

The Book of Life 3: Mercy at the Judgment

Matthew 25:31-40

In this scene from Matthew 25, we view the final judgment. The Bride of Christ sit with Him in His throne, even as Paul said “the saints would judge the world.” At the Great White Throne judgment, both the justice and mercy of God will be displayed.

Two weeks ago, we learned about a category of people who followed in the way of truth for a time, but at a certain point turned aside to idolatry of some kind. Bro. Branham said that both in the days of Jesus and in the end time, the majority of the religious class would have their names removed from the Book. This is the justice of God. Yet even at the throne of judgment, we will also see God extending mercy. This evening, we will see how God extend mercy to Jews, who during the Gentile dispensation never received Christ as the Messiah. We will also see how God grants the foolish virgin eternal life, as well as individuals who showed goodness to Christ by showing goodness “to the least of these my brethren.” God’s mercy truly extends from eternity, through time, and on into eternity!

God’s mercy and grace can be hard to fathom, but we shouldn’t try to pin down God. As with the Uncertainty Principle of quantum mechanics, the more precise we attempt to be, the less accurate we ultimately become. Man can’t pin down God or God’s grace anymore than man can predict where an electron is at any given moment. There is always more of God and His grace to know than we already know. So, just let God be God, especially when He distributes mercy at the judgment!

Review from last week: Names blotted from the Book of Life

God’s justice and God’s mercy aren’t mutually exclusive.

Two weeks ago, we learned about a category of people who followed in the way of truth for a time, but at a certain point turned aside to idolatry of some kind. Bro. Branham said that both in the days of Jesus and in the end time, the majority of the religious class would have their names removed from the Book. This is the justice of God. Yet even at the throne of judgment, we will also see God extending mercy. This evening, we will see how God extend mercy to Jews, who during the Gentile dispensation never received Christ as the Messiah. We will also see how God grants the foolish virgin eternal life, as well as individuals who showed goodness to Christ by showing goodness “to the least of these my brethren.” God’s mercy truly extends from eternity, through time, and on into eternity!

The Jews

Romans 11:7-10, 25

¹I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

²God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

³Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

⁴But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

⁵Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

⁶And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

⁷What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded

⁸(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

⁹And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:

¹⁰Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back away.

²⁵For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Mercy given to Jews, who stayed faithful to the Law during the Gentile dispensation.

Revelation 6:9-11

⁹And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

¹⁰And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

¹¹And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Note regarding the souls under the altar:

- They are slain for the word of God, and the testimony *which they held*. This is different than the Apostle John, who was on Patmos *for the testimony of Jesus Christ*. These souls under the altar suffer for the testimony which they held, which was the word of God for a previous dispensation, but it wasn't the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- Like Old Testament warriors, these souls under the altar pray for vengeance. This doesn't sound like disciples following in Jesus's steps!

THE.FIFTH.SEAL_ JEFF.IN FRIDAY_ 63-0322

364-3 {240} Now, notice this. Now, these souls under the altar was, the--the--these--these souls, understanding now that are under the altar, why they were martyred by sinful men like Eichmann. See? They're holding right on, millions of them (See?), but they remain Jews.

Now, remember. What was it? They were killed for the Word of God's sake, not for the testimony of Christ. Did you understand that? But remember, the church come in. Also the martyrs of the church was for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. How many knows that here too? All right now, But these didn't have the testimony of Jesus Christ "... for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held," as Jews. And Hitler hated them, so did Eichmann, so did Stalin, all of the rest of the world (See?), but they stayed true to what they believed. And they killed them because they were Jews.

THE.FIFTH.SEAL_ JEFF.IN FRIDAY_ 63-0322

367-3 {265} Now, you see who these souls are? They're not the martyred saints. They done gone. That's right. Notice, they were... They've done gone. See? So these are given robes, each one of them. And now I want you to notice. But now God's grace stoops to them. Jesus gives them each a white robe like Joseph did his grace to his brethren. Now, watch. Though they had tried to rid Joseph also, but his grace reached right down to them. See? "Oh, that's all right. That's all right. You didn't mean to do that. But see, that was God doing that. See? God let you all do that so you could run me out, and bring me down here so I could save lives for people, these Gentiles here, where I got my wife from. I wouldn't have had no wife if--if I'd have stayed back up there. And I--I love my wife; she's got me these children here," and said, "I--I... And now, now I'm coming to get you all. Now, you all are going to have good too. I'm going to bring you down here; we're all going to live together as one big family." He said, "One thing I want to ask you. Is my old father still living?" Oh.

367-5 {268} And watch him, what he did to little Benjamin, which is the type of the hundred and forty-four thousand as we'll get later. See what he did? He just run right quick to Benjamin, fell on his neck and started hugging him. His little brother that had been born into the family, after he'd been gone, by his mother, the first church, the orthodox church. The hundred and forty-four thousand were born in His absence, while He was away to get His Gentile Bride. Oh, my. Don't that just do something to you? There... So, you see who they are? There you are.

368-1 {269} Notice now, though they had tried to get rid of Joseph, his grace reached to them. Though they tried to get rid of Jesus, He still comes right back around, 'cause they was blind, and gives them each one a white robe. He's going to take them right on in home anyhow. It doesn't make a bit of difference 'cause He done said, "I'll save them all anyhow." See?

Now, verse 10. Notice, they asked for revenge. See? Now, if that had been the Bride, it'd been like Stephen: "Father, forgive them," you know. See? But these are Jews that just come in. See? They asked for revenge.

Notice, again... See? Again He said... Notice, it's not... He said, "It's thy brethren," the Jews, the hundred... Now, they wanted revenge.

They said, "Oh, we're going to... We--we want you to revenge us down there."

He said, "Just a little while now, just a little while, for..." (Notice, let me read it here. It's in the--the 10th verse.) All right.

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

And white robes were given to every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet... a little season,... (See? Watch)... a little season, until their fellowservants... (See? Now, what is it? The prophets now are preaching to Israel. See?)... till thy fellowservants also--thy fellow servant and also thy brethren, that should be killed... (See, the ones predestinated to be done, so you see, should be killed)... as they were, should be fulfilled.

368-5 {276} See, in other words, it's predestinated to them. It's the Scriptures that they have to do it. **And just rest for a little while. Now, you got your robes; you're going home. And just set there a little while. See, wait just awhile. Now, notice. Now, notice. Thy brethren--thy brethren had to yet be killed, which means the hundred and forty-four thousand yet to be called in the tribulation, the hundred and forty-four thousand is called...**

Wish we had time. We might get it tomorrow night, if the Lord willing, we--but just before we get in on another Seal. See? Also... Now, watch. They have to be martyred by the antichrist; we just come through, and notice in his last ride, where he breaks that covenant with them Jews down there, and there she goes. See? These Jews, a hundred and forty-four thousand, is to be called out by the two witnesses of Revelations 11.

Mercy given to Jews, who receive Jesus as their Messiah when He reveals Himself at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 7:2-4

²And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

³Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

⁴And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed **an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.**

Revelation 11:1-13

- ➔ God anoints two Jewish men with the spirits of Moses and Elijah, who preach the Gospel to the Jews during the Great Tribulation. At the end of the Tribulation, armies surround Jerusalem, and it appears all is lost. This is when Christ descends from heaven on a white horse, leading his own armies (Revelation 19). Jesus Christ delivers Israel from their enemies and also reveals Himself to the 144,000 as the Messiah. Zechariah picks up the story....

Zechariah 12:9-10

⁹And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

¹⁰And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Zechariah 13:1-2, 6

¹In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

²And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

⁶And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.1, pp.32-33

Now, when is the Gospel returning to the Jews? When the day of the Gentiles is finished. The Gospel is ready to go back to the Jews. Oh, if I could just tell you something that is about to happen right in this our day. This great thing that is about to happen will carry over to Revelation 11 and pick up those two witnesses, those two prophets, Moses and Elijah, turning the Gospel back to the Jews. We're ready for it. Everything is in order. As the Jews brought the message to the Gentiles, even so the Gentiles will take it right back to the Jews, and the Rapture will come.

Now, remember what we have read in Revelation and Zechariah. Both come right after the tribulation. The Church of the First-born does not go through the tribulation. We know that. The Bible teaches that.

At that time it says that God is going to pour out His Spirit upon the house of Israel. It is the same Spirit that was poured upon the Gentiles in their day. "And they shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and they shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadad-rimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart..." and each one of the houses apart when He comes in clouds of glory at His Second Coming. Those Jews that pierced Him shall see Him as it says in another Scripture, "Whence did You get those wounds?" and He will say, "In the house of My friends." Not only will it be a mournful time for the Jews who rejected Him as Messiah, but it will be a mournful time for those left of the Gentiles who have rejected Him as the Saviour of this day. There'll be weeping and wailing. The sleeping virgins will be wailing. They represent the church that refused to get oil (symbol of the Holy Spirit) in their lamps (symbol of the body or holder of the oil) until it was too late. It wasn't that they were not good people. They were virgins and that signifies a high moral order. But they didn't have oil in their lamps so they were cast out where there was wailing and gnashing of teeth.

THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.1, pp.36-37

For three and one-half years while the retributive wrath of God is poured out, [the Bride] will be in the great Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Then will He return, leaving His bride in "His Father's house," while he makes Himself known to His brethren. At this very time, the antichrist covenant that the Jews have made with Rome will be broken. Rome and her allies then send their troops to destroy all the God-fearing, Word-abiding Jews.

But as they come against the city to destroy it, there will appear in the heavens the sign of the coming of the Son of Man with His mighty armies to destroy them who have been destroying the earth. With the enemy repulsed, **Jesus then comes and presents Himself to the 144,000.** Having seen His mighty acts of salvation, they have come to know His power. But also seeing His wounds and knowing that they had rejected Him even to that moment, causes them to cry out in the agony of terror and fear, even as did their brethren of old when they stood before Joseph, being sore afraid that they would be killed. But as Joseph said, "Don't be angry with yourselves. It is all right. God was in it all. He did it to preserve life." Even so will Jesus speak peace and love to them.

God shows grace to Jews who, although they were blind to present-day truth, nonetheless stayed true to the Word of God they knew. Though they lived under various Gentile world powers, and it may have been easier to forsake the teachings of Moses, they did not. Remember this as we move to speak about the sleeping virgins (Matthew 25).

The Sleeping Virgin

Matthew 25:1-13

In Matthew 24, the disciples ask Jesus about what would be the sign of his future coming and of the end of the world. The parable of the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew 25 should be seen in the context of Jesus's answer to the disciples.

Highlights from the parable:

- Both wise and foolish slept until a message woke them up
- The cry that goes out at midnight is the Message, announcing the Lord's coming is nigh
- The key difference between wise and foolish virgins was oil (symbol of the Holy Spirit): the lamps of both went out, but only the wise virgins brought extra oil in their vessels with which to trim their lamps.

When I consider William Booth's description of the modern church, I have a greater appreciation for the testimony of this sleeping virgin, who, even without the oil, have a such a testimony!

"The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell."

If so many professing Christians today are hearing from their pulpits varieties of moralistic therapeutic deism (do-good-and-feel-good-ism), instead of the true Gospel, how will they be washed of all spots, wrinkles, and such things?

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

²⁶That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

²⁷That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Wise and foolish virgins both "cut from the same cloth"

THE.PATMOS.VISION_ JEFF.IN ROJC 69-130 SUNDAY_ 60-1204E

⁵A woman will take a--a piece of goods and lay it down; well, now, that is what she's cutting her--or takes her pattern and lays anywhere she desires, which way she's going to cut that. And then what she has left over is called the remnant, but she chooses to cut it from a certain place by her own free thinking. But what's left over is called the remnant.

Now, if you notice, there were five foolish and five wise virgins; all of them was virgins, made out of the same material. But by election, God chose His Bride by election before the foundation of the world, put their names on the Lamb's Book of Life slain before the foundation of the world; before the world ever began, God in His mind, being infinite...

I compare this to a mother who has purchased a fabric she just loves to sew her daughters matching dresses. Having completed the dresses, she has some left over. It's not enough to make another dress with, but because that fabric is so special to her, perhaps she makes doll dresses out of it, or small purses for her daughters. So is it with the wise and foolish virgins. Both are special to him and both have a place in His kingdom.

The sleeping virgin is saved from hell, but does go through the Tribulation.

QUESTIONS.AND.ANSWERS_ JEFF.IN COD SUNDAY_ 61-1015M

682-Q-164 164. Let's see, Brother Branham, what happens to the people that are--are considered the sleeping virgin when they are judged at the judgment?

Well, the sleeping virgin will be saved of course. She'll be saved at the judgment. She'll never be the Bride, but she is a saved group of people that will come in the judgment, that will not be included in the Bride. But as long as they are virgins, they are before God. **See? They are to be saved.** He separates... They'll be the sheep on His right side. And the unsaved will be the goats on His left at the great white throne judgment.

QUESTIONS.AND.ANSWERS.1_ JEFF.IN COD SUNDAY_ 64-0823M

953-150 He sent... Even his wife was in the palace, the type that the Bride will be in the palace in glory at that time. Then Jesus makes Hissself known to the Jews (See?) after the wedding ceremony, the 3 1/2 years, and--and--and Jacob's trouble, that 3 1/2 years, the end of the seventieth week of Daniel. The Messiah's to be cut off in the midst of the... And He prophesied 3 1/2 years and was cut off. Then there's 3 1/2 years left yet for the prophets Moses and Elijah, and then at the end of their seventy days as yet determined upon the people, as Daniel said; then at the end of that seventy days, Jesus is to make Hissself known to them. He's that Prince that should come to the Jews. See?

953-151 Now, and then at that time... See, the Gentile Bride is in heaven, **and the sleeping virgin, the Gentile virgin, is not to be saved during that time; she's already been saved, but has been rejected in the Bride.** And she only goes through the tribulation period for the time of purification, because she has rejected Christ, the Word, for her purification. Then she has to suffer for her deeds, but the Bride who has become the Word, a complete atonement was made of Christ, 'cause He is the Word. That body was rended, and when that body was rended, the Bride was in that body, because it's all the Word. Amen. You see it?

QUESTIONS.AND.ANSWERS.2_ JEFF.IN COD SUNDAY_ 64-0823E

1033-174 Now, just a minute. "Will the foolish virgin be saved [after the rapture]." No. Whatever happens she--happens now. After that time she's in the state... Now, she will have to go through the tribulation period. And the reason of it is, is **because she has rejected the Atonement in Its fullness. She is a believer, a professed believer**, but she will have to go through the tribulation period. The Bible said, "And the rest of them, the dragon spurted water out of his mouth to go and make war..." And what an hour that is. The...

There's never been a time in history where that the nominal churches has become so hungry to find the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I--I speak for the Christian Business Men. Constantly, it's Presbyterian, Lutheran, Catholic, and all, Baptists by the hundreds, Church of Christ, Nazarenes, Pilgrim Holiness, Seventh Day Adventists, every one of them flocking in trying to find... See?

Part of the church system, the sleeping virgin doesn't have full atonement.

279-1 SARDISEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.7

It is the second resurrection wherein the five foolish virgins come up. Notice that they were virgins. They did not have the Holy Spirit so they missed being in the bride, while the five wise who had oil became a part of that bride. But these people, being a separated, God-loving people, and trying to abide in the Word, according to what they knew of it, and being a help in the work of the Lord will come up at the end of time. They will miss the millennium, which you can begin to see by these truths is much more important and wonderful than we have ever thought or believed.

This "rejection of the Message" isn't an act of defiance against God, but a result of being blinded by the church systems.

As we saw in our previous session, acts of defiance against God were punished with names being removed from the book of life.

274-1 SARDISEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.7

But it is even as most accurately set forth in Psalms 69 that it is the wicked or unrighteous rejecters of Christ and the destroyers of His people whose names are removed.

279-2 SARDISEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.7

But whose names did not remain [in the Book of Life]? Those of the world system churches who fought the bride will be those whose names are removed. That is who will lose out. They will be cast into the lake of fire.

BUT.IT.WASN'T.SO.FROM.THE.BEGINNING_ BLOOMINGTON.IL TUESDAY_ 61-0411

E-47 Eve was the first one to pervert the human race. She was the one, the Eve which represents a church. A woman in the Bible always represents the church. Christ is coming for an espoused virgin. The old prostitute of the Bible was called "the church setting on the seven hills," the Roman church. Oh, church... And she had daughters, which was the others that followed her and come out of her, was born from her in their same denominational barriers and same thing, same kind of a system.

In them churches, there are fine people. But it's the system that binds them. It's not the church itself; it's the people in the church. It's the system behind it that binds them, puts them into a place, breaks out fellowship, won't let them go on with God. And it's a pitiful thing. But that's what does...

That's what God hates. Not the people in there, but the system that's binding them is what He hates, is that organization that tells them if they go to another church they're going to be excommunicated. And the people don't know what to do. They'll pay for it someday.

THE.SEVENTH.SEAL_ JEFF.IN MONDAY_ 63-0324E

574-7 {386} Now, we're into the age of the Eagle, the revelation to be revealed, the whole thing. Now, compare this with Revelations the 10th chapter, verse 1 to 7, and we'll see here in this Revelations--the Revelations here, 10: 1-7, that in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel's message was to finish up all the mysteries of God.

Now, we find out also in this that the Sixth Seal now being opened, it was for a threefold purpose. Now, here was the purposes: **The first thing was that the sleeping virgins had to go through the tribulation period for purification. She had to be purged of her sins of unbelief and rejecting the message.** This she was done in the tribulation period. We see they wind up over here in Revelations 7, between the 6th and 7th chapter here, that she had been purged, and she'd been given her robes.

575-2 {388} Now, she's not the Bride, but it's the church, the pure people that--that--that **didn't have the opportunity, maybe, to receive the message, or in some way that they were blinded by these false prophets**, and they--they didn't get a chance, and yet they're really sincere in heart, and God knows their heart, and here they're purged during this time.

Church members who wake up too late to their membership in the Beast system will still be able to be purified, **if they really want to.**

Revelation 18:4

⁴And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

During the Tribulation, there's only one way to come out of the Beast system, to clear your name, as it were, and that is by giving your life. This is similar to how the Jews suffered for the "testimony which they held, and for the word of God," even when those Jews were following the Law of Moses, instead of the revealed word of their day. I compare this to someone who finds themselves working for the Mob. They didn't realize the dark connections their simple job had when they began work, but when they realize it, they want no part of it. There is only one way for them to clear their name, and they refuse to go along with the Mob, and in exchange, they get shot. But they made known to history which side they stood on.

SARDISEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.7, p.315

Secondly, there is another class. Their names are also in the Book of Life and they will come up in the second resurrection. Such are **the foolish virgins and the righteous** as are spoken of in Matthew 25. In this class also are **those who do not worship the beast or become involved in the antichrist system but die for their faith even though they are not in the bride, not having been born again. But they will come up in the second resurrection and go into eternal life.**

The sleeping virgin are sleeping before the rapture; after the rapture they're awake and the Bible refers to them differently and more positively.

As the remnant of the woman's seed, who has the testimony of Jesus Christ

Revelation 12:17

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

TAKING.SIDES.WITH.JESUS_ JEFF.IN COD FRIDAY_ 62-0601

755-55 Now, during the tribulation that will be, **the sleeping virgin will be hunted down by the dragon (spurts "water from his mouth," which is--means "multitudes and peoples, armies") that'll search down and take this woman, remnant of her seed, and will kill her.** Now, that will be in the tribulation period, but the church will go home. Now, if--if that take--would take place tomorrow, it wouldn't hinder us from just keeping on today. Let's make today count.

As the saints with whom the dragon wars in Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 (these chapters parallel one another).

Daniel 7:21-22

²¹I beheld [the ten-horned beast in Daniel 7:7, the mysterious fourth beast], and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

²²Until* the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

The fourth beast of Daniel 7:7 is identical with the beast described in Revelation 13:1-3.

Revelation 13:6-8

⁶And he [the dragon] opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

⁷And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

⁸And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

*The Bride is raptured before the Tribulation, so who is left for the Beast to war against? The sleeping virgin are left, and the Bible refers to them as **saints**.*

**The dragon's victory over the sleeping virgin in the Tribulation is short-lived; it lasts until the Judgment. The sleeping virgin die in the Tribulation, but without giving the Beast their worship. The sleeping virgin's names are in the Book of Life and they will enter into eternity with Christ, while the dragon and beast go into the Lake of Fire.*

The White Rose Movement in Nazi Germany: Students of the White Rose took a stand against Hitler in 1942-43, and many were executed for it. It was too little too late to make a difference, yet these individuals made known to history what side they were on, and so cleared their names of the sins of the Third Reich.

In the denominational systems are good, sincere people who serve God the best they know how. Many of their friends in the denominational systems will have their names removed from the Book and will worship the Beast or its image. However, there are sincere people in the denominational churches who have enough discernment to see that the Beast system doesn't match what they've believed from the Bible. They realize the Beast system isn't what they signed up for, so they take a stand on the Word they know. When they refuse to go along with the antichrist system during the Tribulation, they will give their lives for their stand, but they will avoid the Beast's end in the Lake of Fire. Instead, they will enjoy eternity with Christ. God's mercy is great, even to people trapped in a denominational system and who wake up too late!

As [white-robed](#) saints in Revelation 7:13-17

THE.SEVENTH.SEAL_ JEFF.IN SUNDAY_ 63-0324E

544-2 {137} Now, John, being a Jew, recognized his own people. He seen them in tribal form. Is that right? He recognized and called each one of the tribes. But now, when he sees these, the--he's kind of puzzled... And the elder knows it, so he says **[Revelation 7:13-17]**,

... Who are these... what... which are arrayed in white robes? and whence cometh they? (John answering now) And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest... (John didn't know them. See? All kindreds, tongues, and nations.)... And he said unto me, These are--he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation... (in other words, the great tribulation)... and have washed their robes,... made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and they--he that set upon the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither shall they thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them--sun light on them, nor any heat.

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water: and God shall wipe all tears from their eyes.

545-1 {141} Now, we open the--get to the Seal. Did you notice, they were... **First we start now, Israel, and then we see the purged church, not the Bride, the purged church by tribulation (See, see?) coming up here, great number of real sincere hearts that come up out of--of the great tribulation.** Not the Church, it's gone on--the Bride. There's the church.

Finally, there is a third group of people who go into Life by the grace of God, even though they were never born again.

The "Righteous"

Matthew 25:31-40

³¹When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

³²And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

³³And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

³⁴Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

³⁵For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

³⁶Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

³⁷Then shall **the righteous** answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

³⁸When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

³⁹Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

⁴⁰And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

This passage from Matthew 25 is a parallel passage to Revelation 20:11-15, as both are describing the final judgment.

REVELATION 20:11-15

¹¹And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Who are these righteous from Matthew 20?

They are not the Bride, who are sitting with Christ in His throne, judging the world with him at this judgment.

Nor are they people who are saved for the testimony they held during their time on earth, like either the Jews or the sleeping virgin.

These are people declared righteous based on the goodness they showed "to the least of these my brethren."

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To further clarify, notice specifically the words of Matthew 25:31-46. It does not say that a shepherd is literally separating sheep from goats, but it is AS a shepherd dividing sheep from goats. These are not sheep in this particular area of time (White Throne Judgment). The sheep are in His fold, they heard His voice (Word) and they followed Him. **THEY ALREADY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE AND CANNOT COME INTO THE JUDGMENT.** But these do NOT have eternal life, and they are in the judgment. **They are allowed to GO INTO eternal life. But upon what grounds do they enter into life eternal? Certainly not upon the fact that they already have His life as does the bride, but they receive it because they were kind to His brethren. They are not His brethren: that would make them joint-heirs with Jesus. They are NOT heirs to anything but life.** They share no throne, etc. with Him. **THEIR NAMES MUST HAVE BEEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE AND NOT REMOVED.** Now because of their love of the people of God they are recognized and saved. No doubt these served and helped the children of God. Perhaps like Nicodemus and Gamaliel they stood for the children in a time of trouble.

Indeed, God's mercy endures forever.

In this life, even the reprobate enjoy God's mercy. We enjoy God's mercy as we receive His Word. And even after the Lord raptures His Bride, His mercy continues on up to the very final judgment at the Great White Throne.

Psalm 136:26

O give thanks unto the God of heaven: *for his mercy endureth forever.*

As we enjoy God's mercy now in this life, being washed by His Word and prepared for a rapture, we praise Him!

Revelation 5:8-14

⁸And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

⁹And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

¹⁰And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

¹¹And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

¹²Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

¹³And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

¹⁴And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.