

JESUS WILL RETURN IN THE PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE

IN MATTHEW 24:30, JESUS TALKS ABOUT “THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN”. THE SUN GOING DARK AND THE MOON TURNING TO BLOOD, ETC, ARE NOT IN THEMSELVES THIS SIGN. I BELIEVE WHEN JESUS RETURNS, IT WILL NOT BE IN A WAY MOST CHRISTIANS OR JEWS ARE NOW PICTURING.

I. THE PILLAR

- A. [Exodus 13:21-22, Exodus 14:19-20](#)
 - 1) the pillar of cloud (and the fire by night) that led Israel throughout the exodus was the angel of the Lord, a manifestation of God Himself
- B. [Exodus 14:24](#)
 - 1) the Lord is described as being within the cloud itself
- C. [Exodus 19:16-20](#)
 - 1) all the imagery of Sinai is applied to the return of Jesus; His return is the greatest theophany
 - 2) as terrifying as they were, the events at Sinai are intended to be understood as a faint foreshadow of the greater glory that is to come: Jesus' return
- D. [Exodus 23:20-23](#)
 - 1) this is similar to what God said when He spoke in [Luke 9:35](#)
 - 2) the pillar of cloud and fire was much more than just a pillar; it was the angel of the Lord Himself
- E. [Exodus 33:7-11](#)
 - 1) what a glorious scene
 - 2) how did a Jew know that God's Presence was with them? **When the pillar showed up**
 - a) [1 Kings 8:10-11](#)

II. THE CLOUD RIDER

- A. [Deuteronomy 33:26, Psalm 68:4](#)
 - 1) the exodus cloud was in the very specific form of a pillar; and when Scripture refers to the Cloud Rider, it is referring to the One who's riding *in* the pillar of cloud
- B. [Daniel 7:13-14](#)
 - 1) when Jesus returns, He is the Cloud Rider
- C. [Acts 1:9-12](#)
 - 1) based on this passage, the broader Christian vision of Jesus' return is that it will be a sunny day with cumulus clouds. However, Jesus describes His return differently

MARANATHA GLOBAL BIBLE STUDY
THE RETURN OF JESUS // JOEL RICHARDSON

III. JESUS DESCRIBES HIS RETURN

- A. [Matthew 24:29-31](#)
 - 1) after the cosmic signs, the sign of the Son of Man will appear
 - 2) Jesus is quoting from [Zechariah 12](#)
 - a) in the original context of the passage, it is talking about the inhabitants of Jerusalem
 - 3) this is the same language Paul and other Biblical writers use when discussing the rapture
- B. [Revelation 1:7](#)
 - 1) again, when it says Jesus is coming with the clouds, it is referring to [Daniel 7](#); and when it says all the tribes will see Him, it is referring to [Zechariah 12](#)
 - a) those are the two primary texts cited by Jesus to refer to His return
- C. [Matthew 24:29-31](#), [Mark 13:24-27](#), [Luke 21:25-28](#)
 - 1) all these accounts reference Jesus, the Son of Man, “coming in the clouds” or “a cloud”
- D. There is something distinctly Jewish about Jesus’ return that Jews will recognize, so what is it? I submit to you that it will be Jesus returning in the pillar of cloud which causes the Jews to recognize Him as the Messiah.