**Future Political Boundaries**

1. **Mat.25:31-46 key features**
2. Immediate context: Parable of the 10 Virgins, Parable of the Talents – all expectant of the coming kingdom
3. Structure
	1. His coming in glory – 2nd coming
	2. “throne of His glory” – only other is Mat.19:28, where the Twelve will judge Israel (will this judgment concern entrance to kingdom for surviving Israelites?)
	3. a judgment of all contemporary nations (as individuals, or as nations?) – only here in the Gospels – preview at Mat.12:18
	4. “as the shepherd” He will separate righteous from unrighteous – cp. Rev.19:15 (and 7:17) where Christ will strictly shepherd the nations – “staff of iron” (and His own)
	5. **Contrast:** prepared inheritance of a kingdom vs. prepared fire
	6. Some context from Mat. – nations will be evangelized during end-time – Mat.24:9, 14; 8:11-12; 10:17-18; 12:18-21; 28:18-19;

Some expositors have called Matthew the most Jewish of the Gospels, but it is also the most Abrahamic in terms of the covenants (even the genealogy starts with Abraham).

* 1. Works-based judgment!
		1. Rather a judgment based on non-works, “works” of omission, not commission.
		2. The unrighteous will not know the import of their non-deeds: they did them not unto the King.
		3. Principle of “doing unto Him”: Mat.18:1-6
	2. Who are the sheep nations? see Rev.12:13-17, e.g.
	3. Who are the accursed? see Gen.12:1-3, e.g.
	4. Who are “My brothers”? see Mat.12:47-49; 28:8-10
		1. NOT persecution of the Jews, but their neglect is the crime
	5. What is “the age-abiding fire”?
		1. Note the “fiery” imagery associated with God’s person: Deu.4:23-24; Dan.7:9-10; Isa.33:14
		2. and with His judgments: Isa.30:27-31; Mat.13:24-30, 36-43, 47-50 (“furnace of fire”); 1 Cor.3:11-15
		3. a baptism or testing with fire: Mat.3:11-12 – the “asbestos” fire also in Mar.9:43, 49 (“salted with fire”); Luk.3:16-17; 1 Pet.1:6-7
		4. “Gehenna of fire”: Mat.5:22, 29-30 (“body” cast there); 18:8-9 (also “age-abiding”); Mar.9:47-48 (and an undying “worm” – Isa.66:24) – Heb. poetic forms; also Jer.7:28-34 (gêy**.**ben**-**Hinnôm)
		5. “lake of fire” for men: Rev.19:19-21 (note only 2 cast in); 20:11-15 (another works-based judgment)
		6. “lake of fire” for Satan: Rev.20:10 (“tested … unto the ages of the ages”)
	6. What is “age-abiding punishment”?
		1. Moulton & Milligan (read): makes *kolasis* a “pruning” or “cutting short”
		2. Examples: LXX – Eze.18:29-32; 43:10-11; **44:10-14**; NT – 2 Pet.2:7-9 (v.)
1. **Isa.19:16-25**
2. Isaiah 19 is the prophetic burden of Egypt
3. Six “in that day” statements emphasize what will become of Egypt
	1. v.16 – fear for the waving of the hand of Yahweh of Armies (“hand of Yahweh” – 40 occs.; Yahweh-Ts. – 7 times in Isa.19)
	2. v.18 – 5 Hebrew-speaking cities and swearing to Yahweh
	3. v.19 – an altar and pillar to Yahweh; salvation from enemies
		1. A pillar to Yahweh – like Jacob’s at Gen.28:18-19
		2. Pillars were to become stumbling-stones to Israel – e.g., Exo.34:12-13
	4. v.21 – Yahweh known; sacrifices, gifts and vows to Him
		1. Yahweh will smite in order to HEAL them (‘smite’ w/ ‘heal’ – hapax)
	5. v.23 – Egypt & Assyria will converse and serve together – NOTE: they must be “sheep” nations! Also, “highway” occurs 27 times = 3-cubed. Significant for next verse.
	6. v.24 – Israel, Egypt & Assyria are “thirds” in blessing the earth
		1. cp. situation in Isa.10:24; 52:4
		2. Egypt will be “My people” – Ammi (only here)
			1. 151 times of Israel + 4 times ‘NOT’ + 5 doubtful
		3. cp. the “third” of “My people” surviving – Zec.13:8-9; not quite the same prophesy as Eze.5:12-13
4. **Isa.60:1-12**
	1. v.2 “darkness” over the earth; and “thick darkness” over the peoples
		1. this “thick darkness” covered Mt. Sinai – Exo.20:20-21; and is His dwelling – 1 Ki.8:12
		2. and is “under His feet” – 2 Sa.22:10-12
		3. “clouds and thick darkness” associated with His righteousness – Psa.97:1-4
		4. Day of Yahweh and *war clouds* – Joe.2:1-2; Zep.1:14-18
		5. Darkness in the nations alluded to in parabolic sayings of Jesus – Mat.8:11-12 – this darkness is relative to the Shekinah glory shining in Jerusalem in the Messianic kingdom – 60:1, 3
	2. v.5 “forces of the Gentiles” = wealth of nations