

After the Tribulation, Before the Millennial Kingdom

A 75-Day Transitional Period

A 75-day interval apparently separates the end of the tribulation period from the beginning of the millennial kingdom.

Here's why: the image of the antichrist that caused abomination of desolation at the midpoint of the tribulation will be removed from the temple after 30 days.

"From the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days." – Daniel 12:11

The last half of the tribulation lasts only 1260 days (3.5 years), so the abomination that makes desolate is removed from the Jewish temple 30 days after the tribulation ends.

An additional 45 days must also be added into the prophetic timetable: *"Blessed is he who waits and arrives 1,335 days."* (Daniel 12:12) The 1,335 days minus the 1,290 days means another 45 days are added into the mix. – Apparently, this is when the judgment of the nations take place (Matthew 25:31-46). The Jewish survivors of the tribulation period will also be judged.

Other Key Events to take place during this 75-day interval.

1. Antichrist and the false prophet cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 19:20)
2. Satan bound from this point to the end of the millennial kingdom (Rev. 20:1-3)
3. Old Testament saints will be resurrected from the dead. (Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2)
4. Tribulation saints who had died are resurrected from the dead. (Rev. 20:4)
5. Governmental structure of the coming millennial kingdom will be set up during these extra 45 days. (2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 20:4-6)
6. Possibly the Marriage Feast of Christ and His bride, the church, will take place at the close of the 75-day period (Revelation 19:9).
7. Following the 75-day interval, Christ will set up His millennial kingdom (Isaiah 2:2-4; Ezekiel 37:1-13; 40-48; Micah 4:1-7; Revelation 20)

The Judgment of the Nations

Matthew 25:31-46 describes the judgment of the nations, which takes place following the second coming of Christ.

The nations comprise of sheep and goats, representing the saved and the lost among the Gentiles.

From our study, we see that the Judgment of the Nations and the Great White Throne Judgment are two separate judgments.

Judgment of the Nations

(Matthew 25:31-46)

occurs at the 2nd coming -----

occurs on earth -----

includes sheep, goats and brothers -----

righteous enter kingdom -----

unrighteous cast into lake of fire -----

no resurrection is mentioned -----

Great White Throne Judgment

(Revelation 20:11-15)

occurs after millennial kingdom

occurs at great white throne

includes all time unsaved dead

unsaved dead are cast into lake of fire

the unsaved dead resurrected to be judged

Relation to Buying & Selling: During the Tribulation period, people will not be able to buy or sell if they don't receive the mark of the beast (Rev. 13:16-17). Christians will need to act sacrificially toward those who are less fortunate.

Read Matthew 25:31-46 - Notice the basis of the judgment of these Gentile peoples. One's destiny – entering Christ's kingdom or entering punishment hinges on how one treated Christ's brothers.

Who are these brothers? – Probably the 144,000 Jewish evangelists mentioned in Revelation 7. These are Christ's Jewish brothers who bear witness of Him during the tribulation. – Yes, the antichrist and the false prophet will wield economic control over the world during the tribulation (Rev. 13), but God will still be at work!

The Judgment of the Jews

Read Ezekiel 20:34-38 (see also Matthew 25:1-30)

Four Important Factors of this Judgment:

1. It will take place after the Lord has gathered the Israelites from all around the earth to Palestine.
2. Christ will purge out the rebels – those who have refused to turn to Him for salvation.
3. Believers from among this group will enter in Christ's millennial kingdom, where they will then enjoy the blessings of the new covenant (see also Jeremiah 31:31).
4. These saved Jews are not yet given resurrection bodies. They will enter the kingdom in their mortal bodies and continue to have children throughout the millennium (just as their Gentile counterparts will). Though longevity will characterize the millennial kingdom, both mortal Jews and Gentiles will continue to age and die (Isaiah 65:20). They will be resurrected at the end of the millennium (Revelation 20:4).

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Scripture describes the relationship between Christ and the church as a marriage. Christ is the Bridegroom, and the church is the bride. Jesus Christ, the Lamb, frequently referred to Himself as a Bridegroom (see Matthew 9:15; 22:2-14; 25:1-13; Mark 2:19-20; Luke 5:34-35; 14:15-24; John 3:29). The church is regarded as a virgin bride awaiting the coming of her heavenly Bridegroom (2 Corinthians 11:2). While she waits, she keeps herself pure, unstained from the world. (Revelation 19:7-9)

Hebrew Weddings Include Three Phases:

1. The bride becomes betrothed to the bridegroom
2. The bridegroom came to claim his bride
3. The marriage supper was celebrated – a feast lasting up to a week

We can see all three of these phases in Christ's relationship to His bride, the church. 1. Salvation 2. Rapture 3. Marriage Supper of the Lamb that takes place on earth at end of tribulation (75 days) and before millennial kingdom begins.