The Gospel of MATHEW

Astonishing Promises, Astonishing Fulfillment



Natural & Political Upheaval

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Life for Christ Followers Will Include Suffering

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Tribulation is here & now

Jesus' Sermon Is A Call To Steadfast Trust In Him

- 29 "Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'
- 30 "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they 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 loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. *ESV*

Genesis 1:

A. earth in chaos

- B. all is dark sun, moon, & stars not yet established in creation
 - C. Spirit of God at work bringing order from chaos

 D. & from this bursts forth spectacular light & creation

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Jesus' return:

- A. humanity in chaos
 - B. all is dark sun, moon, & stars snuffed out in anticipation of new creation
 - C. Jesus at work bringing order from chaos

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Revelation 21: And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb (Jesus). The nations will walk by its light...

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Zechariah 12:10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

The Life Of The Christ Follower is a Combination of Faithful Functioning & Alert Anticipation

36"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left 42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. ESV

The Great Hope Of The Church Is Not The Rapture - But The Return Of Jesus

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1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

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<u>Matthew 24:31</u>

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Do you want a sign of assurance? Look at the resurrection