**THE PARABLE OF THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS – MATT. 25:31-46**

**THE PARABLES OF JESUS #16**

The last time we were together we covered one of three prophetic parables of the Lord Jesus Christ, the “Parable of the Ten Virgins”. Today we look at the final prophetic parable of Christ. This parable has to do with the 2nd Coming of Christ. Chapters 24-25 do not deal with the Rapture. It must be remembered that when the disciples asked Jesus about the events that would usher in His coming, there was no Church and no one knew anything about the Rapture. Paul calls the Rapture in 1 Cor. 15 a “mystery”, in other-words a “previously unrevealed truth”. Teaching on the Rapture did not need to be revealed until the Church was formed. The OT taught about the 1st and 2nd Coming of Christ but never mentioned the Rapture as it was a teaching unrevealed at that time. Today we will see some of what occurs when Christ returns after His 2nd Coming. We begin with:

1. **The 2nd Coming of Christ – Matt. 25:31 -.** This verse details for us the aspects of the Lord’s 2nd Coming. He is coming in power and glory and will assume the Throne of His glory. We know this can’t be the Rapture as Jesus’ coming in 1 Thess. 4 is solely in the air. This coming no doubt is to the earth. The 2nd Coming of Christ follows the 7 year Tribulation period that **Daniel 9:24** tells is “determined upon thy people (Israel) and upon thy holy city (Jerusalem). This parable will cover what is known as the “Judgment of the Nations”.
2. **Separating the sheep and the goats – vs. 32-33 -.** The “nations” here are all people who have survived the Tribulation period. We know from the book of Revelation that ½ of the world’s population will die during the Tribulation. During the Tribulation, we know that multitudes will get saved as a result of the preaching of the **144,000 saved Jewish evangelists – Rev. 7, 14.** Many of these saved people will die at the hands of the Antichrist – **Rev. 7:9-17**. Those believers and unbelievers who survived will stand before the Lord when He returns. The sheep represent believers while the goats represent the unsaved.
3. **The Sheep – vs. 34-40.** Those who we will see are the right hand of Christ are the “righteous” or the “sheep”. This will evidently be broken down into 2 groups. The first group appears to be saved Gentiles. The 2nd group appears to be saved Jews “my brethren” (vs. 40). This 1st group of saved Gentiles has evidently taken as their mission to help and aid Jewish believers who are being pursued unto death by the Antichrist – **vs. 34-40 -.** This group of saved Jews and Gentiles will enter bodily into the Millennium.
4. **The goats – vs. 41-46.** As we will see, the criteria that proved genuineness in salvation during the Tribulation (helping and aiding the Jews) will not be found in the goats. These are unsaved people alive at the time of Christ’s return – **vs. 41-46 -.** These unsaved people certainly would not be disposed to help the Jews and many of this group quite likely would have taken the Mark of the Beast – **Rev. 13.**
5. **The judgment of the goats – vs. 41, 46a -.** In these verses, we see several truths regarding the judgment of the goats:
* **They are told to depart from Christ.** They didn’t want Him life, they won’t get to have Him in eternity.
* **They are cursed.** The word “cursed” means “to doom”. The unsaved will be removed from this life and consigned to a future of doom.
* **Their abode will be everlasting fire.** This is hell and eventually the Lake of Fire. It is said to have been “prepared for the devil and his angels”. God did not create hell for people; it was created specifically for Satan and his demons. When humanity fell and rejection of salvation was chosen, the unsaved doom themselves to this very place; there is no other place for them.
* **They will suffer everlasting judgment –** **vs. 46 -.** Hell will be forever. The unsaved will be punished for sins in this life and the sins they continue to commit in hell – **Rev. 22:11a.** The sins that they pay for could have been paid for by Christ but sadly that gift was rejected by those who spend eternity in hell.
1. **The prize of the sheep – vs. 34, 46 -.** The Kingdom is the Millennial Reign of Christ – **Rev. 20.** This period will last for 1000 years and then all believers will enter the Eternal State to enjoy eternal life forever.