

Matthew 25:31–46

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Wednesday-night Bible studies, I recently began a series covering Matthew 25. After presenting the material orally on Wednesday night, I decided to write a short article about the material for the Saturday bulletin.

Today we will talk about Matthew 25:31-46.

Throne of His glory

Matthew 25:31—“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.”

Revelation 3:21—“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

Sheep and goats

Matthew 25:32-33—“All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.”

Blessings and consequences

In verses 34-46, the Son of God discusses both the blessings and the consequences for their behavior.

Since I prefer to end the article with Christian-living principles, I will first talk about the consequences, and then I will discuss the instructions about behavior.

Consequences including torment

Notice some verses that talk about serious consequences. (Many Bible students of most Christian denominations use the following verses to accept and to teach the concept of an ever-burning hellfire.)

Matthew 25:41—“Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Matthew 25:46—“These will go away into everlasting punishment.”

Revelation 14:10-11—“He [who worships the beast] shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever.”

Revelation 19:20—“These two [beast and false prophet] were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

Revelation 20:10—“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Consequence of the second death

Why is it that most Bible students among the Church of God congregations do not believe in an ever-burning hellfire?

Such Bible students believe that the phrase “second death” (mentioned in Revelation 20:14-15 and Revelation 21:8) explains a conclusion to the lives of unrepentant sinners.

Contrasting behaviors

In Matthew 25:35-36, the Son of God mentioned six behaviors that the sheep did. In Matthew 25:42-43, the Son of God mentioned six behaviors that the goats did not do.

- Saw Christ hungry—did you give Him food?
- Saw Christ thirsty—did you give Him drink?
- Saw Christ as a stranger—did you take Him in?
- Saw Christ naked—did you clothe Him?
- Saw Christ sick—did you visit Him?
- Saw Christ in prison—did you visit Him?

When did you see Him?

Matthew 25:40—“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ ”