

Matthew 24:22-31 When the King Returns

Tonight we are looking at what will be the greatest event in Human History!

A)THE 2ND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE EARTH!

B)The prophet Joel described it as a great and terrible day! – How can it be both?

Bb)Great for those who are with Jesus –

1)great for those who come to Christ during the Tribulation time

C)Great for the Nation of Israel – as they are recused by their King from the ANTICHRIST

D)But It will be a terrible day for The Antichrist and all of those who follow him on Planet earth!

We have noted in our previous studies here in Matthew 24 that after the rapture of the Church – the world is going to go through a time known as the Tribulation

A)The tribulation period is a period of seven years where God is going to pour out his wrath on a world that has rejected his son.

B)During that time a world leader is going to emerge on the scene: He is going to have answers to the worlds problems

C)And Through Satan's influence he is going to gain mass appeal

1)Set up a one world govt- A one world monetary system – Cashless society – One world religion.

We also noted that the tribulation is divided into two 3 & 1/2 year periods

A)The First 3 & 1/2 yrs Antichrist is at peace with Israel – Helps them rebuild their temple -

B)the 2nd 3 & 1/2 yrs – He is a war with ISRAEL

C)The TRIGGER POINT – We looked at last week –V. 15 The abomination of Desolation –

1)Antichrist goes into the REBUILT TEMPLE – declares himself to be worshipped as God

D)The Jews reject him and he turns on them with

a vengeance – described in V.21-22

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. (Unlike nothing the world has ever experienced before)²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Think about that statement unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved - Idea is no one will survive.

A)The word Shortened that is used here in the Greek is interesting – it means to be stopped instantly.

B)At the end of 1,260 days – the misery, agony of the tribulation – abruptly stops

1)It is stopped by the GLORIOUS EVENT we are looking at tonight

C)The 2nd coming of our Lord to planet earth!

Question: Who are the elect in V. 22 – For the sake of the elect?

A)The Church? – Yes the church is called the Elect in scripture- Is this the church?

B)No – Not appointed unto Wrath –

1)Those who say yes- We are here going through the great Tribulation!

C)No need for a Rapture – if it happens at the end – Reverse Bungee Jump

D)The Bible is clear we are not here.

So who are the elect?

A)Three groups revered to as the elect in Scripture: In passages such as Isaiah 45:4; 65:9; and Romans 11:28, God specifically calls Israel "His elect."

B)Then there are those who come to faith in Christ – during the tribulation time

1)Those who refuse to take the mark of the beast – those who resist him –

C)They also could be the elect mentioned here.

D)I personally believe it is a combination of the tribulation believers and those from the nation of Israel.

I want to use 6 words to Describe the events we are going to look at tonight.

A)#1 Sequence: There is a sequence of events leading up to the 2nd coming

B)From the time of the Abomination of Desolation – the Jews are told to flee get out of dodge – Israel – go and hide

C)It is a hectic time and a vulnerable time: Their eyes are opened – Antichrist is not the messiah –
1)Flee – pray not wonder of the Sabbath

²³ “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe *it*.

VUNELRABLE -

²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

²⁶ “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; *or* ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe *it*.

Don’t believe it – Why?

27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

A)His coming will be sudden, public, visible, universal and glorious –

Revelation 1:7 ⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him

B)Jehovah Witnesses –Claim that Jesus already came – 1914 – Hiding out in New York City - really – not what my Bible says

28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

This is a vivid and powerful description: The word eagles here is better translated Vultures.

A) Where you find a carcass, you have a vulture going in and tearing into that carcass.

B)And that’s exactly what the picture is.

1)Christ is going to come as it were a vulture to a dead carcass.

C)The world is going to be so corrupt, so sinfully corrupt,

1)that it lies there as a wretched, sinful, corrupt, decaying carcass

D)To which the Lord will come in judgment to tear and rip and shred that carcass to pieces. **Very vivid picture.**

So here is the sequence – all hell is breaking loose on planet earth – God’s wrath is being poured out –

A)The Antichrist is on the war path – against the Jews who reject him and tribulation believers who deny him

B)Then here is the sudden trigger point that stops it all

²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

C)The first word is Sequence – the 2ND is SET UP – Notice how the Lord sets this up

^{V.29} the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

In other words there are some cataclysmic events that happen in the Solar system

A)The Sun is darkened – the moon goes dark too – Meteor showers – Stars falling everywhere.

B)Darkness that is so dark – can’t see your hand in front of your face

Luke describes it this way: ²⁵ “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. – Luke 21:25,26

This is not like our recent solar eclipse where people are out taking selfies –

A) This is horrific and scary –

B) The Bible tells us in Hebrews Chapter 1 that the Lord is the one who upholds the earth by His word

C) Well here it seems that he lets go – gravity and everything else is affected – the planet goes in distress – Sea – title Waves

D) Matthew and Luke describe it as the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

E) Men's hearts are failing: - they stop breathing – All over the planet people are dropping dead from heart attacks

1) that is how horrific this is going to be.

So this is the set up - cataclysmic events in the Sky!

A) 3RD WORD – SIGN. – Remember back in V. 3 – what will be the Sign of your coming of the age?

B) Jesus has talked about Signs – but it is at this point he talks about THE SIGN

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven,

C) The Earth is pitch black – Then He appears – the Sign I believe is His blazing infinite and unveiled glory!

D) The World sees him notice how Jesus describes it and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Notice the description John gives us in Revelation 1 of Jesus in his glory ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and

His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ *I am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. Revelation 1:12-18

Then again in Revelation 19 at the 2nd coming

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS Revelation 19:11-16

The whole world is lit up by His presence – Blinding!

A) Unveiled majesty – “How brilliant is it?”

B) Well, in Revelation 21verse 23, Revelation 22 verse 5, it tells us that in the eternal city of Jerusalem,

1) There is no need for a Sun – the Glory of Jesus lights the world

C) His name – THE WORD OF GOD

2 Thess. 2:8 *Declares that they will be consumed by the WORD of his mouth, and destroyed by the brightness of his coming:*

D) WE ARE WITH HIM!!

When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Colossians 3:4

The 4th word is Strength V.30 – He comes with power and great glory!

A) Power is strength – The world will not only see his GLORY –but the world is going to see his Power! HIS STRENGTH

B)THE BATTLE OF ARMAGGEDON

Revelation 19:17-21

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Psalm 2:1-2 gives us insight into this scene

Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together **Against the LORD** and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

C) Man has been trying forever to throw off the authority of God FROM DAY 1

1)AND Revelation 19 is the FINAL attempt

D) The armies of the world THAT could do nothing but fight against one another are now found **ALIGNED** with one another **against God**

E)**CRAZY: The greatest moment of unity in the history of the world will occur as a result of hatred against God**

JESUS COMES IN GREAT STRENGTH

A)I mean can you imagine the power to just set the whole universe reeling,

B)to set the whole earth rocking on its axis.

1)He has power over the whole created universe.

C)He has power over Satan. He has power over demons.

1)He has power to slaughter all the ungodly Christ-rejecting unbelievers worldwide.

Psa. 2:4, 5 Continues *He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:*

A) **They gather come together like some TOUGH GUY – we will show you**

B)Like a heavy wait fight – one punch & it is over – **KNOCK OUT !!!!!**

C))Jesus will **LAUGH** at them & then speak will destroy them with His Word

He has power to establish His kingdom.

A)This is power without equal. Great power, great power. No power like it.

B)Isaiah calls it in chapter 63 the day of vengeance of our God when He treads out the winepress of His wrath.

C)And His power is so great that the things that have been devastated in the chaos of blackness

1)and the chaos of the earth immediately are made right.

D)A Lion King Moment – Simba – held up

5th Word is sorrow:

A)There is sorrow – His enemies – realize they are toast

B)There is also Sorrow amongst the Jews – Zechariah 12:10

¹⁰ "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. ¹¹ In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. ¹² And the land shall mourn, every family by itself:

Finally the last word – Send:

31 And He will send His angels with a **great sound of a trumpet**, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

And by the sound of a trumpet, the familiar Jewish means of calling a convocation, calling an assembly,

A)the trumpet is blown, the angels, the messengers of God, go and they gather together His elect,

B)the redeemed who have been scattered all over the world

C)Those influenced by the 144,000

1)The two witnesses – the Angels who preach

And they're still all over the earth, many of them still hiding from the terrors of the antichrist,

A)and the angels go all over the world to gather them from the four winds, similar to our expression “from the four corners of the world,”

B)north, east, south and west, and gather them in from one end of heaven to the other.

C)Another way of saying from everywhere – nobody is left out.

D)The Lord sends the angels to collect all of His select, His select elect for His eternal kingdom.

The Millennium begins –

Janitor at the Seminary – JESUS WINS

WE HAVE WORK TO DO IN THE MEANTIME