

I Saw Those Who Had Been Beheaded Because of Their Testimony for Jesus

20: 4

Not only will there be a resurrection of the righteous of the TaNaKh, but a resurrection of Tribulation martyrs will also occur during the seventy-five day interval (see **Ey - The Seventy-Five Day Interval**). In this section, **John** sees two groups who will reign with **Christ** during the messianic Kingdom.

First, there will be thrones on which were seated believers (**Dani'el 7:27; Matthew 19:28; First Corinthians 6:2**) who had been given authority to judge (20:4a) from the Lord Himself at the judgment seat of Christ (**Second Corinthians 5:10**). When **John** saw them, they had already received their crowns to cast at the Lord's feet (see **Cc - For We Must All Appear Before the Judgment Seat of Christ**). Resurrected at the rapture, they had received their rewards and were reigning with the **Messiah** in heaven.

The second group, however, were the Tribulation martyrs (see **Cp - The Fifth Seal: I Saw Under the Altar Those Who Had Been Slain**). We saw them earlier under the golden altar of incense in heaven (**Hebrews 9:4**). They had been beheaded because they refused to worship the antichrist or his image, nor were they willing to accept his mark. They will be resurrected at that time. And **John** saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years during the messianic Kingdom (20:4b).