

Be Different

Thy Kingdom Come

# Memorial Day



- A day to remember those who died in service to country.
- A time of giving thanks for our nation, the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy and for those who serve.
- Opportunity to explore a Christian's relationship to their government.



# Nationalism

A strong belief that the interests of a particular nation are of **primary** importance.

Patriotism – love for country

Nationalism – our HIGHEST loyalty is to the state.

# Jesus on Our Relationship to the Government

Matthew 22:21 They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

John 18:36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

# The Priority of God's Kingdom

Matthew 6:9–10 Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

# God's Kingdom is Bigger than One Nation

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples **of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

# God's Kingdom is Bigger than One Nation

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

# God's Kingdom is Bigger than One Nation

Revelation 7:9

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from **every nation**, from **all tribes** and **peoples** and **languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,



# Where is the Battleground?

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

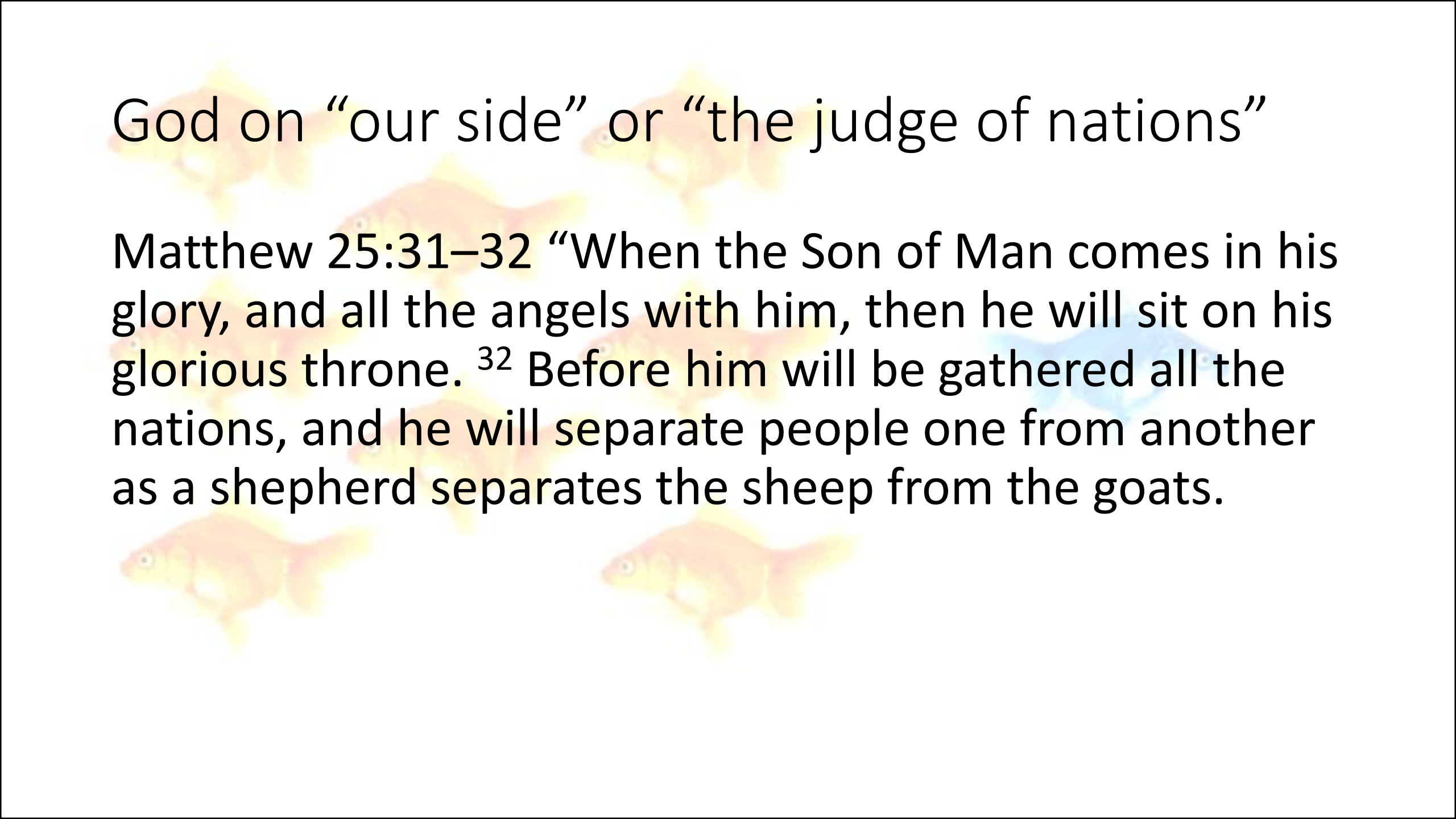
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God on “our side” or “the judge of nations”

Isaiah 2:4 He shall judge between the nations...

Psalms 82:8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

Psalms 110:6 He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.



God on “our side” or “the judge of nations”

Matthew 25:31–32 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.



What are Our Responsibilities to the State?

Be subject to the governing authorities.

Respect and Honor those in authority.

Pray for those in authority.

Be Salt n Light in our communities and nation.

# Be Subject to the Governing Authorities

Romans 13:1 Let every person **be subject** to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

1 Peter 2:13–14 <sup>13</sup> **Be subject** for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

# Respect/Honor those in Authority

Romans 13:7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

1 Peter 2:17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

# Pray for those in Authority

1 Timothy 2:1–2 <sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

# Be Salt and Light in our Communities/Nation

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.