



COMMENTARY

There are two resurrections in the Bible. The "first resurrection" (Rev 20:4-6) is also called "a better resurrection" (Heb 11:35), "the resurrection of the righteous" (Luke 14:14), and "a resurrection of life" (John 5:29). Daniel mentions a resurrection to eternal life and another to eternal shame (12:2).

Those who participate in the first resurrection are "blessed and holy" (Rev 20:6). Everyone will be resurrected (John 5:28), both the righteous and the wicked (Acts 24:15).

Jewish Age

FEAST OF FIRST FRUITS

March to April
Barley Harvest Begins



ASCENSION

1

THE RESURRECTION PROGRAM

Church Age

FEAST OF PENTECOST

May to June
Wheat Harvest Ends



RAPTURE

2



SECOND COMING

Tribulation

FEAST OF TABERNACLES OR INGATHERING

September to October
Grape, Fig, and Olive Harvest

Jesus and the saints of all ages will be present in resurrection bodies in the Kingdom. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (from the age of Promise) and all the prophets (from the age of the Law) will be there (Matt 8:11; Luke 13:28).

GLEANINGS OF INGATHERING

GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT



POSSIBLE SECOND RAPTURE

5

Millennium

COMMENTARY

The phrase "resurrection from the dead" means "resurrection from among the dead" (cf. Phil 3:11). In other words, some of the dead are resurrected while the rest remain dead. It is never applied to unbelievers.

The first resurrection has several stages or phases, as indicated by the clause "but each one in his own order" in 1 Cor 15:23a. The word τάγμα is a military term for bodies of troops in various numbers, e.g., a battalion passing in review.

THE HARVEST FEASTS OF ISRAEL ARE TYPES OF THE RESURRECTION PROGRAM.

Phase 1

CHRIST (1 Cor 15:20, 23) and the **SAINTS IN JERUSALEM** (Matt 27:52-53)

Jesus, the first fruits and wave sheaf, and the saints in Jerusalem constitute the barley harvest (Lev 23:9-14). First fruits implies a greater harvest to come. The saints in Jerusalem were most likely taken to heaven with Jesus at his ascension.



Phase 2

RAPTURE OF CHURCH AGE BELIEVERS (1 Cor 15:23; 1 Thess 4:13-18)

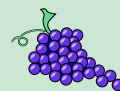
Believers of the Church Age constitute the wheat harvest and are pictured in type by the wave loaves (Lev 23:15-21; Num 28:26).



Phase 3

TRIBULATION MARTYRS AND OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS (Rev 20:4) (Isa 26:19; Dan 12:2, 13)

This resurrection includes tribulation martyrs and all OT saints from creation to the Day of Pentecost, both Jews and Gentiles. Tribulation martyrs, raised first, are the first fruits of the fruit harvest and Old Testament saints are the rest of the fruit harvest—both constitute the ingathering of fruit (Lev 23:33-43).



Phase 4

THE REST OF THE DEAD (Rev 20:5)

This is the Second Resurrection. It includes the unsaved dead of all dispensations (Rev 20:11-15). They are resurrected to judgment before the Great White Throne.



Phase 5

RAPTURE OF DEAD AND LIVING MILLENNIAL SAINTS

Perhaps, at the end of the Millennium, there will be a second Rapture followed by a second Judgment Seat of Christ for millennial saints in sinful human bodies; to be exact, for surviving tribulational saints and saints who are born and die (if any) during the Millennium. If so, they are translated to heaven before the destruction of this present heavens and earth, judged and rewarded in heaven, and then return to the new earth (cf. 2 Peter 3:10-13). These saints are the gleanings of the fruit harvest (Lev 19:10; Deut 24:20-21).

