JUDGMENT DAY IS COMING!
Matthew 25:31-46

Introduction:

1. A poll of 500 ministers of various denominations revealed that only 61% believed there will be a Day of Judgment at the end of the world.

2. A Gallup Poll revealed that 77% of Americans believe in Heaven but only 58% believe in Hell.

3. Jesus clearly taught that one day all will be judged.
   a. We will be judged by the lives we have lived on earth.
   b. Following the Judgment we will be sent either to Heaven or Hell.

4. Jesus’ parable of the sheep and the goats is a parable of the Judgment.
   a. Jesus predicted the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem (Mt. 24:2).
   b. His disciples asked, “When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Mt. 24:3).
   c. Jesus answered the first question regarding the destruction of Jerusalem in Mt. 24:4-35.
   d. Beginning with Mt. 24:36 through chapter 25, He spoke of His coming at the end of the world.

5. The Scriptures reveal a number of important facts regarding the Judgment.

Discussion:

I. JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.

A. The teaching that Jesus will come again is found throughout the NT.
   1. He promised: “I will come again” (Jn. 14:3).
   2. The angels predicted: “He shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven” (Acts 1:11).
   3. Paul prophesied: “The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:2).
   4. Peter also predicted: “The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night” (2 Pet. 3:10).

B. No one on the earth knows the time of His coming (Mt. 24:36).
   1. It will come suddenly like the Great Flood (Mt. 24:37-39).
   2. We must watch and be ready at all times (Mt. 24:42-44).
II. THE JUDGMENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT JESUS’ COMING.

A. God has appointed a day to judge the world (Acts 17:30,31).

B. God has appointed an hour when the dead will be raised to be judged (John 5:28,29).

C. There will be one resurrection of both just and unjust (Acts 24:15).

III. JESUS WILL BE THE JUDGE.

A. God “hath committed all judgment unto the Son” (Jn. 5:22).

B. The Father has confirmed His Son as Judge by raising Him from the dead (Acts 17:31).

IV. GOD’S WORD WILL BE THE STANDARD OF JUDGMENT.

A. Jesus said: “The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the Last Day” (Jn. 12:48).

B. John wrote: “The dead were judged out of those the things which were written in the books according to their works” (Rev. 20:12).

V. EVERYONE WILL BE JUDGED.

A. John said: “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God” (Rev. 20:12).

B. Paul said: “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12).

C. Paul also wrote: “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Cor. 5:10).

VI. WE WILL BE JUDGED BY OUR WORKS.

A. Our attitude toward Christ is seen in our attitude toward our fellow man (Mt. 25:31-46).

1. When we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, provide shelter for the homeless, clothe the needy, visit the sick and those in prison, Christ counts it as if it were done to Him personally (25:34-40).
2. When we fail to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, provide shelter for the homeless, clothing for the needy, visit the sick and those in prison, Jesus counts our neglect as if it were done personally to Him (25:41-45).

B. Our works reveal our faith (Jam. 2:14-17).

VII. THERE ARE ONLY TWO ETERNAL DESTINIES: HEAVEN OR HELL.

A. Jesus painted the picture in black and white.

1. The conclusion of the Judgment is: “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal” (Mt. 25:46).
2. “No man can serve two masters” (Mt. 6:24).
3. There are only two possible gates to enter (Mt. 7:13,14).
4. There will be a great separation (Mt. 25:32,33).

B. Heaven is prepared for the faithful (Mt. 25:34).

1. Nothing evil will enter Heaven (Rev. 21:27).
2. All the faithful will be in Heaven (Heb. 11:13-16).

C. Hell was originally prepared for the Devil and his angels (Mt. 25:41).

1. Jesus spoke more of Hell than any other (Mark 9:42-48).
2. Of the 12 times “Gehenna” is mentioned in the NT, Jesus used it 11 times.

D. Hell is everlasting (Mt. 25:41, 46).

1. It will last as long as Heaven for the same word in the Greek is used to describe both.
2. If one argues “everlasting” is limited in regard to Hell, it would also be limited in regard to Heaven.

Conclusion:

1. The book of Ecclesiastes is a search for man’s purpose on earth.
2. The wise man found the answer at the end of his search:

   “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Eccl. 12:13,14).

5. Are you ready for the Judgment Day?