

Prophecy devo #34 – Judgment of the nations

This judgment is not specifically mentioned in the Book of Revelation, but it is mentioned by the prophet Joel and Jesus. “For behold, in those days and at that time when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land” (Joel 3:1-2). Jesus referred to this judgment as a separation “sheep” and “goats” (Matthew 25:31-33).

- (1) THE TIME OF THE JUDGMENT. This judgment will take place at the end of the Tribulation, before the beginning of the Millennium. By this time, all unbelieving Jews and many unbelieving Gentiles will have perished, as well as the Gentile armies at the Battle of Armageddon. Jesus connected this event to His 2nd coming. The gathering of the nations for judgment will take place after He comes in His glory with the holy angels, and He is seated on His throne (Matthew 25:31-32). That means the judgment of the nations will take place before the start of the millennial kingdom. The outcome of this judgment will determine which Gentiles will enter Christ’s thousand-year reign. Daniel 12:11-12 mentions a time of 75 days between the second coming and the start of the Millennium. Daniel declared that anyone who comes to day 1335 will be blessed. These days after Christ’s return and before His kingdom will allow time for the judgment of the Gentiles.
- (2) THE PLACE OF THE JUDGMENT. This judgment will occur on earth, because that is where Christ’s throne will be. Joel said the nations would be gathered for judgment in the “valley of Jehoshaphat” (Joel 3:2, 12). Jehoshaphat means “Jehovah judges.” It appears to be symbolic. Commentators can only guess where it will be. It possibly refers to a sight that will come into existence with the topographic changes that will take place in Israel at the second coming (Zechariah 14:4).
- (3) THE PEOPLE OF THE JUDGMENT. The “nations” will be gathered before the Lord (Joel 3; Matthew 25). The word for “Nations” can also be translated “Gentiles,” which is the way it is usually translated. This should actually be called a “judgment of Gentiles.” The Gentiles who are still living after the Tribulation will be gathered together to determine if they will enter the Millennial reign of Christ.
- (4) THE BASIS OF THE JUDGMENT. Belief in Christ and belief in Israel’s right to exist go together. During the Tribulation Israel will undergo their most terrible persecution in history at the hands of the Gentiles. Yet the persecution has been going on for centuries. The Gentiles will be charged with two primary crimes against Israel: Dividing their land and scattering the people (Joel 3:2-3, 6). It is only fitting that the Gentiles will be judged at the end of the Tribulation, which is the end of the “Times of the Gentiles.”