

Presentation Notes: Session 1:

The Gathering of the Saved – Part 1. (the rapture)

(The Latin for gathering, being caught up is 'raptus'=> hence the use of the word 'rapture' in English)

We Cover:

Matt 24, Mark 13, Luke 17, 21 and others.

The questions:

- What did Jesus say about His 2nd Coming, The Tribulation and Great Tribulation, the Abomination of desolation, the rapture, the day and the hour.
- What do Jesus's parables of the days of Noah & the days of Lot indicate?

Introduction: Three basic concepts to start off with:

- 1) Should all End Time scriptural interpretations of Revelation, Daniel, etc. fully align with what Jesus preached about His own return?
Yes, there is no better primary end-time reference than our Lord prophesying about His own future actions, and His coming as the King of kings. It is THE end-time starting point.
- 2) Does what Jesus said to his disciples also apply to us? Are Jesus' teachings in Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21 relevant to us as well?
(Answer: Mark 13:37) Yes.
- 3) Who are the 'elect' in the New Testament?
Answer: All believers. (1 Pet 1:1-2, Col 3:11-12, Rom 8:33, etc)
Why is this important?
Answer: It's the 'elect' who are gathered (raptured) in Matt 24:29-31, when Jesus comes on the clouds of heaven.

Summary of Matt 24, Mark 13 & Luke 21 with event sequences and similar topics colour-coded:

Matt 24	TRIBULATION									
	SIGNS Deception, Wars, Rumours of wars, False Christs & False Prophets Iniquity abound Love of many cold	Nation against nation Kingdom against kingdom	Famines	Pestilences	Earthquakes diverse places	Persecution Afflicted, kill, hate, offended, betrayal	ABOMINATION of DESOLATION In Judea FLEE	GREAT TRIBULATION Such as was not since beginning of world -> great persecution MARTYRS	AFTER TRIBULATION Sun, moon dark, stars fall, heavens shaken, SON OF MAN COMES IN THE CLOUDS Fig tree	Gathering of elect RAPTURE All of the tribes of the earth will mourn
Mark 13	TRIBULATION									
	SIGNS Deception, Wars, Rumours of wars, False Christs & False Prophets	Nation against nation Kingdom against kingdom	Famines	Troubles	Earthquakes diverse places	Persecution Deliver up, beaten, betrayal, hated	ABOMINATION of DESOLATION In Judea FLEE	AFFLICTION Such as was not since beginning of world -> great persecution Martyrs	AFTER TRIBULATION Sun, moon dark, stars fall, heavens shaken, SON OF MAN COMES IN THE CLOUDS Fig tree	Gathering of elect RAPTURE
Luke 21	UPON THE EARTH DISTRESS OF NATIONS, with perplexity									
	SIGNS Deception, Wars, Rumours of wars, False Christs & False Prophets	Nation against nation Kingdom against kingdom	Famines	Pestilences	Earthquakes diverse places	Persecution Hand on, deliver up, betrayal, put to death, hated	DESOLATION of Jerusalem, Compassion by armies, trodden down by Gentiles In Judea FLEE	GREAT DISTRESS in the land, wrath upon this people	Signs in the sun, in moon, in stars, sea and waves roaring, heavens shaken SON OF MAN COMES IN THE CLOUDS Fig tree	Look up, lift up your heads, your redemption is near RAPTURE Men's heart failing them for fear

Are Matt 24, Mark 13 & Luke 21 parallel passages?

Yes, the same events are recorded, but using different wording. In addition to the abomination of desolation, Luke also adds the desolation of Jerusalem (green highlight) as accompaniment.

A parallel verse-by-verse excel comparison chart is available on request.

Are the Matthew, Mark and Luke end time events sequential?

Answer: Yes, there are regular words indicating a sequence, i.e. after, then, when are used 10x in the passages.

Sequential signs BEFORE Jesus' coming on the clouds:

Sequential (..Then, when, after.. used 10x)

BEFORE Jesus' coming

Matt 24, Mark 13, Luke 21

- Take heed no man deceive you. (Matt 24:4)
- Many saying, I am the Christ. (Matt 24:5)
- Wars and rumours of wars. (v6)
- Beginning of sorrows: (Matt 24:7-8)
 - 'Wars'
 - Famines
 - Pestilences
 - Earthquakes
- Deliver you up, kill you, hate you, beat you, persecute you, betray you, offence. (Matt 24:9-10)
- Before councils, synagogues, rulers for Jesus' name, imprisonment. (Mark 13:9, Luke 21:12)
- Division / betrayal in families (Mark 13:12, Luke 21:16)
- Endure to the end shall be saved. (Matt 24:13)
- Gospel preached in all the world. (Matt 24:14)
- Holy Spirit shall give words to speak. (Mark 13:11)
- False Christs and false prophets, deceive many. (Matt 24:11,24)
- False signs and wonders. (Matt 24:24)
- Iniquity, love of many wax cold. (Matt 24:12)
- See the Abomination of desolation. (Matt 24:15)
- Desolation of Jerusalem. (Luke 21:20-24)
- Great Tribulation never before. (Matt 24:21)
- Days shortened for elect's sake. (Matt 24:22)

Add the signs 'AFTER THE TRIBULATION': (v29-33)

Key verse summarised

Matthew 24:29-31

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS:
(Matt 24:29, Mark 13:24)

Sun shall be darkened (v29)
Moon shall not give her light (v29)
Stars shall fall from heaven (v29)
Powers of heaven shall be shaken (v29)

THEN

Sign of the Son of man appear in heaven (v30)
All the tribes of the earth shall mourn (v30)

See the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory

Angels with a great sound of trumpet. (v31)

They shall gather together His elect -> RAPTURE



Why will “**ALL** the tribes of the earth” mourn? (v30): They can’t miss it. It is it’s like lightning right across the entire sky. They will ALL SEE Jesus’s power and glory, know their time of reckoning is coming and are in distress.

What does **scripture say** about all seeing His Appearance? [G2015 = Greek word reference in brackets]

Matthew 24:27 (Luke 17:24)

**As the lightning from the east to the west,
So shall the coming of the Son be. (v27)**

Rev 1:7	7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him , and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.	G2015 ἐπιφάνεια epiphaneia ep-if-an'-i-ah From G2016; a manifestation, that is, (specifically) the advent of Christ (past or future): - appearing, brightness.
1 Tim 6:14	14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing [G2015] of our Lord Jesus Christ:	G602 ἀποκάλυψις apokalupsis ap-ok-al'-oop-sis From G601; disclosure: - appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation.
2 Tim 4:1	I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing [G2015] and his kingdom;	
2 Tim 4:8	8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing [G2015].	
Tit 2:13	13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing [G2015] of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;	G3700 ὀπτάνομαι, ὀπτομαι optanomai optomai op-tan'-om-ahee, op'-tom-ahee to gaze (that is, with wide open eyes, as at something remarkable);
1 Pet 1:7	7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing [G602] of Jesus Christ:	
Heb 9:28	28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear [G3700] the second time without sin unto salvation.	

**EVERY EYE SHALL
SEE JESUS**

(Clearly not a 'secret
rapture')

Why can we say that the Rapture = Jesus’s Second Coming, in accordance with scripture:
(and the 2nd coming is not Rev 19 or Zech 14)

- 1) The disciples asked Jesus about the sign of His coming (v3). Jesus answered in v27-31 (note the last three verses are each linked by the word ‘And’): ...so shall also **the coming of the Son of man be** [i.e. his 2nd coming]” (v27), ...and they shall see the **Son of man coming** [his 2nd coming] in the clouds(v30)... and in v31: ... they shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds. Jesus clearly links his coming to the rapture. (the gathering of the elect).
- 2) John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will **come again** [his 2nd coming], and **receive you** unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. His coming is when Jesus receives us (gathers us). i.e. the rapture
- 3) 1 Cor 15:22-23 confirms our resurrection (or change to our eternal state) is at his coming:
22 For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ shall all be made alive**. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at his coming** [his 2nd coming]... V52band the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be **changed**.
- 4) 1 Thess 4:15 .. “we which are alive and remain unto the **coming of the Lord** [his 2nd coming]... For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven ... 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”.

- 5) All the 'appearing' verses in the table above show that it is appearing at the manifestation or Revelation of Jesus...i.e. when he appears in the clouds at the rapture.

Hence the second coming is not at the Rev 19 appearing on a White Horse or Zech 14:4 appearing on the Mount of Olives. These are later events after the wrath of God is poured out and is at the timing of Armageddon.

JESUS' SECOND COMING IS WHEN HE COMES IN THE CLOUDS

Matt 24:30 ...and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming **in the clouds** of heaven with power and great glory.

Matt 26:64 ⁶⁴ Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming **in the clouds** of heaven.

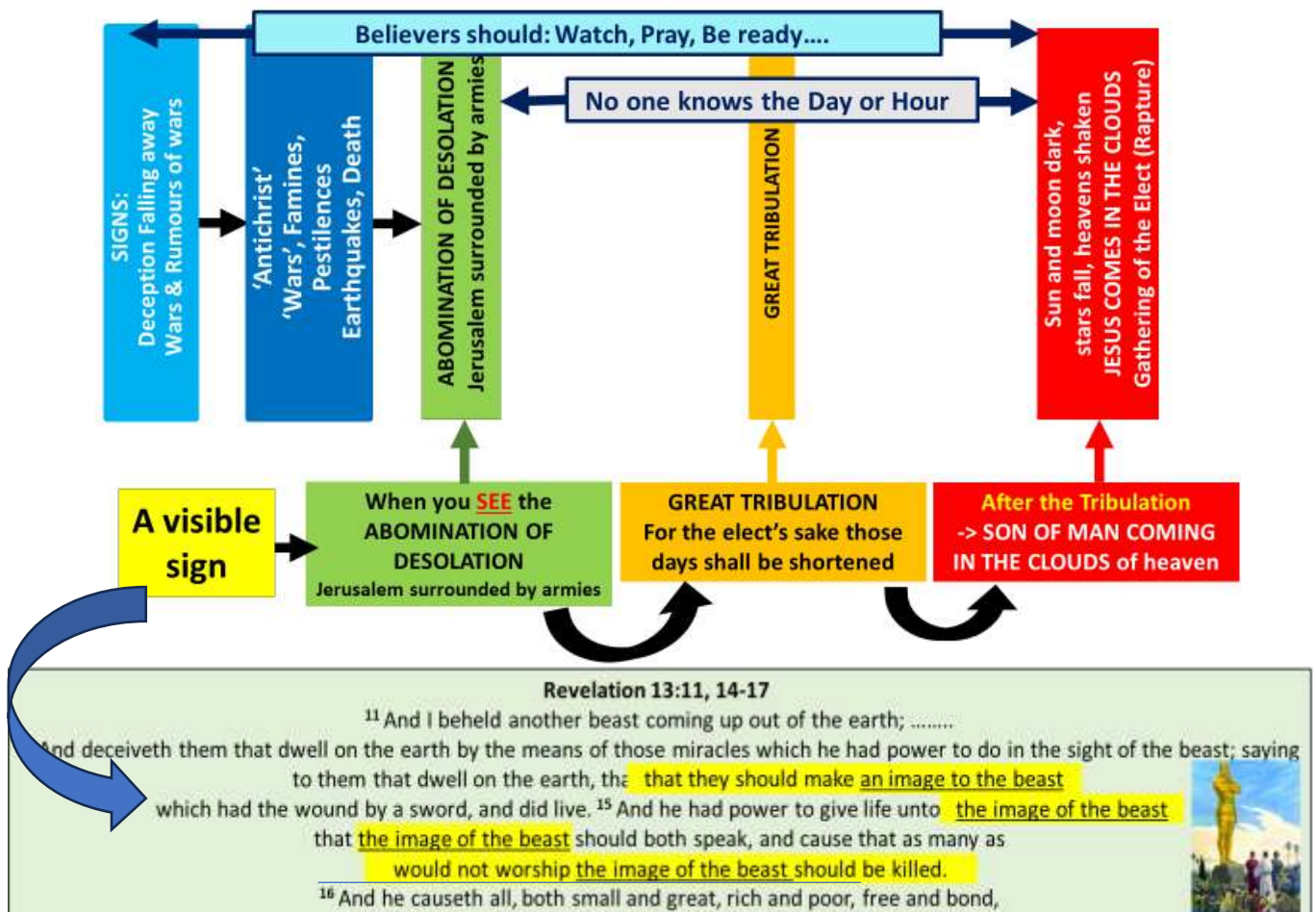
Mark 14:61-62 ⁶¹, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? ⁶² And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming **in the clouds** of heaven.

Rev 1:7 ⁷ **Behold, he cometh with clouds**; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him, Even so, Amen .

Acts 1:9-11 ⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up; and a cloud** received him out of their sight ¹⁰ ¹¹ this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner** as ye have seen him go into heaven.



When is the rapture? No one knows. But the abomination seems to be a visible sign. After the abomination the days leading up to the rapture are shortened. Constructing a Timeline using the summary of events:



Revelation and Daniel indicate that the period between the Abomination and 'the end' (Armageddon after which Jesus establishes His Kingdom) is 1260 days or 3.5 years.

Introducing the 'WRATH OF GOD'

Rom 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*



Rom 2:5 ... *thyself wrath against **the day of wrath** and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*
Eph 5:6 ...*for because of these things comes the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*

The end-time parables in Matt 24 and Luke 21:

Jesus emphasises with these parables that believers are raptured before the wrath of God is poured out on the wicked.

In Matthew 24:38-41, the parable of Noah pictures the rapture before 'God's wrath' is poured out:

The parable of Noah: v38 *For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,*
39 *And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also **the coming of the Son of man** be.*
40 ***Then** shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*
41 *Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

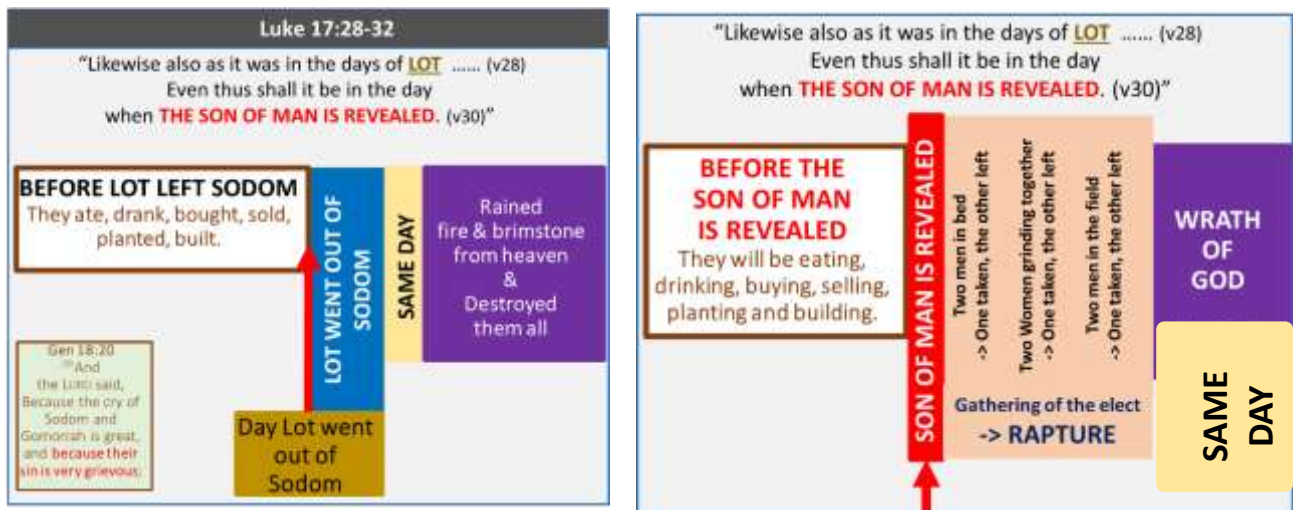


The application of 'one taken and the other left' is a rapture at the coming of the Son:

...Likewise...: A second parable describing the end time rapture

Luke 17: 28 *Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;*²⁹ *But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.*³⁰ *Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed*
And the parable is followed with these verses:

v34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.
 35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
 36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left
 Verse 34 to 36 are clearly three descriptions of the rapture, and when added to the parable:



Hence Jesus teaches:

A PRE-WRATH RAPTURE – 1st the tribulation (caused by man), then the wrath of God.

Believers should: Watch, Wait, Pray, Be ready, Be sober....		
VERSE	FULL VERSE	
Matt 24:42	42 <u>Watch</u> therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.	Wait 1 Cor 1:7 1 Thess 1:10 Look for Phil 3:20 Tit 2:13 Heb 9:28 Take heed Mark 13:33 Be sober 1 Thess 5:6 1 Pet 4:7 Be ready Matt 24:44 Luke 12:40
Matt 24:44	44 Therefore <u>be ye also ready</u> : for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.	
Matt 25:13	13 <u>Watch</u> therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.	
Mark 13:33	33 <u>Take ye heed, watch and pray</u> : for ye know not when the time is.	
Mark 13:34	34 For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to <u>watch</u> .	Pray Mark 13:33 Luke 21:36 1 Pet 4:7
Mark 13:35	35 <u>Watch</u> ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:	
Mark 13:37	37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, <u>Watch</u> .	
Luke 21:36	36 <u>Watch</u> ye therefore, and <u>pray</u> always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.	
Luke 12:37	37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find <u>watching</u> : verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit at meat, and will come forth and serve them.	Watch Matt 24:42 Matt 25:13 Mark 13:33-35, 37 Luke 21:36-37 1 Thess 5:6 1 Pet 4:7, Rev 3:3 Rev 16:15
Luke 12:40	40 <u>Be ye therefore ready also</u> : for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.	
1 Cor 1:7	7 So that ye come behind in no gift; <u>waiting</u> for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ:	
Phil 3:20	20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we <u>wait</u> for the Lord Jesus Christ:	
1 Thess 1:10	10 And to <u>wait</u> for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.	Watch
1 Thess 5:6	6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us <u>watch</u> and be sober, putting on the breastplate of the Lord Jesus Christ;	
Tit 2:13	13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ;	
Heb 9:28	28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto the second time he shall appear without sin unto save them.	
1 Pet 4:7	7 But the end of all things is at hand: <u>be ye therefore sober</u> and <u>pray</u> continually.	
Rev 3:3	Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and keep, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not <u>watch</u> , I will come on thee, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.	
Rev 16:15	Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that <u>watcheth</u> , and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.	

TAKE HEED that **this day** come upon you
unawares.....because of
the cares of this life. Luke 21:34-35

As a snare shall it come on **ALL** them that
dwell on the **WHOLE EARTH!**

The time of trouble comes as a snare:

↓ **"FOR THEN**

shall be
GREAT TRIBULATION,
such as was not since the beginning of the world
to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (v21)

For the **elect's** sake
those days shall be shortened. (v22)

Dan 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

BUT:

Luke 21:36

Watch ye therefore, and pray always,
that ye may be accounted worthy
to escape **[G1628]**
all these things that shall come to pass,
and to stand before the Son of man.

Summary of Signs Before:

TRIBULATION	Deception False prophets Persecution	BEFORE JESUS' COMING: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deception• False Christs & false prophets• 'I am Christ' -> Antichrist• Persecution• 'Wars'• Famines• Pestilences• Death
	Antichrist 'Wars' Famines Death	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEE the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (Matt 24:15)• SEE JERUSALEM SURROUNDED BY ARMIES (Luke 21:20)
	MARTYRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GREAT TRIBULATION (Matt 24:21)• Persecution / Martyrs• Days will be shortened for the elect's sake

Summary of signs 'AFTER THE TRIBULATION': (v29-33)

AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS (Matt 24:29, Mark 13:24)	
JESUS' COMING Sun, moon, stars, heaven shaken	AT JESUS' COMING (Matt 24:29-32): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sun darkened, Moon not give its light, Stars fall from heaven, powers of heaven shaken• Jesus appearing in heaven, coming in the clouds.• Angels, Trumpet sound
ELECT GATHERED	Gathering of the elect -> RAPTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fig tree.