

ABATT
From Here to Eternity Part 4
 Christian Life Assembly
 Jim Hoffman

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From Here to Eternity

- Matt 24:36 **“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.** 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 **Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.** 42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” ESV

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- The language in this section seems to lend itself more to the rapture than the 2nd coming, but as usual context matters.
- What has been revealed previously in this text? The abomination of desolation for one, and other signs like the sun and moon being darkened.
- Those things are no where associated with the rapture, but are evidence that one is in the Tribulation.

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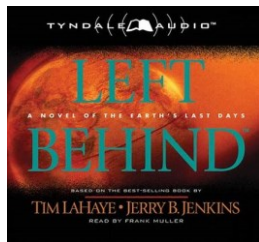
- Matt 24:40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.
- This is not the rapture – in this case Christ is coming in his glory at the end of the Tribulation to take away the lost in judgment. (Matt 25 Sheep and Goats)
- Those left behind are those who were saved in the Tribulation AND survived it – these will form the initial population in the millennial kingdom.

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- Unlike the “Left Behind” book series, in the context of the Olivet Discourse to be “left behind” means you are about to enter the Millennial Kingdom.



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- 45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. 48 But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know 51 and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ESV (taken in judgment)

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• “the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know 51 and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
ESV

• Notice the purpose of the master’s coming for the unfaithful ones – to judge!

• “Cut in pieces”, “put with the hypocrites”, and to experience pain. Those left behind this time are the righteous.

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Sheep and Goats Judgment

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• Matt 25:31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was 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 welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’
ESV

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When Jesus comes in his glory do you think some people will be converted now that they've actually seen him?

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- “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.”
- Notice **“comes in his glory”** – in other words when Jesus comes to reign and that is further clarified by **“he will sit on his glorious throne”**.
- In fact, all that Jesus has said in his discourse has been all about his glorious appearing.

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- Remember the question of the disciples **“when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”**.
- The disciple’s question was not about a 2nd coming, but about when Jesus will be seen in his glory – what will that be like?
- He will come as king and judge – he will sit on his throne in Jerusalem and rule.

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- So, what is the standard Jesus will use to separate the sheep from the goats?
- It seems clear the standard is **“the shepherd knows that who are his”**.
- Just as a shepherd can look at his flocks and easily distinguish the sheep from the goats because he knows them, so too will Jesus separate his sheep from the goats based upon his knowing them.

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- While the standard at the Sheep and Goats might seem like it is their “works” that determine their fate, I assure it is not.
- Gal 2:15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; **yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ**, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, **because by works of the law no one will be justified.** ESV

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- The text about the Sheep and Goats preaches well because what Christian would want to miss an opportunity to personally minister to Jesus?
- Rarely is it put in the context of Jesus’ second coming, but is usually cast as some general day of judgment as though saved and lost are judged together.
- Dan 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ESV

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- If you were to read Daniel chapter 12 without the benefit of the rest of Scripture you would no doubt conclude that there is but one day of judgment.
- But we have the New Testament where we learn of the “rapture”, and the “tribulation” – especially the timing of end-time events.
- We also know the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Great White Throne are completely separate events both in time and locations.

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- Matt 25:34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’. ESV
- The kingdom was prepared for the sheep before they were born and before they ever had any works.
- Eph 1:4 Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. ESV

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From Here to Eternity

- Has it ever occurred to us that some of the promises of God are themselves challenges to our faith?
- When we consider who we are – sinners by birth and by choice, does that not make it all the harder to believe that God would make us his heirs?
- All of the objective evidence cries out against us that we in no way should be in such a position – so how are we to make sense of what read in his word?

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The only answer to that question and the quandary it presents is the gospel!

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Is this not a great challenge to our faith – that we would inherit the kingdom!

If we think that believing God for a miracle is a high bar, is not this bar even higher?

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- Perhaps the hearers were surprised that serving his brethren equates to serving him!

- This is not to say that expressing kindness to the unsaved in our world is wrong – but it does say something about the priority of Christians.

- Gal 6:10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and **especially to those who are of the household of faith.** ESV

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- Where will we, those raptured ones, be when Christ returns and during the Millennial Kingdom?
- 1st Thes 4:17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, **and so we will always be with the Lord.** ESV
- 2nd Tim 2:11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; **12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;**

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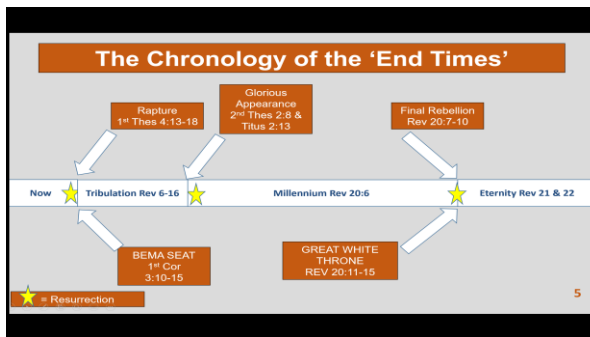
Kingdom Life for the Jew

- Ezekiel 37:11 Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, **I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.** 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 14 **And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land.** Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord." ESV

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The Chronology of the 'End Times'



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