

The Mystery of the Resurrection

(Rev. 5/23/2024)

Scripture Text: 1 Corinthians 15:23-26; 50-54; Isaiah 25:8; John 5:25-29

1. Introduction

- A. This information is “pivotal” in the structure of end time Bible prophecy and could reshape your eschatological beliefs.
- B. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul describes the resurrection of the dead.
- C. It provides information about how the dead are raised and with what body they will have.
- D. Eschatology – the doctrine of last things. (Resurrection is one topic of eschatology).
- E. Various terms describing different views of end time Bible prophecy:
 - Pre-trib., mid-trib., pre-wrath, post trib. rapture timing views
 - Premillennial (dispensational & historical), post millennial, and amillennial.
 - Historicist, preterist, idealist, and futurist Revelation interpretation methods.
- F. Our understanding of our bodily resurrection will impact how we view eschatology.

2. The Plumb Line Metaphor

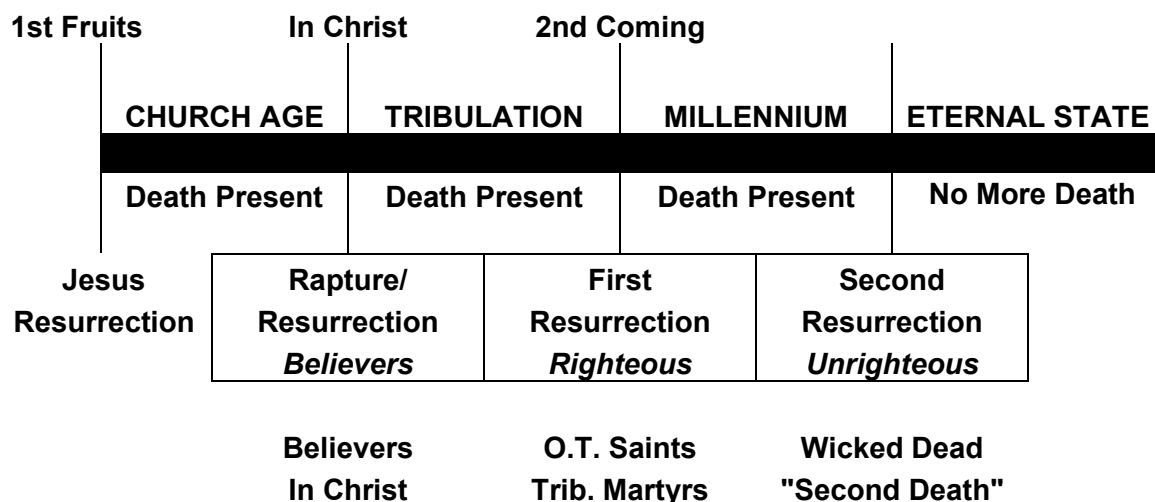
- A. A plumb line is a light line with a weight (plumb bob) at one end that, when suspended next to a workpiece, defines a vertical line.
- B. Painters and carpenters use plumb lines to keep their work straight.
- C. 1 Corinthians 15:54 provides the straight line in which all Bible prophecies concerning the end of the age must line up with. Must harmonize scriptures to agree with this fact.
- D. 1 Cor. 15:54 states that the resurrection (verses 51-53) is the fulfillment of Isaiah 25:8.
- E. All prophetic events must be interpreted in such a way that they will stay true with the timing of when death shall be abolished forever.

3. The resurrection of our physical body

- A. The verse that serves as the plumb line of Bible eschatology – 1 Corinthians 15:54
- B. Jesus teaches there is ONE physical resurrection of the dead – John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15.
- C. What about Rev. 20:5? 1st resurrection = spiritual/born again. 2nd resurrection = physical.
- D. Two timelines showing the most popular view compared to the plain reading of the text.
- E. Which timeline best illustrates the resurrection of the dead based on the scripture text?

Timeline #1:

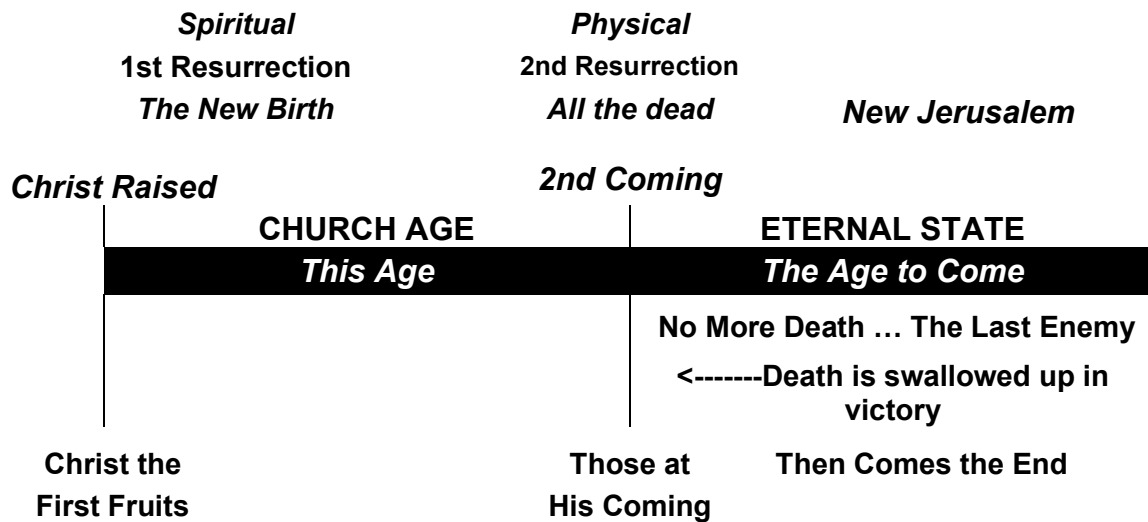
Dispensational Premillennialism – The Prevailing or Popular View
Incorporates Multiple Physical Resurrections of the Dead



Timeline #2:

1 Corinthians 15:23-24

Scripture Describes One Physical Resurrection of the Dead



4. Conclusions drawn based on the scripture text.

- Jesus is the first to be resurrected with a glorified body.
- Believers and non-believers are **ALL** resurrected at Jesus's 2nd coming.
- Flesh and blood cannot enter the Kingdom of God. Only those in glorified bodies.
- After Jesus resurrects the dead, then comes the end. Not an intermediate age where "the curse" is partially lifted and those in glorified bodies co-exist with those in mortal bodies.
- There can be no pretribulation rapture since death will occur during the tribulation and even in the millennium. **THIS IS BASED ON SCRIPTURE!**
- If there could be death in the millennium, there cannot be a thousand-year age. This conclusion is drawn **BASED ON SCRIPTURE!**
- The resurrection marks the **end of death**. The Apostle Paul said this in 1 Cor. 15:54 which is the fulfillment of Isaiah 25:8. This is the **PLUMB LINE** verse.
- At the resurrection, the **last enemy** is destroyed which is death.
- One resurrection of the physical dead, not multiple resurrections. Jesus said this in John 5:28-29. This serves as another **PLUMB LINE** passage.
- Does this information alter your view of the end time events? (Interpretative grid used).
- Remember, prophetic passages must be harmonized in agreeing with clear truths.

5. How did we miss 1 Corinthians 15:54?

- Not checking back to Isaiah 25:8 where the prophecy was originally given and understanding the context of the verses around it.
- Not connecting Isaiah 25:8 with Revelation 21:4 where John mentions the same things (wiping away all tears and no more death) as Isaiah, confirming this will occur in the eternal state.
- Some just want to verify their position and not what scripture says. It is being loyal to a position/view rather than being loyal to the scriptures.
- The Isaiah prophecy is too explicit. It unravels what we believe. It cannot possibly mean what it plainly says because it goes against the prevailing view (dispensational premillennialism).
- An unwillingness to change no matter how convincing the biblical evidence may be.

Scripture Text:

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. (1 Cor. 15:23-24)

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵² 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. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Cor. 15:50-54)

He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 25:8 *NKJV*)

⁸ He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. (*KJV*)

⁸ He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the disgrace of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 25:8 *NASB*)

⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 25:8 *NIV*)

⁸ He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 25:8 *ESV*)

First Resurrection: Spiritual, Born Again:

²⁵ "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead [Eph. 2:1; Rom 5:12] will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live [2 Cor. 5:17]. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. (John 5:25-27)

Second Resurrection: Physical:

²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. (John 5:28-29)

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (Dan. 12:2)

¹⁵ 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)

Final Comments:

The great misconception of the end times is the myth of the pretribulation rapture. A “myth” is defined as “a popular belief or tradition that has grown up around something or someone; a widely held but false belief or idea.” It is my assertion that a pretribulation rapture is not supported by scripture. The belief can be traced back to John Nelson Darby in 1830. It became the view endorsed by the Scofield Reference Bible, first published in 1909. The reference notes in this Bible helped influence generations and is a big reason the pretribulation rapture is the most popular view today. Those who support the pretribulation rapture, in my opinion, are basing it on faulty and incomplete information. When this view is taught, I believe it is done by Bible believing Christians who truly think they are basing their position on sound biblical evidence. As we gain more information and insight to the scriptures, we may need to revised our long-held beliefs.