

What Jesus Prophesied About the End Times

Part 3: Matthew 25:13-46

1. Explanation of the events to be seen in the Tribulation and that the glorious appearance of Jesus in the sky is *predictable at the end of the Tribulation* (24:4-35).

2. Explanation of the *unpredictability* of the simultaneous *start of the Tribulation*, the invisible “arrival” of Jesus to the Earth and the Rapture (24:36-44).

3. First pair of parables/metaphors

A. Parable of the wise or foolish servant applies to the Church before the Tribulation (24:45-51).

B. Parable of the ten bridesmaids applies to Jewish Christians in the Tribulation (25:1-13).

4. Second pair of parables/metaphors

A. Parable of the talents applies to the Church before the Tribulation (25:13-14).

B. Judgment of the sheep and the goats after the glorious appearance of Jesus at the end of the Tribulation (25:31-46).

Matt. 25:13 ***“Be on the alert [= stay awake] then [= therefore], for you do not know the day nor the hour.***

This is not a conclusion to the parable of the 10 bridesmaids. All of the bridesmaids “fall asleep.” Plus, the parable of the bridesmaids uses the future tense, “The kingdom of heaven will be comparable to 10 bridesmaids...” So, Jesus is referring us back to living before the Tribulation and Rapture, using the same language from 24:42. Another proof of this is that the following verse draws an inference from this verse using the word “for” or “because”!

Matt. 25:14 ¶ *“For [= because] it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and **entrusted his possessions to them.***

Matt. 25:15 *“To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, **each according to his own ability;** and he went on his journey.*

Matt. 25:16 *“**Immediately** the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents.*

Matt. 25:17 *“**In the same manner [i.e. immediately]** the one who had received the two talents gained two more.*

Matt. 25:18 *“But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.*

Matt. 25:19 ¶ *“Now **after a long time [= an extended time]** the master of those slaves **came and ***settled accounts [= did bookkeeping]** with them.**

Matt. 25:20 *“The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you **entrusted** five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’*

Matt. 25:21 *“His master said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.**’*

*Matt. 25:22 ¶ “Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you **entrusted** two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’*

*Matt. 25:23 “His master said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.**’*

But how about the servant who did nothing with what he was given?

Matt. 25:24 ¶ “And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard [= harsh, exacting, cruel] man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed [note: e.g., expecting to squeeze out impossible productivity].

*Matt. 25:25 ‘And I was **afraid**, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’*

*Matt. 25:26 ¶ “But his master answered and said to him, ‘**You wicked, lazy slave**, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed.*

*Matt. 25:27 ‘Then you **ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.***

*Matt. 25:28 ‘Therefore **take away the talent** from him, and **give it to the one who has the ten talents.**’*

*Matt. 25:29 “For to everyone who has, **more shall be given**, and he will have an **abundance**; but from the one who **does not have**, even what he does have shall be **taken away**.*

*Matt. 25:30 “Throw out the worthless slave **into the outer darkness [= darkness outside]**; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth [= severe grief].*

The master announces the principle that those who are productive will get _____ to be “in charge,” but those who are not productive will be given _____ to be “in charge.”

Christians who are productive for Jesus now-- in all of the _____ ways Jesus gives to them-- will be given *greater opportunity* to be _____ in the Kingdom where they can serve Jesus Christ through serving others.

Matt. 23:11 “But the ***greatest*** among you shall be your ***servant***.

So how about those in the Tribulation again?

Matt. 25:31 ¶ “***But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him [note: this is the predictable conclusion of the Tribulation for those living in the 7-year Tribulation], then He will sit on His glorious throne.***

Matt. 25:32 “***All the nations [= Gk. ethne = Gentiles] will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;***

Matt. 25:33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

Matt. 25:34 ¶ “***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 Messianic Kingdom was God’s plan for humanity from the beginning.

What is interesting to note in Jesus's prophecy here is that there is a clear division of the Gentiles who survive the Tribulation. You are either a sheep or a goat. And apparently all of the sheep deserve a full reward. Why? Why are there not greater sheep and lesser sheep?

*Matt. 25:35 'For [= because] 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**;*

*Matt. 25:36 **naked, and you clothed Me**; I was sick, and **you visited Me**; I was in **prison**, and **you came to Me**.'*

*Matt. 25:37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, '**Lord**, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink?*

Matt. 25:38 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?

Matt. 25:39 'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

*Matt. 25:40 "**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 [= Jewish disciples of Jesus in the Tribulation], even the least of them, you did it to Me.**'*

And this is an important prophecy of what life will be like in the terrible Tribulation period- particularly in the final 3 ½ years.

_____ in the Tribulation will be hungry, thirsty, homeless, naked, sick, imprisoned (likely silenced and/or on death row!).

_____ in the Tribulation will either come to faith in Jesus and help Jewish Christians to survive this time or will join in with the masses of the Gentiles who will persecute Jewish Christians.

*Matt. 25:41 ¶ “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;***

Matt. 25:42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;

Matt. 25:43 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.’

Matt. 25:44 “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?’

Matt. 25:45 “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.’

Matt. 25:46 “These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Jesus prophesies that part of God’s purpose in the Tribulation is not only to refine _____ to a believing remnant, but to bring a full judgment on the _____.

There will be no secret Gentile Christians in the Tribulation as there are in our time (i.e. “tares” among the “wheat” - Matt. 13:24). The Tribulation will make _____ where a person is in regards to believing or not believing in Jesus Christ.

Rev. 13:7 ¶ It was also given to him [= the evil world ruler] to make war with the saints [= Jewish disciples] and to overcome them, and authority [= power] over every tribe and people and tongue and nation [= Gentiles] was given to him.

Rev. 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain from the foundation of the world .

Rev. 13:16 And he [= the False Prophet] causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead,

Rev. 13:17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

Rev. 14:9 ¶ Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

Rev. 14:10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Rev. 14:11 “And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

What did Jesus teach us about the end times?

- **Jesus Christ was the first to prophesy that His hidden presence arriving at the earth, the Rapture of His Church and the beginning of the Tribulation would be one simultaneous, surprising, and *unpredictable* event.**
- **Jesus Christ was the first to prophesy His evaluation of His Church after the Rapture.**
- **Jesus Christ prophesied detailed events and instructions for Jewish believers in Judea living through the Tribulation.**
- **Jesus Christ prophesied the accountability and rewarding of those Jewish disciples in the Tribulation.**

- **Jesus Christ prophesied that there would be no middle ground concerning Him in the Tribulation and that this would be clearly seen in how Gentiles responded to Jewish Christians.**

All that the apostles would prophesy in the New Testament would built on what Jesus had already revealed.

These prophecies are the essential links to understanding how the future of the Church, a new creation of God (Ephesians 2:10), relates to the future of Israel.

*Rom. 11:25 ¶ For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery — so that you will not be wise in your own estimation — that a **partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;***

*Rom. 11:26 **and so all Israel will be saved;** just as it is written,
“THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION,
HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.”*

*Rom. 11:27 “THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM,
WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.”*

*Rom. 11:28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God’s choice **they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;***

*Rom. 11:29 for the gifts and the calling of God are **irrevocable.***