

Message #90**Matthew 25:31-46**

There is no question that it is clearly predicted in Scripture that there will be Gentile nations in the Millennium who will honor Israel (Is. 60:3, 12; 61:9; 62:2). However, in this section He takes His disciples beyond His second coming to the judgments which follow His second coming. Specifically, **He describes in these verses the judgment of the Gentile nations who survive the Tribulation.**

From the parables of the ten virgins (25:1-13) and the parables of the talents (25:14-30), we know that Israel will be judged when Christ returns. Ezekiel gives us a glimpse of this very judgment in Ezekiel 20:33-44. There are several future formal judgments yet to occur: 1) The Bema Seat Judgment for the believer who lived during the Age of Grace; 2) The judgment of Israel to determine who does and does not enter the kingdom; 3) The judgment of the Gentile nations to determine who does and does not enter the kingdom; 4) The Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Millennium, in which all wicked and all unbelievers face Jesus Christ one final time before being sentenced to eternal condemnation. The judgment of these verses is the Gentile nations.

WHEN JESUS CHRIST COMES IN ALL OF HIS GLORY, HE WILL JUDGE EVERY INDIVIDUAL FROM THE GENTILE NATIONS WHO SURVIVED THE TRIBULATION TO DETERMINE WHO GETS TO GO INTO HIS KINGDOM AND THIS DETERMINATION WILL BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF HOW THE GENTILE TREATED THE JEW DURING THE TRIBULATION.

The kingdom will feature O.T. resurrected saints, the Church, faithful Jews and faithful Gentiles who survived the Tribulation. All ungodly Jews will be judged and removed from the earth at the end of the Tribulation (Zech. 13:8-9). This will amount to about 2/3rds of all Jews. Then Gentiles will be judged. In order for the Gentiles to be deemed faithful, they must face judgment. The prophet Joel clearly predicted this judgment (Joel 3:2, 12).

FACT #1 – The time and place of the judgment of the Gentile nations. **25:31**

The judgment will come when the Son of Man comes in all of His glory. This judgment occurs on earth, not in heaven.

FACT #2 – The people of the judgment of the Gentile nations. **25:32-33**

Notice “all the nations” will be gathered before Christ. The Greek word translated “nations” primarily refers to those not Jewish. Now carefully notice that there is an individual judgment of every Gentile person. A shepherd looks at each sheep when separating them from goats.

FACT #3 – The outcome of the judgment for the sheep. **25:34**

Dr. Toussaint said that there are two purposes for this judgment—entrance into the kingdom and exclusion from the kingdom (p. 289).

FACT #4 – The basis of the judgment for the sheep. **25:35-40**

The basis for determining whether or not an individual Gentile gets into the kingdom will be the treatment of the Jews during the Tribulation.

- 1) When the Jews were hungry, the kingdom-inheriting Gentiles gave them food.
- 2) When the Jews were thirsty, the kingdom-inheriting Gentiles gave them drink.
- 3) When the Jews needed a place to stay, the kingdom-inheriting Gentiles invited them in.
- 4) When the Jews needed clothes, the kingdom-inheriting Gentiles gave them clothes.
- 5) When the Jews were in prison, the kingdom-inheriting Gentiles visited them.

Now I want to make a point about this. This is not the same as our prison ministries. These Jews are in prison because they are related to God and refused to receive the mark of the beast. **Those in prison today are, in most cases, there because they have done evil, sometimes satanically evil. Satanic evil during the Tribulation will keep you out of prison. Godliness will put you in prison.** Now what is amazing in **verses 37-38** is that the righteous want to know when they did these things? Apparently they do not understand the significance of their acts during the Tribulation. They ask Jesus when they did these things for them, and Christ responds by saying you did it to “these brothers of mine.” Now Christ’s brothers cannot be the sheep and the goats of the Gentile nations. The “my brother” refers to His Jewish people. In other words, because these Gentiles did good things for the Jews during the Tribulation, they get the privilege of entering the kingdom.

FACT #5 – The basis of the judgment of the goats. **25:41-45**

The Gentiles judged as goats do just the opposite and are judged just the opposite. **Verse 41** says they are taken from Christ’s presence and cast into eternal fire. They saw the needs of the persecuted Jews during the Tribulation and did nothing about it. Again Jesus took it very personal. He said you did these things to Me, or in this case, they did not do these things to or for Him. **Jesus Christ takes very personal our attitude and treatment of Israel.**

FACT #6 – The outcome for both the sheep and the goats. **25:45**

The goats inherit eternal punishment. The sheep who are righteous inherit eternal life. Now one question arises theologically from this passage and that is this—how do we reconcile these passages which seem to emphasize works getting one into the kingdom with other passages which make it very clear that one is saved by faith and not works (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 3:10-12, 21, 28)?

Dr. John Walvoord gives a great answer to this question: “The answer to this problem is found in the context of the passage. Those described here are people who have lived through the great tribulation, a time of unparalleled anti-Semitism, when the majority of Jews in the land will be killed. Under these circumstances, if a Gentile befriends a Jew to the extent of feeding and clothing and visiting him, it could only mean that he is a believer in Jesus Christ and recognizes the Jews as the chosen people. Accordingly, in this context, such works become a distinctive evidence that the Gentiles described as the sheep are those who are children of God by faith in Jesus Christ” (John Walvoord, *Matthew, Thy Kingdom Come*, p. 202).

Now it is very clear that the disciples who listened to this discourse did not understand it. We know from Acts 1:6 that they were very confused about just when these events would occur.