

The Second Coming of Christ

Sermon 70 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 24:29-36

Review:

1. Those Things that Belong to 70 AD and the Future 24:3-14
2. Those things that Belong to the 1st Century & 70AD -- 24:15-28

I. The Second Coming -- Matthew 24:29-31

A. Immediately (*eutheOs*) v. 29a

Objection: verse 29 says “immediately”.

How can this refer to the Second Coming since He still has not come?

This word can mean – within seconds, minutes, hours or days.

It also might be “the next thing” when compared to “the former thing”.

It doesn't necessarily carry a time reference. Often it carries a sequence reference.

Page 636 Greek Lexicon of the NT – Louw and Nida “a point of time immediately subsequent to a previous point of time (the actual interval of time differs appreciably depending on the nature of the events and the manner in which the sequence is interpreted by the writer) – immediately, right away, then”

B. After the Tribulation of those Days v. 29b

The next thing Christ takes us to is His Second Coming.

This is distinguished from v. 15-28 – the horror of God's judgment.

John 16:33 -- These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have **tribulation** (trouble); but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

- 1) Tribulation is a promise – we will experience it -- because we are not of this world.
- 2) But – there is a greater promise to cheer us – “I have overcome the world!”

Tribulation = *thilipsis* (*translated many ways*) – A very common word for trouble, trials, persecution, extreme difficulty distress, hardship, translated in different ways in English.

Acts 11:19 -- Now those who were scattered after the **persecution** that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia...

Maurice Roberts observes:

“Faith in Jesus as Savior involves the willingness to suffer in this life.

We gratefully endure all the miseries of the life of faith during this present age out of a desire to have Christ forever when our present trials will be over.”

C. Signs in the Heavens v. 29c

1. This idea of the sun being darkened occurs a few times in the OT.

Joel 2:28-32 – the advent of the NC – as quoted by Peter on the day of Pentecost, and also **Joel 3:14-16**

2. The stars “falling” and the heavens disrupted.

Isaiah 34:1-2a, 4

Come near, you nations, to hear; And heed, you people!

Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, The world and all things that come forth from it.

²For the indignation of the LORD *is* against all nations,

⁴All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll;
All their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine,
And as *fruit* falling from a fig tree.

See Revelation 6:12-17 -- 2 Peter 3:9-13

D. The Sign of the Son of Man 24:30-31

II. A Parable and Exhortation for 70AD – Matthew 24:32-35

The reason we know this is for 70AD and not the second coming is v. 36 “But of that day and hour” contrasted with the sign of the fig tree and the “this generation” of v. 34. Christ is plainly telling them the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem would come during that generation.

III. No One Can know the Exact Timing of the Second Coming -- Matt. 24:36, 42; 25:13

IV. The “Nearness” of the Second Coming

A. How can we say the coming of the Lord is “near”? **Rev. 22:7, 20**

B. Nearness from the Perspective of Importance. **Romans 13:11**

C. Nearness from the perspective of the Lord. **2 Peter 3:8**

D. Two Results of Christ’s Return

Eternal Redemption

Eternal Destruction