

Signs of Christ's Coming—Judgment of the Nations, part 14

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 25:41-46.

B. God's people looked forward to the earthly kingdom of the Messiah. (Malachi 1:11, Ezekiel 40-48)

C. Every person must be ready to face God. We should be warned because judgment is coming. (Revelation 8)

II. The time of the judgment will be at Jesus' second coming.

III. Jesus' coming will be immediate. There will be no time to get ready.

IV. The people will be separated into two classes: the redeemed and the unredeemed.

A. This has nothing to do with ethnic origin.

B. This has to do with accepting Jesus Christ.

C. This refers to the people who will be around when Jesus comes again.

V. The church will be raptured and living in glorified bodies while sin is being judged through the great tribulation. Israel will be saved and many others. (Romans 11)

A. Old Testament saints must be taken care of before Jesus can return. (Ephesians 4)

B. Tribulation saints must be taken care of also while God is finishing his work with Israel.

VI. The children of the glorified redeemed will rebel even when Jesus Christ rules.

VII. The earthly kingdom of Christ.

A. God creates glorified human creatures so that they will live forever on this earth.

B. Millennialism is not new. Belief in a real physical kingdom on earth was common Christian doctrine in the first century. (Revelation 20)

C. The only way to deny the actual kingdom is to eliminate the separation of the church and Israel, read future prophecies as present and spiritual Old Testament prophecies. God will keep his promise to Israel. (Romans 11, 14, Genesis 26, Isaiah 54, Jeremiah 33, Isaiah 66)

D. The future physical kingdom is the only explanation for the teaching of Jesus about the future acceptance of Messiah by the Jews. (Matthew 19, Zechariah 13)

E. The New Testament has the Old Testament being fulfilled literally, so we should expect the same of end time prophecies. We should not deprive Christ of his right to rule because of a mystical interpretation. (Zechariah 9:9; 11:12; Psalm 22:16; 34:20; Zechariah 24:10; Isaiah 53:9-12; Psalm 16:10)

VIII. The kingdom of Christ is the bridge unto eternity. (1 Corinthians 15:24)

- A. It will be a kingdom, which only Christ controls.
- B. The kingdom will be presented back to God.
- C. All things will be resolved in the Father. (Matthew 13:40)

Application Questions:

1. What different groups of people will God deal with differently at the end of time?

2. What is your position on the millennium?

3. What implications are there for denying a future physical kingdom?
