I can sum up the reactions of the nations in one terse sentence: They are NOT going to like it!

The teaching tonight is one of the least-known in prophetic scripture; yet Jesus Himself spent a great deal of time giving us the details. Let’s explore His message:

Matthew 25:31-46

When 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: [32] And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: [33] And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. [34] Then 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: [35] For I was an hunged, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: [36] Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. [37] Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hunged, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? [38] When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? [39] Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? [40] And 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. [41] Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: [42] For I was an hunged, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: [43] I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. [44] Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hunged, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? [45] Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. [46] And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.
This event will take place AFTER the Tribulation and Christ’s second coming to earth but
BEFORE the beginning of our Lord’s earthly 1,000 year reign (the Millennium).

It is essential to understand that at the time of Christ’s second coming, the saved and the
lost who are still living on earth and who have survived the horrors of the Tribulation are
still mingled TOGETHER. So the judgment here involves the SEPARATION of the
wicked from the righteous. The judgment will be based on outward works of love and
kindness to those belonging to Christ and who are suffering. The wicked will not be
allowed to enter Christ’s Millennial kingdom but will go into eternal punishment while
the righteous will inherit eternal life.

We usually think of Jesus as the gentle Lord, so elegantly couched in the lyrics of Charles
Wesley’s ancient hymn:

Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, Look upon a little child;
Pity my simplicity, Suffer me to come to Thee.
Loving Jesus, gentle Lamb, In Thy gracious hands I am;
Make me, Savior, what Thou art, Live Thyself within my heart.

Jesus is, of course, embodied in that beautiful hymn; however, He is also embodied in
John’s passage:
John 5:26-27
For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; [27]
And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

Those earthlings who have found the Name Jesus to be only a swearword, or a sop in time
of trouble, will now find the Name of Jesus to be emblazoned upon the Judge’s Desk of
Eternity. It will not be a good time for them!

Let’s review:
1. The Rapture - Christ’s followers are taken from earth along with the now resurrected
   and glorified bodies of those who have died as His believers.
2. Those taken will stand before Christ as the Judgment Seat of Christ (I. Cor 3) and
   their works will be tried by fire. Then they will go to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb
   (Jesus).
3. On earth, Antichrist institutes his brutal 7-year campaign of lies, death and terror and
   God pours out His divine wrath on this planet - so devastating, in fact, that if He did not
   arbitrarily end it, Scripture says no one on earth would be left alive. Matthew 24:22
   And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.... (the
   teaching of Jesus Himself)
4. Near the end of the Tribulation Period, Jesus returns to this earth for the second
   coming (which is why it is termed “the Second Coming of Christ”).
5. Jesus will now rule the entire world for 1,000 years. But between His second
coming and the start of the Millennium, Christ will judge the nations - all of them!

As one commentator observed: “There is no more awesome picture given to us of the Lord Jesus Christ than that of Him as the One Who has the right and the responsibility to judge humanity.”

Rev. 19:17-19
And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; [18] That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. [19] And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

The global setting: Antichrist has pretty much consolidated his global rule near the end of the Tribulation except for the far East. Suddenly Antichrist is attacked: Revelation 9:16: And the number of the army of the horsemens were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. That’s an attacking army of 200 million troops coming from east of the Euphrates River. But before these two massive armies meet each other, the sky opens and Jesus returns with His followers:

Rev. 19:11-16
And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. [12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. [14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. [15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Now...all “the chickens come home to roost” for Satan, Antichrist, the False Prophet and the kingdoms of the world. THE KING IS COMING!

Can you even begin to imagine the terror in the hearts of this unholy trinity from Hell? They know they have no power whatsoever over Jesus and their doom is sealed.

King David was not only a monarch and a great musician, but on occasion he was also a
prophet. And in Psalm 2 he described this scene with incredible accuracy, though it
would be thousands of years away:

Psalm 2:1-12

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? [2] The kings of
the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and
against his anointed, saying, [3] Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away
their cords from us. [4] He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall
have them in derision. [5] Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them
in his sore displeasure. [6] Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. [7] I will
declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I
begotten thee. [8] Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance,
and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. [9] Thou shalt break them
with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. [10] Be wise
now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. [11] Serve the Lord
with fear, and rejoice with trembling. [12] Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye
perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that
put their trust in him.

Notice verse 6 and beyond: God gives His Son a decree and a command: “You will be
given the world as Your inheritance...destroy every enemy of mine like smashing a
pottery vase to the ground!”

Throughout God’s Word we are given advance notice of this historic moment. For
example: In the 15th chapter of Revelation, the last of the trumpet judgments is about to
hit the world. As the angel lifts the trumpet to his lips, John reported: Rev. 11:15
And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The
kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and
he shall reign for ever and ever.

2000 years ago, Jesus came to this earth as a tiny baby, born in a stable in Bethlehem.
But.... “...when Jesus comes the second time, He is not coming in humiliation as He
came the first time. He is not coming as the meek and lowly One. He is not coming
unrecognized and unreceived. He is coming as the One who has the right to judge
and to make war and God is sending Him to wreak vengeance upon this godless earth
and to bring desolation upon those who have rejected God and the message of the
Gospel that was proclaimed.
PROPHECY FOR TODAY / D.D. PENTECOST / ZONDERVAN / P 142

The Revelation 19 passage describes the returning-to-earth Jesus with eyes flaming with
fire. He is coming to destroy once and for all the works of Satan and his minions. And “on his head are many crowns.” That means He is given the headship over every government on the planet. During the Tribulation, the king of the north (Russia and its subsidiaries) has been destroyed. But now Jesus returns to trample underfoot the last organized resistance against theocracy - God rule.

WHO COMPRISÉS THE ARMY WITH JESUS UPON HIS RETURN?

When Jesus returns, He will be accompanied by “the armies which were in heaven, riding white horses, clothed in fine linen.” (Rev. 19:14) Who is the army?

Hebrews 12:22-23

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, [23] To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

There is a good description of the army:
1. An innumerable company of angels
2. All the born again believers
3. The Old Testament saints

And remember that all the believers, both Old and New Testament, now have resurrected and glorified bodies just like Jesus - against whom there is no time or space dimension whatsoever.

What will be the role of the army? To fight? Never. Only to observe what Jesus does: Rev. 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Just as the Holy Trinity spoke everything into existence in the beginning, so will all resistance be spoken OUT OF EXISTENCE upon the return of our Lord. “Jesus Christ, by a spoken word, will destroy the multitudinous might of the coalition of nations that will be gathered together against Him, 200 million of the Eastern army, plus the unnumbered millions of the Federated States of Europe, who have shaken their fist in the face of God and said, ‘We forbid you to send Jesus Christ into this world to reign.’ Jesus Christ is going to speak just a word and all that military might will be wiped out. It is at that time God will summon all the birds of carrion and prey from the ends of the earth, and will say, ‘Come, and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on
them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.' God will
bring judgment upon all who have rejected the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. The
nations of the earth in their military might will be completely eliminated by the
appearance of Jesus Christ at the Second Advent (coming).”
IBID / P. 144

HOW DOES JESUS DEAL WITH HUMAN BEINGS STILL LIVING ON EARTH?

Now after Jesus has dealt with the military adversaries opposing Him at His return to
earth, what then? How does He deal with others? The scripture on page 1 of these
notes, Matthew 25:31-46, gives us a clear concept of what is to happen next.

Remember that during the Tribulation, there was unprecedented preaching around the
world, led by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. When the Rapture occurred, seven years
earlier, there was not one unsaved person left on earth; yet, we realize that when Jesus
returns to earth there will a multitude of His followers - recent converts during the
Tribulation. Still multitudes of other Tribulation converts will have been martyred by
the savagery of Antichrist and his henchmen:

Rev. 7:9-10 and 13-14

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all
nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before
the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; [10] And cried with a
loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the
Lamb.

[13] And one of the elders (said) unto me, What are these which are arrayed in
And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have
washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

So there will be two groups of believers from the Tribulation - those who were martyred
for their faith and those who made it all the way through somehow.

BUT....what about those who never committed their lives to Christ? Who resisted the
message of the 144,000 evangelists? Jesus will now determine which living human
beings will be taken into His millennial kingdom. Now comes the judgment upon all
those who have not perished through the wars, pestilences and judgments of the
Tribulation period. They will ALL be paraded before THE JUDGE, none other than
Jesus. He will now divide the SHEEP from the GOATS.

THE SHEEP
The sheep - those whom He takes with Him into the Millennium - will be separated to His right. They will hear Him say, Matthew 25:34-40. Then 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: [35] For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: [36] Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. [37] Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? [38] When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? [39] Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? [40] And 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.

Who are “the brethren?” I believe it’s the 144,000 sealed Jewish witnesses who evangelized the world.

“Now we can understand this further from something that is written in Revelation 13. When Antichrist, the head of the federated states of Europe comes to power, he will pass an edict that no one can worship any god but himself. The False Prophet who is allied with Antichrist will say that no man can buy or sell unless he submits to the authority of the Beast and shows his submission by accepting the mark of the Beast in his palm or forehead. WITHOUT THE MARK AND WITHOUT SUBMISSION TO THE HEAD OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF EUROPE, NO PERSON CAN BUY OR SELL. The 144,000 Jewish witnesses will not bow and so they cannot buy or sell. When they come to a village to announce salvation through the blood of Christ, to warn that Jesus is coming back to earth to judge, there will be some individuals there who will hear, who will take their Scriptures and examine them to see if the things proclaimed are true. They will be convinced that the message that these preachers proclaimed is true. They will accept Christ as Savior. Now what will these new believers do for the Jewish messengers? They will share their food, they will give them lodging. When the preachers are arrested because they refuse to submit to the authority of the Beast, the new believers will go to the prison to visit them and carry food to them. IT IS A MANIFESTATION THAT THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD BECAUSE THEY MINISTER TO THOSE WHO HAVE MINISTERED TO THEM THE TRUTHS OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.”

IBID / pp 147-148

It occurs to me that even now would be a good time to get into practice helping those in need. One of the characteristics of Jesus while He was on this earth was that He touched people at the place of their greatest need. Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of
Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

There are probably enough professing followers of Jesus in this world that, if they went about doing good, could impact humanity in unbelievable manner!

THE GOATS

Now Jesus turns to those on His left hand and proclaims just the opposite. "Depart from me, ye cursed, into EVERLASTING fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

"Why?" they ask.

The King stares them down and replies:

* I was a stranger and you didn’t take me in.
* I was naked and you didn’t clothe me.
* I was sick and in prison and you never visited me.

The “goats” rejected the MESSENGERS because they rejected the MESSAGE.

And the story ends! The time of the Gentiles is over. The time for God’s Kingdom on earth has come! No one will raise a voice to dispute Christ’s authority. No one will dare raise a finger against Him. “With a word of His mouth....” He judges.

(Next Wednesday will be the final session of our annual District Council which meets in Orlando. It will be ordination night. We have one of our own members, Germaine Hoffman, who will be ordained. So our After Tomorrow series will continue two weeks from tonight.)