

Howards Corner

Matthew 25:31-46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the [c]holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

The first question I consider when I read in context is what does it mean *when*? So, in the understanding of when, we must pick up the timeframe of this coming in all His glory. To do this we need to understand what has happened right before this so we can see the context. The earth has just gone through a seven-year period of judgement of the gentile nations of the earth and the antichrist is in the lake of fire and Satan has been bound for a thousand years and Israel has been restored to their promised land. The church is not mentioned here. These things you do not see in this portion of scripture. That is why you must use the whole bible to get the context of what is going on. If you do not have the big picture in your mind and spirit it is impossible to have full understanding.

The next thing to consider is *"comes"* where did He come from and where is this happening? It must be that He came from where He has been since He ascended to Heaven. So, my conclusion is that this takes place is on the earth. He also said He is accompanied by all the holy angels, so He brought angels with Him, but no church is mentioned. If He has been in Heaven and He came then it must be on earth.

Now we must look at who He is judging. It says He is judging the nations and since He is judging the nations, it is this world's nations and nations are made up of people, so it is the people of these nations that are judged for the power of the nations have already been judged by the tribulation period and all gentile nations have had their power removed and the kingdom is in the nation of Israel with Jesus ruling and reigning. So, He is now on His new "throne of Glory" which is now on earth.

Dan 7:13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man,[a] coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was

led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Now He –Jesus- is identified with the title of “son of Man” and been given authority, glory and sovereign power. He has now started to express that power of sovereignty to judge the nations who are left on the earth after the severe judgement of the great tribulation.

So, this is now the kingdom of God on earth. We have been praying for 2000 years for this to come but even though we prayed it many have not understood what we were praying.

**Matt 6:8 “Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
10 your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Now with this scripture we see that it has come “Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus has started to rule and reign. Understand that this is the kingdom of God come upon the earth and is the millennial reign of Christ.

Now the question comes who are the nations and peoples? They are not identified as the church but are instead the peoples left on the earth after the tribulation and are being judged as another group of people and are not the church of Jesus Christ because they are judged on a different set of criteria. They are judged on their righteous acts of helping the helpless and those in need, probably those in severe need during the tribulation. But there is no mention of the church of Christ –no mention of salvation by grace through faith but only on works.

So how do we reconcile these two different judgement criteria?

They are two different groups of people. The judgement of the church or the body of Christ is based on faith and trust that Jesus is our righteousness by faith and complete trust in Him alone for our righteousness and the promise of eternal life and not our works done by our human spirit but instead by the presence of the spirit of Christ abiding in us to do these works. The church or better said is the body of Christ are the bride of Jesus and have been selected not by our righteousness. We that are in Christ are the first fruits of the resurrection and will be granted an

eternal body or glorified body and chosen to rule and reign with Christ Jesus forever.

The reason you do not see the church mentioned here is because the church or body of Christ and all the saints that have died and all those true believers that were alive when Christ returns to get His bride have been raptured and have received their glorified eternal bodies and have returned with Christ.

Rev 19:7 For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."

This happened in heaven before Christ's second coming.

Rev 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." [a] He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

So, all of this has happened in heaven before and at Christ's return. You will note that the wedding of the Lamb has occurred in heaven and His bride is dressed in fine linen, bright and clean. The Christ is coming to earth on a white horse and the armies of heaven were following Him riding on white horses also and described as dressed in fine linen, white and clean. This army is the bride of Christ who comes with Him. So, the church or bride of Christ has been in heaven having the marriage of the Lamb.

Many things will happen when He returns some of which I have already mentioned. This scripture of Matt 25:31-46 is one of these things He is to do when He returns. At the point of this scripture many things have already taken place, so this is one of the several things that are happening. So, I caution you that you must study the whole bible and read in context and know the sequence of these happenings or you will get lost in false roads that lead you to error.

Now back to this Scripture of Matt 25:31-46

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

Well, it looks like these from the tribulation period have been selected or chosen from the foundation of the earth. It appears to me that these people that have been through the tribulation period have been chosen to participate in the millennial Kingdom of Christ and will be a part of that kingdom and we do not know how they were chosen except by their good works in those difficult times and God's will which we may never know why. They have been chosen to be a part of the kingdom of God which is now on earth. God has chosen by His will and by His criteria and not by our criteria. We that are in the body of Christ are chosen by the criteria that has been given to us which is salvation by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus.

What does then do to our faith and our walk in the body of Christ. It does not change what we have been called to do and that is to trust in Jesus alone for our salvation and our eternal promises. It however makes us look at what we think the word says to us that are the followers of Christ. There has been a misunderstanding of our requirements of works. It has recently been taught that we are saved by our works of helping people. We however are not saved by works but by the shed blood of Jesus and His righteousness and not by our works. That has been a major error that has crept into the churches since the last century. We have been lured into thinking that is how we are saved and have thrown away the need for salvation by grace and by the need to have the spirit of Christ dwelling in us.

Is this then saying to us as follower of Christ that we do not need to take care of the helpless and needy? By no means for it has always been a part of the Gospel of Jesus for us to do these works but it is not for our salvation but is to do the will of Jesus Christ which is always to show mercy and kindness and to tend to the poor. It is however a need to understand that if we do these things in our own human spirit, it is not righteousness but only when we abide in Christ Jesus and operate in His spirit do we bear fruit and that fruit is righteousness.

So it is that these scriptures of Matt 31-46 have caused many in the Christian churches to take the wrong road of works and have thrown away the need to operate in the spirit of Christ. The word clearly says we are saved by grace through faith and not by our own works for we cannot do enough works to save ourselves. Those scripture were for another time and for another group of people that God had chosen for His purpose that only He knows.

There is therefore no conflict because all of God's words therefore are still in harmony, and He always speak truth in His word, so it is to be relied upon forever and forever. That is your only hope for if His word has error then can you depend upon anything?

This is then not to tell us to stop doing good works of helping others but is still a part of walking with Christ Jesus, but we are to do these good works by abiding in Christ and He will provide by His spirit the understanding of how to do these good works and where and when they are to be done. If we abide in Christ and He abides in us, then we will bear good fruit.

The churches are on the wrong road because we have decided to build the kingdom by our own good works and have not abided in Him and his spirit and have tried to help the many but with no power to reach their heart with the gospel and therefore they have been helped with human material help but the eternal help –the eternal they really needed has been left behind in our pride of thinking we could build the kingdom by our own works and therefore have built a church of silver and gold and hay and stubble so the structure we have built will not stand but will be burned up and the structure built by the spirit of God will stand forever.

Always read the scripture with consideration of the text and the big picture.

Why did I write this letter? It is because so many in the churches have taken on themselves the task of saving the world by good works and have used these scriptures as their proof of why they should do so, and I have known that it did not match the scriptures that speak of salvation by grace through faith.

Keep on doing good works but operate in the spirit first for that is the only way to walk the narrow path with power to produce the fruit of the kingdom.

Howard