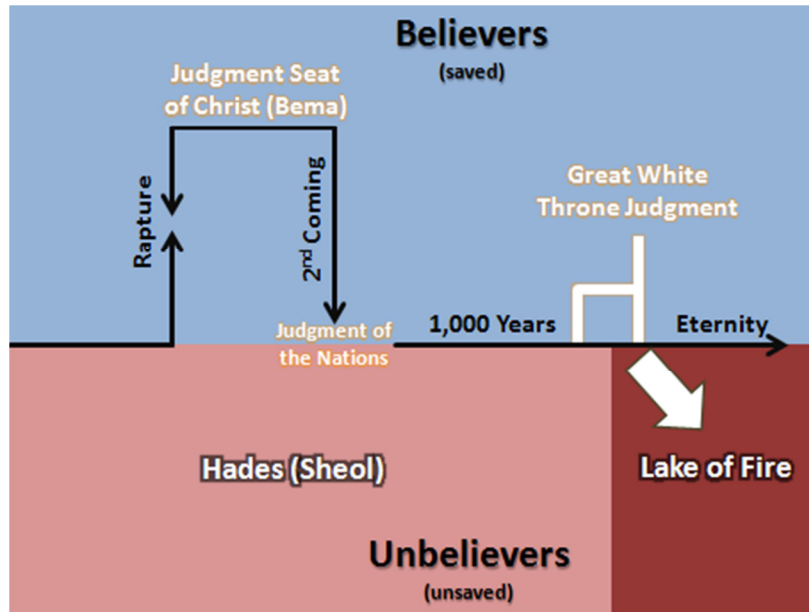


JUDGMENT
Matthew 25:31-46
1/29/12



The Judgment Seat of Christ- 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Christians given reward prior to Christ's return

The Judgment of the Nations- Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:4-6

People from every nation judged to determine if they will be allowed to enter the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth

The Great White Throne- Revelation 20:11-15

The unsaved judged after Christ's 1000 year reign

Read Matthew 25:31-46

Sheep

Blessed

Inherit the kingdom

Eternal life

Goats

Accursed

Depart into the eternal fire

Eternal punishment

1. When does this judgment take place? 25:31-33

31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory

Christ's second coming is the subject of this whole section.
Cf 24:3, 27-31, 33, 37, 42, 44; 25:13

He will sit on his glorious throne

The subjects seem to be people from all the nations who are alive when Christ's return.

This takes place prior to Christ's earthly reign described in Revelation 20:4-6.

This is different from the great white throne judgment of Revelation 20:11-15.

32 All the nations will be gathered before Him

Every culture and ethnic group is accountable to God.

Right and wrong are determined by God not by individuals or cultures.

2. Who are the sheep and who are the goats?

Sheep - believers

The Bible often uses sheep to represent God's people.

Psalm 95:7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

Goats- unbelievers

3. What is basis of the judgment?

40, 45 The difference between the destiny of those who are blessed and those who are accursed is how they treat Christ's brothers.

Remember that the context is specifically speaking to those who are alive when Christ returns.

The nations (e; qnoj) is generally used in the Bible to refer to the Gentiles in contrast to the Jews.

Matthew 24:15-22- The Jewish people in general and Jewish Christians in particular will experience extreme persecution during the tribulation period.

Revelation teaches that a large number of Jewish people will recognize Jesus as their Messiah during the Tribulation period. Cf Rev. 7:1-10; Zechariah 12:10

Christ's judgment here is based on how people treat His followers during the Tribulation.

Only committed gentile Christians would dare to aid the Jews during the Tribulation. cf Mt. 24:15ff; Rev. 12

you did it to me- Aiding Christ's needy, persecuted brothers is the same as doing it for Jesus himself.

4. How does this passage relate to the fact that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone?

Jesus taught that what we do reveals who we are?

Matthew 7:16 "You will know them by their fruits . . .

The "sheep" are commended for their acts of kindness for those suffering during the Great Tribulation.

They will do this at great personal risk.

Their good deeds demonstrate their transformed hearts.

Their good deeds are not the basis for their entrance into the kingdom.

They are merely evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in their lives.

5. What is result of this judgment?

a. It determines who will enter the kingdom and who will not. v. 34

That is, who will be a part of Christ's 1000 year reign of earth and later a part of the New Heavens and New Earth.

b. It specifies who has eternal life and who will enter into eternal punishment. v. 46

Eternal- The same Greek word is used in both instances.

The eternal punishment of the wicked lasts as long as the eternal life of the righteous.

6. What does the Bible say about Hell?

- a. Hell is a place of *intense conscious* suffering. Matthew 8:12; 13:41-43,49-50; 18:9; 10:28; Revelation 20:10,14-14; 21:8

Matthew 8:12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the *outer darkness*; in that place there will be *weeping and gnashing of teeth*."

Conscious suffering, not annihilation

Matthew 13:41-43, 49-50

Furnace of fire

Weeping and gnashing of teeth

Revelation 20:10,14-15; 21:8

It is called the Lake of Fire

- b. Hell is a place of *eternal* suffering. Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10

- There is no soul sleep or annihilation
- No reincarnation or second chance Hebrews 9:27
Hebrews 9:27 . . . it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment,
- No getting out or coming back Luke 16:23ff

- c. The Bible teaches that there different levels of severity of *punishment* in Hell? Matthew 11:22-24 cf Luke 12:40,47-48

7. Is The Punishment Consistent With The Sin?

"How can a sin in a moment of time deserve eternal punishment."

The problem is that we do not understand the significance of sin against an infinite and holy of God.

We can't isolate God's love from His justice and holiness.

Love divorced from holiness becomes mere sentimentality.

Sin against an infinitely righteous God demands an eternal punishment.

God bestows infinite grace on those who trust Him.

But He must also inflict eternal punishment upon those who spurn His grace.

Even though we have seen that there are different degrees of punishment in hell, the Bible teaches that the consequences for sin are eternal.

8. How can a loving God send anyone to Hell?

a. God does love you. 1 John 4:9

He created a beautiful and pleasurable world for us to enjoy.

He created us with the capacity to enjoy His creation.

But He didn't make us as robots.

He gave us the ability to make choices.

That includes the ability to choose to disobey and rebel against Him.

God patiently continues to provide for us while we rebel and ignore Him.

God sent His son to save us.

1 John 4:9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

b. All of us have rebelled and disobeyed God. Romans 3:10, 23

We deserve God's judgment.

c. God's good and righteous nature will not allow for Him to ignore wicked and sinful behavior.

God is holy.

His very nature requires that He condemn and punish sin.

The real question is, "How can a righteous and just God allow any of us into heaven?"

“Why would He and why should He?

How can a holy God allow sinful people into heaven without any consequences for their sin?

A rapist, child molester, mass murderer?

- d. **But because God is loving, He sent His own Son to take our punishment upon Himself. John 3:16; Romans 5:8**

He paid dearly in order to make it possible for us to be forgiven and go to heaven.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the just for the unjust*, so that He might bring us to

- e. **The issue is now whether we refuse or accept God’s way of salvation.**

You don’t have to go to hell if you choose to repent and receive Christ as your Lord and Savior.

9. How does this passage apply to us?

- a. **Make sure that you are saved.**

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

- b. **Tell others the good news of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.**

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Jesus warned us. We should warn others.