

# Judgment Day: The Second Coming of Christ

## *Part 2: The Gathering*

(preached 3/26/23)

Please turn to *Matthew 24:29*.

### LAST WEEK:

- God's plan is to live among His people and not to be separated.
- His Plan is for everyone who believes in Him to be together, in one place, worshipping Him and loving each other.
- Even though He started us in Eden, His plan was for righteous humanity to multiply and spread across all of planet earth.
- Eating the FF threw a monkey wrench into that, corrupting humankind with sin and death.
- Fallen humanity spread across the globe instead, separating from God and in conflict with each other—the opposite of God's Kingdom.
- After the Flood of Noah, God divides the world into 70 nations and assigns 70 angelic princes to rule over them. Said angels rebelled, however, and declared themselves the “gods” of those nations.
- To this day, the Jewish people refer to said nations and people as “Gentiles.”
- The Lord keeps the land of Israel for Himself and plants the Hebrew people in it to be in covenant with them.
- He desires are the same; to live among them but there's a problem—they're now corrupted by sin and the Lord is holy. So He creates the OC with animal sacrifice to atone for sin, to cover it.
- He creates the Tabernacle and Temple so He can come to earth and live among them, although in a very limited fashion.
- “Judgment Day” events took place when the Hebrew people abandon the LORD and worship Gentile gods and was always preceded by a prophet sent to warn and give a call to repentance.
- The punishment was to bring about the OPPOSITE of God's heart's desire: 1) to dispossess the people from the land of Israel and 2) to scatter/separate them from each other so they have to live in Gentile nations.
- When the Hebrew people eventually repented, God would RESTORE them by enacting His Kingdom plan upon them once more.
- He would forgive their sins and regather them from the Gentile nations where He'd driven them.
- Since the Gentile nations and their gods hated the Jews, this “deliverance” came with a fight...which leads us to a second JD event—where the wrath of God is poured out upon the unbelieving nations to force them to let His people go.
- The Lord would then draw His people back to the PM where they would rebuild, restore, and enter into covenant with God again.

- So we have 2 types of JD events. 1) Upon God's people when they fall away and 2) Upon Gentile nations when God restores and regathers His people.
- Jesus came to prepare people to enter into God's Kingdom plan: to forgive their sins and make them Temples so God would live within them.
- While some were Saved, the nation of Israel rejected Christ as a whole leading to a JD event 40 years later—the Roman invasion with destroyed Jerusalem, disposed the Hebrew people, and scattered them to the nations.
- God began the FINAL restoration in 1948 when He reformed the nation of Israel.

TODAY *we're talking about the final gathering, which for God's people is Resurrection.*

6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.**

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 2 Co 5:6–10.

ORDER OF JD EVENTS. Please remember the order of JD events: *first* is that against His own people when they've fallen away, dispossession of land and scattering, normally done by foreign invasion or pestilence/famine. Now do you understand why Peter (*1 Peter 4:17*) once said that “judgment begins in the house of God”?

Second is GATHERING His people from where they've been scattered and bringing them back to the Promised Land which normally means He brings wrath down upon unbelieving Gentile nations to free His people.

OLIVET DSCOURSE. When teaching His disciples about His Second Coming, Jesus says the following in Matthew 24:

29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and **then all the tribes of the earth will mourn**, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and **they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 24:29–31.

## Let's remember God's Kingdom Plan:

- No separation between He and His people to the point where He will descend from heaven and live among us.
- **Verse 30** is the final fulfillment of this glorious promise! When Jesus returns, He's never going away again. NEVER!
- The second part of fulfilling His plan is to regather His people from whence they've been scattered.
- **Verse 31** is the fulfillment of said promise—His angels play the role of “reapers” to go and gather all His people to Him.

SECOND COMING. I'm not here to quibble over the timing of the Rapture, but what we see here is the Second Coming of Christ—when He comes to live on the planet, to rule and reign as King.

**TWO PARTIES.** There are two parties here we need to pay attention to: 1) “the tribes of the earth” and 2) the “elect.”

TRIBES OF EARTH. The “tribes of the earth” *are the unbelieving Gentile nations*, those who sided with the Antichrist and who persecuted and martyred both Jews and Christians. They “mourn” because the final JD smackdown is about to come upon them. They mourn because when they look up into the sky, they see Jesus mounted up on a white horse leading a vast army of resurrected human saints and an innumerable company of angels! The largest and most powerful army ever assembled! They mourn because they know they have no chance whatsoever!

ANTICHRIST. At that point the Antichrist will be like an evil emperor reigning on earth over many nations, and because the Dragon is his god, he hates Jews and Christians with a murderous hatred. Because the time of the gathering is fast approaching, the Antichrist and Mystery Babylon are openly persecuting and murdering all of God's people in great numbers. Therefore he's about to be on the receiving end of what I just told you: a JD event led by Jesus Himself! Some of this was prophesied in Zechariah 14:

14 Behold, a day is coming for the Lord, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. 2 For I will gather all the **nations** against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3 **Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.** 4 On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. 5 And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. **Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.** 6 On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. 7 And there shall be a

unique day, which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light. 8 On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. 9 **And the Lord will be king over all the earth.** On that day the Lord will be one and his name one.

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Zec 14:1–9.

**Back to Matthew 24:** Who are “the elect”? Well...interpretations vary. Some say it's the Jews and it may very well be. Some say it's anyone who converted to Christ during the Tribulation, which is also possible. If you believe the Rapture & Second Coming are the same event, then the elect are everyone from the very beginning who have ever been Saved through Jesus.

NOT SURE. I am not certain of which one is the correct interpretation but I do know this: ***the elect are Saved.*** They are God's people being gathered—REDEEMED—from all the nations of the earth [from the four winds] and brought to stand before Christ to be judged. This will take place in Jerusalem.

MATTHEW 13: Let me read of the same event, also in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 13:

24 He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds [tares] among the wheat and went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ 29 But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow together **until the harvest**, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “**Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.**” ’ ”

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 13:24–30.

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” 37 He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. **The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.** 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will **send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom** all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of

teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 13:36–43.

**At His Second Coming, Jesus gathers everyone on the planet to stand before Him.** One type is called “wheat” and Jesus defines these people as those who know Him as Lord and Savior, and have been made righteous by His blood. The second type are the “weeds” or “tares” if you have a different translation, and these are those who have rejected Jesus.

**There is no middle ground. There is no neutrality. Not then, not now.**

**WE EITHER BELIEVE IN JESUS AND RELY UPON HIS SAVING GRACE OR WE DON'T.**

GOOD WITHOUT GOD? Can an unbeliever do good things, help others, and be compassionate? Yes. Can they be generous, give back to their communities, and express love to others? Yes. Is it possible for them to have never gone to jail, rarely broken the law, and have a good moral code? Absolutely.

**Does that make a person good: yes or no?**

**The only One Who can make a person good is Jesus.**

PERFECTION. God’s version of goodness is absolute perfection—never having done anything wrong ever, and only doing good things all the time.

**Name one human being to have ever achieved this: [His Name is Christ Jesus!]**

WE CAN'T! Since no human being can ever do what Jesus did, our only option and the best choice is to rely on the Lord of glory. To humble ourselves before Him, recognizing our desperate need to be forgiven and delivered from a bad verdict on Judgment Day. To realize that He alone has the love, righteousness, and power to lift us up out of the miry clay and set our feet upon the solid rock. When we repent and believe in Him, he converts us from a tare to a wheat and the verdict we receive on JD will be a good one.

**Don't be deceived: the only good person to have ever walked this planet was Christ.**

NOT US. All the rest of us are not. A wheat is someone who has received Christ and a weed/tare is someone who hasn't.

**Are you a wheat or a tare?** If you're not sure then you need to speak with me or someone else in the faith ASAP. Don't wait—today is the day of your salvation!

BACKSLIDDEN. If you supposedly knew Christ years ago but have fallen away from Him into sin and the pleasures of the world, then you're like the Hebrews who did the same in ancient times. In your spirit you've been separated from God and scattered to the spiritual territory of unbelievers, ruled over by false angelic gods.

**It's time to have the same revelation as the Prodigal Son and come back...both to God and Church.** The Lord will openly welcome you and won't reproach you!

MATTHEW 25. Continuing in His Second Coming teaching, this is what Jesus said in Matthew 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.' 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they 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 minister to you?' 45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as 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."

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 25:31–46.



NOT OF WORKS. Everyone is gathered together. These verses are NOT saying that Salvation is earned by good works...I know it seems that way. Yet we know the Bible doesn't contradict itself and please remember Paul's famous line to the Ephesians: "You are saved by grace and not of works, lest anyone should boast" (*Ephesians 2:9*). What we see here is the EFFECTS of a person who knows Christ and is filled with His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the One Who inspires us to be compassionate to others, especially fellow brothers and sisters of the faith.

FRUIT OF SALVATION. In other words, if I'm truly Saved and I see another Christian without clothes or food, I give some to him. If another Christian ends up in jail, the context being persecuted for faith & preaching, I visit her and stand by her side. The Apostle James did a good job talking about this in his book saying that faith will produce good works like these.

**The bigger point is that when Jesus decides that the harvest is ready, He will return and send the angels out to reap the harvest—both the good and bad—and bring it all to Him.**

*How are believers judged on that day?* Not only are we ushered into God's Kingdom, but something else happens:

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 13 each one's work will become manifest, for **the Day** will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and **the fire will test what sort of work each one has done**. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though **he himself will be saved**, but only as through fire.

[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Co 3:10–15.

I'll talk about this more next week, but suffice to say there are "rewards" in God's Kingdom for a job well done here on earth.

PRAY