

Parson to Person

Biblical Timeline and the Eschaton (Part 5)

Solid Biblical scholarship demands that we understand that the Sheep and Goat Judgment follows the Second Coming of Jesus. Moreover, a good hermeneutical approach (biblical interpretive method) to the doctrines of soteriology (the study of salvation) demand that we understand that the judgment herein is not a salvation message of grace through faith but a consequential judgment of works that apparently aided in the distinguishing of those who are believers and those who are not. Furthermore, the event is not leveled by, for, or upon Church Age believers. It will be experienced by Tribulation survivors who are denied or granted access into the era known as the Millennial Kingdom—the literal physical 1000-year reign of Jesus upon the earth.

Within the text please note the following:

- 1) The event occurs *“when the Son of Man comes in His glory.”*
- 2) At this time, Jesus is seated upon *“the throne of His glory.”*
- 3) The judgment occurs among *“all the nations.”*
- 4) There is a segregation between the *“sheep and the goats”*—who apparently signify the difference between believers and non-believers.
- 5) The sheep are on Jesus’ *“right hand,”* but the goats are on the *“left.”* (Just having a little fun here!)
- 6) The sheep are said to be *“blessed”* of the Father and are referred to as *“righteous.”*
- 7) The goods works provided by the *“sheep”* appear to be a naturally outflowing of who they are and are done without preparatory thought of reward.

- 8) The good works of the “*sheep*” seem to be directly related to the treatment of Israel: “*my brethren*”—during the Tribulation.
- 9) The “*sheep*” “*inherit the Kingdom.*”
- 10) The sheep are rewarded with “*eternal life*”—a gift never given as the result of works.
- 11) The failure of the “*goats*” seems to be manifest by the neglect of Israel during the Tribulation.
- 12) The goats are committed to “*everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.*”

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was

hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Matthew 25:31–46 NKJV).

When the Millennium begins Satan will be bound for the duration of the 1000 years. In the book of the Revelation we read, *“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years”* (Revelation 20:1–2 NKJV).

Once the Millennial Kingdom is in motion, apparently celebrations will begin with a wedding feast. Much is written about the feast. This selection gives a clue: *“And in this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees”* (Isaiah 25:6 NKJV).

We can look forward to being there—as the bride of Christ. We must remember that only those for whom provisions are made, will enjoy that feast. Moreover, we must remember that the bride is not a “guest” at the wedding—or at the following feast. The Church is the bride! Therefore, the Old Testament and Tribulation saints naturally serve as the guests. Jesus explained this for us.

“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”’ But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen” (Matthew 22:2–14 (NKJV).

I love you all, Pastor Paul

