

"The Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ"

Part 3

Revelation 20:1-6

Introduction: We are currently looking at Revelation 20 as we make our way through the book of Revelation. It is in this chapter that we see what happens in the 75 days after the Tribulation which Daniel referred to.

Daniel 12:11-12

¹¹ *And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

¹² *Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.*

Last week we discussed that the Tribulation is 7 years in length and one-half of the Tribulation is 1260 days. But here we see that Daniel refers to 1290 days from the mid-point so that is an additional 30 days and then he refers to 1335 days which is an additional 45 days beyond the 30. Daniel is referring to a 75-day period at the end of the Tribulation. In that 75-day period there will be many events that will take place.

Within these 75 days Satan will be bound, locked up and sealed away for the 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ.

Notice Revelation 20:1-2

There is also more that will take place within these 75 days. It will be in these days that the Gentile nations will be judged and recorded in Matthew 25. It will also be in these 75 days that service will be appointed to the Saints.

Luke 19:12-19

¹² *He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.*

¹³ *And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.*

¹⁴ *But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.*

¹⁵ And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

¹⁶ Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

¹⁷ And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

¹⁸ And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

¹⁹ And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

Now today we are going to look at another event that will take place in these 75 days.

I. The Resurrection

Notice Revelation 20:4

As we read this verse we see that those who stood firm for their faith and were martyred will be resurrected in this 75-day period. Before we look at the resurrection let us look at what God's Word tells us about these people.

1. They were beheaded.
 - a. For their witness for Jesus Christ.
 - b. For the Word of God.
 - c. They refused to worship the Beast or the image of the Beast.
 - d. They refused to take the Mark of the Beast.

Revelation 13:11, 14-18

¹¹ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

*¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, **that they should make an image to the beast**, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

*¹⁵ And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and **cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed**.*

*¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, **to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:***

¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

It is these who are beheaded for their faith who we are told are resurrected here in Revelation 20. There is something which Jesus said that is recorded by all 4 Gospel writers and here in Revelation 20 we can see that meaning of His Words.

Matthew 16:25

²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

These people refused to save their lives by conforming to the pressure but instead they lost their lives for their stand for Jesus Christ and on this resurrection day they shall get their lives back again.

Application:

I want to stop here for a moment and remind you and me that it is so important that we do not compromise just to be comfortable in this life. Whatever it costs us to stand firm we must know that what we lose are sacrifices. When we stand before the Lord we shall be compensated for those very sacrifices.

Romans 8:16-18

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

1 Peter 4:13

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1 Peter 5:1

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Now there is another benefit that is connected with suffering for Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:8-10

⁸ *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

⁹ *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

¹⁰ *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

There is a fellowship that comes with suffering that we will never know outside the trials and the sufferings of this life. So, when we stand for Jesus Christ and our stand brings suffering there is then a fellowship with the Lord that is only known through the suffering.

Now, let us get back to the resurrection here. There is more than one group of people that will be resurrected in the 75-day period.

1. The Martyred Tribulation Saints.

2. The Old Testament Saints.

The Old Testament Saints knew of the resurrection and they looked forward to the resurrection of their bodies.

Job 19:25-27

²⁵ *For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:*

²⁶ *And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:*

²⁷ *Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.*

Isaiah 26:19

¹⁹ *Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.*

Daniel 12:1-2

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

² And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

The resurrection to everlasting life is the resurrection here in Revelation 20.

This will include the resurrection of the Old Testament Saints and when they are resurrected they will also be judged and rewarded.

Now let us get back to Revelation 20 for there is yet something else here that we need to see.

Notice Revelation 20:4-6

The resurrection spoken of here is referred to as the FIRST resurrection and this has caused confusion in the minds of many people. Because this is called the FIRST resurrection many believe that the church will go through the Tribulation and those who have died in Christ will be resurrected here. Let me help you to understand this.

There are ONLY TWO resurrections in the Bible and they are the FIRST RESURRECTION which is the resurrection of believers and then the SECOND RESURRECTION which is the resurrection of unbelievers.

Now what we need to understand is that the FIRST resurrection has several parts. Every group will be resurrected in the order which God has appointed.

1 Corinthians 15:21-23a

²¹ *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.*

²² *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

²³ **But every man in his own order:**

Let me show you the order of the FIRST RESURRECTION.

1. Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 15:20

²⁰ *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

Jesus is the firstfruits of those who have died and one of the things the firstfruits spoke of was the coming of a greater harvest. This means that many more would live because Jesus lives.

2. A few saints following Jesus' resurrection.

Matthew 27:50-53

⁵⁰ *Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.*

⁵¹ *And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;*

⁵² *And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,*

⁵³ *And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

3. The Church

This will happen at the Rapture before the Tribulation.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

¹³ *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

¹⁴ *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

¹⁵ *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

¹⁶ *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

¹⁷ *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

4. God's Two Witnesses.

This resurrection will take place in the middle of the Tribulation.

Revelation 11:7,11-12

⁷ *And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.*

¹¹ *And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.*

¹² *And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.*

5. The Old Testament Saints.

This happens here in Revelation 20 at the end of the Tribulation.

Ezekiel 37:13-14

¹³ *And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,*

¹⁴ *And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.*

6. The Tribulation Martyrs.

This also happens here in Revelation 20 at the end of the Tribulation.

These are the 6 parts of the FIRST RESURRECTION. The SECOND RESURRECTION has only one part and it will take place at the Great White Throne later in this chapter.

Conclusion:

Let me give you something interesting to consider as we bring this to an end today. Here in Revelation 20 is the last mention of ANY resurrection of the righteous. Therefore, I believe we can conclude that those who enter into the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ with natural bodies will never die.

Notice Revelation 20:5-6

We are blessed because we are part of the FIRST RESURRECTION and so the SECOND DEATH has no power over us. In other words, we are secure in Jesus Christ.

John 11:25-26

²⁵ *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

²⁶ *And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*