

## How to Be Saved and Enter Eternal Life

By Jim Myers

### Saved

“**Saved**” for Christians means “**saved from spending eternity burning in Hell.**” **Saved people** spend eternity in Heaven with God free from all of the bad things they experienced in their earthly lives – *sins, pains, sicknesses, death, etc.*

For many Christians, there are only two kinds of people in the world – **saved people** and **unsaved (lost) people.**

What did the Jewish Jesus say about being saved? That should be one of the most important answers Christians would want to hear. So, I will share some of his most important teachings on that subject.

### ***The Parable of the Great Day of Judgment***

**Matthew 25:31-46**

The Jewish Jesus used this parable to answer the question above.

*<sup>31</sup> When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.*

The “**Son of Man**” is a messianic figure **sent by God.** A hosts of angels come with him. “Hosts” is a military term used to describe groups of soldiers in an army. The act of “sitting on his throne” indicates that he had assumed the office of **King of the Kingdom of God.**

*<sup>32</sup> All the **nations** will be gathered before him, and he will separate **the people** one from another **as a shepherd** separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the **sheep on his right** and the goats on his left.*

With the King on the throne, this is the day that had been prophesied centuries before by the prophets.

- The prophet **Isaiah** (61:1-2a) called it “*The Day of Vengeance of our God.*”
- The prophet **Malachi** (4:1) called it “*The Day Burning Like a Fire-Pot.*”

It is also called **The Great Day of Judgment.** Notice that all nations will be judged, not just Jewish people. Jesus provides a very important clue about how the nations will be judged – **like a shepherd separates sheep from goats.** This is a reference to a prophesy in Ezekiel (34:17-29).

<sup>34</sup> *Then the King will say to those on his right: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.”*

“You who are blessed of my Father” refer to God’s blessing of humans in Genesis 1:28. It reveals that humans are to function as **God’s Co-Shepherds** over all life on Earth. They are to exercise power like a shepherd exercises power over a flock by guarding, protecting, and making sure all of their needs are met.

“The kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world” is a reference to the Creator’s actions on the **Seventh Day** (Genesis 2:1-4a). The words below would have immediately caught their attention:

“. . . and **God rested on Day Seven** . . .”

It signaled that work on the Creator’s Temple was finished and “the Creator had mounted His throne to assume His role as King of His Kingdom!” The people in the group on right are about to enter that kingdom.

<sup>35</sup> *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, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”*

Those in that group respond by asking the King a series of questions.

<sup>37</sup> *“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”*

Below is the King’s answer.

<sup>40</sup> *“Whenever you did for one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me!”*

The parable closes with these words.

<sup>46</sup> *Then those who did not do those things go away into **eternal punishment**, but those who did those things go into **eternal life**.*

Who was saved? Those who acted as God’s Shepherds and guarded, protected, and made sure all of the needs of the people in God’s flock were met. The decision of who would enter into eternal punishment or eternal life was based on what they did not do or did for other people. It was NOT based on what those people believed about God, Jesus or anything else. It was completely based on what they did.

**BHC**