonians 2:1-2: It is called both the *parousia* (rapture) and “the Day of the Lord.”
9. Second Peter 3:10: Christ’s coming as a thief is called “the

Day of the Lord.” Peter says all these things will take place when Christ comes as a thief in the night:

- Verse 4: This same coming is called the *parousia*.
- Verse 7: It is called the day of judgment; the perdition of ungodly men.
- Verse 10: It is also when the earth is burnt up.
- Verse 12: It is called the coming day of God.
- Verse 13: It will occur when we look for a new heaven and new earth.
- Verse 14: The believer is exhorted to be without spot at that time.

10. Revelation 16:15: During the sixth seal, Jesus has not come as a thief, yet the scripture says, “I am coming as a thief.”

The previous ten points are therefore _____
_____. Because the Bible is the inspired Word of
God and cannot be broken (John 10:35), then either the Bible or
the dispensationalists are wrong. Which is it?

Certainly both these views cannot be exegetically² substantiated
by Scripture or the Bible would contradict itself. Historically, all
the great confessions of Christendom are agreed as to one
resurrection called the _____.

The resurrection is an eschatological event that takes place at
Christ's second coming, which is _____.

Dispensationalists teach that the rapture is the hope of the Church,
but the Bible says the second coming of Christ is the hope of the
Church (Titus 2:11-13). Paul says, "If in this life only we have
hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable" (1 Cor. 15:19).

² exegetical adj: relating to exegesis. exegesis n: an explanation or critical interpretation (especially of the Bible)

It should be known from the outset that in this chapter, we will not depend on quoting many authors (good as they may be). The Scripture—and the Scripture alone—qualifies to answer the subject. The Bible is the inspired and infallible truth on which all God’s true people deem to build our lives. The Bible is replete³ with the fact that there will be a resurrection from the dead. All four Gospels record _____. Additionally, the resurrection is mentioned in Acts 1:3, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and Revelation 20:12-13, as well as in other places.

Jesus was resurrected from the dead to give us a _____.
“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a _____ through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”
(1 Pet. 1:3).

³ replete adj: (followed by `with') deeply filled or permeated; "imbued with the spirit of the Reformation"; "it is replete with misery"

Paul concurs⁴ with this when he says Christ “was delivered up for our offenses, and was raised [_____] because of our justification” (Rom. 4:25).

But what is the resurrection about? Why is there going to be one in the future? First of all, it is necessary because Jesus took on a _____ and was resurrected. Therefore, in the resurrection, Christ’s followers _____ (Phil. 3:21). The resurrection is also necessary to determine the final destiny of man—whether unto eternal life or to eternal damnation (John 5:27-29). One resurrection, _____.

The Early Churches continually preached Christ as risen from the dead. “Now as they spoke to the people the priests, the captain

⁴ concur v: be in accord; be in agreement; "We agreed on the terms of the settlement"; "I hold with those who say life is sacred" [synonym: agree, hold, concur, concord] [antonym: differ, disagree, dissent, take issue]

of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the _____” (Acts 4:1-2). Paul is very explicit on this subject. In 1 Corinthians 15:13 he says, “But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen . . . And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins” (v. 17)!

Standing before Felix, Paul said, “I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be *a resurrection* of the dead, both of the just and the unjust” (Acts 24:15, emphasis mine; see also Acts 17:18; 1 Cor. 15:21; Heb. 6:2). Just because the Bible talks about the resurrection in more than one place does not mean there is going to be more than one resurrection. It is speaking about various aspects of but one and the same resurrection.

It was Adam's sin that _____ to the human race, which necessitates the resurrection if man is to _____.

Adam was told not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Gen. 2:17). In Genesis 3:6, Adam and Eve disobeyed and ate of the tree. God in His mercy (v. 15) through the Messiah, paid the penalty: "For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:21-22). It is Christ's resurrection that gives us the divine assurance that He has put away _____ by the sacrifice of Himself (Rom. 3:23-25; 4:23-25; 6:23; Heb. 9:26; 10:12).

WHY IS THE BODY DESTINED TO BE RESURRECTED?

The body is destined to be resurrected because Jesus, being God, took upon Himself a physical body in which He died for our sins, was raised from the dead, and will come back in that resurrected body (Acts 1:11). The body of a Christian has become _____ of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19). Our physical body (as well as our soul) has been _____ of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 6:20). Christ's resurrection is divine proof of the resurrection of the elect to eternal life (Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 6:14; Phil. 3:21; Heb. 11:35; 1 John 3:2).

So, what is the resurrection? The resurrection is the resuscitation of our physically dead body that once had life but died and will be raised to a state of eternal life. Therefore, the resurrection for the believer is a coming back from the dead in an entirely new and immortal body.

A biblical definition of death is needed. Death is a separation of life, whether _____. The Bible speaks to the fact that man's _____ may be _____ while he is still alive physically:

- Ezekiel 18:4: “The soul that sins it shall die.”
- Genesis 2:17: “For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
- Romans 6:23: “The wages of sin is death”
- Ephesians 2:1: “You who were dead in trespasses and sin.”
- Ephesians 2:5: “Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.”
- 1 Timothy 5:6: “But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.”

How are we to take the word *dead* in these passages? These verses speak of a living dead person. It is not physical death, but as sinners, they are spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. These passages teach us that there is such a thing as _____, which is our human spirit cut off from the life of God. “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you hear of it you shall surely die” (Gen. 2:17). Adam did not die physically within twenty-four hours.

A spiritual death requires a _____ (Eph. 2:1). This resurrection is obtained by being born again (John 3:3-5). The spiritually dead hear the voice of the Son of God and live (John 5:24-25). Physical death is when the _____ dies (James 2:26).

THE EARLY CHURCH'S TEACHING ON THE RESURRECTION

Note that the Early Church's teaching on the resurrection was based on the Old Testament. Jesus Himself said the resurrection was an Old Testament truth (Matt. 12:40; 22:31-32; Luke 20:35-38). Genesis 22:14 along with Hebrews 11:17-19 imply a resurrection. Jesus spoke of the resurrection relative to the burning bush (Mark 12:26; Ex. 3:6; Matt. 22:29-33). Consider the following other scriptural evidence:

- Job 14:12: "So man lies down and does not rise, till the heavens be no more." This concurs⁵ with 2 Peter 3:10-13.
- Job 19:25-27: "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"

⁵ concur v: be in accord; be in agreement; "We agreed on the terms of the settlement"; "I hold with those who say life is sacred" [synonym: agree, hold, concur, concord] [antonym: differ, disagree, dissent, take issue]

- Psalm 17:15: “As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness” (cf. 1 John 3:2).
- Daniel 12:2: “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.” There will be one resurrection, two destinies.
- Hosea 13:14: “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction” (cf. 1 Cor. 15:54-55).

- Isaiah 25:8: “He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces.” Paul cites this verse in 1 Corinthians 15:54. In Revelation 21:4, John speaks of tears being wiped away at the time we enter the new heavens and the new earth.
- Isaiah 26:19: “Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise, wake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.”

CONTINUATION ON SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION

Speaking of the Biblical position, it is true that when referring to the physical resurrection, there is only one. By itself, this entirely invalidates the Dispensational position and the Dispensational interpretation of Revelation, since Dispensational Eschatology requires multiple physical resurrections.

We should expand on the concept, however, of the spiritual resurrection, mentioned earlier. Before faith in Christ, _____
_____ in our trespasses and sins, as both Ephesians 2:1,5 and Colossians 2:13 state. Both of these verses also state that God has also _____ those who believe. To be quickened means to be _____. Rather than a physical, this is a spiritual resurrection, by grace through faith.

(Eph. 2:8) This spiritual resurrection allows one not to fear the first (_____) death, since they have everlasting life from Him who is THE Resurrection. (John 11:25-26) This, also, enables such a believer not “to fear the _____ death,” (Rev. 2:11) which is to be _____. (Rev. 20:14) To have, then, the first (spiritual, _____) resurrection determines one’s eternal destination, entirely, as Revelation 20:6 says.

An excellent resource, which is also in the public domain is *A Study of the Kingdom*, by T. P. Stafford. In this biblical analysis, Stafford discusses many things related to our own study into Eschatology.

It is available on Kindle, here: <https://www.amazon.com/Study-Kingdom-T-P-Stafford-ebook/dp/B07NSWJ88M>, but you can also read it online for free, here:

<https://archive.org/details/studyofkingdom00staf/mode/2up>.