

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats

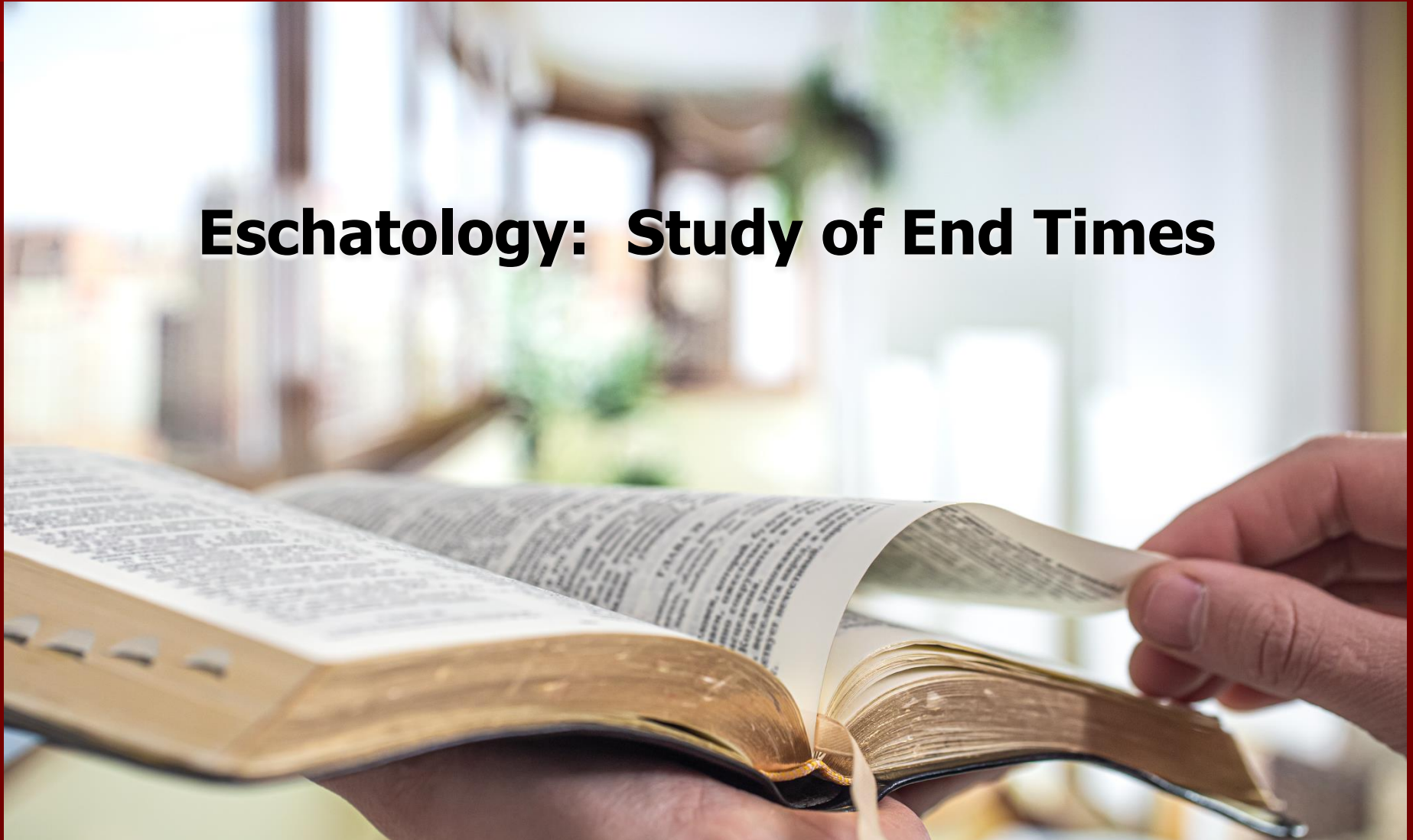


Parable Reminders

- A Parable is ***not*** a straightforward description of an event, just as it occurred or will occur.
- A Parable is a ***casting or placing side by side*** to a real event or ***to compare likeness or similitude*** to reveal the true meaning by interpretation .

Context: Parable of the Sheep and Goats

Eschatology: Study of End Times



Context: Parable of the Sheep and Goats

Parables of the Olivet Prophecy		
Parable	Verses	Lesson
Fig Tree	Matthew 24:32-35	Though the exact time only God knows, one can know the signs of Christ's return.
Thief	Matthew 24:36-44	Always be prepared for His coming.
Faithful and True Servants	Matthew 24:45-51	God's servants must be faithful and wise in carrying out their responsibilities and relationships in the Body of Christ.
Ten Virgins	Matthew 25:1-13	Christians must have constant contact with God to deepen their relationship with Him.
Talents	Matthew 25:14-30	Christians must constantly work with and improve upon the gifts God has given.
Sheep and Goats	Matthew 25:31-46	By serving fellow Christians, one serves his Savior.

Context: Parable of the Sheep and Goats

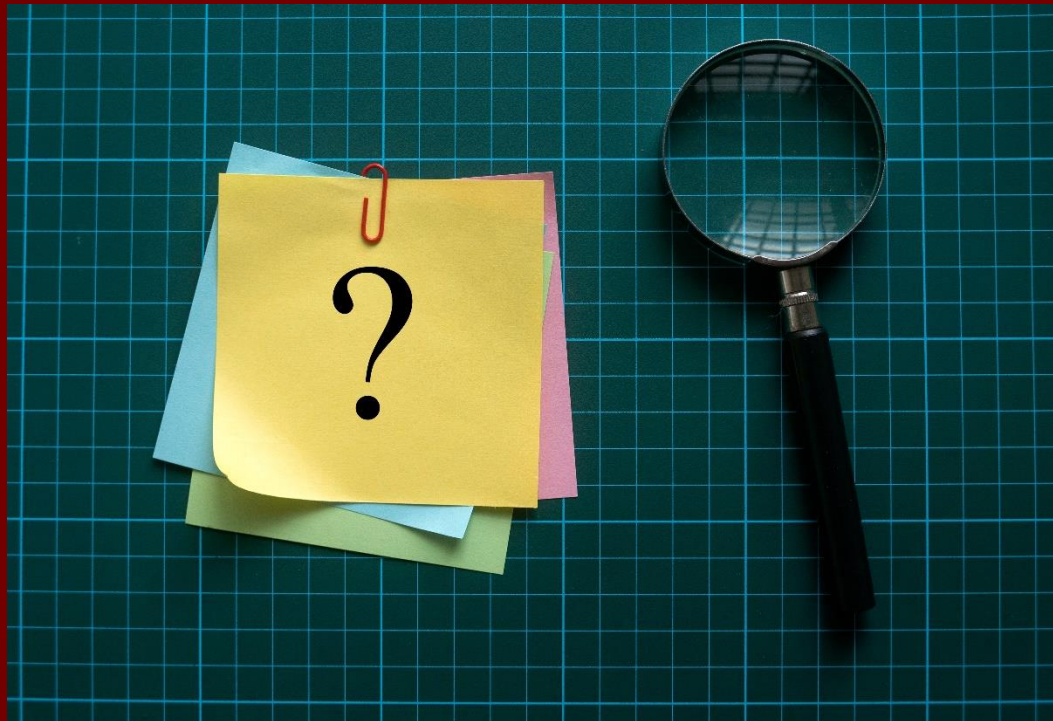
■ Matthew 24:36 – Matthew 25:30

- From the description of the end time being like the Days of Noah through to the Parable of the Sheep and Goats, we have instruction given to us, regarding how we are to wait until the time of the end.
- We are given examples of “normal day life activities” (eating, drinking, marrying, given in marriage, working in fields and grinding at a mill), before the unexpected return of Jesus Christ.
- We are admonished to be on the alert and found by our Lord living faithfully and sensibly, even if there appears to be a delay, in Jesus’ return (Faithful vs Evil Servant, Wise vs Foolish Virgins and Servants Entrusted with Possessions).

Context: Parable of the Sheep and Goats

■ Matthew 24:36 – Matthew 25:30

- How will we be found by Jesus Christ, if we are alive, at His Return?
- How will be judged by Jesus Christ, should our time be cut short, before He returns?



Context: Parable of the Sheep and Goats

■ Matthew 24:36 – Matthew 25:30

- Often in the New Testament, the theme of separation is linked with the topic of judgment.
 - **Matthew 3:12** – Wheat is separated from the chaff. John the Baptist states that the wheat is gathered into the barns, while the chaff is burned with unquenchable fire (last judgment).
 - **Matthew 13:30** – The tares are tied into bundles and burned while the wheat is gathered in the barn.
 - **Matthew 13:49-50** – Jesus states that the end of the age, angels will separate the wicked from the just and throw the wicked into the furnace of fire.
 - **Matthew 25:12** – The foolish virgins are separated from the wise virgins by a closed door and the bridegroom tells them, “Truly I say to you, I do not know you.”
 - **Matthew 25:30** – The worthless / lazy servant is thrown into outer darkness, for burying his talent.

Parable of the Sheep and Goats

■ Matthew 25:31-46

- This parable is set, when Jesus returns in His glory (Eschatology), with separation and judgment components.
- The separation begins with the contrast of verse 31 (Jesus comes with His angels) and verse 41 (eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels).
- There is a gathering and then a separation.
- In reality, shepherds separate sheep from goats in the herd, at the end of the day, because sheep huddle together to keep each other warm, at night. At night, goats must be sheltered, because they cannot keep each other warm.



Parable of the Sheep and Goats

■ Matthew 25:31-46

- There is a contrast between the sheep being placed on the right (tradition place of honor on the right) and the goats on the left.
- **“Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”**
 - Indication that is part of God’s eternal purpose
 - Those who are determined to be sheep, at the judgment, will inherit the kingdom.
 - **Matthew 13:34-35** “All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables...to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet, ‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world.’”
 - **Ephesians 1:4-5** “...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.”

Parable of the Sheep and Goats

■ Matthew 25:31-46

- Contrast “Come blessed” (verse 34) to “Depart from Me, accursed ones” (verse 41).
- **Deuteronomy 11:26-28**
“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.”



Parable of the Sheep and Goats

■ Matthew 25:31-46

- Contrast “Come blessed” (verse 34) to “Depart from Me, accursed ones” (verse 41).
- **Deuteronomy 28:15-19** “But it shall come about, if you will not obey the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out”



Parable of the Sheep and Goats

■ Matthew 25:31-46

- While obedience brings blessings (Deuteronomy 28:2-9), disobedience brings curses.
- The goats are those who, whatever they may have professed with their mouth, failed to obey God's commands.
- The sheep are those who followed God's commands.



Parable of the Sheep and Goats

■ Matthew 25:31-46

- **Who represent the sheep?**
- **Psalm 100:3** “Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”
- **Psalm 79:13** “But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.”
- **John 10:1-16, 27-29** “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

Parable of the Sheep and Goats

■ Matthew 25:31-46

- **Who represent the goats?**
- **Sheep and goats are closely related, as they are part of the same subfamily (Caprinae), but they have many differences in diet, behavior and appearance (often opposites of one another).**
- **Spiritually, one could draw a similar parallel, with the Parable of the Wheat and Tares; two groups of people in the church, who are somewhat indistinguishable until Jesus Christ separates them, at the judgment.**
- **The sheep and goats are in the field (all nations are gathered before Him) and seem to be lead by the same shepherd. In verse 37 and 44, they both say to Jesus, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?...”**
- **In the parable, the judgment between sheep and goats is made by how they cared for Jesus’ brother / brethren.**

Parable of the Sheep and Goats

■ Matthew 25:31-46

- **Who are Jesus' brethren?**
- **Matthew 12:46-50** "...Who is My mother and who are My brothers?...Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother!"
- **Jesus referenced His will to do God's will, in connection with His righteousness and teachings, in John 7:14-18, "...If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak of Myself...He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him...there is no unrighteousness in Him."**
- **For entrance into God's Kingdom, we must do the will of the Father, Matthew 7:21-23, "Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father..."**

Parable of the Sheep and Goats

■ Our Responsibility

- We are admonished to be on the alert and found by our Lord living faithfully and sensibly, even if there appears to be a delay, in Jesus' return (Faithful vs Evil Servant, Wise vs Foolish Virgins and Servants Entrusted with Possessions).
- As we live our daily lives of normal activities, we are admonished to walk in a worthy manner (seeking the will of the Father), **Ephesians 4:1-3**, "...walk in a manner worthy of the calling...with humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
- Finally, we are to practice love when we see a need, **I John 3:17**, "But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" and **Galatians 6:10**, "So, then while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people and especially to those who are of the household of faith."