

Dispensationalism — Rapture & Resurrection

1. First Resurrection (Resurrection unto Life)

John 5:29a NASB

and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a **resurrection of life**...

Revelation 20:4 NASB

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; **and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

2. Second Resurrection (Resurrection unto Death)

John 5:29b NASB

... those who committed the evil deeds to a **resurrection of judgment.**

Revelation 20:5 NASB

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

1. One Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NASB

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Let's look at the Resurrection.

Revelation 20:4-6 NASB

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. [5] The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. [6] Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

So the first resurrection happens after the tribulation only for those beheaded, those who didn't take the mark, those who made it through the tribulation and didn't worship the beast and his image. Notice (vs.5) says that not all the dead will rise until after the 1000 years...

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 NASB

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. [18] Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Notice that it is those who have fallen asleep, not those who have been beheaded or slain that will be raised but those who have fallen asleep.

Thayer's Greek Lexicon

STRONGS NT 2837: κοιμάω

κοιμάω, κοίμω: passive, present κοιμάομαι. κοιμῶμαι; perfect κεκοίμημαι (cf. Winer's Grammar, 274 (257)); 1 aorist ἐκοιμήθην; 1 future κοιμηθήσομαι; (akin to κείμαι; Curtius, § 45); to cause to sleep, put to sleep (Homer, et al.); metaphorically, to still, calm, quiet, (Homer, Aeschylus, Plato); passive to sleep, fall asleep: properly, Matthew 28:13; Luke 22:45; John 11:12; Acts 12:6; the Sept. for כָּנָן. metaphorically

There is literally nothing in here that demonstrates a resurrection in comparison to the 1 Thess. 4:16 passage.

The resurrection is the raising to life those who have come from or have been martyred in the tribulation period. In order to reign with Christ, they must be transformed.

Secondly, ἀνάστασις is the Word used by John to call something the Resurrection. John never uses the word ἀρπαγησόμεθα to describe the Resurrection, and Paul never uses the Word ἀνάστασις to describe the Rapture.

Strong's Concordance

anastasis: a standing up, i.e. a resurrection, a raising up, rising

Original Word: ἀνάστασις, εως, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: anastasis

Phonetic Spelling: (an-as'-tas-is)

Definition: a standing up, a resurrection, a raising up, rising

Usage: a rising again, resurrection