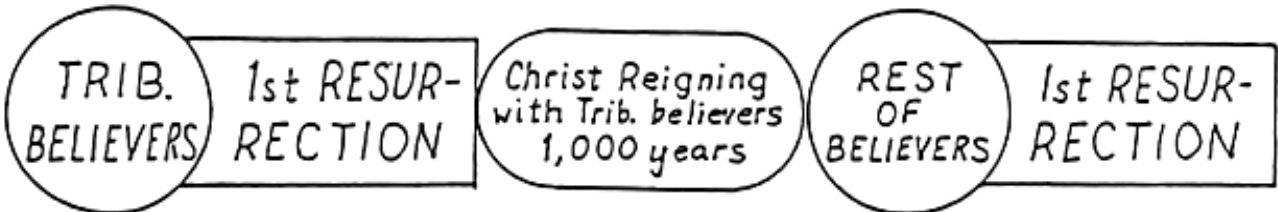


the time of Christ's Second Coming (1 Cor. 15:22-23; 1 Thess. 4:16); in this scenario their resurrection occurs a thousand years after His Second Coming!

Scenario 2



Comments: This scenario takes "the first resurrection" of verse 5b as including both, the Tribulation believers who came to life before the thousand years and the rest of the believers who came to life after the thousand years; thus the first resurrection involves two stages. Problem: verse 6 says that those who have a part in the first resurrection reign with Christ for a thousand years. How can the rest of the believers who come to life after the thousand years, reign with Christ during the thousand years? And if the rest of the believers do not reign with Christ during the thousand years, how can they "have a part in the first resurrection," since verse 6 clearly states that those who have a part reign with Christ for a thousand years?

Scenario 3



Comments: This scenario sees verse 5b ("This is the first resurrection") as referring to "the rest of the dead" in verse 5a, viewed as non-believers. Problem: Verse 6 says that the second death has no power over those who have a part in the first resurrection. Yet these non-believers experience the second death (Rev. 20:14-15). In addition, verse 6 says that these non-believers who have part in the first resurrection reign with Christ for one thousand years; yet they are not resurrected until after the thousand years!