

Study Guide: Judgment Will Come to the Nations Lesson 5

February 1, 2026

This study guide provides a comprehensive review of the theological principles and scriptural analysis regarding divine judgment, as presented in the lesson "Judgment Will Come to the Nations." It focuses on the transition from temporal to eternal judgment and the specific criteria for salvation as outlined in the Gospel of Matthew.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. What is the primary distinction between the focus of judgment in the Old Testament versus the New Testament?
2. Identify three specific examples of temporal judgment that occurred within the New Testament era.
3. According to the lesson, what is the ultimate motivation behind the intense warnings of judgment issued by Jesus Christ?
4. What specific sin is identified as the "unpardonable sin" that leads to eternal destruction?
5. Where is the physical location of the judgment throne when Jesus Christ returns to judge the nations?
6. Describe the characteristics of "sheep" and "goats" as used in the biblical analogy of judgment.
7. What does the "right hand" symbolize during the process of divine adjudication?
8. Based on Matthew 25:34, what is the primary source or criteria for an individual's entrance into the Kingdom?
9. How does the term "inherit" define the relationship between the believer and the Father?
10. What is the theological relationship between "good works" (such as feeding the hungry) and the salvation of the elect?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Old Testament judgment is primarily temporal, focusing on the destruction of nations and the earthly lives of individuals. In contrast, New Testament judgment emphasizes eternal consequences, focusing on the afterlife and the destiny of the soul.
2. The New Testament records several temporal judgments, including the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira for lying, the sorcerer who was struck with blindness, and Herod Agrippa, who was smitten by an angel and eaten by worms.
3. The warnings of judgment are an expression of the love of Jesus Christ. Because He loves humanity, He naturally warns them of the eternal dangers they face, as failing to warn someone of impending harm would be unloving.
4. The sin that cannot be forgiven is identified as unbelief and the active rejection of Jesus Christ. This refusal to believe is the root cause of facing the "wrath to come."
5. When Jesus Christ returns in glory after the Great Tribulation, He will establish His throne of glory in the city of Jerusalem to judge all peoples who are still alive on earth.
6. Sheep are described as docile, gentle, and easily led, representing submissive believers. Goats are described as unruly, rambunctious, and fearless, representing those who are not blessed and do not belong to the family of God.
7. The right hand represents the position of authority, blessing, honor, and inheritance. It is the preferred side in judicial proceedings, indicating those who have been cleared and favored by the Judge.
8. Entrance into the Kingdom is based on being "blessed of the Father." This emphasizes the sovereignty of grace and the fact that God the Father predetermined to bless and redeem His people before the foundation of the world.
9. An inheritance implies that the recipient is a member of the family. By faith, believers become children of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, receiving the Kingdom as a familial right rather than an earned reward.
10. Good works are the "fruit" of redemption, not the "root." The "sheep" do not enter the Kingdom because of their philanthropy or social activism, but their works serve as evidence of the transformation that occurred because they were first blessed by the Father.

Essay Format Questions

- 1. The Evolution of Judgment:** Analyze the shift from the temporal judgments of the Old Testament to the eternal focus of the New Testament. How do the examples of Jerusalem's predicted destruction bridge these two concepts?
- 2. Divine Love and the Wrath of God:** Explore the paradox presented in the lesson regarding the love of Jesus Christ and His teachings on Hell. How does the act of warning demonstrate a "love that maximizes"?
- 3. The Sovereignty of Grace in Matthew 25:** Discuss the significance of the phrase "prepared for you from the foundation of the world." How does this support the argument that salvation is a sovereign act of God rather than a result of human social activism?
- 4. The Process of Separation:** Examine the shepherd analogy used in the judgment of nations. Why is the separation of "sheep" and "goats" necessary, and what does it imply about the nature of the community within the Kingdom of God?
- 5. The Role of the King:** Matthew's Gospel emphasizes Jesus Christ as King. Discuss the transition from the "Son of Man" in His humiliation to the "King" on His throne in Jerusalem, and the implications of His judicial authority over all *ethne* (nations).

Comprehensive Glossary of Key Terms

- **Bema Seat:** A term referring to a judgment seat or tribunal where adjudication takes place; the lesson notes the timing of this event is a matter of theological discussion without a singular definitive scripture.
- **Eternal Judgment:** Judgment that focuses on the afterlife and the permanent state of the soul in the next world.
- **Goats:** A metaphorical term for unbelievers who are unruly and fearless in their ungodliness, destined for the "left hand" and everlasting punishment.
- **Inheritance:** The reception of the Kingdom of God by believers, predicated on their status as children within the family of God.
- **Prediction:** A state of eternal ruin or destruction; a term used by Jesus Christ to describe the destiny of the lost.
- **Redemption:** The act of being saved or "blessed of the Father" through sovereign grace and faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Sheep:** A metaphorical term for believers who are docile and responsive to the Shepherd, destined for the "right hand" of blessing.
- **Sovereign Grace:** The theological concept that salvation originates entirely from the Father's predetermined will and blessing, rather than human merit.

- **Temporal Judgment:** Judgments that occur "in time" or on earth, involving physical death, the rise and fall of nations, or earthly consequences for sin.
- **The Tribulation:** A period of global "holocaust" or intense suffering mentioned as the era through which the survivors of the final judgment have lived.

Greek Terminology Guide

The following terms derived from Greek are used in the lesson to provide deeper context to the biblical narrative of judgment.

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Bema ¹	<i>BAY-muh</i>	A raised platform or seat used by a judge or magistrate to render decisions.
Ethne ²	<i>ETH-nay</i>	Translated as "nations," it refers to all ethnic groups or peoples across the entire world.

¹ Mentioned in the transcript as "beimma seat," referring to the judgment seat of Christ. ² Discussed as the "subjects of the judgment," encompassing all people groups gathered in Jerusalem.