



Separation of Sheep from Goats

“And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats” (Matthew 25:32).

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“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Matthew 25:31-46).

1) This text begins with “When” - implying that the second coming of Jesus is a settled fact. He is certainly coming back again, but this

“... and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel” (Amos 4:12).

time in power and glory to judge the world. We cannot alter this fact, but the wise will prepare for it.

- 2) The separation of the sheep from the goats is based on their deeds - a salient reminder that grace saves from sin and empowers the saved to bear good fruits that befits their new calling in Christ (vs 35).
- 3) The “sheep” are rewarded to inherit a kingdom prepared for them “from the foundation of the world” (vs 34).
- 4) Every good deed done in the name of Christ to anyone created in the image of God is a deed done to Christ, and will be rewarded by Him (vs 35-40).
- 5) The “goats” are condemned “into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (vs 41), on the basis of their “fruits” on earth towards fellow human beings created in the image and likeness of God (vs 42-46).
- 6) “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (vs 46). Life is eternal to both the righteous and the wicked, but what makes a difference is the destination. While the righteous are ushered into eternal bliss with God (vs 34) the unrighteous are ushered into everlasting fire (vs 41). Their destination are determined by their choices, deeds, words and lifestyle on earth.
- 7) Those who ended up in hell-fire were not affected on whether they believed there was hell or not while alive on earth. A person may chose to believe in lies / ignore the truth all their lives but these do not affect nor altar God’s plain declaration, which must surely come to pass at its own time. It behoves the wise to prepare to meet God.