

Message #85**Matthew 24:29-31**

In Acts 1:9-11, it is predicted that Jesus Christ will eventually come back from heaven in a glorious return just as He ascended up into heaven. When that event occurred, the disciples were gazing up into the sky watching this take place. When Christ returns, the whole world will be gazing up into the sky and will see Him coming in all of His glory.

The Rapture of the Church will feature Jesus Christ secretly and silently catching up all N.T. believers in the sky. Apparently at this time the world will not see Christ nor hear this event. It will just see the results of the event—the Church is gone. However, the second coming of Jesus Christ will be completely different. When Christ comes at the end of the Tribulation, everyone will know it and see it. The whole world will be in awe of the coming of Jesus Christ. Revelation 1:7 says, “Behold He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be, Amen.”

Now I want us to carefully observe from **verse 29** when Christ’s second coming occurs—“immediately after the tribulation.” This is as clear as it gets. This passage has not been talking about the Church Age; it has been talking about the Tribulation and the events of the Tribulation. As Dr. Gaebelein says, “It is impossible to find a place for the Church in this prophecy” (p. 203).

Christ will not come until the Tribulation is over. The Rapture may occur at any moment, but the second coming will not occur until the Tribulation is over.

Now the main point here is this:

JESUS CHRIST GIVES PRECISE DETAILS CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC SIGNS OF HIS SECOND COMING FROM HEAVEN.

The context is that Jesus has informed His disciples that false Christ’s and false prophets will try to convince people that Christ is already on earth. He made it clear He will come as lightning flashes from the sky (24:27).

DETAIL #1 – Christ’s second coming after the Tribulation will be accompanied by specific prelude signs. **24:29**

(Prelude Sign #1) - The sun will be darkened.

(Prelude Sign #2) - The moon will not give its light.

Isaiah 13:10 - “For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash forth their light; the sun will be dark when it rises and the moon will not shed its light” (Carefully notice the context - Is. 13:6-11).

Ezekiel 32:7-8 - “And when I extinguish you, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars; I will darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud and the moon shall not give its light. All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you and will set darkness on your land, declares the LORD GOD.”

Joel 2:31 - “The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.”

Joel 3:15 - “The sun and moon grow dark and the stars lose their brightness...and the LORD roars from Zion.”

(Prelude Sign #3) - The stars will fall from the sky.

Revelation 6:13 - “and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.” As Dr. Ryrie said, “These astral phenomena, which will accompany the return of the Son of Man, are foretold in Isaiah and Joel.”

(Prelude Sign #4) - The powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Isaiah 34:4 says, “And all the host of heaven will wear away, and the sky will be rolled up like a scroll..” **When Jesus Christ comes a second time, the sky will testify of His coming.**

DETAIL #2 – Christ’s second coming after the Tribulation will be accompanied by Christ’s own special sign. **24:30a**

There is debate among scholars as to exactly what the sign of the Son of Man actually is. Some have speculated that it is a type of Shekinah glory. Dr. Gaebelein believes it will be the Shekinah cloud which shrouded Israel in the O.T. times. The same cloud seen when Christ ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9). This will be a sign that the glory of God is coming back to Israel. However, if we look at Revelation 19:11-16, there is a graphic description of the coming of Christ. This may include all of these signs. In other words, after the world sees these things happening in the sky, they look up and see the Son of Man coming on a white horse with armies following Him. This would be quite an amazing sign.

DETAIL #3 – Christ’s second coming after the Tribulation will be cause the whole world to mourn. **24:30b**

Zechariah 12:10-14 says, “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitters weeping over a firstborn. In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem...the land will mourn, every family by itself...”

Revelation 1:7 says, “Behold He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him.”...

The mourning will be due to two things: 1) Mourning due to the realization that the world did wrong in killing Jesus Christ; 2) Mourning due to the fact that the world realizes judgment has come.

DETAIL #4 – Christ’s second coming after the Tribulation will be seen by the whole world.

24:30c

Daniel 7:13-14 says, “I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him.”

DETAIL #5 – Christ’s second coming after the Tribulation will feature Him sending forth His`
angels to gather His elect from one end of the sky to the other. **24:31**

There is no question that angels will play a significant role at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

II Thess. 1:7-8 says that when Christ is revealed from heaven, there will also be revealed with Him mighty angels.

Matthew 13:41-42 says that angels will be sent by the Son of Man to gather out of His kingdom all those who are stumbling blocks, who commit lawlessness and will throw them into the Lake of Fire.

Matthew 13:49 says that angels will take out the wicked from among the righteous.

The “elect” more than likely refers to Israel, God’s elect nation. Matthew stresses the elect are gathered from the sky. Daniel stresses the elected are raised from the dead (Dan. 12:2-3, 13). Mark stresses the elect are gathered from the earth (Mark 13:27).

What I understand this to mean is that Jesus will gather all Jewish believers from all ages to enter the kingdom; Jewish believers from the O.T. economy, N.T. Church Age and the Tribulation. He will gather them all to receive the kingdom.

The prophet Joel made a wonderful prediction of what would happen after the Tribulation; “The mountains will drip with sweet wine and the hills will flow with milk and all the brooks of Judah will flow with water and a spring will go out from the house of the LORD...But Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem for all generations and I will avenge their blood which I have not avenged, for the LORD dwells in Zion” (Joel 3:18, 20-21).

The prophet Amos said, “Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. I will also plant them on their land and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them, says the LORD your God” (Amos 9:14-15).