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— "Firstfruits of the Resurrection" —

At the moment of Jesus' death, several remarkable things happened. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom when the earth shook and the rocks split. Several local area tombs broke open, too, and the righteous dead in them were raised to life. After Jesus' resurrection, they appeared to many people, per Matthew 27:51-53.

The tearing of the curtain signified that Jesus' death makes it possible for all believers to have <u>direct</u> access to God. No man has the authority to usurp that...especially those who adorn themselves in "special" attire and carry themselves pompously...as if they think themselves *more pious than thou*. —Matthew 23:5-12

The scriptures refer to Jesus as the 'firstfruits'—'Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (*i.e.: died*).'—1 Corinthians 15:20

"Firstfruits" refers to the first example of others who will come later. Jesus is also called 'the firstborn from among the dead.' You can find that at Colossians 1:18 and Revelation 1:5. "Firstborn" is the KJV word that came from the Greek word, *prototokos*. We get our English word '**prototype**' from it. Jesus is clearly the definitive prototype for our own future Resurrection. He is the first to die and rise again, never to die again. Those who serve Him can anticipate the same experience—an other-dimensional body that will be able to survive the catastrophic events that will yield the new heavens and the new earth. Our current flesh-and-blood bodies wouldn't be able to withstand the heat!

Finally, a critical reminder: Only those who are to endure to the bitter end will be Saved, per Matthew 24:13 and Mark 13:13. Oh! And there's this! Jesus did not get "raptured" on Resurrection Day. Take it to the bank: He's our prototype.

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From those who're inclined to always agree with me, I learn not much. From those who rationally explain why they disagree, I learn volumes.

Please, no arguments from 3rd-party "experts."





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