

THE KING ON HIS THRONE

INTRODUCTION

We normally think of a king on his throne as ruling, but the King on the Throne in the New Testament is also to judge the human race at the time of His appearance at the end of the world. Read Matt. 25:31-34.

This text says the “Son of man” sits on the throne of His glory to JUDGE the human race, and He is also called the “king.” (v. 34). This is significant. For on the Day of Judgment no one will be able to say, “Lord, you are divine, and don’t know what it is to be a member of the human race, and what it is to be a street person with no place to sleep on a cold night. You don’t know what it is to be unjustly accused, beaten and executed for crimes you never committed. You don’t know how it is to try to resist temptation.” To this the Lord can say, “Oh yes I do.”

Jesus humbled Himself to become MAN to die on the cross. Phil. 2:7-8. Then, God exalted Him to become KING and JUDGE of the entire world. Acts 17:30-31. With this in mind, let’s see “who” and “what” is involved in the final judgment with “The King On His Throne.”

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, notice that Christ will JUDGE THE NATIONS.

Matt. 25:31-32; *“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations....”*

- A. The **NATIONS** have all had access to the gospel and the offer of salvation. Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:18-20; Col. 1:23
1. God will judge the nations as to how they responded to the gospel as **in** that nation.
 2. Christ is the universal judge with a universal gospel and a universal plan of salvation for the universal human race, and each person is responsible to God.
- B. The **NATIONS** are made up of “sheep” and “goats”, figuratively speaking, in relation to His having been the “shepherd” of souls. Matt. 26:32-33
1. Those on the **right** hand are SHEEP.
 - a. This does not mean that some nations are entirely righteous as sheep, but each nation has it’s sheep, and also has it’s goats—those who do not follow the Shepherd.
 - 1) There are sheep and goats in all political parties, cities, professions, preachers and families, in all the nations of the world.
 - 2) Many a wife is a sheep with a husband who is a goat, and many a sheepish husband has a goat for a wife.
 - b. All nations will be judged in the sense that all **individuals** IN the nations will be judged. Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10
 - c. The sheep are to COME—to get away from the goats and come to Jesus.
 - 1) They have accepted the first invitation to COME, when they came in obedience to the gospel. John 6:44-45; Heb. 11:6; John 1:12
 - 2) Now, they accept the second invitation to COME into heaven. Matt. 25:34
 - d. The sheep are told to **inherit** the kingdom, as “heirs” OF the kingdom. Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:26-29; Jas. 2:5
 2. Those on the **left** hand are GOATS. Matt. 25:41
 - a. The goats are told to “depart;,” while the sheep were told to “come.’
 - b. The goats are called “cursed,” while the seep are called “blessed.”
 - c. The goats are told to enter into “everlasting fire,” while the sheep are told to “inherit God’s kingdom.’

- d. The goats enter a place “prepared” for the devil and his angels, while the sheep enter a place eternally ‘prepared” for them.

II. 2nd, let’s consider the BASIS FOR THE KING’S JUDGMENT.

- A. ALL the verdicts are based first of all on the **authority** of the King, through His written decree, the **word of God**. John 12:48; Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:46
- B. Then, the sheep and goats are told how they did or did not live up to His word.
 - 1. The sheep are told to “come” because they had provided for the Lord when He was in need. Matt. 25:36-37
 - a. The righteous DID it by providing for Christ’s brethren. v. 37-40
 - b. This means that the righteous can serve the king in every generation in the same way—by doing good,. Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:27
 - c. This does NOT mean that *doing good works* is the **only** thing any one needs to do to go to heaven.
 - 1) They do good TO brethren because they ARE brethren, implying that they have become God’s children by faith, repentance and baptism. Gal. 3:26-27
 - 2) By doing good, they are assisting the Lord, which they are created IN Christ to do. Eph. 2:10; Matt. 5:16
 - 2. The goats are told to “depart” because THEY did NOT engage in the good works of serving Jesus. Matt. 25:41-46
 - a. This act of **omission** does not mean that THAT was the only thing that caused them to be lost.
 - b. They **omitted** good things because they were COMMITTING evil deeds, and thus by refusing to repent and obey, they were NOT doing the things that glorified God—not being His children.
 - c. In each case, the Lord looked at the FINALITY of their lives, as that which tipped the scales for their final destination.

CONCLUSION

- I. Note how this judgment ends, and the next chapter begins.
 - A. It ends by summing up the destiny of the sheep and the goats. v. 46
 - B. The next 2 verses tell how Jesus finished his teaching on this occasion, with the announcement that He was going to “betrayed to be crucified.” 26:1-2
 - C. Jesus left the throne of glory in heaven to die on the cross that He might be exalted to His judgment throne to usher the righteous into heaven.
- II. Are you ready to stand before the Lord to be judged?
 - A. If you are not yet a Christian, you need to confess faith in Christ as God’s Son, repenting of all sins and submitting to water baptism in order to be saved.
 - B. If you have left your fellowship with the Lord, you need to return in repentance and prayer.