



# CAPITOL COMMISSION

## The King's Perfect Prediction: Judging the Nations

APRIL 27-29, 2011

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**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. 32) And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33) and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. 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. 35) For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; 36) naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ 37) Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38) And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked and clothe You? 39) And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and came to You?’ 40) And 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.’ 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; 42) for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; 43) 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.’ 44) Then they themselves also will answer, saying, ‘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?’ 45) Then He will answer them, saying, ‘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.’ 46) And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (NASB)*

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“CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE ARE ONE; WHAT AFFECTS THEM AFFECTS HIM. WE HAVE VAST POTENTIAL FOR SHOWING KINDNESS TO HIM BY SHOWING KINDNESS TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” WILLIAM MACDONALD

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Why does Jesus say that the “nations” will be judged? What is the reason for the separation of the sheep and goats before the hearing and verdict? How were the sheep being judged if they were inheriting “the kingdom prepared” for them “from the foundation of the world?” Does the King make His judgment based on circumstantial evidence? How did Jesus say that the world would know His disciples? Does the Christian have any need that is not shared with Jesus Himself? Why does Jesus emphasize “the least” of His people? Is the “eternal punishment” and “eternal life” the same length of time?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE SATELLITE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 4-6: MATTHEW 26:1-16 PREPARATION FOR THE DEATH OF THE KING
- MAY 11-13: MATTHEW 26:17-30 THE LAST PASSOVER

With this seventh emphasis on the necessity of being ready for Jesus Christ’s return, He finishes His final discourse in teaching His disciples before He dies. His longest answer to any question ever given Him, ends with the importance of love, in meeting the smallest, most simple needs of other believers. Not only are His own to increase the talents which have been given them for His kingdom, but they are best prepared to meet their coming King by fulfilling His greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37-40).

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“ULTIMATELY THERE WILL ONLY BE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. THESE WILL BE DISTINGUISHED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL AND ITS EMISSARIES, AND THEIR ETERNAL DESTINIES WILL BE AS DISTINCT AS IS CONCEIVABLE.”  
CRAIG BLOMBERG

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### I. THE KING’S FINAL SEPARATION MT. 25:31-33

This is the first time that Jesus reveals to His disciples the fullness of His future authority. Not only will He come in personal authority, “His glory,” pointing to the fullness of the attributes of His deity, but He will have the authority of heaven present with “all the angels.” He will demonstrate that authority over all mankind when

### BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:30AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG & 11:30 AM – WOODBRIDGE – WILL RESUME AGAIN ON MAY 4, 2011  
THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – Rt. 10, IRONBRIDGE SPORTS Pk, NOON – WYTESTONE PLAZA – 8<sup>TH</sup> & MAIN – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – IN THE TIDEWATER AREA (CALL 804-683-2285 FOR SPECIFICS)

# Virginia

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“He will sit on His glorious throne and all the nations will be gathered before Him.” This future presentation of His authority is based on the fullness of authority already given Him after the resurrection. “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations . . .” (Matthew 28:18-19). In exactly the same words, “all the nations” shall find themselves before the judgment bar of God to be divided individually into “sheep” on His right and “goats” on His left. The concrete evidence of their heart’s attitude towards Jesus Christ will be revealed by their treatment of His representatives or “brothers.”

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“HE WHO RECEIVES YOU RECEIVES ME, AND HE WHO RECEIVES ME RECEIVES HIM WHO SENT ME. AND WHOEVER GIVES ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES ONLY A CUP OF COLD WATER IN THE NAME OF A DISCIPLE, ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, HE SHALL BY NO MEANS LOOSE HIS REWARD.” MATTHEW 10:40, 42

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### II. THE KING'S FAVORED SHEEP MT. 25:34-40

For the first time in all of His teaching, Jesus Christ calls Himself, “the King!” And those sheep on His right are commanded to “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” The last time Jesus had used this same imperative, “Come,” He had said, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Mt. 11:28-30). These sheep now recognized His voice because they had already obeyed and learned from their Good Shepherd. They are already owned by the Father and can be described as “My Father’s blessed ones,” because they have been chosen to be part of His kingdom “from the foundation of the world.” Their character as sheep is all dependent on God’s grace and their simple faith in trusting God to keep His world (Ephesians 2:8-10). But

their faith is evidenced by their love for Him through care for even the least of His children who were in six needy conditions essential to survival and quality of life.

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“GOD, BEING INFINITELY GLORIOUS, OR INFINITELY WORTHY OF OUR LOVE, HONOR AND OBEDIENCE, OUR OBLIGATION TO LOVE, HONOR AND OBEY HIM (AND SO TO AVOID ALL SIN) IS INFINITELY GREAT. SIN IS THE VIOLATION OF INFINITE OBLIGATION, AND SO IS AN INFINITE EVIL. SIN BEING AN INFINITE EVIL, DESERVES AN INFINITE PUNISHMENT. AN INFINITE PUNISHMENT IS NO MORE THAN IT DESERVES.”

JONATHAN EDWARDS

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### III. THE KING'S FURIOUS SENTENCE MT. 25:41-46

The king has no mercy for those who had no mercy for His children and “will 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. For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink’” (41-42). In contrast to the sheep, the abode of eternal fire was not prepared for them, but for the devil and his angels. It was not necessary that they go there, but they refused all the merciful warnings of Christ and His disciples and chose to follow and obey the devil and his angels and so followed them to their end. Their sin has brought its curse upon them and they are so detested by Christ the King that He will no longer allow them a place in His presence – “Depart from Me!” They had no care or concern for Christ and especially not the least of His followers and the concrete evidence of it will be revealed in the judgment. “To the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.” Thus their infinite sentence of eternal fire will begin, “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” The same word for “eternal” is used for the length of bliss in “eternal life” as the length of punishment in the eternal fire shared with the tormented and tormentors forever!

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#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Will you find yourself to be a “sheep” or a “goat” in the judgment?
- 2) Does your care for even the least of Christ’s “brothers” provide sufficient evidence to prove your faith in Christ?
- 3) Have you come to Christ and received Him as your Master, or is sin and the devil still your master?