

Prophecy Sermon #7

Turn your Bibles Matthew 24 and Zechariah – The Olivet Discourse –
Dealing with Prophecy – Written to the Jews

Folks, let me remind you where we have been and where we are going

1. The rapture of the church – when Christ calls His Church to meet Him in the air (I Thes. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:51-58). This can occur at any time. It is imminent – No events must precede it. There are no signs by which anyone can tell it approaches.
2. The leader – this human man – of the 10 kingdoms makes a 7-year agreement with Israel (Dan. 9:26-27). This begins the Tribulation Period.
3. After three-and-one-half years into the Tribulation Period, he (the Antichrist) breaks the peace agreement with Israel (Dan. 9:27). Then comes the Great Tribulation.
4. He moves to Jerusalem and sets himself in the place of God, to be worshipped as God in the temple – the abomination of desolation – and the Jews are told to flee Judea. (2 Thes. 2:3-4; Rev. 13).
5. The Antichrist begins to control the world – through religion and economic means – and forces all people to worship and obey him. The man of sin is on the scene, but the Son of man is coming. Jesus Christ returns to the earth, defeats His enemies at the Battle of Armageddon – is received by the Jews and He establishes His Kingdom on earth. He will reign on earth for 1,000 years.

I've entitled this sermon "The Son of Man Is Coming, Part 2"

Matthew 24:29-35

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Let us pray

You may be seated

The Son of Man is Coming

I. Vs. 29

The Lord's coming to reign will take place at the conclusion – end – of this time of **tribulation**.

Mark carefully the teaching of verse 29. The return of Christ will bring to an end the Great Tribulation.

The terrible signs in nature of verse 29, the sun darkened and the moon beams are gone (the moon is only a reflection of the sun), stars falling. This is mentioned a number of times in the Bible (Acts 2:19, 20) – Peter speaking to the Jews.

Back to Matthew

When Christ comes, the heavenly universe will begin to disintegrate

Notice the **powers of the heavens**, which hold everything in space constant, will be in disarray and dysfunction. The heavenly bodies will careen helter-skelter through space, and all navigation, whether stellar, solar, magnetic, or gyroscopic, will be futile because all stable reference points and uniform natural forces will have ceased to exist or else become unreliable.

All these things are to come after the Tribulation

There have been famines and earthquakes since the beginning of recorded history. But the events of Matthew 24-25 will be unique to the end times in detail, in sequence, in scale, and in extent. Some of the events, such as the disruption of the physical universe . . . will be completely unique.

These things are yet to come.

II. Vs. 30

“Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man . . .” Here, at last, is the direct answer to the question in Matthew 24:3.

. . . the sign is not just His glory; it is Christ Himself, **the Son of Man**, who **will appear in the sky**.

The sun goes dark, the moon is out, stars are flying, the universe is shaking, and Jesus rips open that which we see and comes in on that white horse.

. . . [it] will indeed *be the Son of Man*.

“Son of God” – refers to Divinity; “Son of man” – humanity

This is the same Jesus of the Communion

He is coming in *majesty*? This is the revelation – the revealing of Jesus – when He comes *with His bride* in power and great glory.

He will come with clouds (Rev. 1:7), accompanied by angels (Matt. 25:31), by ten thousands of saints (Jude 14). His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives and cause an earthquake, the mountain dividing in two with a great valley between (Zech. 14:1-4, 8-9). He will utterly destroy the armies attacking Jerusalem at that time by the breath of His mouth and take the reign over the whole earth (Zech. 14:9).

III. Vs. 31

Regather the Jews – why? – they had been scattered by the persecution
Isaiah 11:12 says they will be gathered from the four corners of the earth

This will be the regathering of Israel to the land. God’s promises will be fulfilled. They had been scattered because of the anger of Satan . . . and the abomination of desolation of the Beast (Antichrist).

The miraculous regathering of living Israel to Israel is told in verse 31, “he shall send his angels.” That is, Zionism will not bring the whole nation of Jews back to Israel; the angels of God will gather these chosen people, and bring them back to their own land.

That regathering of Israel is often foretold in the Old Testament and when we speak of the regathering of the Jews, we do not refer to dead Jews. Both Jew and Gentile alike, who die without Christ, are eternally lost and will get no second chance. But living Jews will be brought back to Israel and converted.

This indicates that the Jews, in the midst of the Great Tribulation, will be looking for Jesus Christ, longing for Him. Zechariah 12:10 tells how Jews will receive Jesus when He does appear.

Zechariah 12:9

Zechariah 12:10-11

Zechariah 13:6

When Jesus comes again then . . . (Zech. 13:6). It is not surprising that, even in the tribulation, Jews will begin to know that they have turned down their own Messiah, and multitudes of Jews will at last begin to get their hearts prepared to receive Jesus, because of the heartless persecution of the Antichrist and the incessant danger and trouble. False prophets will arise in those days to deceive the people (vs. 24).

Matthew 24:23-26

Some will urge Jews to go to this place in the desert or to visit secret chambers where cults worship, hoping to find Christ. But they are not to believe it. For when Jesus comes to end the tribulation, to put down the Antichrist, He will come boldly, visibly from Heaven, with the saints and with clouds and with angels. We are told, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him . . ." (Rev. 1:7).

Matthew 24

In verse 31, . . . the Lord is here promising that the nation Israel shall be preserved until the consummation of her program at the second advent in spite of the work of the devil to destroy her. The Jews cannot be destroyed – Hitler and Arafat and many others have tried it. But no one will succeed.

. . . there will be a group of Jewish people converted at the conclusion of the Tribulation who will become the parents of the Jewish portion of the millennial population. They will

come from among the Jewish people who survive the Tribulation even though they were unsaved throughout it. When the Lord returns they will be gathered and judged, the rebels . . . to be excluded from the kingdom and those who turn in faith when they see Him to enter the kingdom (Ezek. 20:33-44). Those believing survivors constitute the Israel that will be saved at the Second Coming (Rom. 11:26). But they will not be given resurrection bodies at that time. . . Therefore they can still sin; still populate the earth.

Put into context – Matthew 24:36-40

Be ready; don't wait

Matthew 25:1 – get ready

25:30 – judgment on the Jews

25:31-41 –

IV. Vs. 32

Matthew 24:32

The parable of the fig tree (vs. 32-36) is spoken to show the certainty of Jesus' coming.

. . . the preceding verses would herald the coming of Messiah as certainly as the new shoots on the fig tree heralded the approach of summer.

Now learn this lesson: When the **twigs** of **fig** trees begin to **get tender** and put forth **leaves**, that is a sure sign **summer is** not far away. . . so these signs

(vs. 15 – abomination; vs. 21 – tribulation; vs. 29 – shaking of universe)

. . . indicated that His coming would follow shortly. . . .

V. Vs. 33

Having seen these things, the Jews should know that the return of Jesus Christ is near, even at the door. That door could be flung open by Christ at any moment.

Vs. 34

. . . “this generation” refers to the generation living at the time of the final attack on Jerusalem

Vs. 34 The **generation** (genea) of people living in that future day will see the completion of all the events. Jesus was not referring to the generation listening to Him.

Vs. 35 – This prophecy is as good as My word – Jesus said – which will endure forever. The Bible is forever – mark it down – I’m coming.

Invitation

Let’s stand for closing invitation

We are on a collision course with destiny. Soon and very soon the King will come to take His Church out of here and then the 7-year Tribulation Period will follow on His heels.

We cannot afford to be ignorant or indifferent.

The purpose of prophecy is not to entertain the curious, but to encourage the saints.

If the Rapture took place today –

Would you go? Are you sure?

Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ?

Believers, are we living in the reality of the Rapture?

Are we decreasing so that He may increase?

Are we transforming to be like Him or conforming to this world?

Are we really giving ourselves to the King’s work?

Jesus is coming again!

Outcome: The King is coming in wrath and judgment.

The Jews (Israel) are different than the Church.

Realization of how end-time events are put together.