The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats
Matthew 25:31-46

MAIN THOUGHT  The nations (gentiles) of the world must decide whose side they are on – Jesus Christ or the devil (41).

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST (31a).
Christ will RETURN with great power and glory with all the angels (24:30-31) and church (Rev. 17:14; 19:14) with him. This judge (John 5:27) is called (1) SON OF MAN (80x – John 5:27); (2) SHEPHERD; (3) KING.

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST (31b).
He will sit on his THRONE (19:28; Isa. 9:7; Rev. 11:15) for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4).

THE JUDGMENT OF ALL NATIONS (32-46).

PREVIEWED (32-33).
• All the nations will be gathered to the VALLEY OF DECISION (JEHOSHAPHAT – Joel 3:1-2, 14) in Jerusalem to be SEPARATED (13:47-50). This judgment is distinct from the earlier JUDGMENT SEAT (or=bema) OF CHRIST for the church and the later GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT after Christ’s millennial reign (Dan. 7:9-10; Rev. 20:11) for the wicked.
• These nations (small in number (¼ died) – Rev. 6:8) survived the seven year tribulation. The Jewish people lost much more (⅔ died – Zech. 13:8-9).

THE SHEEP ON HIS RIGHT (34-40).
• The right hand was the hand of skill and blessing (Heb. 1:3, 13; Acts 7:55-56).
• Children inherit (John 1:12; Heb. 2:11) the kingdom (Rom. 8:17).
• The Gentile inclusion was predicted (Gen. 12:3; Zech. 8:20-22; Acts 15:13-17).
• The basis for their inclusion to the kingdom was their FAITH as evidenced by their WORKS (Matt. 7:20; Jam. 2:26).
• Specifically they served Christ by serving his BRETHREN (KJV) – the Jewish remnant with food, friendship, clothes, medical care, and visitation.
• Their surprise (when did we?) reveals their motive was love, not reward.
• It was difficult for all who did not take the mark of the beast but especially for the Jewish people who were being exterminated (24:9).

THE GOATS ON HIS LEFT (41-46).
• To the other nations who did not have faith nor works, they were considered cursed and sent away to eternal fire (Rev. 20:15).
• While the king blessed (34) the sheep, he never cursed the goats (no double predestination). They were always invited as the “many” (Matt. 22:14). But since they followed the devil and his angels (demons) for whom HELL was created, they would be consigned to HELL as well. God never made HELL for human beings!
• If you do not love what Jesus loves, you do not love Jesus.
• There are only two choices in life: eternal punishment or eternal life (Dan. 12:2; John 3:16; 5 24).