

Title: The Judgement of the Nations

Text: Mattahew 25:31-46

Take your Bibles and turn to Matthew chapter 25. Matthew chapter 25 beginning at Vs 31. Tonight we want to look at ~~a couple of signs that~~ *These events* ~~are taking place, right now, which will~~ *surrounding* bring about the GREAT JUDGEMENT OF THE NATIONS. Matthew 25 verse 31...(READ VS 31-46)

PRAYER

First Lets Review

In Matthew chapter 24 verse 3 the disciples ask Jesus three questions.

1. When will these things be? "These things" referring to the distruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. If you will remember, Jesus had predicted that not ^{vs 2/} one stone shall be left upon another. And that prophecy was fulfilled when Titus conqueror Jerusalem in 70 A.D. And the Temple was literally torn apart one stone at a time.
2. The second question was: WHAT WILL BE THE SIGN OF YOUR COMING?
3. And the third question, WHAT WILL BE THE SIGN OF THE END OF THE AGE?

Now, last week we looked at the FOUR-FOLD sign concerning the end of the age.

Matthew 24 verse 7....says "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various placaes there will be famines, pestilence, and earth quakes, ~~in various places.~~

That is a four-fold sign concerning the end of the age
~~And I believe that the war which fulfills this sign was WW1.~~ And we looked at all of ^{but} ~~this~~ last week.

Vs 8 of Matthew 24 says " But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs."

Now, tonight, I want you to notice a couple of other ^{birth pangs} signs relating to the end of the age.

Also remember, what we are talking about when we use the phrase "end of the age." This phrases is referring to the Jewish age just preceeding the great new age...THE 1000 YEAR REIGN OF CHRIST UPON THE EARTH. The Jewish age will conclude at the end of the great tribulation period.

Previous to that Great Tribulation, the Bible tells us that the Lord, himself, shall descend from heaven with a shout and the voice of the Ark-Angel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive will be caught up to meet Christ in the air. The church, the body of Christ, all Christians, will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. This is called THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH. Then shall begin the 7 years of Tribulation. It is called GREAT TRIBULATION such as the world has never seen.

Now, we are finding ourselves, tonight, in this Olivet Discourse, at the conclusion of this tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation period the Lord shall return to Earth with His saints, with His church, with His bride. He will come back to earth in great power and glory. And every person on the face of the earth will see his return. And he will come back to this earth to set up His 1000 years reign known in Latin as the Millinum.

This great return of Christ has several key events attached to it. And the one that I want to look at tonight is the JUDGEMENT OF ALL LIVING GENTLE NATIONS. For this to take place, some things need to start happening. So, I want to study what will take place IN THIS GREAT JUDGMENT OF THE LIVING GENTLE NATIONS. And I want to point out a couple of signs or birth pains which will indicate that the stage is set. And I want to look at this portion of scripture by asking you five questions.

(1) Number one, WHEN, according to the Bible, does this judgement take place? We find the answer in Vs 31 of chapter 25..."When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him." And according to Matt. 24:29 that is following the tribulation period. This is not talking about the rapture of the church. So, we know when he will come and it will take place.

(2) Secondly, WHERE WILL THIS JUDGEMENT TAKE PLACE?

I would like you to turn to the O.T. and the prophet JOEL. Joel is located among the 12 prophets known as the MINOR PROPHETS. These are the last 12 books of the O.T.

Joel chapter 3. Here we will discover where this Judgement will take place. The judgement of the LIVING NATIONS AT THE TIME WHEN THE Lord shall come in power and great glory to this earth.

(READ JOEL 3:1-2)

So, according to Joel this judgement will take place in a valley called THE VALLEY OF JEHOSEPHAT.

There have been many attempts to discover what and where this valley is located. I, personally, do not believe this valley is now in existence. I, personally, do not agree with those who are going all over the land of Palestine and checking into the history of the ancient king JOSEPHAT, TO FIND WHERE THIS VALLEY IS LOCATED.

I don't think that is the point at all.....

The word "Jehoshaphat" means "Jehova Judges." It is the valley where Jehove, God, will judge all nations.

Now, if you will turn over to Zechariah, please. ~~Zechariah is still located in these last 12 books of the O.T.~~ Zechariah is next to the last book of the O.T. Zechariah chapter 14 verse 1. Here we find our answer.

(Read Zechariah 14:1-4)

So, a valley will be created in that day. That, I believe is the valley where Jehova, God, judges. It is the valley through which Israel will flee the persecution of those nations that are gathering in the Middle East for battle. And that will be the very place where God will judge all nations of the world.

(3)Now, coming back to Matthew 25, let me ask you a third question: WHO WILL BE JUDGED? Who are the ones under discussion? Does this refer to Christians? Or, to someone else? Obviously, it cannot refer to christians because we are caught up to meet Christ in the air in the Rapture of the church. The Rapture takes place at the beginning of the Tribulation period. This judgment of nations takes place at the end of the Tribulation. So, who are the ones under discussion?

According to the Bible, in Vs 32, "all the nations will be judged."

In checking the word translated "NATION", I find that in the N.T. the word is translated 2 times...."PEOPLE"

It is translated 5 times..."HEATHEN."

It is translated 64 times..."nations."

But, it is translated 93 times...."GENTLES."

In other words, this judgement is of the living Gentle nations that are brought against Jerusalem at the conclusion of the Tribulation period. It involves Gentle people. And all Gentle nations will be there. No one is excluded.

Now, notice verses 32 and 33...The nations will be divided into two camps: SHEEP AND GOATS. The sheep are on his right hand, and the goats are on his left.

This leads us to
(4) O.K. question number four: HOW WILL THEY BE JUDGED? What is the bases of this judgement?

Well, the answer is obvious. As you read verses 35 thru 45, it is based on the treatment of a great people called: "THOSE BROTHERS OF MINE." You find that in Vs 40..." And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine.'"

Also, notice, that we have three groups of people, here, in this chapter.

We have the "SHEEP NATIONS"...who are the ones, obviously, who have eternal life. *People who receive Christ during the tribulation period*

We have the "GOAT NATIONS"...who, obviously, will go into eternal punishment.

And we have this third group called "THOSE BROTHERS OF MINE." WHO ARE THEY? Well, I believe this refers to non-other than His real brothers, physically, after the flesh. And that is the NATION OF ISRAEL.

You see, it cannot simple be the "righteous." Those who have come to know Christ during the Tribulation period because the SHEEP NATION'S represent that group in the judgement. So, "THOSE BROTHERS OF MINE" is referring to the Nation of Israel. And the judgement will center around the treatment of Israel during the tribulation period.

Do you see? All living Gentle nations will be judged by God for how they treated Israel during the Tribulation. Anti-Semitism will be so strong that all the nations of the world will unleash their wrath against Israel.

And don't we see that birth pang happening today? Throughout history, people and some nations have hated Israel. But it has always been located in certain groups or nations.

What do we see today?.....A building hatred of Israel throughout the world. A world wide hatred. And you find it growing stronger and stronger here in the U.S.

Make no mistake about it, my friends. Israel is still the apple of God's eye. And according to the Bible, God still has a plan and purpose for Israel.

(5) Now, the final question: WHAT WILL THAT JUDGEMENT BE?

I want you to notice this very carefully because in this one passage we have the only teaching in the entire N.T. that absolutely proves the eternity of a place God calls HELL.....It is the only place where that can be absolutely proven.....

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Now, I want to show you what that Judgment is;

~~For~~ the sheep nations, Vs 34, the king says to them, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom." They will go into the millinum. The 1000 year reign of Christ on the Earth.... "Inherit the kingdom prepared for you...from.....the foundation of the world."

Notice, God has already planned, already prepared this whole thing.

We, also, notice from Vs 46 that the righteous, (the sheep nations) will have eternal life.

But, on the other hand, the goat nations Vs 41, "Then He will also say to those on His left hand, Depart from Me, accursed ones into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels."

And then vs 46, These (the goat nations, the ones on the left who has mistreated his people Israel during the tribulation) will go away into eternal punishment.

Now, I would like you to notice ³ ~~some~~ important things.

(1) One, the Bible says that Hell or the ~~eternity~~ eternity apart from God is discribed as being an eternal ~~or everlasting~~ fire. (Vs 41)

literal?

A person ask: "Pastor, do you believe that Hell is an actual fire? It could be a symbol in the Bible." I will grant you that....But, my friend, remember this: A symbol in the Bible is always less in intensity ^{than} of that which it represense... If ~~it~~ ^{Hell} is not a literal, eternal fire, only God knows how aIful this judgement must be....A symbol is less in intensity than that which it represense.

(2) ^{Secondly} ~~Secondly~~, I would like you to notice that Hell was not prepared for you and me. As an old time evangelist use to say: "If you go to Hell, you will be tresspassing."

You go to Hell on your own choice....Every person has the opportunity to believe on Jesus Christ. God could not have made it any more simple or more wonderful....God loves us. He loves us with an everlasting love.

He loves us inspite of how we treat him and egnore him and neglect him in our lives.....And He says you can go to heaven. You can have eternal life, if you will believe in my Son, Jesus Christ. And what he did for you on the cross. He paid for your way.....*you Ticket To Heaven*

So, no person has to go to Hell. And it wasn't prepared for you. It was prepared for the Devil and his angels. If you go there, you go because you choise to go, *you choos to reject christ as your Saviour*

3. Now, notice Vs 46...According to this verse eternal punishment is put into a parallelism with life eternal.

If you are reading the KJV please make a notation their in your Text at Vs 46....Because it is very important. You have ^{1 KJ} the word "everalasting punishment." The word "everlasting" is the same word, exactly, as the word "eternal". They are not two different words.

Now, why do I point this out.....There are those who say that the word "everlasting" means "age"...It is just an "age" or a period of time. And after this period of time, everybody will be saved.

No....there are not two different words....Same word meaning "eternal." And it is interesting that this is the oholy verse in the N.T. that uses this ~~same~~ ^{For both} word ~~in both~~ eternal punishment and eternal life.....

Slanty

And here we have proof that God is dealing with eternal issues... That there is no hope apart from Jesus Christ....There is eternal punishment, and there is eternal life.... *There is no gray area - you are either on God's Team or Satans team*
WPD We want to believe in an eternal life in heaven, But many people don't want to believe that there will be eternal punishment.....But this verse tells ^{us} that their will be eternal punishment for those who refuse to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour..

My friend, God doe sn't want you to go to Hell. Jesus died to saved you from eternal punishment....And Jesus pleads with you to flee the wrath of God.....The Bible says in John 3 that the wrath of God is now upon us.

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It says that he that believeth not is condemned already. It is not a question of God condemning you.....Without Christ, you are already condemned....We are born that way... We are born spiritual dead. Which means separated from God...

And if ~~you~~ don't solve that problem, that separation from God, before ~~you~~ physically die, ~~you~~ shall be eternally separated from God in a place called "HELL." God doesn't want you to go there.

And right now, you can believe in Jesus Christ and have the gift of eternal life...It is a gift. God wants to give it to you. And you can receive it now, by faith...

If you have never received Christ into your life, my I urge you to do so? To do it right now, to trust Him, and accept Him...for ~~that~~ ^{what He} He wants to give to you...

Shall we close with a word of prayer.