

# Major Bible Themes

## 52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*

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### The Judgments of Israel and the Nations

- Introduction
  - As we have previously noted, there will be a resurrection of the righteous dead (both Hebrews and Gentiles alike) at the second coming of Christ (Dan 12:2; Rev 20:4-6).
  - This resurrection will include all believers prior to the Church as well as believers who die during the Tribulation.
  - These believers are raised to face judgment in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom.
  - Likewise, there will be judgments for those who are alive at the end of the Tribulation when Christ returns (Mark 13:20).
- The Judgment of Living Israel
  - When Christ comes at the Second Advent, He will deliver His people Israel from their persecutors.
  - However, some of the Israelites that are delivered from their enemies are not worthy to enter the kingdom since they are unsaved.
  - At that time all of Israel will be gathered before the Lord and judged (Ezek 20:33-38).
  - Those who have believed upon the Lord Jesus Christ and are “true” Israel (Rom 9:6) will enter the kingdom while the unbelievers will be purged (Ezek 20:38).
- The Judgment of Living Gentiles
  - When Christ comes in glory at the Second Advent all the nations (Gentiles) will be gathered before Him for judgment (Matt 25:31-46).
  - Jesus then separates the sheep (believing Gentiles) from the goats (unbelieving Gentiles).
  - Christ will invite the sheep to inherit the kingdom prepared for them (v. 34) and tell the goats to depart into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels (v. 41).
  - The believing Gentiles do not enter the Promised Land because that is for Israel, but they do inhabit the Millennial earth.
  - It is unclear if the unbelieving Gentiles go directly into the Lake of Fire or if they are cast into Hades to be later resurrected and cast into the Lake of Fire at the same time as all other unbelievers.
  - This passage in Matthew has created some misunderstanding because of its emphasis on works.
  - We know, however, that salvation is a free gift from God given on the basis of faith and not a result of works (Eph 2:8-9).
  - What we see in Matthew 25:35-40 is a description of the believer’s faith working through love (Gal 5:6).

- It is especially important to consider that the context of this passage is the Tribulation during which there will be intensified anti-Semitism.
- For a Gentile to minister to a Hebrew in such a way during the Tribulation will be significant because doing so will undoubtedly put his life in danger and his freedoms at risk.
- The only reason for such kindness during this time of great satanic deception would be the outworking of the Holy Spirit in the heart of a believer who understands the place that the people of Israel have in God's grace eternal plan for the ages.
- Questions
  - What judgments will occur in connection with the Second Coming of Christ?
  
  - What resurrections will occur in connection with these judgments?
  
  - What is the particular judgment of living Israel at the Second Coming of Christ?
  
  - Describe the judgment of the sheep and the goats.
  
  - Does this judgment teach that salvation is by works?
  
  - Explain the difference between works that are the evidence of salvation as opposed to works as a ground of salvation.
  
  - Why are the works of the sheep especially significant in view of the Tribulation?
  
  - What practical application can be made of the fact that God regards small deeds of kindness as being important?
  
  - Who of the dead will remain in the grave after the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom?