

Resurrections in the Bible

by Pastor Stephen Bohr

Old Testament Resurrections

- **Moses**

Deuteronomy 34:5, 6: “So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. 6 And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.”

Matthew 17:3: “And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.”

Jude 9: “Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

I Thessalonians 4:16: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”

- **Son of the Widow of Zarephath**

I Kings 17:17, 21, 22: “Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. 21 And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him." 22 Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.”

- **One who touched Elisha’s bones**

- **2 Kings 13:21:** “So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.”

New Testament Resurrections of People who Died Again

- Son of the **widow of Nain**

Luke 7:11-15: Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. 12 And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." 14 Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said: 'Young man, I say to you, arise.' 15 So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

- Daughter of **Jairus**

Luke 8:41, 42, 49-55: “And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, 42 for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. 49 While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." 50 But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." 51 When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. 52 Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." 53 And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. 54 But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." 55 Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat.”

- **Lazarus** (John 11)

*“During His ministry, Jesus raised the dead to life. He raised the son of the widow of Nain, the daughter of Jairus, and Lazarus; but these were **not***

clothed with immortality. After they were raised, they continued to be subject to death.” Selected Messages, p. 304

- **Eutychus**

Acts 20:9, 10: “And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. 10 But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, ‘Do not trouble yourselves for his life is in him.’”

New Testament Resurrection of People who did not Die Again

- **Matthew 27:51-53: Special resurrection**

“Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”

“But those who came forth from the grave at Christ's resurrection were raised to everlasting life. They were the multitude of captives that ascended with Him as trophies of His victory over death and the grave.” Selected Messages, volume 1, pp. 304, 305

- **Jesus as the first-fruits (Leviticus 23:9-11; I Corinthians 15:20)**

“Christ arose from the dead as the first fruits of those that slept. He was the antitype of the wave sheaf, and His resurrection took place on the very day when the wave sheaf was to be presented before the Lord.” The Desire of Ages, pp. 785, 786

- **Multitude as the first-fruits (Leviticus 23:20; Acts 2:1)**

“They were those who had been co-laborers with God, and who at the cost of their lives had borne testimony to the truth. Now they were to be witnesses for Him who had raised them from the dead.” The Desire of Ages, p. 786

“All heaven was waiting to welcome the Savior to the celestial courts. As He ascended, He led the way, and the multitude of captives set free at His resurrection followed.” The Desire of Ages, p. 833

“So those who had been raised were to be presented to the universe as a pledge of the resurrection of all who believe in Christ as their personal Savior.” Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 305

Two End Time Resurrections

John 5:28, 29: No time element mentioned. John was the writer of both the Gospel of John and Revelation.

“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.”

General Resurrection of the righteous

I Thessalonians 4:13-17: “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 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 by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

I Corinthians 15:51-55: “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." 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

Revelation 20:4-6: “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. 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.”

General Resurrection of the Wicked:

Revelation 2:11: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”

Revelation 20:5: “But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.”

Revelation 20:14: “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

Revelation 21:8: “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

The Special Resurrection

The Special Resurrection of those who pierced Jesus:

Matthew 23:37, 38: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'

Matthew 26:64: “Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Revelation 1:7 (Matthew 24:30): “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.”

Special resurrection of those who died in the faith of the third angel:

Revelation 14:13: “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”

- This text comes immediately **after** the third angel’s message (Revelation 14:12) and immediately **before** the second coming (Revelation 14:14)
- The word “**blessed**” is important. This blessing is not pronounced upon **all** those who have died in the Lord. It is only pronounced on a **special group** who died in the Lord after the third angel’s message began to be proclaimed. This is clearly indicated by the word “**henceforth**”.
- Death is spoken of as “**rest**”
- This message began to be proclaimed in **1844** so those who die in the Lord after this date are blessed in a special sense.
- No Seventh-day Adventists who are saved will come forth in the general resurrection—all will come forth in the special resurrection!

Daniel 12:7, 11, 12

- Some have attempted to make these time periods literal time in the future but **Revelation 10:6** precludes this possibility. This time periods had to end in 1844 at the very latest.
- The 1260, 1290 and 1335 days are mentioned. The 1260 days begin in 538 and end in 1798. The 1290 days begin in 508 and end in 1798. The 1335 days begin in 508 and end in 1843.
- Notice the word “blessed” in Daniel 12:12. This is the same word that appears in Revelation 14:13 after the third angel’s message. A special blessing is pronounced upon those who **wait and reach** until the 1335 days.
- At the latest, the time periods of Daniel 12 have to end in 1844 because we are told in Revelation 10:6 that prophetic time would be no longer after 1844.

“There will always be false and fanatical movements made by persons in the church who claim to be led of God--those who will run before they are sent and will give day and date for the occurrence of unfulfilled prophecy. The enemy is pleased to have them do this, for their successive failures and leading into false lines cause confusion and unbelief.” Selected Messages, volume 2, p. 84

“Our position has been one of waiting and watching, with no time-proclamation to intervene between the close of the prophetic periods in 1844 and the time of our Lord's coming.” Manuscript Releases, volume 10, p. 270

“The people will not have another message upon definite time. After this period of time [Rev. 10:4-6], reaching from 1842 to 1844, there can be no definite tracing of the prophetic time. The longest reckoning reaches to the autumn of 1844.” Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, volume 7, p. 971

Daniel 12:2

- We are told that **many** (Hebrew: *rab*, see Daniel 12:3, 4, 10; 11:44) of those who sleep in the dust of the earth will be raised. Notice that **not all** who are dead resurrect but rather “**many**”.
- This text speaks of a partial resurrection of **some righteous** and **some wicked** people. This cannot be referring to the **general resurrection** of the wicked because they don't rise until **after the millennium**.

Summary of the Resurrections:

- General resurrection of the righteous: Those who died in Christ until 1844 resurrect at the end of the second coming of Jesus
- General resurrection of the wicked: Unbelievers from all ages resurrect after the millennium
- Special resurrection of the righteous: Those who died in the faith of the third angel resurrect as Jesus begins His second coming
- Special resurrection of the wicked: Those who pierced Jesus and the worst enemies of the truth resurrect as Jesus begins His second coming

- Living Righteous: The 144,000

Ellen White's View of the Timing of the Special Resurrection:

- The Great Controversy, p. 613: Jesus stands up (Daniel 12:1) and begins to reign (Daniel 11:2, 3, 4 on the meaning of "stand up"). He lays off His priestly robes (which He wears in Hebrews) and puts on His kingly robes (spoken of in Revelation 19:11ff)
- The Great Controversy, pp. 613-634: The time of trouble (Daniel 12:1)
- The Great Controversy, p. 635: The death decree about to be executed (Daniel 11:44)
- The Great Controversy, p. 635, 636: God's living saints are delivered by the voice of God (Daniel 12:1). The fact that they are written in the book indicates that they went through a pre-advent judgment (see, Revelation 22:11, 12)
- The Great Controversy, p. 637: **The special resurrection** (Daniel 12:2)
- The Great Controversy, p. 640: The **day and hour of Jesus' coming** is announced
- The Great Controversy, p. 640, 641: The second coming of Jesus concludes
- The Great Controversy, p. 644: The general resurrection of the righteous.

Will Ellen G. White be among the 144,000?

- Ellen White does not fit the description of the 144,000 she herself gives in The Great Controversy, pp. 648, 649
- Ellen White never says that she will be **among** the 144,000. It is always **with** the 144,000

"Then the angel said, "You must go back, and if you are faithful, you, **with** the 144,000, shall have the privilege of visiting all the worlds and viewing the handiwork of God." Early Writings, p. 39

Mrs. Hastings and the 144,000

In 1850, Ellen G. White wrote a letter of condolence to a brother Hastings who had just lost his wife:

“I hardly know what to say to you. The news of your wife's death was to me overwhelming. I could hardly believe it and can hardly believe it now. God gave me a view last Sabbath night which I will write....

I saw that she was sealed and would come up **at the voice of God** and stand upon the earth, and would be **with** the 144,000. I saw we need not mourn for her; she would **rest in the time of trouble**, and all that we could mourn for was our loss in being deprived of her company. I saw her death would result in good. Selected Messages, volume 2, p. 263

The question is: How could Mrs. Hastings be sealed if the seal of God is given at the very end of time just before the close of probation? Ellen White is clear that the seal of God will be received in the same time frame as the mark of the beast.

In Manuscript 51, 1899 Ellen White wrote that the mark of the beast had not yet been received by anyone:

“**No one has yet received the mark of the beast. The testing time has not yet come.** There are true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion. None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But **when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit Sabbath**, and the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.” Evangelism, p. 234

In 1911, Ellen White made it clear that the seal of God will be received at the very end of time:

“The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When **the final test** shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false Sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other

choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, **receive the seal of God.**”
The Great Controversy, p. 605

The Gospel Seal and the Eschatological Seal

When a person receives Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, he receives the seal of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:38; Ephesians 1:13, 14; 4:30; II Corinthians 1:22).

But the end time seal is a special seal that empowers God’s people to finish the proclamation of the gospel and to stand in the time of trouble. The seal of the early rain begins the proclamation of the gospel and the latter rain seals the crop for the harvest.



SECRETS UNSEALED

*Secrets Unsealed is a non-profit ministry.
Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated.*

SECRETS UNSEALED

5949 E. Clinton Ave.

Fresno, CA 93727

559-264-2300 (EE.UU. & Int'l)

888-REV-1412 (EE.UU.) | 888-738-1412 (EE.UU.)

Email: info@secretsunsealed.org

www.secretsunsealed.org



@secretsunsealed



youtube.com/secretsunsealed



facebook.com/secretsunsealed