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-JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS-

This is mentioned and pictured many times in the Word. But let us look at the record as we find it in Matt. 25:31-46. By the use of marginal references and a concordance, you may be able to find a great many other references to it.

The first thing we note is the TIME. It is at the coming of the Lord when He has set up His throne. He will rule, first of all, over His people Israel having received the throne from His father David. But this rule will be extended over all the nations of the world.

So when we look for those who will be affected, we find that it is all the nations of the earth. That answers the question WHO. Notice, no resurrection is in view. Only the nations who are living when He comes appear in the scene. This is a thousand years too early for the resurrection of those from among the nations who have received the gift of everlasting life.

This judgment is a SEPARATION. The sheep nations are distinct from the goat nations. Sheep can be led. They can accept the will of another. Goats are wilful. They have a will of their own.

The BASIS of the judgment is not according to their faith. There is no mention of Christ and His redemptive work. They do not even know Christ. Those who do well are not even aware of what they have done. They ask how they have done well. Those who do not well also do not know wherein they have failed. They also ask about it. They are simply judged on the basis of what they have or have not done.

The penalty for the goat nations is EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT. We do hear a great deal about this, but it so happens that this is the only place in all the Word that the expression occurs. Note again that this has nothing to do with any people raised from the dead. In verse 41 this punishment is explained. It is to be cast into the lake of fire prepared for other beings than mankind. It is called elsewhere THE SECOND DEATH. But it is the first and the last death that these will die.

The reward for the sheep nations is LIFE ETERNAL. And that on the basis of doing deeds of charity - not forgetting the Jew! Now if everlasting punishment is for all sinners, how about this life?

-STUDIES IN EPHESIANS- #4

Another phrase that meets the eye in 1:3 is IN CHRIST. This is one of the key notes in the epistle. In Eph. we find what we are in Christ. In Phil. we find what we are to do with Christ in us; to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

In this first occurrence we find that all the spiritual blessings in the heavenlies are IN CHRIST. As we read on down thru the doctrinal section, the first 3 chapters, we find that we are chosen IN HIM (1:4), accepted IN THE BELOVED (1:6), IN WHOM... redemption.(1:7), in the fulness of times all things gathered together IN CHRIST (1:10), IN WHOM we have obtained an inheritance (1:11), that those who trust IN CHRIST shall be to the praise of His glory (1:12), IN WHOM the Ephesians also trusted (1:13), IN WHOM they were also sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise (1:13), and Paul was thankful to hear of their faith IN THE LORD JESUS.

Then there is that great resurrection power wrought IN CHRIST(1:20) which reaches out and has made us to sit in the heavenlies IN CHRIST (2:6), created IN CHRIST JESUS unto good works which were before ordained that we should walk in them (2:10), IN CHRIST JESUS we who once were far off are made nigh (2:13), IN WHOM all the holy temple (the Body) grows (2:21), and IN WHOM we are builded together for an habitation of God.

We hear about joint-heirs, in a joint-body, and joint-partakers of His promise IN CHRIST (3:6), that the eternal purpose of the Father is IN CHRIST JESUS (3:11), IN WHOM we have boldness and access.

Take your Bible and go over these slowly and think on them. It is a very profitable study. These facts help us to see more fully the mystery of Christ which in other ages and generations was not so fully revealed and known as it is now. Let us thank the Father for such a wonderful revelation.

These facts remind us that the Lord once said that He was the true and living way, that no one came to the Father but by Him. When we humbly contemplate the above expressions, we can see that all we can ever have must be in HIM. The Father has planned it that way that He and the Son might both be glorified.

All this calls for praise to Him who in infinite wisdom has included us poor Gentiles in His eternal purpose.

-THE SUPREME PENALTY-

Many of you do not have access to any libraries of much size. You might be interested in what some of the earlier writers believed. Such a study will show the beginnings and spread of apostacy and the creeping in of heathen philosophies into the churches.

In THE DURATION AND NATURE OF FUTURE PUNISHMENT by Henry Constable (1868), we find a little table of the early writers and their views on this subject. The death date of each is given.

Barnabas (90), Clement of Rome (100), Hermas (104), Ignatius, Martyr (107), Polycarp, Martyr (147), Justin, Martyr (164), and Theophilus, of Antioch (183), all held to the Scriptural view that the supreme penalty for all who did not have life was eternal death.

Then came in a couple of minor writers, Athenagoras (190) and Tatian (200), who were steeped in the Greek philosophies of Plato and Aristotle. The Greeks got their ideas from Babylon. So these two advanced the idea of the immortality of the soul ("Thou shalt not surely die," the lie of Satan). Their writings were not taken so seriously and they were considered more or less as heretics.

Two more writers, true to the Word, came in about this place. They were Irenaeus, Martyr (202) and Clement Alexandrinus (212).

Then the Greek influence again was felt. Tertullian (235) not only came out with the theory of the immortality of the soul, but he also taught the idea of the eternal conscious torment of the lost. This idea came especially from the Greek myths, which they themselves did not believe. They were stories to entertain. Hippolytus (204) followed with the same teaching.

This was so revolting to Origen (235) that he invented the idea of universal restoration of all. He also put forth the idea that our Lord was a created being, not deity. He fell into the error of universal restoration because he accepted the theory of the immortality of the soul. Something had to be done with this soul.

Arnobius (303) still held to the teaching of the Scriptures, but when Augustine (430) came on the scene, both the false teachings, the immortality of the soul and eternal conscious torment, were then fastened on the church to stay.

-A PROPHETIC PARABLE-

Take your Bible and read Matt. 22:1-14. We do not have space to go into any detail, but we can get a rough outline from which to work.

1. Servants go out to CALL them that are bidden to the feast. They would not come! This is a picture of the proclamation of the kingdom from John the Baptist to Calvary. The rejection was complete by the time of Matt. 12 which is followed by a revelation of the secrets of the kingdom in chapter 13. The final outcome is the murder of the Prince of Peace.

2. Other servants go forth. The message is still to those who have been bidden. It is the marriage banquet of the Lamb and the bidden guests are Israel.

The servants here are the apostles in their ministry of the times of Acts. All things are ready. The great sacrifice has been made. The sufferings of the Messiah have been completed. He is in the heavens waiting to come. But the people have no room in their lives for the offer. They go about their OWN business. No time for the Messiah!

But some of those wicked people take the servants and mistreat them and kill them. Is not that what happened to the apostles?

The outcome: those murderers were destroyed and their city burned. This was done by a Roman general, Titus, in A.D. 70. (Read the description by Josephus)

This second offer to them that were bidden was made possible by the prayer on Calvary, "Forgive them."

Now there is a gap of a couple of thousand years between verses 7 and 8. That gap is the present parenthesis in which is proclaimed the gospel of everlasting life and the dispensation of the mystery.

3. Go into the highways. This is a future ingathering of Israel from the four corners of the earth. They are scattered far and wide. The wedding will be furnished with guests some day!

In this part of the story is the appearance of the man without the proper wedding garment. The garment is the sign of election. God will gather His elect.

You may go on with the study, but the point we wanted to get was an offer of the kingdom, then a re-offer which ended with the pronouncement of Acts 28:28. No servants are authorized today to gather in those that were bidden.

1. What did Pilate have done to the Lord? 19:1
2. How was this done?
3. What was put on His head?
4. Who did this?
5. Why the purple robe?
6. What did they call Him?
7. How did they show their contempt for Him? 3
8. What again was Pilate's verdict?
9. How many times did Pilate say this? See 18:38 and 19:6.
10. Who said "Ecce Homo" (Behold the Man)?
11. What was the reply of the Jewish officers and chief priests?
12. What did Pilate tell them to do?
13. What made Pilate the more afraid?
14. What did he ask the Lord? 9
15. What was the reply? Isa. 53:7
16. What does Pilate boast?
17. Where did Pilate get his power?
18. Who had the greater sin?
See 18:3,28.
19. What did Pilate seek to do?
20. How did the Jews put Pilate "on the spot?" 12
21. Pilate had said, Behold the Man. Now what does He say? 14
22. What was the final verdict of the chief priests concerning their Messiah? verse 15.
23. What was Pilate's final verdict?
24. Where did the Lord go?
25. What did He carry?
26. Who were led out with Him and executed at the same time? Lk 23:32
27. Who else were brot up and executed after the parting of the garments? Matt. 27:38
28. Which believed on the Lord, one of the thieves or one of the malefactors? Lk. 23:39-43
29. What was the title written? 19
30. In what tongue was it written?
31. Did the chief priests like this?
32. Who had the last word? 22
33. What did they do with the Lord's clothes?
34. How was Psa. 22:18 fulfilled?
35. What four persons were present?
36. To whom was Mary entrusted?
37. In what four verses in this chapter do we find the words "Scriptures fulfilled"?
38. What did the Lord say? 28
39. What did they do?
40. What happened then? 30

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: A few days ago I was reading again of the passage of the Red Sea in Exodus 14. What a great drama that was! Few realize what a great thing was done there, a stupendous miracle!

There is hardly a body of water in the world where the heat gets more intense than at the Red Sea. The region round about is practically a desert. If a sailing boat gets becalmed on the sea, the sailors will lie on the decks panting for breath in the stifling heat.

Now for our picture. A frigid east wind blew that night. The waters parted and froze! The deep ooze of the bottom also froze. So the Israelites were able to go across dry shod. They did not even get their feet muddy. They say that there is much muck and ooze in the bottom at this point.

Here, up to 3 million people went across, as well as all their flocks and herds. Behind them was a great wall of fire which made it almost as light as day. They could plainly see where they were going. They could keep an eye on each other, their baggage, and their little ones, as well as the animals.

But the Egyptians were behind this cloud of fire and to them it was black. They could not see. But they knew what was going on. They thot that if these run-away slaves could cross, then they could do the same.

Pharaoh was leading the army in person. It was a great one, with thousands of chariots and horses.

But by the time the Egyptians were getting into the midst of the sea, the frost began to go out of the ground. The result was disastrous to them. The horses began to break thru the frozen crust. Also the chariot wheels would break thru, and when the chariots were turned to one side or the other, the wheels would break off. Soon there was great confusion in the darkness. Men and horses and chariots were hopelessly mixed up in the muck and mire. Then the walls of water gave way, the ice breaking, and the whole army was overwhelmed in the sea. None was able to escape.

Oh yes, How did I know that it was frozen? Well, in Ex. 15:8 it says that the waters were congealed. So far as I know, that would be ice!

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

TRUTH FOR TODAY, published somewhat erratically each month. Sent to anyone anywhere free upon request. You can help by sending in names and addresses of persons who might be interested.

VISITORS: Bill and Barbara Ransom of Joliet, Ill. did get back A. B. Tobias and Joe Beitsel of Northumberland, Pa., stopped in on their way to the west coast. H. E. McMeen of Deer Creek, Ill. was here a little while Feb. 14th.

THE REVELATION will be taken up for study in our class here beginning Mar. 30th. The weekly class meets at 7:30 on Tue. nites. The place is 2 miles east of the Harrison Center E U B Church; or 6 miles west of Warsaw on the Harrison Center Rd. You are welcome to come to the class at any time or all the time. Expect to present some new materials on the Rev. which are not yet in print.

OUR PURPOSE: At one time the O T was very much in question as to its historical accuracy. The pick and the spade have been at work in Palestine, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. The results have proven the accuracy of the O T and have put to rout the critics and other unbelievers.

We face a similar problem with the N T. Today Ritualism, Entertainment, and the Social Gospel have put Christ outside, having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof. Right and left the Bible is being put into the discard. The result is that people no longer have any spiritual and moral guide except such as they may set up for themselves. It seems today that each person does what is right in his own eyes.

We seek to show from internal evidence the absolute accuracy and authority of the Word of God. Further than that, we have a trust, a sacred one, that of making known the Mystery among the Gentiles, proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ. Also we have a gospel of everlasting life to proclaim to those who have never let God have His way in their lives.

We heartily thank those who have made this ministry possible. We remember you all daily in our prayers. We most thankfully receive your letters and words of encouragement for our work. We do appreciate your prayers in our behalf.

It will be a few weeks till we get things all settled so we can be putting in full time on the TFT ministry. There is yet much to be done.

- ABOUT BOOKS -

OUT OF PRINT: The Two natures in the Child of God by Bullinger. Do not know when we can get copies of this fine little book again.

NEW: The Witness of the Stars by E. W. Bullinger is being reprinted and we expect copies most any time now. The price will be \$4.25 postpaid.

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BEREAN PUBLICATIONS: We now carry a full stock and can usually fill orders promptly. Catalog and price list free for the asking.

FOR STUDY: The Englishman's Heb. and Chaldee Concordance, Bagster \$17.50. The Englishman's Greek Concordance, Bagster \$8.50. Young's Exhaustive Concordance \$13.

EXPOSITIONS: Just and the Justifier (Romans) by Welch \$1.88. This Prophecy (Revelation) by Welch \$1.13. Life Thru His Name (John) by Welch \$2.25.

BY MILLS: All Truth 75¢. N. T. Ministries 75¢. (Just a few left of these and no promise of any more)

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