



# BE **WISE** ABOUT THE RESURRECTION Part 2

Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1

(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 618 – 621



## 1 Corinthians 15:20 – 28 (NKJV)

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

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

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

23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.



**24** Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

**25** For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

**26** The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

**27** For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.

**28** Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.



# Paul dealt with the subject by answering four basic questions:

1. **ARE** the dead raised? (1 Cor. 15:1 – 19)
2. **WHEN** are the dead raised? (1 Cor. 15:20 – 28)
3. **WHY** are the dead raised? (1 Cor. 15:29 – 34, 49 – 58)
4. **HOW** are the dead raised? (1 Cor. 15:35 – 48)



## FIRSTFRUITS (VV. 20, 23)

### Leviticus 23:9 – 14 (NKJV)

9 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

10 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.

11 He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

12 And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD.



## FIRSTFRUITS (VV. 20, 23)

**13** Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin.

**14** You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.



# FIRSTFRUITS (VV. 20, 23)

- As the Lamb of God, Jesus died on Passover.
- As the sheaf of firstfruits, He arose from the dead three days later on the first day of the week.
- When the priest waved the sheaf of the firstfruits before the Lord, it was a sign that the entire harvest belonged to Him.



# FIRSTFRUITS (VV. 20, 23)

## Philippians 1:21 – 23 (NKJV)

**21** For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

**22** But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

**23** For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.





**At the resurrection, the body  
will be "awakened" and  
glorified.**



# ADAM (VV. 21 – 22)

The first Adam was made from the **earth**, but the Last Adam came from **heaven**.

## 1 Corinthians 15:45 – 47 (NKJV)

45 And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.



## ADAM (VV. 21 – 22)

- The **first Adam** disobeyed God and brought sin and death into the world, but the **Last Adam** obeyed the Father and brought righteousness and life.
- The word “*order*” in 1 Corinthians 15:23 originally referred to military rank. God has an order and a sequence in the resurrection.



WHEN  
ARE THE DEAD  
RAISED?

- **When Jesus Christ returns in the air**, He will take **His church** to heaven and at that time raise from the dead all who have trusted Him and have died in the faith (1 Thes. 4:13 – 18).
- Jesus called this **"the resurrection of life"**.

### John 5:29 (NKJV)

and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.



**When Jesus returns to the earth in judgment**, then the **lost** will be raised in **“the resurrection of damnation”**. 14

## **Revelation 20:11 – 15 (NKJV)**

**11** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

**12** And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which



**13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

**14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

**15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

**Nobody in the first resurrection will be lost, but nobody in the second resurrection will be saved.**



**When Jesus Christ comes to the earth to judge,** He will banish sin for a thousand years and establish His kingdom (Rev. 20:1 – 6).





## Revelation 20:1 – 6 (NKJV)

**1** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

**2** He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

**3** and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.



4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.



5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.



## THE KINGDOM (VV. 24 – 28)

- Believers will reign with Him and share His glory and authority.
- This kingdom, prophesied in the Old Testament, is called "**the Millennium**" by prophetic teachers.
- The word comes from the Latin: *mille*—thousand, *annum*—year.



# THE KINGDOM (VV. 24 – 28)

But even **after the Millennium**, there will be **one final rebellion** against God, which Jesus Christ will put down by His power.

## Revelation 20:7 – 10 (NKJV)

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.



## THE KINGDOM (VV. 24 – 28)

**9** They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

**10** The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.



## THE KINGDOM (VV. 24 – 28)

- The lost will then be raised, judged and cast into the lake of fire.
- Then death itself shall be cast into hell, and the last enemy shall be destroyed.



**Jesus Christ will have put all things under  
His feet!**

**He will then turn the kingdom over to the  
Father, and then the eternal state—the new  
heavens and new earth—shall be ushered  
in. (Rev. 21–22)**





## THE KINGDOM (VV. 24 – 28)

- Good and godly students of the Word have not always agreed on the details of God's prophetic program, but the major truths seem to be clear.

**Jesus Christ reigns in heaven today, and all authority is "under His feet."**



## Psalm 110:1 – 2 (NKJV)

1 The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!



## Psalm 110:5 – 6 (NKJV)

5 The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.

6 He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries.



## Ephesians 1:15 – 23 (NKJV)

**15** Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

**16** do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

**17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,



**18** the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

**19** and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

**20** which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,



**21** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

**22** And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

**23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.



## THE KINGDOM (VV. 24 – 28)

- Satan and man are still able to exercise choice, but God is sovereignly in control. Jesus Christ is enthroned in heaven today (Ps. 2).
- The resurrection of the saved has not yet taken place, nor the resurrection of the lost.



# THE KINGDOM (VV. 24 – 28)

## 2 Timothy 2:17 – 18 (NKJV)

17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,

18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.





# THE KINGDOM (VV. 24 – 28)

**When will Jesus Christ return for His church?** Nobody knows, but when it occurs, it will be "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye."

**1 Corinthians 15:52 (NKJV)** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- **It behooves us to be ready** (1 John 2:28 – 3:3).

