

A. After reading this passage, you might be curious how Jesus came to “grant... **division.**” Studying the OT, we saw division as far back as Cain and Abel in **Gen 4.**

B. **vv49-50** tell us that Jesus was expecting to suffer immensely to accomplish our salvation. →**vv49-50**

Endeavor to be reconciled with God through Christ.	I. <u>JESUS DIVIDES HUMANITY</u> II. <u>ANALYZE THE TIMES</u> III. <u>JUDGE WHAT IS RIGHT</u>
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I. JESUS DIVIDES HUMANITY →**v51**

A. How is it that Jesus, the Prince of Peace,¹ spoke about bringing division in this verse?

1. Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness and to then suffer and die for His sheep so that those who put their faith in Him would be “**justified by faith, [so that] we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**” (**Rom 5:1**).
 - a. The distressing baptism Jesus spoke of in **v50** was His undergoing the wrath of His Father due to the sins of the elect.
 - b. The gift of God’s reconciling grace in the gospel is free to us through faith, yet it was very costly for Jesus Christ!
2. Jesus is the Prince of Peace for all who put their faith in Him as Savior and submit to Him as their Lord.
3. For those who reject the only Savior of mankind, Jesus will be their wrathful Judge instead!
4. The ultimatum of the gospel is clear. Who do you want Jesus to be for you?

B. Christ brought to light the division between His sheep and the goats who are not His.

1. There are only 2 types of people in the world,
 - a. There is the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent (**Gen 3:15**).
 - b. There are the children of God and children of the Devil.
2. In **Mat 12:30**, Jesus said, “**He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.**” You cannot have neutrality towards Jesus.

C. Because there is often a mixture of God’s elect and the reprobate in many households, Jesus gave examples of this in **vv52-53**. → Look there.

1. These words are more prominent when the gospel comes to a family for the first time.
2. Only God ultimately knows the elect infallibly.
3. Just because a family member opposes Christ now, it doesn’t mean that he or she will do so later in life. We shouldn’t give up praying for the conversion of our friends and family. God converted Saul of Tarsus. He can convert your loved one if it is His will.
4. We can know who are Christ’s by their fruit. That is a better indicator than one merely having a profession of faith.

¹ See **Isaiah 9:6** and **John 14:27**.

II. ANALYZE THE TIMES → vv54-56

- A. Jesus rebuked the people for having wisdom to interpret the weather. They should have used that same wisdom and thoughtfulness when comparing their current events with prophecy.
- B. What were the major events Jesus was expecting the crowds to be able to analyze?
1. Many people's minds move on to the return of Christ and the final judgment. That is very likely not what Christ had in mind here.
 2. After Christ began His ministry, there were demons coming out of the dark like never before.
 3. Even the great John the Baptist struggled with analyzing the times.
 - a. John had an expectation of what the coming of kingdom of Christ would be like, yet being put in prison made him doubtful. He sent messengers to Jesus. → Mat 11:2-6
 - b. The answer that Christ gave John was that He was fulfilling OT Messianic prophecy, especially Isa 35 and Isa 61.
- C. According to Mat 16:13-17, Peter was able to analyze the times yet his understanding was given to him by the Holy Spirit.
1. Jesus asked his disciples, **"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"**
 2. The other disciples gave all sort of answers from the people. Jesus then asked them, **"But who do you say that I am?"**
 3. **"Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"**
- D. Most of the rebuke of Jesus applied to those who failed to see that pivotal moment of redemptive history when the long-awaited Messiah came into the world.

III. JUDGE WHAT IS RIGHT → v57

- A. Here, Jesus is speaking to the crowds and not to the Jewish leadership including the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees.
1. In other words, He was asking them, "Why couldn't you take your own initiative to rightly interpret the Scriptures for yourself?"
 - a. How many more signs and wonders would Jesus have to perform for them to believe He was the fulfillment of the OT messianic prophecies.
 - b. A few knew, yet the majority didn't take their **"own initiative judge what is right."**
 - 1) They relied too much upon "professional interpreters" who convoluted Scripture.
 - 2) This was and continues to be the problem with the Roman Catholic Church.²
 2. Some of the alternate interpretations of Genesis defy what is written in WCF 1, sec 7. → Psalter Hymnal, p. 920
 - a. Some of these alternate positions on creation are so unclear that very few people would have adopted them unless they went to a seminary that repeatedly indoctrinated them to believe their position.
 - b. At the age of 87, after serving 50 years in the Christian ministry, Dr. G. I. Williamson wrote that he still couldn't "clearly understand" the alternate interpretations.³
- B. Next, Jesus used an illustration to stress the necessity of your being reconciled with God. → vv58-59
—Dr. Hendrickson wrote that Jesus made an "appeal to every listener, urging him to make his peace with God; to do so *now*, before it is too late... the best thing to do is to try to settle the case 'out of court';..."⁴
- Review, further application, and conclusion:

² The Catechism of the Catholic Church, #100 says, "The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church... the Pope and to the bishops in communion with him." (<https://www.catholic.blog/authority>).

³ <https://theaquilareport.com/a-defense-of-six-day-creation/>

⁴ Hendrickson, Wm. New Testament Commentary: Luke, p. 685-686