

Caring for Jesus Unaware

Matthew 25:31-41

It's difficult to fit every Scripture into a prophetic timeline:

II Thessalonians 2:1, 3, ESV—Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him... that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction...

The traditional view sees three different judgments, described in our passage, and these other two

Revelation 20:11-12, ESV—Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done

II Corinthians 5:10, ESV—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

However, all of these passages describe a throne, with Jesus seated in judgment, and judgment according to works

These all refer to the same event—Revelation focuses on the wicked dead; II Corinthians focuses on believers, Matthew 25 brings it all together and focuses on both

What?

Doing good is what faith is about, so let the good deeds break out

Two things God has prepared—

God prepared His kingdom by predetermining our inheritance from before anyone was created or born

All those **who are in union with Christ by faith** will be with Him in His kingdom for eternity

All those who **remain in union with the devil because of unbelief** will remain with him in the Lake of Fire for eternity, which God prepared for the devil and his angels

The Big Question—Why are believers included in the final judgment?

Our existence is **for the purpose of the Lord's glory**

Matthew 5:16, ESV—“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven”

I Peter 2:12, ESV—...they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation

The Lord will point to our deeds as verification of the gospel, for His glory (Philippians 2:10)

So What?

If you hold to the traditional timeline, **you will write this passage completely off, and say it doesn't apply to you**

Faith that does not do good deeds is not saving faith
“Truly I say to you”—you might be helping Jesus

The final say—Paul

Philippians 2:10-11, NASB—At the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

Now What?

Loosen your grip on your prophetic timeline
Hear what the Spirit is saying to you about doing good