



Let No One Alarm You

Matthew 24:30 and 26:63-66

Chances are very high that all of us grew up hearing one thing to be true without challenging what we've heard. Some of these things might include, for example:

- *Lighting never strikes the same place twice.*
- *We only use about 10% of our brains.*
- *Forgiving means forgetting.*
- *Faith means never doubting.*

Our hope for the future is that Jesus is coming again BUT this is not what is referred to here [flexibility of language: "flesh].

Verse 30a: The Sign of Jesus' coming.

- 1) "Before sunset, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor were seen running about among the clouds and surrounding cities." Josephus, *War*, 6.296-299
 - 2) "In the sky appeared a vision of armies in conflict, of glittering armor. A sudden lightning flash from the clouds lit up the Temple. The doors of the shrine suddenly opened and a superhuman voice was heard, declaring that the gods were departing. Tacitus, *Histories*, 5.13
 - 3) "For as lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." Matthew 24:27
- Early Christian writers also interpreted these signs as the sign of our LORD's judgement on the city that crucified their Messiah (Eusebius, Lactantius, Sulpicius Severus, Jerome, Ambrose, etc.).

Verse 30b: The Significance of Jesus' coming.

Every sign has a significance, a reality greater than itself.

- 1) The sign seen in the heavens at Jesus birth (“his star”) had earthly significance (“he who is born king of the Jews) [Matthew 2].
- 2) The sign seen in the heavens at Jesus’ first century coming (armies in the sky) had earthly significance of the armies that would destroy Jerusalem and temple for rejecting their King.
- 3) The language of the Son of Man “coming on the clouds of heaven” is used in the Hebrew Scriptures of God coming in judgment (Is. 19:1, Dan. 7:13, Psalm 118, Ezek. 30:3, Zeph. 1:15).
- 4) This is why all the tribes of the land (Greek gh, ge) would mourn!

And this ties in with the most quoted/alluded to verse in the NT:

The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”
Psalm 110:1

Matthew 26:63-66:

- Like Matthew 24, in answering the high priest Jesus states that his coming would be something seen by those in the first century (“you [pl.] will see.” Notice again the tie in with Psalm 110:1!
- Psalm 110:1 was the theme of the earliest preaching of the Apostles (Acts 2:32-40)!

In the face of death, Jesus knew his death would lead to being seated at God’s right hand! Because of his death, so too our death is not final but leads to the Presence of the Lord! Will you rejoice in this hope?