

# **“The Millennium, Part 2: The First Resurrection”**

## **Revelation 20:4-6**

Revelation #46

*Believers in their death instantaneously go to be with Christ and are forever secure!*

### **1. The Legacy and Honor of those who experience the First Resurrection**

vv. 4-5

#### **(1) A Legacy of Faithfulness!**

*“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.”*

##### **-1- Faithful unto death!**

- Here, John sees the disembodied souls of the redeemed  
cf. 6:9-10
- Not only those martyred; but also representing all who have suffered persecution, and those who have remained faithful in Christ.

##### **-2- Faithfully refusing to give supreme loyalty to anyone but Jesus Christ!**

##### **-3- Faithfully refusing to identify with the world, whatever the pressure to conform!**

#### **(2) The Honor bestowed**

*“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them... And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years... This is the first resurrection.”*

##### **-1- Though they died, they live!**

- “They came to life”
- They had *appeared* defeated by the beast!
- They are in fact instantaneously received and honored in the presence of God!  
To be “absent from the body” is to be “present with the Lord.” 2 Cor. 5:8

##### **-2- They are enthroned!**

- 1- Judgment is committed to them  
or “*judgment was passed* (against the devil) *on their behalf*”

##### **-2- They reign with Christ! They experience unending glory!**

- This life: “the embryonic state” of my eternal existence
- The intermediate state – the millennial period – the first “grand chapter” of eternal glory
- The eternal state – perfected glory

#### **-3- This is called “the first resurrection”**

- *The death of every Christian simultaneously issues in a resurrection!*  
It is the experience *only of Christ’s redeemed ones!*  
cf. v. 5a w/v. 13 For the unbelieving: a resurrection unto judgment!

### **2. A Beatitude concerning those who experience the First Resurrection v. 6**

#### **(1) They are blessed and holy! “Blessed and holy is he who has a 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.”*

- Gk. MAKARIOS  
- “How completely happy”  
- cf. 14:13

- HAGIOS  
- “set apart”

#### **(2) They are entirely delivered from the “second death!”**

- Delivered from eternal punishment cf. 20:14-15

#### **(3) They are priests of God and of Christ**

- Serving day and night in the temple of God
- Dwelling in the presence of God cf. Ps. 27:4

### **Further Application**