

Tables for Reference

Three sets of tables gather in one place what the chapters treat in sequence: the judgments, the resurrections, and the views this book weighs. Each row points to the chapter where the matter is argued from the text.

The Judgments

Judgment	When	Who is judged	Basis	Outcome	Scripture; Chapter
The judgment seat of Christ (the bema)	In heaven, after the rapture, before the marriage of the Lamb	Believers of the church age (and, in this book, the Old Testament saints raised with them)	Works done after salvation, tested by fire; not salvation itself	Reward given or withheld; the believer is saved regardless	2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 3:11–15; Rom 14:10; Ch. 3, 8
The judgment of Israel	At the return, in the seventy-five days before the kingdom	Jews who survive the tribulation in natural bodies	Faith in the Messiah they have now seen	Believers enter the land and the kingdom; rebels are purged and do not enter	Ezek 20:33–38; Zech 12:10; Ch. 17
The judgment of the nations (sheep and goats)	At the return, in the seventy-five days before the kingdom	Gentiles who survive the tribulation in natural bodies	Treatment of the King's brethren during the tribulation, as the evidence of faith	Sheep enter the kingdom in mortal bodies; goats go into everlasting punishment	Matt 25:31–46; Joel 3:2; Ch. 17
The great white throne	After the thousand years and the final rebellion	The unsaved dead of all ages, raised for judgment	The books of works, and the book of life in which their names are not found	The second death: the lake of fire, forever	Rev 20:11–15; Ch. 19, 20

The Resurrections

“But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming” —1 Cor 15:23. The first resurrection is one harvest gathered in stages; the second is a single event a thousand years later (see Figure 7, below).

Stage	When	Who is raised	Scripture; Chapter
Christ, the firstfruits	A.D. 33, the third day	Christ alone, with the saints of Matthew 27:52–53 as a sign	1 Cor 15:20–23; Matt 27:52–53; Ch. 1
The church at the rapture	Before the tribulation, at an hour no one knows	The dead in Christ, then the living changed; in this book, the Old Testament saints with them	1 Thess 4:16–17; 1 Cor 15:51–52; Dan 12:2; Ch. 3
The two witnesses	Three and a half days after their death, in the second half of the tribulation	The two witnesses	Rev 11:11–12; Ch. 10
The tribulation saints	At the return, before the kingdom	Those martyred under the beast, and the rest of the tribulation dead who believed	Rev 20:4–6; Ch. 15, 17
The unsaved dead	After the thousand years	Every unbeliever of every age, for the great white throne	Rev 20:5, 12–13; Jn 5:29; Dan 12:2; Ch. 19

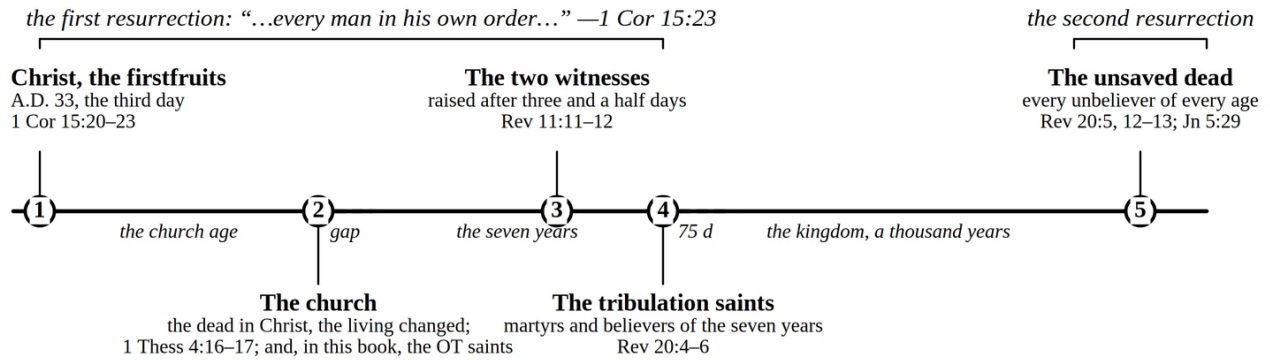


Figure 7. The resurrections in order. The first resurrection is completed at the return; the second comes a thousand years later, for judgment.

Views of the Rapture

View	What it holds	Where this book answers it
Pretribulational (this book)	The church is caught up before Daniel's seventieth week begins; imminent, with no sign required	Chapter 3, "The Case in Full: Ten Lines of Evidence"
Midtribulational	The church is caught up at the midpoint, before the great tribulation, often at the seventh trumpet	Chapter 3, "The Other Views of the Rapture"
Pre-wrath	The church endures the first part of the tribulation and is removed before the bowls, when God's wrath proper begins	Chapter 3, "The Other Views of the Rapture"; Chapter 8 on the seals as the Lamb's wrath
Posttribulational	The church is caught up at the return and comes straight back down with Christ; one event, not two	Chapter 3, "The Rapture and the Second Coming Side by Side"; Chapter 15
Partial rapture	Only watchful or faithful believers are taken; the rest go through the tribulation	Chapter 3; Chapter 22 on salvation as a gift, not a reward

Views of the Millennium

View	What it holds	Where this book answers it
Premillennial (this book)	Christ returns bodily before a literal thousand-year reign on this earth, with Israel restored	Chapter 17; Chapter 15
Amillennial	There is no future earthly kingdom; the thousand years are the present church age, Satan bound at the cross, the promises to Israel fulfilled in the church	Chapter 17, "The Other Views"; Chapter 2 on Israel; Appendix B
Postmillennial	The gospel gradually Christianizes the world, producing a golden age, after which Christ returns	Chapter 17, "The Other Views"; Chapter 5 on the last days as days of apostasy, not progress

The Seven Blessings of Revelation

Seven times Revelation pronounces a blessing. Read together they are the book's own summary of what it asks of its reader: read it, keep it, watch, die in the Lord if it comes to that, and come to the supper.

	Text	The blessing	What it asks
1	Rev 1:3	"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein..."	Read and keep it
2	Rev 14:13	"...Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth..."	Die in the Lord
3	Rev 16:15	"...Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments..."	Watch
4	Rev 19:9	"...Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb..."	Come to the supper
5	Rev 20:6	"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection..."	Share the first resurrection
6	Rev 22:7	"...blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book"	Keep the sayings
7	Rev 22:14	"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life..."	Do His commandments

Schools of Interpretation

School	What it holds	Where this book answers it
Futurist (this book)	Revelation 4–22 describes events still future, to be read as literally as the rest of Scripture	Prologue, "How This Book Reads Scripture"; Appendix B
Preterist	Most or all of Revelation was fulfilled in the first century, chiefly in A.D. 70	Appendix B, "When Revelation Was Written"; Chapter 17
Historicist	Revelation charts the whole course of church history from John's day to the end	Appendix B; the failed date-setting of Chapter 5
Idealist	Revelation is a timeless picture of the conflict between good and evil, not a sequence of events	Prologue; Appendix B