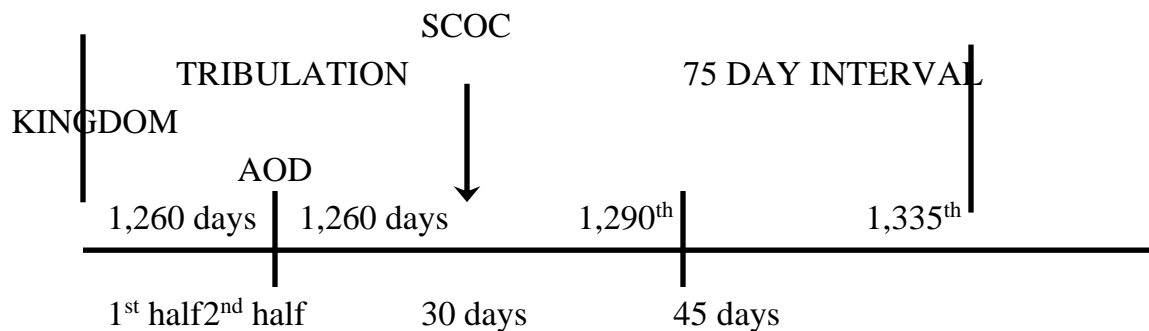


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B0613 – April 2, 2006 – Major Bible Themes
Chapter 47 – The Judgment of Israel and the Nations

I. INTRODUCTION

Two weeks ago, Dick taught about the Second Coming of Christ which takes place immediately after the Tribulation (Matt 24:29-31). Then I filled you in on the two resurrections, resurrection unto life and resurrection unto death. I taught you that two of those resurrections take place in connection with the Second Coming. Can anyone tell me what groups of saints will be resurrected in connection with the Second Coming? OT saints and Tribulation saints. What passages would you use to support that? Dan 12:1-2 for OT saints and Rev 20:4-5 for Tribulation saints. Good. Ok, now, we know from Daniel that there is a 75-day gap between the Second Coming and the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. So, it's my suggestion that these saints will be resurrected during this 75 day interval. Connected to their resurrection is their judgment for works and so we will be looking at the judgment of resurrected OT saints as well as resurrected Tribulation saints. In addition to this there are also some judgments that take place during this 75 day interval for those who survive the Tribulation, both Jew and Gentile. So, we really want to narrow in on some of the events of the 75-day interval.



Daniel refers to this time gap when he mentions the 1,335th day and notes that the countdown to this day begins with the abomination of desolation (Dan 12:11-12) which we know occurs in the middle of the week (Dan 9:27).

Daniel 12:11-12 "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days. ¹² "How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

The one who attains to the 1,335th day is blessed because he will enter into the Millennial Kingdom (Dan 12:12). The implication is that just because one survives until the end of the Tribulation this does not guarantee that he will enter into the Kingdom. Thus, there must be some judgments that happen during the 75 day interval that determine who will enter the Kingdom and who will not. What will be the basis for judging whether a person can enter the kingdom or not? The bottom line is that none can enter the Kingdom without being born again.

John 3:3 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

And how is one "born again"?

John 1:12-13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

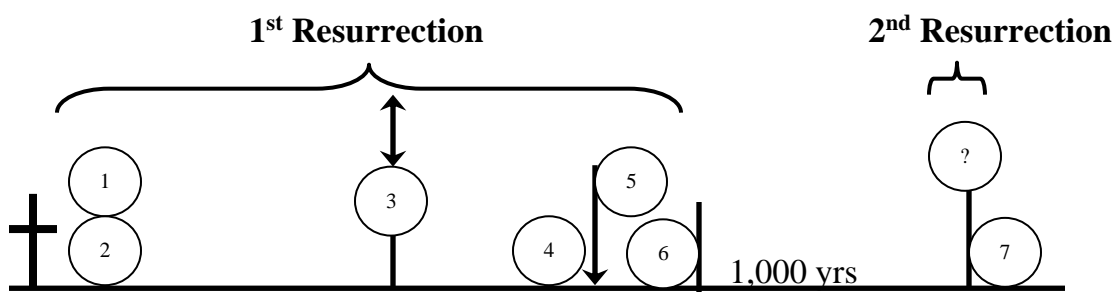
One must believe in His name. God is the sole author of regeneration. We cannot regenerate ourselves. But the human condition for God to regenerate is faith in Jesus Christ. So, these judgments will be to separate out those who believed and are regenerated from those who did not believe and were not regenerated. When this judgment is complete it is clear that all who were not regenerate will be killed during the 75-day interval so that all and only those who are regenerate will enter the Kingdom. So, God will start fresh with a totally regenerate society just as He did after the Flood judgment in Noah's day. Today, we are interested in the judgments that come during this 75 day interval to separate the regenerate from the unregenerate. There are four such judgments

1. The Judgment of Resurrected OT Saints
2. The Judgment of Resurrected Tribulation Saints

3. The Judgment of Living Israel
4. The Judgment of Living Gentiles

II. THE JUDGMENT OF RESURRECTED OT SAINTS

Last week we established the timing of the first resurrection in all its phases and the second resurrection. Let's review this briefly; (1) Christ, three days after His crucifixion, (2) token Jewish saints on that same day but after Christ, (3) the Church on the day of the pre-trib Rapture, (4) the two witnesses near the end of the Tribulation, (5) OT Jewish saints at the 2nd Coming of Christ, and (6) Tribulation saints before the Millennium. The second resurrection is unto death and occurs in one phase after the Millennium (7). The issue of the resurrection of millennial saints is not revealed in Scripture (?). OT saints and Tribulation saints to be in conjunction with the Second Coming of Christ from such passages as Dan 12:2, Isa 26:19, and Job 19:25-26.



1. Christ, the firstfruits
2. A token resurrection of Jewish saints
3. The Church
4. The Two Witnesses
5. The Old Testament Saints
6. The Tribulation Saints

The resurrections we are interested in today are numbers 5 and 6, the OT Saints and the Tribulation Saints. The OT saints will be raised in fulfillment of the Abrahamic, Davidic, Land, and New Covenants. These covenants are one way covenants. That is, these covenants are unconditional. God has promised to fulfill them and God is faithful to His promises. All these covenants are in association with the Promised Land of Israel. As such, God will raise the OT saints to enjoy His covenant promises in the Land of Israel.

III. THE JUDGMENT OF RESURRECTED TRIBULATION SAINTS

Now, very near or about this same time, the Tribulation saints will also be raised. These will be those believing Jews and Gentiles who were martyred or died during the Tribulation. Rev 20:4 says they will be given a resurrection body before the 1,000 years.

Revelation 20:4 And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

This will be the sixth and final phase of the first resurrection. Both the OT and Tribulation Saints will then be rewarded and will reign with Christ in various capacities in that kingdom. The resurrected of Israel will enjoy the Land and the resurrected of the Gentiles will live and serve elsewhere on the millennial earth.

Some have been confused by the fact that the Church will be in the kingdom as well. There should be no problem with this since all who are a part of the universal church have believed and thus been regenerated. As such we will enter into the Millennial Kingdom. We already have citizenship in that Kingdom (Col 1:13). We will have already been resurrected at the pre-trib Rapture, judged in heaven for rewards, and we will return with Christ at His Second Coming (Rev 19). As such, we will also enter the kingdom and will reign as kings (Rev 1:6; 5:10) on the millennial earth as the bride of Christ.

So, in conclusion, the OT and Tribulation saints will be resurrected at the Second Coming of Christ and will reign with Christ in various capacities during the Millennium along with the Church. So, the Kingdom will be a time when immortals will live alongside mortals. It will be a totally unique time in history.

IV. THE JUDGMENT OF LIVING ISRAEL

When the Son of Man returns He will rescue Israel from their persecutors. Then “He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other” (Matt 24:31). The “elect” means the elect nation of Israel. This does not, however, guarantee that they have believed and are regenerated. Thus, Christ will have to gather the whole nation of Israel and enter into judgment with them to separate the unregenerate from the regenerate. This final regathering of the elect nation of Israel has abundant testimony in Scripture.

Deuteronomy 30:1-4 "So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, ² and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, ³ then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴ "If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back.

Isaiah 11:11-12 Then it will happen on that day that the Lord Will again recover the second time with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea. ¹² And He will lift up a standard for the nations And assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

Isaiah 43:3-6 "For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. ⁴ "Since you are precious in My sight, *Since* you are honored and I love you, I will give *other* men in your place and *other* peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵ "Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, And gather you from the west. ⁶ "I will say to the north, 'Give *them* up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold *them* back.' Bring My sons from afar And My daughters from the ends of the earth,

Ezekiel 39:27-28 "When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, then I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations. ²⁸ "Then they will know that I am the LORD their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them *again* to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer.

However, not all who are regathered will enter the Promised Land of Israel. Only the "true Israel", those who believed, often called the remnant, will enter the Promised Land of Israel.

Ezekiel 20:34-38 "I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; ³⁵ and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. ³⁶ "As I

entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you," declares the Lord GOD. ³⁷ "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸ and I will purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.

So, the sequence is:

1. The Second Coming of Christ
2. Christ will send for His angels to gather the elect nation of Israel
3. Christ will enter into judgment with the elect nation of Israel
4. The rebels (unregenerate) will be purged out
5. The true Israel (regenerate) will enter the land of Israel

These regenerate Israelites will re-populate the Jewish people during the Millennium.

V. THE JUDGMENT OF LIVING GENTILES

After the judgment of Israel is complete (Rom 2:9) there will be the judgment of the living Gentiles. This implies that there will be Gentiles who survive the Tribulation, some regenerate and some unregenerate. The key passage is Matt 25:31-46. In this passage the Gentiles are described as sheep and goats intermingled and gathered before a shepherd. Differing in kind they are separated from one another, the sheep being placed on the right side of the shepherd and the goats being placed on the left side of the shepherd (Chafer and Walvoord, *Major Bible Themes*). A third group are Christ's "brethren" which are, most likely, the godly remnant of Israel that survived the preceding judgment.

Matthew 25:31-46 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory [this places this event after the Second Coming], and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² "All the nations [ethnos – the Gentiles] will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; ³³ and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left [political implications]. ³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on His right [the sheep], 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom [Davidic, Millennial] prepared [perfect passive participle] for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ 'For 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; ³⁶ 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 [justification by faith] will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink? ³⁸ 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? ³⁹ 'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 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 [godly remnant of Israel, true Israel], *even* the least of *them*, you did it to Me.' ⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on His left [goats], 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared [perfect passive participle] for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry, and you gave Me *nothing* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; 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.' 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?' 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 [godly remnant of Israel, true Israel], you did not do it to Me.' ⁴⁶ "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The sheep and goats are all Gentiles. The righteous (i.e. regenerate) Gentiles will enter the kingdom, which is the Millennial Kingdom. This is not heaven or eternity future but the 1,000 year earthly Millennial Kingdom (v 34). Many have struggled over the fact that their good works are mentioned (you gave me something to eat, to drink, you invited me in, you clothed me, you visited me) and concluded that salvation must be by works. However, this has nothing to do with salvation by good works. Verse 37 says they are "righteous" and this refers to justification by faith. One is always justified by faith and not by works. By works no flesh will be justified (Rom 3:20; Gal 2:16). Thus, the works listed here are the fruit that issues forth from their faith. During the Tribulation, the believers will realize that Israel is God's chosen people and because of their persecution will help them by giving them food, water, clothing, etc... This will demonstrate that they have faith in Christ and their faith is issuing forth fruit. Jesus Christ is able to know all the deeds of the righteous and as such knows that they the *fruit* of salvation, not the *ground* of salvation.

So, the sheep are regenerate and will reach the 1,335th day and enter the Kingdom. They will re-populate the Gentile peoples or nations. The goats, on the other hand, will be cast into everlasting fire. It is unclear whether this means they will go into Sheol/Hades or to the lake of fire. I am inclined to think this refers to the lake of fire but that initially they

will be cast into Hades to await the Great White Throne judgment. My reason for this is because the sheep/goats judgment is only a judgment to determine if they are regenerate or not. The Great White Throne judgment is a judgment of works for all unregenerate and occurs after the Millennium. So, likely they will go to Hades but Matt 25 is expressing their ultimate destiny as the lake of fire.

Although Matt 25 does not apply to us directly I think it shows the importance of works. Our works should demonstrate our faith. Even small deeds like giving a drink of water and food to the hungry do not go unnoticed by a loving God who is concerned for His people. Of course, these works are only produced when we walk by the Spirit. As such, it is His fruit that results though we reap the rewards for such fruit.

CONCLUSION

In concluding, I think it is marvelous that God has told us about all the peoples judgments and resurrections so that we don't have to guess. No matter when you live in history God has given ample revelation that provides the necessary knowledge to live in His world peaceably and victoriously.

There are four judgments that come during the 75 day interval.

1. The Judgment of Resurrected OT Saints
2. The Judgment of Resurrected Tribulation Saints
3. The Judgment of Living Israel
4. The Judgment of Living Gentiles

Those who are resurrected and rewarded at this time will enter the kingdom. The OT saints will enjoy the Promised Land as well as the Jewish Tribulation saints such as the 144,000. The Gentile Tribulation saints who were martyred will be resurrected and rewarded and will reside in various capacities outside the Promised Land. Those who survive the Tribulation of Israel will be judged in the wilderness. Those who are regenerate will enter the Kingdom. The others will be killed. Those Gentiles who survive the Tribulation will go to the sheep/goats judgment. Those who are regenerate are the sheep and they will enter the Millennial Kingdom to re-populate the Gentile peoples. Those Gentiles who are not regenerate will be killed and cast into everlasting fire.

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