

The Second Coming Of Jesus Christ Matthew 24:27-31

The world as we know it will end with the glorious coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth from heaven. It is what is known as the Second Coming; the second time the Lord comes to earth. This isn't referring to the Rapture, the Lord's coming for His church to meet Him in the air, but rather His Second Coming to earth to establish the 1000-year earthly kingdom.

Matthew 24:27-29 - *For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. 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.*

Matthew 24:30-31 - *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. 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.*

1. The sequence of events of the Lord's return.

a. Jesus will return _____ the seven-year tribulation.

Matthew 24:29 - *Immediately after the tribulation of those days...*

Those days in verse 29 that Jesus is referring to is the abomination of desolation which begins the great tribulation event He mentions in Matthew 24:15. His return follows along with Revelation 19:11-16, which we will see as we move in this study.

b. Jesus' return will be _____ to all worldwide.

Matthew 24:27 - *For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Sudden, unexpected, public, visible, universal, and glorious.

Revelation 1:7 - *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

At the Second Coming every one will see the Lord Jesus returning, but during the Rapture, only the saved will see Him.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - *...and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Notice what people see and hear in the events of John 12:28-30 and Acts 22:6-9, which indicates that the lost at the Rapture may hear something, but not what we hear, and they may not see what we see.

Revelation 19:11-16 - *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... And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses... And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Matthew 25:31 - *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

Philippians 2:10-11 - *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

All lost, all saved, Satan, all demons, all angels, will bow and declare openly that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God.

Zechariah 12:10-11 - *Then I will pour out on the house of David and on the people of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and prayer, and they will look on Me, the One they have pierced. They will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn son. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great...*

The Jews will see Him coming down and standing again on the Mount of Olives and they will mourn over their sin and rejection. They will repent of their rejection and He will wipe away their sin as Romans 11:26 tells us.

Romans 11:26 - *And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written, 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.'*

c. Jesus' return will _____ the battle of Armageddon.

There are 21 different judgments from the Lord on lost humanity during the Tribulation Period. There are the 7 seal judgments, that we studied in detail. Then, overlapping the seal judgments some, are the 7 trumpet judgments (Revelation 8-9 and 11:15-19). Then, overlapping both the seal and the trumpet judgments some, are the 7 bowl judgments (Revelation 16).

The sixth bowl judgment has no specific action taken on the lost of the world as this time, as the others do, but it prepares the way for what will happen to the lost people in the Antichrist's armies at the battle of Armageddon.

Revelation 16:12 - *Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.*

The Euphrates River is called *great* because of the amount of water that flows for about 1800 miles before reaching the Persian Gulf. You may remember that the lush and beautiful Garden of Eden was near this river.

The following verses concerning the sixth bowl judgment are parenthetical verses that describe why the Euphrates was dried up in verse 12,

Revelation 16:13-16 - *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), out of the mouth of the beast (the Antichrist), and out of the mouth of the false prophet (the Roman pope). For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty... And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.*

The Euphrates River appears twice in the book of Revelation, and each time it is associated with demons.

The word *Armageddon* comes from the Hebrew word *Har-Magedone*, which means "Mount Megiddo." The location is the hill country some sixty (60) miles north of Jerusalem. Throughout history, armies have fought countless battles in that valley.

The plain of Megiddo, or Armageddon, was famous for two great victories in Israel's history: 1) Barak's victory over the Canaanites (Judges 4:15) and 2) Gideon's victory over the Midianites (Judges 7). Armageddon was also the site of two great tragedies: 1) the death of Saul and his sons (1 Samuel 31:8) and 2) the death of King Josiah (2 Kings 23:29–30; 2 Chronicles 35:22).

Revelation 17:12-14 - *And the ten horns (Revelation 13:1 – the Antichrist and his kings) which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but receive authority as kings one hour (a reference to a short-lived rule), along with the beast. These have one mind, and they shall give up their power and authority to the beast (Antichrist). These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.*

Revelation 19:13, 15 – *He (Jesus) was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God...And from His mouth proceeds a sharp sword (the Word of God) with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of Almighty God.*

Don't miss how the armies of the Antichrist are killed.

Revelation 19:21 - *And the rest (those other than Antichrist and False Prophet who were cast alive into the lake of fire – Revelation 19:20) were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse.*

The resulting instantaneous slaughter of the Antichrist's armies will be so great, that Revelation 14:20 describes the amount of blood from the deaths. That's why the following verses are so descriptive,

Revelation 19:17-18 - *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, 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.'*

Revelation 19:21 - *... And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

Matthew 24:28 - *For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles (vultures) will be gathered together.*

2. The _____ in the sky.

Matthew 24:29-30 - *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man 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.*

It also says at the end of verse 30, that He will come on *the clouds of heaven*, just as we are told in Acts 1:8-11 that He'll come. He went in the clouds, He'll come in the clouds. Daniel 13 says He will come with the clouds of heaven. Revelation 1:7 says He comes on the clouds of heaven.

Psalms 104:1-3 - *...He wraps Himself in light as with a garment; He stretches out the heavens like a tent, laying the beams of His chambers in the waters above, making the clouds His chariot, walking on the wings of the wind.*

3. The _____ of the Lord.

Matthew 24:30 - *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man 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.*

Power without equal! Omnipotent – all power! Think of all that will take place when Jesus returns to earth because of His power.

Zechariah 14:4-5 – *And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south... Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with Him (Revelation 19:14).*

Zechariah 14:8 - *And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur.*

When the Lord comes, He splits the Mount of Olives, creates a valley, the Mediterranean empties into the desert, and in summer and winter there's water all through the desert. And since the Dead Sea area is so low, it will fill up and all that area will have plenty of water for irrigation. The picture, there'll never be a desert again beginning with the Millennial kingdom. Great power!

4. The saved from the Tribulation gathered.

Matthew 24:31 - *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.*

Four winds – four corners...no Tribulation saint's body is left out. Just as with the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16), the angels with a great shofar blast will call a gathering of all the redeemed of the Tribulation. Their souls and spirits will now be joined to their new glorified body, just as we have already received at that time.

Revelation 20:4 - *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

Revelation 20:5-6 - *But the rest of the dead (the lost who have died) did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection (ours and the Tribulation saints. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

This gathering is only for the saved out of the Tribulation. Remember the Old Testament saints have already been resurrected after Jesus came of the grave (Matthew 27:51-53) and are in heaven. The church age redeemed have already been resurrected or raptured out prior to the Tribulation (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) and we and the Old Testament saints come back with the Lord when He returns (Revelation 19:11-16).