

Vicarious Sacrifice: Review: 1Corinthians 15:22–24, the Program of the Resurrections: Charlie Company: Gentiles & Jews at the Second Advent; They All Accompany Christ at His Ascension in Interim Bodies, Acts 1:9 cf. Eph 4:8, but Are Resurrected at the Close of the Tribulation, Rev 20:4; Unbelievers of the Tribulation Are Incarcerated in Torments, v. 5; Delta Company Resurrected at End of the Millennium & Lucifer Is Cast into the Lake of Fire, Rev 20:10a; Great White Throne, Rev 20:11–12, Evidence: 2 Sets of Books

- (1) Believers in the first two of these three dispensations – Gentiles and Israel – are the ones who in interim bodies were transferred to heaven with the ascending Christ in Acts 1:9 compared with Ephesians 4:8:

Acts 1:9 - And after He had said these things, He was lifted up [aorist passive indicative of ἐπαίρω (*epaíro*): Jesus received the action of ascending] while they were looking on [present active participle of βλέπω (*blépo*): the disciples watched], and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (EXT)

Ephesians 4:8 - When He ascended on high [cf. Acts 1:9], He took captive [Old Testament saints formally retained in Paradise (see Luke 16:19–31)] a host of captives [triumphal procession in interim bodies], and He gave gifts to men. (EXT)

- (2) Among those resurrected at the Second Advent, one group is given special accolades and privileges:

Revelation 20:4 - Then I [John] saw thrones, and they [tribulational martyrs] sat on them, and judgment was given to them. Furthermore, I saw the souls of those who had been decapitated because of their testimony for Jesus and more precisely because of the Word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast-dictator nor his image, and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands. They came to life [resurrection as part of Charlie Company] and ruled with Christ for a thousand years [the Millennium].

v. 5 - (The rest of the dead [unbelievers during the Tribulation plus all the dead of human history prior to the Tribulation] did not come to life [the second resurrection comes later] until the thousand years had been completed [after the Millennium and destruction of the universe (2 Peter 3:10–13 cf. Revelation 21:11–15].) This is the first resurrection.
(EXT)

- (3) John inserts an aside in verse 5 that is expressed in English by use of a parenthesis. “The rest of the dead” consists of every unbeliever in world history.
- (4) They are referred to as “the dead” which is a metonymy¹ for those who were spiritually dead at the point of their physical death.
- (5) “Did not come to life” refers to their status quo in Torments where they will remain until the destruction of the universe following the Millennium.
- (6) The sentence “This is the first resurrection” refers back to verse 4 and those who were martyred believers during the Tribulation.
- (7) The final group in the program of the resurrections is Delta Company, those believers who lived during the Millennium.
- (8) In 1 Corinthians 15:24, Paul indicates following the Second Advent, Jesus will hand the kingdom to God. This is the completion of Operation Footstool.
- (9) The abolishment of “all rule and authority and power” in 1 Corinthians 15:24 describes the coup de grâce of Operation Footstool.”
- (10) Abolishment of “all rule” is the incarceration of Lucifer in the lake of fire:

Revelation 20:10a - And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone.

¹“A figure of speech that replaces the name of one thing with the name of something else closely associated with it.” For example *the crown* refers to a monarchy, *the press* for journalism. (Chris Baldick, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* [New York: Oxford University Press, 1990], 135.)

- (11) Abolishment of “all authority” is the simultaneous incarceration of the Beast-Dictator and the False Prophet in the lake of fire:

Revelation 20:10b - ... where the beast and the false prophet are also

- (12) Abolishment of “all power” is the removal of all fallen angels from the earth:

Colossians 2:15 - Having disarmed demon archons and commissioned officers, He made a public display of them having celebrated a triumphant procession over them by means of the cross. (CTL)

- (13) The Program of the Resurrections follows the principle that resurrections occur at the conclusion of dispensations: **(1)** Jesus Christ, the First Fruits of our resurrection at the end of the Incarnation (1 Corinthians 15:20), **(2)** the Church at the Rapture, (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 1 Corinthians 15: 51–54), **(3)** the Gentiles and Israel at the Second Advent (Matthew 25:31–46), and **(4)** the millennial saints at the end of the world.
- (14) John refers to the resurrection of all the unbelievers of human history as the “second death”:

Revelation 20:6 - Happinesses and being set apart to God is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death does not have authority over you, but, in contrast, they shall be priests to God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. (CTL)

- (15) The Last Judgment occurs following the destruction of the universe, described by Peter in 2 Peter 3:10–13; John giving details of a trial before the Supreme Court of Heaven which he refers to as the Great White Throne Judgment:

Revelation 20:11 - Then I saw the great white throne and He Who was sitting on it [**Jesus Christ as Chief Justice**], from Whose presence the earth and heaven have vanished [**2 Peter 3:10–13**] and no inhabitable place was found for them.

v. 12 - Then I saw the dead [history's unbelievers] the small [insignificant impact in human good and evil] and the great [noteworthy impact in human good and evil], standing before the throne [The Supreme Court of Heaven], and books [plural] were opened; and another book [singular] was opened, which is the Book of Life [the registry of every believer in the entirety of human history] and the dead were judged [Jesus Christ possesses the power to judge; see John 5:22] from the things which were written in the books, according to their works.

- (16) Note the consultation of two official records. First of all, the Book of Life will be checked to see if any of those in the assembly are so entered. None will be.
- (17) The second "witness" is from the Books According to Their Deeds. It is there that each person's efforts in the fields of human good and evil are recorded.