

## ATTAINING TO THE RESURRECTION OUT FROM THE DEAD

The Bible speaks of TWO RESURRECTIONS which are separated by 1,000 years. There is a Resurrection at the beginning of the 1,000 year Kingdom Age, and a Resurrection at the end of the 1,000 year Kingdom Age.

THE FIRST RESURRECTION MUST BE “ATTAINED”:

“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means **I might attain** unto the resurrection (Greek: out-resurrection) of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. **I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling** of God in Christ Jesus”; Philippians 3:10-14.

“**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”; Revelation 20:6

MY COOPERATION IS NECESSARY TO REACH THAT MARK FOR THE PRIZE

**A.** Initially, I must come in repentance to receive God’s gift of eternal life, through the Blood of Jesus Christ, by confession of faith in Him. By this, I am justified and saved from the wrath to come. This is the entrance into the “race” for eternal life; John 3:7; Matthew 10:22; Heb. 12:1

**B.** God’s biblical, spiritual principles must “build a foundation” in my life; Hebrews 6:1-2:

1. Repentance From Dead Works
2. Faith Toward God
3. The Doctrine Of Baptisms
4. The Laying On Of Hands
5. Resurrection Of The Dead
6. Eternal Judgment

**C.** I Must Learn To Walk In Heavenly Places Now In Christ

1. I must allow Christ to be “formed” in me; Isaiah 43:1; Galatians 4:19
2. I must “leave the world” and enter into a “living union” with the Lord; Romans 12:2
3. I must embrace the Cross (death to self); every trial, suffering and test is God’s opportunity to refine me, to bring me to the place that I am accounted “worthy”; Luke 20:35; Rev. 3:4

FACTS CONCERNING THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION:

**1.** The First Resurrection implies an “earlier” Resurrection from among the dead; it must be attained. Glorified bodies shall be given to the firstfruits, who will rule and reign with Christ; 1 Corinthians 15:40-44; Rev. 1:6. This phase of the “**Parousia**” (coming, presence) will be an open manifestation of Christ to the world in His victorious sons and daughters; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; Romans 8:19.

**2.** This was prefigured by the transformation of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 17:2. It will be the hour of glorification of Jesus in His saints. That which had been concealed by the “veil” of the

material realm and the body of flesh, will be “rent” as the sky is rolled back, and what has been true (but hidden) will be witnessed by all men; Revelation 20:6.

**3.** This is a “making visible” to the physical realm of that which has been active and influential in the Earth throughout the 2,000 years of the Christian era. This will be an open revelation of what always has been close at hand: the “finished product”, the full redemption (body, soul and spirit) of God’s divine working in a first-fruits people; Colossians 3:4

**4.** It is the transformation of those who are not only forgiven, justified and sanctified, but have become “life-giving” spirits, who will serve as priests and deliverers of God’s creation; 1 Corinthians 15:52

**5.** The nations will behold the glory of God in His sons, and it shall be a time when the saints take the Kingdom; Daniel 7:18

**6.** The First Resurrection is attained through a life-long pursuit of total union with Christ. The Second Death has no authority over these saints because they have driven the lust, the self-will and the worldliness from their personality through the dealings of the Cross; Rev. 2:11

**7.** Those who participate in this Resurrection have their mind set on that which is above; their love, their interests and hope are continually focused on God’s throne and His Kingdom. They have come out from the multitude of half-hearted believers, entering into union with Him.

**8.** Those who attain to this Resurrection have “made themselves ready”. These have “dressed themselves” in their own righteous conduct of fine linen, and are ready for marriage to the Lord; Rev. 19:7; Song of Sol. 7:10. The Lord will use them to help make the others “ready”.

**9.** The inheritance of total victory is given to those who press forward to the mark set before him as an individual; Philippians 3:13-14. These, having judged themselves, practice righteousness by walking according to the spirit, and do not come under judgment; 1 Corinthians 11:31

**10.** This is the Resurrection of the Royal Priesthood, those who “gain Christ”. We gain Christ only by the most sincere, consistent and diligent pursuit of Him. Conquering saints are the “first-fruits” of the Harvest, overcomers in the Church; Revelation, chapters 2-3.

**11.** These will govern God’s creation. They are the Lord’s “mighty men” (like those with king David), which are symbolized by the “wall” that surrounds the Holy City; Rev. 21:12-19

**12.** Those who attain to the First Resurrection have purged themselves of the filthiness of the flesh; their garments are not soiled. They are dressed in white, for they are worthy; Rev. 3:4

**13.** Those who attain to the First Resurrection have come to “full stature”. Christ has been formed in them to the degree that they are developed (mature enough) to reproduce the image of Christ in other people, and they have the ability to nourish (feed spiritual children); Song of Solomon 8:10; Ephesians 4:13

**14.** Those who attain to the First Resurrection will rule the nations with a rod of iron; Rev. 2:27. They will work during the 1,000 year Kingdom Age to help perfect the less mature of God's elect, the "little sister", who is not "developed", or ready for marriage; Song of Solomon 8:8-9

**15.** These saints are raised from the dead when Jesus appears, and those who are alive will be caught up to meet Him in the air, and shall gain a glorified body; 1 Thess. 4:16-17. He will place them on thrones of glory in the air.

**16.** The Lord Jesus will raise the overcoming saints who are like Gideon's Army: especially trained in warfare. They will be assigned their place in the Lord's Army, and then will descend with Him to destroy the wicked. He and His glorified saints will descend to the Earth, and He will be crowned King of kings on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

**a.** Prophetically speaking, Gideon is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, and his 300 men are a type of a warrior first-fruits who have been selected from an army of 32,000. These have "overcome" the obstacles and have passed the "tests"; Judges 7:7. They resemble the children of a King; Judges 8:4, 18.

**b.** Each of them has a trumpet (a clear, prophetic message) and a pitcher (with a torch inside). The torch is the life and light of Christ which is hidden behind the veil of their flesh. They are presently being perfected, awaiting the Day of their unveiling ; Judges 7:16

**c.** There is a loud, concerted, unified blast of the "trumpets", then there is a shattering of the "pitchers"; they are broken. The torches within the pitchers (vessels) "shine forth" after the vessels are broken. The mortal bodies of those who are alive when the Lord Jesus appears will "break" and the glory of the Lord will be seen; Judges 7:18-23

**d.** A cake of "barley bread" (barley is a type of first-fruits) will tumble into the host of Midian's "tent" (the nomadic enemy), overturning it. God's overcomers will "roll" down from Mount Zion and will smite the tents of wickedness (the kingdoms of this world); Judges 7:12-14.