

PARABLE of SHEEP and GOATS

Request: Would you do a study on the parable of the Sheep and Goats and explain when it will occur?

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats is taken from the Olivet Discourse. The Olivet Discourse is the longest recorded answer to a question in gospels – “Tell us, they said, ‘when will this happen, and what will be the sign of Your Coming and of the end of the age?’” (Matt.24:3)

This lesson deals with the third part of the question – “What will be the sign of Your Coming and of the end of the age?”

Jesus’ answer consisted of one sign and five parables.

- Sign Matt.24:29-31
- Parable Matt.24:32-42 Fig Tree and workers
- Parable Matt.24:43-51 Household servants
- Parable Matt.25:1-13 Bridegroom and bridesmaids
- Parable Matt.25:14-30 Businessman and employees
- Parable Matt.25:31-46 Sheep and Goats

The first four parables have the theme – “Be alert for you do not know the day nor the hour of His Coming.” (24:42)

Write which one is the unbeliever and which one is the believer on the blank lines.

24:40-41 _____

24:45, 48 _____

25:2 _____

25:23, 26 _____

In these four parables, the Lord is absent and is expected to return and does return at the end of the parable to separate the unbeliever from the believer.

However in the fifth parable, Lord returns at the beginning to separate the unbeliever from the believer (25:31).

Write which is the unbeliever and which is the believer.

25:32-33 _____

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the Parable of Sheep and Goats.

1. In the parable of the Sheep and Goats, the judgement of nations occurs after the Second Coming of the Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ (25:32; John 10:11; 1 Pet.2:25; 5:4).

Matthew used two Greek adverbs (hotan and tote) to establish a 7-part study outline of the judgment of nations at the Second Coming.

- Hotan / when 25:31a King returns
- Tote / then 25:31b-33 King returns to judge nations
- Tote / then 25:34-36 Judgment of sheep nations
- Tote / then 25:37-40 Sheep's comment
- Tote / then 25:41-43 Judgment of goat nations
- Tote / then 25:44 Goat's comment
- Tote / then 25:45-46 King separates sheep from goats.

We know that the judgment of nations occurs at the Second Coming of Christ but does it occur at the end of the Tribulation or at the end of the Millennium?

2. The judgment of nations is part of the baptism of fire associated with the Second Coming of Christ.

John the Baptist declared that Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matt.3:11-12). We understand that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was associated with the First Coming of Christ (Acts 2) and the baptism of fire is associated with the Second Coming of Christ (Rev.20).

The fire of Matt.3:11-12 can be studied by the following four homiletical points.

- Fork Separation of wheat from chaff
- Floor Second Coming
- Faith Wheat in barns
- Fire Chaff burnt

3. The baptism of fire will occur at the end of Tribulation of the Jewish age at Armageddon and at the end of millennium Age at Gog and Magog.

The baptism of fire that occurs at end of Tribulation of the Jewish Age will remove all unbelieving members of the human race from the earth (Rev.16-19; 2 Thess.1:6-9).

The baptism of fire that occurs at the end of Millennium Age will remove all unbelieving nations from the earth (Rev.20).

“When the 1000 years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the Four Corners of the earth – Gog and Magog – to gather them for battle.” (Rev.20:7-8)

4. Elect angels will be used to execute the judgment of the baptism of fire.

Judgment of unbelieving members of human race – “The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.” (2 Thess.1:7-8)

Judgment of unbelieving nations - “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He sits on His glorious throne.” (Matt.25:31)

5. The judgment of nations prepares believers to occupy the eternal New Heaven and Earth

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’” (Matt.25:34) [sheep] (Rev.21-22).