

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Daniel Law, Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Ms. Sowder, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

February 14, 2021

“Judging the Twelve Tribes of Israel”

By Derek Long

Matthew 19:16-22 tells of an encounter Jesus has with an individual we often refer to as the rich young ruler. Jesus teaches this man, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me” (Matthew 19:21, NKJV). The next verse tells us the rich young ruler “went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions” (NKJV). Jesus then teaches how difficult it is for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven (vs. 23-26). All of this instruction about needing to leave things behind prompts Peter to ask the following question, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” (vs. 27, NKJV). Jesus assures them, “that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother, or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life” (vs. 28-29, NKJV). We often talk about what Jesus says they will receive in verse 29 and on the surface it seems easier perhaps to understand than what He says they will receive in verses 28. What was Jesus saying the apostles would receive in return for following Him in Matthew 19:28?

It may be helpful to understand when they will receive what Jesus is about to describe. Jesus identifies the time frame in two ways: 1. in the regeneration and 2. when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory. The Bible teaches, contrary to the claims of Premillennialists, that Jesus is presently sitting on the throne of His glory. On the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, Peter speaks of Jesus as “being exalted to the right hand of God” and presently sitting on David’s throne (Acts 2:29-36). Ephesians 1:20-23 speaks about Jesus being seated at God’s right hand and possessing authority. If Jesus is reigning now, what Jesus told Peter would happen “when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory” (Matthew 19:28, NKJV) must be taking place now too. The other time frame given by Jesus is “in the regeneration.” Jesus made it plain a person would have to be born again of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5). The process of being born again fits the term “regeneration.” In fact, Titus 3:5 speaks about “the washing of regeneration” (NKJV). While Jesus is reigning over His kingdom, people are being regenerated or given new life. Therefore, since people are being regenerated now, it would appear what Jesus said would come upon the apostles in the regeneration has come upon them now.

Once we understand when the passage would take place it might be easier to start to examine the question of how will the apostles “sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matthew 19:28, NKJV). Sometimes a person or a group of people will judge others by doing the right thing while others refuse to do the right thing. Scriptures speaks of this sort of judging in many passages (Matthew 12:41-42; 1 Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 11:7; etc.). In a way, one might could say the

apostles would judge the physical nation of Israel by receiving Jesus while the majority of Jews rejected Jesus. However, if the judging will take place throughout the entire time when Jesus is sitting on His throne and throughout the entire period referred to as the regeneration, it might be better to consider the following explanation as well. Israel, in the New Testament, is sometimes used to refer to God’s people in the church instead of the physical nation (Galatians 6:16; 3:29; Romans 2:28-29; Philippians 3:3; 1 Peter 2:9-10). Jesus could be promising to give the apostles positions of authority over the people of God under the New Testament. In the early days of the church, we find the disciples “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42). The New Testament emphasizes the need to follow in the teachings given by the apostles (1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6, 14; 2 Timothy 1:13-14). The teachings of the apostles needed to be followed because their teaching was not their own but was given to them by the Lord (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Galatians 1:6-12; Ephesians 3:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 2:13). In the first century, the apostles were revealing the truth by directly teaching it to people. Today, the apostles are judging the church through their written word left for us to read, study, and follow. Ephesians 2:20 speaks of the church, “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone” (NKJV). The message given by the apostles and prophets (who were being inspired by God) is the message which should guide the church today just as it did in the first century.