

THE PARABLE OF THE GOATS AND THE SHEEP

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.”

The Gospel According to Matthew, Chapter 25:31-33 (KJV).

“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.”

The Gospel According to Matthew, Chapter 25:31-33 (NASU)

“Nearly all flocks in the East consist of sheep and goats. Every family keeps sheep and goats for both are needed. White sheep supply the wool for clothing and black sheep (goats) supply the hair for tents, bags and ropes. Both furnish the family with milk which is made into butter and cheese, the chief food. Rich families do not use goat milk but keep them only for the hair.

“Sheep and goats graze together on the mountains and in the fields. Most shepherds hate the goats and sometimes punish them severely because they are wild and troublesome. They climb the steep places and go astray and the shepherds are kept busy watching them and fetching them back. The white sheep are gentle, walk slowly, graze quietly and slowly. When the shepherd calls, they hear his voice and obey.

“When shepherds bring their flocks to the field, they stand in the midst of the road, back of the fold and separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep go to the right side of the shepherd on the roof of the fold to be fed with grass before they are taken into the field. The goats go directly through a narrow passage into the fold and no grass is provided for them. On the way to the door of the fold, the goats see the sheep on the roof eating the grass. This frets them and they grind their teeth and baa.”

George M. Lamsa, *Gospel Light, Comments on the Teachings of Jesus Christ From Aramaic and Unchanged Eastern Customs* (A.J. Holman Co., Philadelphia, 1936), (Chp. 1.) St. Matthew, at “Sheep Separated from the Goats,” pp. 141-142.