

## SESSION 2 - Handout

### THE GATHERING OF THE SAVED (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 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, The Tribulation and Great Tribulation, the Abomination of desolation, the rapture, the day and the hour?
- Jesus commands us to be watching. What are the signs we are to watch for?
- What do Jesus' parables of the days of Noah & the days of Lot indicate?

#### **Matthew 24: 3 – 14;** Signs of the end.

The disciples asked Jesus 3 questions on the evening after they had heard Jesus' words, that the temple would be destroyed, with not one stone left on another. The future destruction of the temple, being the centre of Jewish culture, would have puzzled and concerned them immensely. They ask:

**Matt 24:3**

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying,  
Tell us, when shall these things be? ← **Question 1:**  
and what shall be **the sign of thy coming,** ← **Question 2:**  
and of the end of the world? ← **Question 3:**

Jesus responds firstly by warning them about deception. The primary danger in the end times was going to be deception.

He answers: "Take heed that no man **deceive** you. (Matt 24:4)"

Jesus then continues with a series of signs that will precede his second coming. They are listed below:

#### **Summary of the SIGNS before Jesus' second coming:**

##### 1. Antichrists and The Antichrist:

Many shall come in Jesus' name saying, "**I am Christ**" and shall **deceive** many. (Matt 24:5)  
'False Christs and false prophets shall arise. They shall show great signs and wonders, but it will not be possible to deceive the very elect.' (Matt 24:24)

John confirms that there will be one final Antichrist, 1 John 2:18 '*... that antichrist shall come ...*'  
John 5:43 '*... if another shall come in his own name ...*': Jesus warns the Pharisees that they would be deceived by the Antichrist due to their unbelief. Their offspring would rather follow the Antichrist than accept Jesus.

The prophet Daniel describes the antichrist as 'rising up' amongst 10 horns. (10 rulers/kings). Refer to sessions 4, 5 and 6 for more detail.

Dan 7:8 ' <sup>8</sup> *I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.*'

Dan 7:20-21 <sup>20</sup> And of the ten horns that were in his head, ...; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

The Antichrist will make war with the saints (believers):

<sup>21</sup> I beheld, and the same horn **made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;**'

Further persecution by the antichrist predicted by Daniel:

Dan 7:25 <sup>25</sup> And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be **given into his hand** until a time and times and the dividing of time.'

Further details from Revelation:

' 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.' Rev 13:5-6

Also refer to 2 Thess 2:1-4 alongside: It seems that the antichrist (the 'man of sin') remains behind the scenes until his 'revelation' .

#### 2 Thess 2:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Now we beseech you, brethren,

**by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and by our gathering together unto him,**

<sup>2</sup> That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

<sup>3</sup> **Let no man deceive you by any means:** for that day shall **NOT** come, except there come a falling away first, and

**that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition**

**Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God,  
or that is worshipped;  
so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God,  
shewing himself that he is God.**

Rev 13:12,15 <sup>12</sup> And he exercises all the power of the first beast before him, and cause the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, ... <sup>15</sup> ..., and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.'

#### PHYSICAL SIGNS:

Jesus firstly explains that mere 'wars and rumours of wars' are **not** signs of the end. Wars have always occurred in history and will continue. On their own they are not signs of the end. Note how Jesus says: "Be not troubled, the end is **not yet.**" (Matt 24:6)

**But:** Jesus does explain that they will increase in severity and in frequency as the end approaches. Jesus lists the following to escalate near the end:

- Nation shall rise against nation. Kingdom against kingdom.
- There will be Famines. Pestilences. Earthquakes in diverse places. (Matt 24:7)
- These events (physical signs) are the beginning of sorrows. or birth pains.

Jesus compares the escalation of wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes to the escalation of birth pains as a birth approaches.

#### PERSECUTION: Listing Jesus' teaching: (in dot point format)

Jesus warns that believers should be prepared to be killed, martyred, or beaten for their faith as follows:

- They shall deliver you up to be afflicted. (Matt 24:9)
- They shall kill you. (Matt 24:9)
- They shall lay their hands on you. (Luke 12:12)
- They shall persecute you. (Luke 12:12)
- Brought before councils, rulers and kings for Jesus' sake. (Mark 13:9, Luke 12:12)
- Deliver you up to synagogues [G4864] and into prisons. (Luke 12:12, Mark 13:9)

Public opinion against born-again Christians will turn to hate all over the world:

- You shall be hated by **all nations** for Jesus' name sake (Matt 24:9)
- Offence: Many shall be offended; they will take offence at Christian beliefs. (Matt 24:10)

Betrayal: They shall betray one another, even in families: (Matt 24:10)

- Brother shall betray brother to death. The father shall betray his son. (Mark 13:12)
- You shall be betrayed by: Parents, brethren, kinsfolks and friends.
- They shall cause some of you to be put to death. (Luke 21:16) .
- They shall hate one another. (Matt 24:10)
- Children shall: - rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. (Mark 13:12)

Encouragement through persecution:

- It shall be an opportunity for a testimony. (Luke 12:13, Mark 13:9)
- We are to take no thought/premeditate what we shall speak/answer. (Mark 13:11, Luke 21:14)
- The Holy Spirit will give you the words to speak. (Mark 13:11)
- Given a mouth of wisdom. (Luke 21:15)

**Rev 12:11** 'And they (believers) overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.'

#### FALSE PROPHETS:

Jesus warns against false prophets who would even be capable of great signs and wonders:

- 'Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.' (Matt 24:11)
- 'For there shall: Arise false Christs and false prophets.
- They shall show great signs and wonders.' (Matt 24:24)
- Matt 7:15 <sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.'
- What is a false prophet? Refer to Jer 23:16, 25-26, 32, Deut 13:1-5 for the definition.
- 2 Pet 2:1-2 <sup>1</sup> But there were false prophets also among the people, even as **there shall be false teachers** among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup> And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.'
- 1 John 4:1-6 'Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because **many false prophets** are gone out into the world..... <sup>5</sup> They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. <sup>6</sup> ..... Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.'

Believers will be able to discern between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error by the word of God. (John 6:63 – Jesus' words are spirit and they are life.)

The final 'FALSE PROPHET': The end-time prophet will exceed them all in deception and miracles:

**Rev 13:11-14** 'And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon'(v11) 'And he does great wonders, .....'(v13) 'And **deceives them** that dwell on the earth by means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast;' (v14)

DECEPTION: Jesus repeats the danger of deception several times:

- Take heed that no man **deceive** you. (Matt 24:4)
- Many shall come in Jesus' name saying "I am Christ" and shall **deceive** many. (Matt 24:5)

- Many false prophets shall arise and shall **deceive** many. (Matt 24:11)
- False Christs and false prophets shall arise. Shall show great signs and wonders. Not possible to deceive the very elect. (Matt 24:24)

Further scriptures:

- 2 Cor 11:13-15 ‘... false apostles, deceitful workers ...’
- 2 Tim 3:13 ‘But evil men and seducers .... deceiving ...’
- 2 Pet 3:2-3 ‘.... there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts.’
- Jude v17-19 ‘...there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.’
- 1 Tim 4:1-2 ‘... in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ...’
- 2 Tim 4:3-4 ‘For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;
- Rev 12:9 ‘9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: ... ’
- Rev 13:14 ‘<sup>14</sup> And **deceives** them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.’
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Revelation 18 (below) makes the point that **ALL nations shall be deceived**, especially through ‘pharmakeia’ (Greek reference [G5331]). i.e., pharmaceutical concoctions, sorcery, witchcraft.

**Rev 18:23**

... : for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries [G5331] were **ALL NATIONS DECEIVED**.

Rev 18 is about the: Destruction of the physical Babylon

**G5331**

Φαρμακεία *pharmakeia*  
*far-mak-i'-ah*

From G5332; medication (“pharmacy”), that is, (by extension) *magic* (literal or figurative): - sorcery, witchcraft.

Additional signs may be listed as follows, with scriptures for reference:

**MORE SIGNS:**

- Iniquity shall abound (Matt 24:12, 2 Tim 3:1-5)
- Love of many wax cold. (Matt 24:12)
- Ungodly, Wicked and evil. (Jude v15, Rev 9:21, Rom 1:29-32)
- Cast truth to the ground. (Dan 8:12, Rom 1:18, 2 Tim 4:3-4, 2 Thess 2:9-12, Rom 2:8-9)
- Rejection and blasphemy of God. Falling away (from truth). Departing from faith. (Rom 1:25,28, Rev 16:9-11, 1 Sam 15:23, 1 Tim 4:1)
- Idolatry. Worship of devils. (Rev 9:20-21, Rev 16:13-14, Rev 18:2)
- Shedding of blood. (Rev 16:6, Rev 17:6, Rev 18:24, Rev 19:2)
- Change times and laws. (Dan 7:25)
- Knowledge increased and they shall run to and fro. (Dan 12:4)
- Greed. (Rev 18:11-13,15, 1 Tim 6:10)
- Global rule. (Dan 7:23, Luke 21:35, Rev 6:4, Matt 24:21-22, Rev 3:10, Rev 13:3,7,8,12,16)

**GLOBAL RULE:** This matches the first seal in Revelation 6, which commences the tribulation. The rider on the white horse establishes global rule, a one world government. **Global rule is a very clear sign** of tribulation

about to commence.

However, as there will be '10 kings' working together to create this global 'Beast', it may be that they choose to remain incognito, or even function as apparent opponents. They may succeed to deceive the world (those without discernment) of their true agenda: to work together to serve Satan and promote the Antichrist.

Note that Jesus warns (Luke 21:35 below) that tribulation, as initiated by the first seal (global rule) will come as a snare on the whole earth.

Daniel, Jesus, and Revelation make the move to Global rule clear as follows:

**Dan 7:23** <sup>23</sup> Thus he said,

The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and **shall devour the whole earth**, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

**Luke 21:35** .... <sup>35</sup> For as a snare shall it come on **all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth**.

**Rev 6:4** <sup>4</sup> And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to **take peace from the earth**, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

**Matt 24:21-22** <sup>21</sup> For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

<sup>22</sup> And except those days should be shortened, **there should no flesh be saved**: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

**Rev 3:10** <sup>10</sup> Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from **the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world**, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

**Rev 13:3** <sup>3</sup> .....and **all the world wondered after the beast**.

**Rev 13:7** <sup>7</sup> And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: **and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations**.

**Rev 13:8** <sup>8</sup> And **all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him**, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

**Rev 13:12** <sup>12</sup> And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and **causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast**, whose deadly wound was healed.

**Rev 13:16** <sup>16</sup> And he causeth **all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond**, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

**Rev 14:8** <sup>8</sup> And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made **all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication**.

**Rev 18:2-3** <sup>2</sup> For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which **did corrupt the earth** with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. <sup>3</sup> For **all nations** have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and **the kings of the earth** have committed fornication with her, and **the merchants of the earth** are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

**Endurance:** Jesus encourages end-time believers to endure:

'*He that endures to the end shall be saved* [G4982].' (Matt 24:13) The greek word G4982 refers to a physical rescue or survival, and not to spiritual salvation. We cannot 'lose' our salvation. We're spiritually saved only by believing in and trusting in Jesus' work on the cross, and not by our endurance or performance or our works.

'*This **gospel of the kingdom** shall be preached in all the world as a witness unto all nations.*

Then shall the end come.' (Matt 24:14)

The Abomination of Desolation (AOD) & The Desolation of Jerusalem:

*Matt 24:15 When ye therefore shall SEE the **abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand:)*

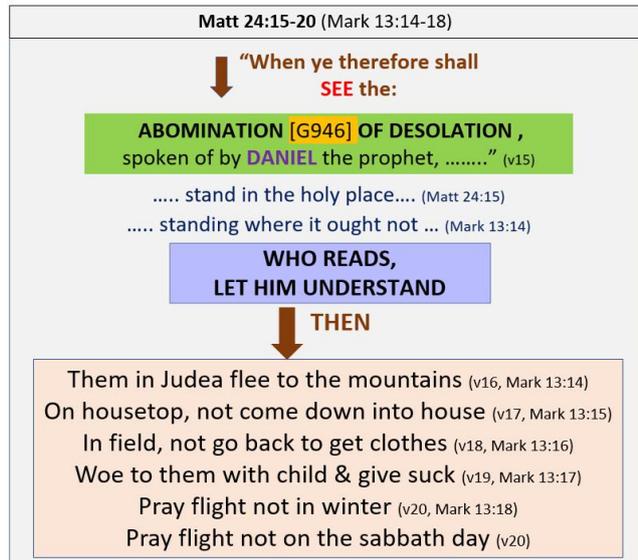
**G946**

βδέλυγμα *bdelugma bdel'-oog-mah*

a detestation, that is, (specifically) idolatry: - abomination

The tribulation signs before the Abomination of Desolation (AOD) require discernment as they have already sporadically occurred throughout the ages. **BUT**, by using the 'birth pains' analogy, Jesus prophesies that their severity and extent will increase to a level that is unmatched in history. For the first time ever, it engulfs the entire world. The AOD we're considering next is the first specific and visible sign after the ever-increasing troubles and persecution in the previous verses.

The AOD is also the first reference Jesus makes to the Old Testament – to Daniel the prophet.



**"Whoso reads, let him understand":**

Jesus encourages us to try understand the cryptic nature of the AOD, as the answer won't be too obvious, thus some effort will be required. We can approach the understanding of the 'Abomination of Desolation' as follows:

- 1) First, we need to understand the use of the term abomination in the Bible: it is a detestation, attempting to defile God's holiness. It is the replacement of God with something detestable, much like idolatry is considered an abomination by God.
- 2) Secondly the word desolate means empty. We may thus understand that the AOD will be an idol which will result in emptiness. This emptiness could be spiritual or physical, or perhaps both.
- 3) The 'Holy place' is not necessarily a temple, but most likely the temple mount. Holy means 'set apart', the holy place is thus a place reserved by God.
- 4) For the Antichrist to accomplish the AOD, Jerusalem will most likely need to be under his/gentile control. Consider also that, spiritually speaking, we as believers are the NT temple of God and that he will also attempt to control and defile us spiritually.

V16: Flee immediately, those in Judea.

Why specifically Judea and not the whole of Israel? Because the focus is Jerusalem where the AOD is set up. Jerusalem will be made desolate because the Antichrist will set up his HQ there and demand to be the only object of worship allowed. He will, most likely, remove any signs of Judaism, or Christianity or Islam in Jerusalem, and remove or destroy both buildings and followers.

Hence the warning: Anyone in Judea: Flee to save your life! You're in danger! Jerusalem is to be desolated.

Referring to Daniel: In Daniel 3 there is a reminder of how Daniel's three friends refused to bow to an idol enforced by the state.

Revelation 13 describes a similar end-time idol as an 'image of the beast' unto which worship is required.

Rev 13 also describes a mandatory allegiance with the Antichrist by the enforced taking of a mark...Refer to future sessions for more detail.

**Revelation 13:11, 14-17**

<sup>11</sup> And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; .....

<sup>14</sup> And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make **an image to the beast** which had the wound by a sword, and did live. <sup>15</sup> And he had power to give life unto **the image of the beast** that **the image of the beast** should both speak, and cause that as many as **would not worship the image of the beast** should be killed.

<sup>16</sup> And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,



**The desolation of Jerusalem:**

In Luke 21, Jesus explains that Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies before the 'desolation thereof'. This will be coincident with the erection of the AOD. Those who notice these armies gathering around Jerusalem should flee immediately.

Luke 21's 'Desolation of Jerusalem' is 'bookended' with the same events as those surrounding the Matt 24:15 AOD. Thus, we can safely conclude that these two events are concurrent. Zechariah 14:2 confirms this event, which is clearly NOT the armies assembling at Megiddo (Armageddon)

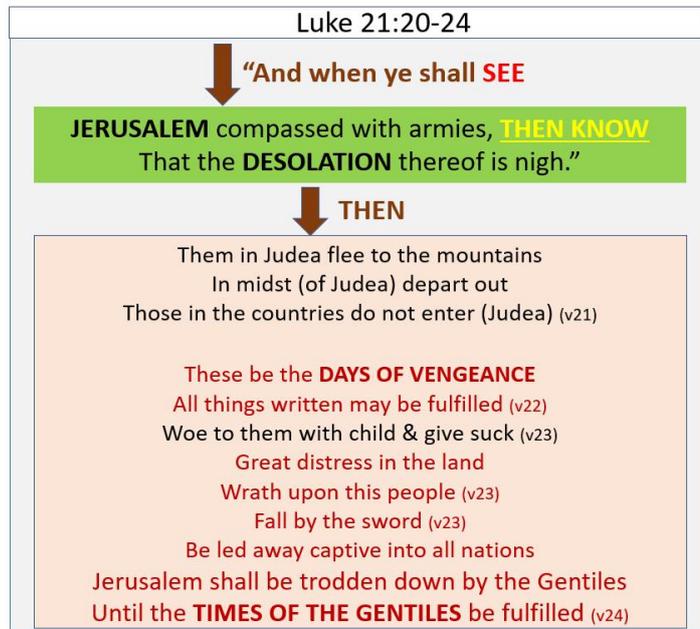
*"For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city"*

Luke's 'desolation' passage and 'the Times of the Gentiles' is described in more detail in [session 3](#).

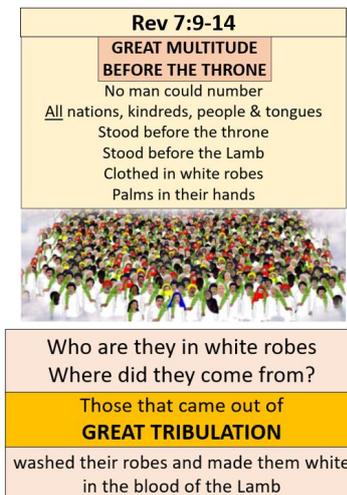
**THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

After the Abomination is set up, it seems that the Antichrist takes control and a severe world-wide persecution of believers and Jews commences, which is additional to the general troubles experienced by the entire population. Jesus calls the period after the 'Abomination of Desolation' the 'Great Tribulation' – so intense that He adds: ...'such as was not since the beginning of the world'!

Jesus states that no one would have survived if God had not shortened those days.



**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.**



Matt 24:23: 'Then...': Jesus emphasises the sequential nature of events by the frequent use of 'Then, when and after'.

- "...Believe it not if any man says: "here is Christ or there."
- 'For there shall: Arise false Christs and false prophets.
- They shall show great signs and wonders to deceive the nations.

However, Jesus assures us that it will not be possible to deceive the very elect with false miracles.' (Matt 24:24)

Jesus warns: "I've foretold you'!

Hence: 'Do not go if they say: 'He is in the desert'.  
'Believe it not if they say: 'He is in the secret chamber.'"

Jesus told us before..... (Matt 24:25)

(Matt24:26)

Mark 13:23 <sup>23</sup> But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

Is 42:9,  
Is 46:9-10  
Is 48:3, 5

'As the lightning from the east to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of man be.' (Matt 24:27)

Jesus warns not to believe any rumours of a localised 'second coming' because, in v27, Jesus emphasises that his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming will be as visible as lightning across the entire heavens everywhere on earth, so that 'every eye will see him' (Ref 1:7).

Refer to the session 1 handout for more detail about 'every eye'.

Jesus continues: 'Where the carcase is, there the eagles gather.' (Matt 24:v28) This could mean widespread death.

Verse 28 concludes Jesus' teaching on the tribulation, and moves to the signs surrounding His Second Coming!

" **AFTER the tribulation...**" . Matt 24:29

**SIGNS AFTER THE TRIBULATION':**

Now consider the signs 'AFTER THE TRIBULATION' but before Jesus' second coming':

Matt 24:29: *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

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**

**Who are the elect [G1588] in the New Testament?**

The elect: (Col 3:11-12)

- Greek & Jew
- Circumcised & uncircumcised
- Barbarian & Scythian
- Bond & Free

The elect:

(1 Pet 1:1-2)

- The **strangers** in
- Pontus,
  - Galatia,
  - Cappadocia,
  - Asia,
  - and Bithynia

**G1588**  
ἐκλεκτός *eklektos*  
*ek-lek-tos'*  
From **G1586**;  
select; by implication  
favorite: - chosen, elect.

**The elect: [G1588]**  
Those in Christ:  
-> ALL BELIEVERS  
-> THE SAVED

Refer to session 1 for confirmation that the elect are all believers.

The entire New Testament (e.g.Col 3:11-12 and 1 Peter 1:1-2) teaches that the 'elect' are believers without consideration of race or status. All believers are gathered (raptured) when Jesus comes on the clouds of heaven with power and glory. (v30 & 31)

Why will "ALL the tribes of the earth" mourn? (v30): They can't miss the second coming! It's like lightning right across the entire sky. They will ALL SEE Jesus' power and glory, and they mourn as they know their time of reckoning is coming and are in distress.

**Jesus' fig tree parable:**

After describing his second coming and the rapture, Jesus continues with a parable:

*Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.*

Adding the other gospels, Mark 13:28-29, Luke 21:29-31 to Matt 24:32-33:

SO LIKEWISE: -> When you **SEE** all these things. -> **Know** the time is near! -> **Know** that the **kingdom of God is near!**

**The end-time generation:** 'This generation shall not pass till ALL THESE THINGS BE FULFILLED' (Matt 24:34)

‘All these things’ refers back to Jesus’ earlier teaching from Matt 24 v3-v31. Jesus refers to the tribulation and the second coming. Jesus confirms that the end-times won’t drag on for centuries, but the duration will only be for one generation, perhaps even less than 30 years! We can thus be sure that the duration of end times is one generation or less, once the move to a global rule (seal 1) becomes apparent!

Luke 24:44 adds: ‘And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **ALL THINGS MUST BE FULFILLED**, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.’

**Heaven and earth shall pass away.** (Matt 24:35)

Heb 1:10-12

<sup>10</sup>And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

<sup>11</sup>**They shall perish**; but thou remainest; and **they all shall wax old as doth a garment**; <sup>12</sup>**And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed**:

but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

Is 65:17

<sup>17</sup>For, behold,

**I create new heavens and a new earth:**

and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Rev 21:1

<sup>1</sup>And I saw

**a new heaven and a new earth:**

for the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

‘**But Jesus’ WORDS shall not pass away.**’ (Matt 24:35)

1 Pet 1:23-25 <sup>23</sup> *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.* <sup>24</sup> *For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:* <sup>25</sup> *But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*

**The day and hour:**

‘*But of that day and hour knows no man. Only the Father knows.*’ (Matt 24:36)

**Rev 3:3** <sup>3</sup> *Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.*

***If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.***

**If thou shall not watch,  
I will come on thee as a thief...**

**WATCH THEREFORE!**

Clearly Jesus’ intent of ‘not knowing the day and hour’ is to **motivate us to be watchful!**

‘Not knowing’ is no excuse for ignoring all the signs leading up to Jesus’ second coming!

**‘Watch therefore. For you know not what hour the Lord comes.’** (Matt 24:42)

**‘Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man comes.’** (Matt 24:44)

**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

**Be ready**  
Matt 24:44  
Luke 12:40

**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

**Pray**  
Mark 13:33  
Luke 21:36  
1 Pet 4:7

**‘Watch therefore.’** (Matt 24:42) ‘... had known in what watch **the thief** would come, **he would have watched.**’ (Matt 24:43)

**Thief in the night: (1 Thess 5:1-4)**

*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*<sup>2</sup> *For yourselves know perfectly that the **day of the Lord** so cometh as a thief in the night.*<sup>3</sup> *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon **them**, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

<sup>4</sup> *But ye, brethren, are **not in darkness**, that that day should **overtake you as a thief** .... ‘*

**Believers will not be in darkness about that day!** (only unbelievers will experience it as a ‘thief in the night’)

Referring back to Matt 24:15, we saw that the Abomination will be a visible sign. From Daniel 12 we know that it will be 1290 days (~3.5 years) from the Abomination to Armageddon (Jesus establishing his Millennial kingdom). The rapture seems somewhere in the first half of this 1290-day period, when allowing enough time for the Wrath of God' judgements (The 7 trumpets and the 7 vials). Referring to the chart below, it seems we can know the season (1 Thess 5:1) but not the day or the hour.

Again: "But ye, **brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief..**"

Believers will clearly not be taken by surprise by Jesus' second coming. Because they will watch, pray and be ready to meet the bridegroom, they don't need to know the exact day!

