



CAPITOL COMMISSION

The King's Perfect Prediction: The End

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Matthew 24:29-35 *“But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give her light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And 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 trumpet, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one extremity of heaven to the other. But from the fig tree learn the parable: when its branch already becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that He is near, upon the doors. Amen I say to you, this generation will not possibly pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not possibly pass away”*

“WITH THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (V.15) SATAN WILL INAUGURATE THE GREAT TRIBULATION, DESECRATING THE RESTORED TEMPLE AND SLAUGHTERING EVERY JEW AND CHRISTIAN HE CAN LAY HANDS ON.” JOHN MACARTHUR

How will these catastrophic events effect the earth and those living in it? What is the sign of the Son of Man? Who is Jesus most concerned about when He comes? How are we to interpret the fig tree? Who is being referred to by “this generation?” What is more real than anything we can see, feel, taste, touch, hear or smell?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 17: MATTHEW 24:36-51 THE KING'S PERFECT PREDICTION: READY OR NOT
- FEBRUARY 24: MATTHEW 24:25:1-13 THE KING'S PERFECT PREDICTION: THE UNPREPARED

As the disciples listened to Jesus on the Mount of Olives, overlooking the Temple Mount and hearing about the end of their capitol as well as the end of the world, they may have remembered that they were now

much closer in proximity to the fig tree they had seen that morning. On Monday, Jesus had found it with plenty of leaves, but not fruit. That very Tuesday morning Jesus' only destructive miracle was performed on it to remind His disciples of the necessity and power of prayer (Mt. 21:18-22). Before He left the Temple Mount that very last time Jesus had said, “*You shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’*” (Mt. 23:39). As Jesus answered the disciples questions regarding the desolation of their capitol, sign of His coming and the end of the age, they must have been awestruck by the precision and authority of His words. Probably none of the disciples had even considered Daniel and his prediction of the Abomination of Desolation until Jesus mentioned it. Probably no one had added up the “*seven weeks and sixty-two weeks*” “*until Messiah the Prince*” (Dan. 9:25). It may not have been till much later that the calculation of (69 weeks or 69x7=483 with each day representing a year) the precise time of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on Sunday was made.¹ Jesus had already made His disciples aware that “*Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself, and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary*” (Dan. 9:26). Jesus had used five imperatives to demonstrate the importance of immediate flight into the mountains once the “*Abomination of Desolation*” was committed and had said the days would be shortened for survival.

“FOR THEN THERE WILL BE A GREAT TRIBULATION, SUCH AS HAS NOT OCCURRED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD UNTIL NOW, NOR EVER SHALL.” MATTHEW 24:21

I. THE CELESTIAL CHAOS MT. 24:29

Jesus responds “*immediately*” to the destruction of the Antichrist in his murderous destruction. Suddenly the celestial bodies of our solar system will be altered. “*The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give her light,*

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30AM – INTERCESSORY PRAYER – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY @ 7:00AM – BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY @ 12:00NOON – BIBLE STUDY – WYTESTONE PLAZA AT 8TH & MAIN 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

The King's Perfect Prediction: Final Signs

and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” The Book of Revelation describes it best: *“I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held,”* and they are asking God how long He will allow such, *“and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became as black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth as a fig drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place”* (Rev. 6:9, 11-14). Suddenly the global war reverses and the persecutors say to the rocks and mountains, *“Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits upon the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come and who is able to stand?”* (Rev. 6:16-17) All this occurs at the very beginning of the 3 ½ years of *“Great Tribulation”* described in Revelation.

“THERE WAS AN ARK FOR NOAH, IN THE DAY OF THE FLOOD; THERE WAS A ZOAR FOR LOT, WHEN SODOM WAS DESTROYED; THERE SHALL BE A HIDING-PLACE FOR ALL BELIEVERS IN JESUS, WHEN THE WRATH OF GOD AT LAST BURSTS UPON THIS WICKED WORLD.”

J. C. RYLE

II. THE COMING KING MT. 24:30-33

The persecutors know that this is *“the wrath of the Lamb”* because suddenly Jesus Christ bursts upon the chaotic scene and rescues His own. *“And 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 trumpet, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one*

extremity of heaven to the other” (Mt. 24:30-31). Paul comforted the Thessalonian believers who feared they had missed the coming of Christ. *“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that day will not come unless a falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition”* (2 Thes. 2:3). Paul told the Corinthians, *“We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed”* (1 Cor. 15:51-52). The first and primary concern of Jesus Christ as He returns as King will be the security of *“His elect.”* His parable of the fig tree reminds them to be watching!

**“EAST AND WEST, AND SOUTH AND NORTH,
SPEEDS EACH GLORIOUS ANGEL FORTH,
GATHERING IN WITH GLITTERING WING
ZION'S SAINTS TO ZION'S KING.”**
C. H. SPURGEON

III. THE CLIMAX OF CERTIANTY MT.24:34-35

Jesus uses language to anchor their hearts and minds with utmost certainty. *“Amen I say to you”* corresponds to His great statement on the absolute authority of the Scriptures down to the smallest letter and the smallest part of a letter in Matthew 5:18. Then Christ employs the strongest negation available in the original language twice: *“this generation shall not possibly pass away until all these things occur,”* speaking of the final generation who would witness all the things Jesus had warned from in this chapter. And then the affirmation of the validity of Christ's words above the validity of the universe, *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not possibly pass away.”* Thus, everything we can see, hear, feel, smell or taste with our five senses is less valid than the words of Christ! His words are absolute reality!

¹ See Sir Robert Anderson's *The Coming Prince* [Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1954] and Harold Hoehner's *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977].

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Is your life's investment in the things of this world which will soon be destroyed?
- 2) Are you willing to live for Jesus Christ and share His Word with others, no matter what the cost?
- 3) Is your life based on the absolute Word of God?