

The Two Resurrections By Pastor Art Watkins

In John 5:28-29 Jesus said: ***Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.***

The Lord plainly said there will be two resurrections in the future. Not three or four, just two and he ought to know, for he is the one who will raise the dead. (John 5:21) He said there will be a resurrection of life and a resurrection of damnation. The resurrection of life is the resurrection of all saints from all ages at Christ's coming. The resurrection of damnation is the resurrection of the lost. What John does not mention is that there will be at least 1000 years between these two resurrections. Later in Revelation he reveals this fact to us.

What Jesus said about the two resurrections in the future is what the prophets in the Old Testament and the apostles in the New Testament wrote. Daniel the prophet wrote about the same two resurrections that Christ preached. In Daniel 12:2 he said: ***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.***

Daniel prophesied of two resurrections in the future. According to him the saints will be raised to everlasting life and the lost to everlasting contempt. These are the same two resurrections found in John 5 and like Christ he does not mention the fact that there are at least 1000 years between these two resurrections. Concerning the saints who will be raised to everlasting life he said in the next verse: ***And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.***

He does not mention the plight of the lost after they are raised, but Isaiah the prophet does. In Isaiah 66:24 he wrote: ***And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.***

The Hebrew word translated abhorring in this verse is the same word for contempt in Daniel 12:2 and you can see why. It says, *their worm shall not die neither shall their fire be quenched.*

Paul the apostle in the New Testament also preached and wrote about the same two resurrections. In Acts 24:14-15 he said: ***But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.***

The resurrection of the just is the same as the resurrection of life in John 5 and the resurrection into everlasting life in Daniel 12:2. The resurrection of the unjust is the same as the resurrection of damnation in John 5 and the resurrection of contempt in Daniel 12:2. This shows us the influence that Daniel and Jesus had on Paul when it came to the doctrine of resurrection. He preached the same two resurrections as they did.

The resurrection of the just and of everlasting life is the resurrection of all saints at Christ's coming. The resurrection of the unjust and damnation and contempt, is the resurrection of the lost after the resurrection of life. There are not two resurrections of the lost and there are not two resurrections of the saints. There is one resurrection of the saints and one resurrection of the lost. There is a first resurrection and there is no resurrection before it. The first resurrection was also prophesied by Isaiah and Hosea. See 1 Corinthians 15:54-55.

In Revelation 20 John also wrote of the same two resurrections, as he did in John, but here he gives us additional information about them. He had a vision and he saw the martyrs of Christ in the future and he wrote: ***And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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.***

The resurrection of life and the just is called the first resurrection here in Revelation and notice he said FIRST. Not the second or third, but the first and nothing comes before first. If you are first in the dinner line then no one

is ahead of you in the dinner line. If your name is called out first then nobody's name is called out before yours. If this is the first resurrection, then there is no resurrection before this one. If there is a resurrection before this resurrection, then this resurrection is not first. This resurrection is called first because no resurrection precedes it.

The first resurrection is the resurrection of life and of the just. It's when all saints from all ages will be raised from the dead. The second resurrection is the resurrection of damnation and the unjust and of contempt. It's the resurrection of the lost from all ages 1000 years after the resurrection of the saints. John describes the second resurrection in verses 11-15 and when you read these verses, you see why it is called the resurrection of damnation and contempt.

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

No matter where the lost dead are now, they will all be resurrected and brought to this judgment. God will judge their works to prove beyond any doubt that they are guilty of every sin his law outlaws and deserve to be punished in the lake of fire forever. This shows us that the lost dead do not cease to exist at death for it says, ***death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.***

If you are not saved and have no intention of getting saved and you think you will cease to exist when you die, you better think again and read these verses again.

The prophets in the Old Testament and the apostles in the New Testament and Jesus in the four gospels all said, there are two resurrections. They are future separated by 1000 years. The resurrection of all saints at Christ's coming and the resurrection of the lost 1000 years later.