

## JUDGMENT OF NATIONS

**Request:** “Can you explain the reasoning for the judgment given to the sheep and the goats of Matt.25:31-40?”

**This is the 5<sup>th</sup> parable of the Olivet Discourse (Matt.24:3, 32-25:46) and it concerns God’s judgment of the nations at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

“But **when** the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, **then** He will sit on His glorious throne, and all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” (Matt.25:31-32)

**There was a blessing pronounced upon the sheep nations (Matt.25:34, 46b) and a cursing upon the goat nations (Matt.25:41, 46a).**

**Sheep nations:** “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Matt.25:34) “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” (John 10:11; 1 Pet.2:25)

**Goat nations:** “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.” (Matt.25:41)

**Bottom line:** “And these (goat nations) will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life (sheep nations).” (Matt.25:46)

**This lesson will study four aspects of the judgment of nations and the standard used for this judgment.**

1. **What is interesting about the judgment of nations is that they both will be judged by the same standard (Matt.25:35-40, 41-46).**

The standard of the judgment of nations involves their attitude towards Christ and Christians.

“For **I** was hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, and prison and you did to **ME**.”  
(Matt.25:35-39) [sheep nations] (Matt.25:42-43) [goat nations]

“**Then** He will answer them, saying, “Truly I say to you, **to the extent** that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to **Me**.”” (Matt.25:34-40) [sheep nations]

“**Then** He will answer them, saying, “Truly I say to you, **to the extent** that you did NOT do it to one of the least of these, you did NOT do it to **Me**.”” (Matt.25:41-46) [goat nations]

This concept was reflected in Paul’s conversion: “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting **Me**? I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.” (Acts 9:4-5)

**QUESTION:** Why would there be a judgment upon nations as well as upon individuals?

2. **There are three important events in biblical history that brings us to the judgment of nations:**

Tower of Babel, Priest nation of Israel and Pentecost of 30AD => Judgment of nations.

“These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, **by their nations**; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood.” (Gen.10:32, 31)

**Tower of Babel** is when nations were given the confusion of languages and their dispersion over the face of the whole earth (Gen.11:1-9). Prior to this, the language was one biblical language (Gen.1-11:1).

The Abraham covenant promised to make a great nation out of Abraham who was a Shemite (Gen.10:21-31; 11:10-32, 26-32; 35:11). Patriarch families of Israelites became the priest nation with the Exodus (Ex.1:1-9).

“And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Ex.19:6) They embraced the biblical language.

The **priest nation of Israel** gave birth to the messianic Savior of the world.

“For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)

**Pentecost of 30AD** brought us full circle, from the confusion of languages back to the biblical language by the church.

“Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.” (Gen.11:1) [prior to Tower of Babel] (Gal.3:26-29)

“Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven.” “And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?” (Acts 2:5, 8)

“But this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel.” (Acts 2:16; Joel 2:28-32)

(Isa.28:11) “In the Law it is written [divine judgment upon priest nation of Israel], ‘By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people, and even so they will not listen to Me, says the Lord. So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believes, but to unbeliever.’”

### **3. The divine judgment of Gentile nations occurs after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

“And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” (Matt.25:32)

In the first 4 parables of the Olivet Discourse, the Lord is absent and is expected to return to separate individual believers from individual unbelievers

“Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.” (Matt.24:42, 44, 50; 25:13, 14, 19).

In the 5th parable, the Lord has already returned for separating the sheep from the goat nations (Matt.25:31-46)

“And all the nations will be gathered **before** Him; and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” (Matt.25:32)

### **4. We have learned that the judgment of nations occurs at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

But does it occur at the end of the Tribulation or at the end of the Millenium? **BOTH**

It occurs at the end of the Tribulation with Armageddon with the baptism of fire (Rev.16-19; 2 Thess.1:6-9; Matt.3:11; 24:37-41; 25:30).

It also occurs at the end of the Millennium wit God and Magog with the baptism of fire (Matt.3:11; 25:41, 46; Rev.20:7-15; 2 Pet.3:9-13).