

THE JUDGMENT OF NATIONS

Matthew 25:31-46

11 April 2025

The Judgement of Nations will be one of the first things carried out by King Jesus when He takes His throne on Earth and begins to establish His kingdom.

Christians must learn to distinguish between the various judgments mentioned in the bible.

- **The judgment of sin:** this took place on the cross at Calvary when Jesus took our sins in His own body and died to pay for those sins. (Col. 2:14, Gal. 3:13, 2 Cor. 5:21)
- **The Judgment Seat of Christ:** saved believers who trusted the finished work of Jesus Christ will have their works tried in heaven to determine rewards. (Rom. 14:10, 2 Cor. 5:10)
- We are to daily examine and **judge ourselves** to eliminate sin from our lives (1 Cor. 11:28, 31; 2 Cor. 13:5, Ps, 139:23-24).
- **The White Throne Judgment:** occurs after the 1,000-year millennial reign of Christ on earth Rev. 20:3). All the dead, small and great, will be judged. (Rev. 20:11). The church will not be judged in this judgment.
- **The Judgment of Nations:** As Jesus begins to establish His kingdom, He will determine which nations will be a part of that kingdom (Matthew 25:31-46).

Timeline: [—Calvary—Church Age—Rapture—7-year Tribulation on earth/Judgment Seat of Christ in heaven—Second Coming/Battle of Armageddon—Judgment of Nations/Establishment of the Kingdom—Millennium—]

Matthew 25

Vs 31 Jesus Christ will come to this Earth with all the holy angels and sit on the throne of His glory.

32-33 All the nations of the earth will be gathered before Christ and divided (sheep/goats).

Vs 34 All the sheep nations will inherit the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world.

- God divided the earth into 12 nations in the beginning. Of all the nations existing today, there will only be 12 remaining during the millennium.
 - In the beginning, God did not select which nations would enter His kingdom. This is determined at the judgment of nations. In the beginning, He determined that there would be 12 nations and He established those boundaries.
 - New Jerusalem has 12 gates for representatives of the 12 nations to enter (Rev 21).

35-40 The Lord gives the sheep nations the reasons for accepting them into His kingdom.

- They treated the Lord's brethren (the Israelites) with kindness and charity during the tribulation period.

- Christ was “**made of the seed of David according to the flesh**” (Romans 1:3).
- Christ “**came unto his own** (Jewish people, Mt 15:24), **and his own received him not**” (Jn 1:11).
- Christ is “**the King of the Jews**” (Mt. 2:2, 27:37; Mk 15:26; Lk 23:3, 38; Jn 19:19).

41-46 The Lord gives the goat nations the reasons for denying them entrance to His kingdom. (Gen 12:3)

- They did not assist the Jews in any way during the Tribulation period.
- Their fate was not determined before the foundation of the earth, it was determined during the Tribulation period. Hell was not prepared for them (vs 41).

Note: feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, and visiting prisoners will not get a person to heaven. Faith in Jesus Christ will get you to heaven (**John 14:2-6**). Good works will not save you (Eph 2:8-9).

JOEL 2:28-32 This is clearly a Tribulation passage. During that time, those who call upon the Lord shall be delivered from the troubles taking place on the Earth.

Acts 2:20-21 When Peter quotes the passage from Joel 2 and applies it to the church, the “**terrible day**” becomes a “**notable day**,” and those who call upon the Lord shall be “**saved**,” rather than “**delivered**.”

- The Church need not be terrified because they won’t be going through the Tribulation. They have no need of deliverance from those troubles because they are saved and will be in heaven during that time.

JOEL 3:1-2 After the Tribulation time, the Lord will gather the nations and plead for (represent) His people, Israel. The nations will be judged for their treatment of the scattered Jews.

- The children of Israel belong to God. When they do wrong, God will punish them.
 - We have been instructed to bless them, not curse them (Gen 12:3).

PSALM 50:1-7 The Lord will call all the people of the earth, and a fire shall devour before Him (Mal. 4:1, 2 Thess. 2:8, Rev 19:15, 21; 2 Sam 22:9; Ps 18:8).

- God will judge His people, Israel, when He takes the throne. But those nations who usurped that duty will be punished.

Matthew 13:41-42 There *may be* an actual furnace of fire which the angels of God will cast people into.