

The King Will Come to Judge

Promise: faith and gratitude results in inheriting the Kingdom

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Ez 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps 95:1-7a; 1Co. 15:20-28; **Mt 25:31-46**

(Christ the King Sunday, 11/22/20)

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. – v. 31

Lead In – Are you ready to meet your Maker? Our Lord Jesus promised to return at the end of the age. And we can be quite sure of the manner in which He will return. It is, as we confess every Sunday, that “He will come again to judge the living and the dead.” And we certainly see this in vivid form in our Lord’s words in our Gospel Reading this morning...

I. The Son of Man Will Come In All His Glory!

- A. In marked contrast to His first Advent...
- B. Before the judgment and separation...
- C. You will want to be at the right hand...

II. The Evidence of the Gift of Saving Faith

- A. There are a lot of ways to talk about trust in Christ!
- B. The gift of repentant faith, and amendment of life...
- C. The sheep aren’t bragging. They are surprised!

III. The Problem With Pretend and False Faith

- A. God is not soft on sin! Not lenient and tolerant...
- B. God’s grace justifies sinners, not sin...
- C. Presuming on forgiveness is disdain for the gift...

Parting Shot – You don’t have to be in a liberal church body to succumb to the false faith of such churches. It is hard to beat H. Richard Niebuhr’s definition of liberal Christianity: “A God without wrath brought men without sin into a Kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a Cross.” Even for Christians, it is important that we stay sober and know the Judge is coming. For the gift of genuine faith is sustained by the means of Grace which presuppose ongoing repentance and living in the light and nurture of God’s Word.

Is 6:2-3 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

tsava’ Hbr military term, of the army

Mt 17:2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

Re 20:11-12 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

Matthew 25:31-46 ESV

The Final Judgment

³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

⁴¹Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Re 20:15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

The Goats: Not only those who openly reject Christ, but also those whose reception of Christ ends us being hypocritical (acting).

Mt 22:36-39 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

He 13:3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

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