

I. Introduction

- Sometimes known as the “Sheep-Goat Judgment,” the Divine Judgment of the Nations is found in Matthew 25

Matthew 25:31-46

“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; <sup>33</sup> and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; <sup>36</sup> naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink? <sup>38</sup> ‘And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? <sup>39</sup> ‘When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ <sup>40</sup> “The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.’ <sup>41</sup> “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry, and you gave Me *nothing* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’ <sup>44</sup> “Then they themselves also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’ <sup>45</sup> “Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ <sup>46</sup> “These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

A. The Timing of the Judgment (v. 31)

1. The Coming of the Son of Man (v. 31a)

“when the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him”

2. The Enthronement of the Son of Man (v. 31b)

“then He will sit on His glorious throne”

B. The Execution of the Judgment (vv. 32-46)

1. The Gathering of the Nations (v. 32a)

“All the nations will be gathered before Him”

2. The Separation of the Nations (v. 32b)

“and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats”

3. The Judgment of the Nations (vv. 33-45)

- The Sheep on His Right (vv. 33-40)

“and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left” (v. 33)

- The Pronouncement of Judgment (v. 34)

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

- The Basis of the Judgment (vv. 35-40)

“For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; <sup>36</sup> naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink? <sup>38</sup> ‘And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? <sup>39</sup> ‘When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ <sup>40</sup> “The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even* the least of *them*, you did it to Me.’”

- The Goats on His Left (vv. 41-45)

- The Pronouncement of Judgment (v. 41)

“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels”

- The Basis of the Judgment (vv. 42-45)

<sup>42</sup> “for I was hungry, and you gave Me *nothing* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’ <sup>44</sup> “Then they themselves also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’ <sup>45</sup> “Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’

4. The Destiny of the Nations (v. 46)

- The Destiny of the Goats (v. 46a)

“These will go away into eternal punishment...”

- The Destiny of the Sheep (v. 46b)

“...but the righteous into eternal life.”