

Session 28 | Dr. Randy White | The Judgment of the Nations | Matthew 25

When we talk about “The Judgment” we have to clarify, “which one?”

- Believers of the Age of Grace are removed, at the rapture, from the coming judgements of the world. This includes the “dead in Christ” and “we are alive and remain at the coming of the Lord” (1 Thes. 4:17).
- The Old Testament saints are raised at the Second Coming, having already been judged, to reign with Christ on earth (Rev. 20:4-5).
- Those living on the earth at the time of the Second Coming are part of the Judgment of the nations that takes place on earth among the living. This judgment is a *temporal judgment* that determines whether the living person enters the Kingdom or is cast into Hell (Matt. 25:41).
- The “rest of the dead” are judged at the end of the millennium, and cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:5ff)

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- The judgment of the nations does not include the church (which has been raptured) nor the Old Testament saints (who are already reigning with Christ in judgment).
- This is a judgment that is only for those living on earth at the time of the Second Coming.

Warning: Be Prepared | Matthew 25:1-13

- The value of this parable (and any parable) is not to press the details but to get the “zinger.”
- The zinger of this parable is: you do not know when the Lord will return, so be prepared.

Warning: Be Productive | Matthew 25:14-30

- The message of this parable is not about financial investments, but about the “goods” of the Master.

- These goods have been entrusted, in varying degrees, to the Jewish nation (Romans 3:1-2, 9:4; John 4:22).
- During the age of grace, the church became the *ambassadors of God*, but after the church is raptured, all responsibility for the *oracles of God* is in Jewish hands.

Warning: Be Protective | Matthew 25:31-46

- Verse 31 clearly gives the timing of this event.
- Joel 3:11-14 clearly gives the location of this event.
- The only criteria is what these nations did “to the least of these, my brethren” (Matthew 25:40).
- Those who have not given aid to “my brethren” are cast into hell (Matthew 25:46).
- A fundamental principle of Biblical interpretation is that a text cannot mean something different than the original audience would have known it to mean.
- In this case, “my brethren” is in the context of “all nations” and can only be taken to mean the Jewish brethren of our Lord.

The Common Thread in all these warnings: There is no grace

- In Matthew 25, grace is not mentioned or seen a single time.
- All the judgment is based on *readiness* and *works of righteousness*.
- Is the standard of judgment, “by grace through faith?”
  - Grace through faith is the standard today – Acts 16:31
  - This has not always been, nor will it always be the standard.
    - In the age of the Law, the grace of God was shown upon those obedient to the Law’s demands.
    - Lev. 18:5, Neh. 9:29, Matt 19:17 are clear about this matter.
  - After the rapture of the church, the “age of grace” is done.
  - The standard of judgment for the nations of the tribulation age is *endure, don’t worship the beast, and protect the Jews*. This will give you entrance into the Kingdom, at which time you can give allegiance to the King.