

Matthew 24:29-31 The Closing of the Tribulation and the Coming of Jesus

Introduction: The text shows the closing of the Great Tribulation and the second coming of Jesus Christ. The disciples asked Jesus when the temple would be destroyed and what would be the sign of the coming of Jesus and the end of the age. He gave them ten signs to watch for. These would serve those disciples to indicate the nearness of the destruction of the temple. These would serve us to indicate the nearness of His second coming. He then gave them a special warning of the Great Tribulation.

I. The closing of the Great Tribulation.

- A. The Great Tribulation will involve great bloodshed in numerous ways.
 - 1. For one thing, the Armageddon War will be in progress.
 - 2. For another there will be a great geological upheaval which will produce hundreds, perhaps thousands of earthquakes and volcanoes along the great fault lines of the earth.
 - 3. The devastation will be so great that except this be a brief period of time, no human would survive.
 - 4. Immediately after the great geological upheaval, there would be phenomenal changes to take place in the heavens.
- B. The sun, the moon and the stars would be affected, verse 29.
 - 1. Joel had foretold this event, Joel 2:10.
 - 2. Joel even foretold the early stages of the event when the moon would appear as blood, Joel 2:31.
 - 3. Then he foretold the latter stages when the moon would not shine through the volcanic ash, Joel 3:15.
 - 4. The Book of Revelation foretells the same event, Revelation 6:12-14.
- C. Just a reminder – this is the world's darkest hour.

II. The second coming of Jesus.

- A. It is then that the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the heavens, verse 30.
 - 1. The volcanic ash is so thick that the stars will not shine through, the moon will not shine through, and the sun will barely shine through.
 - 2. But the sign of the One who is both the Son of Man and also the Son of God will clearly shine through.
- B. This sign will be so phenomenal that it will catch the attention of all.
(There will be no way to ignore it.)
- C. All the tribes of the earth will mourn, verse 30.
(They will all say, “How blind, how wrong, how stupid can you be?”)
- D. They will all see the Son of Man coming from heaven, verse 30.
 - 1. They will see Him coming in power and great glory.
 - 2. They have never before seen such display of power.
 - 3. They have never before seen such glory.
 - 4. They have never before felt such fear.

III. The rapture of the saints.

- A. Somewhere in outer space Jesus will issue the order to His angels that it is time to gather the saints, verse 31.
- B. A great trumpet will sound as a signal.
- C. The angels will go and get all the saved and gather them together to meet the Lord as he descends.

IV. The questions for this congregation.

- A. As the disciples raised questions for Jesus, even so this text raises questions for this congregation.
- B. Are you saved?
 1. Have you ever realized that you are a sinner before God?
 2. Have you ever asked God to save you and keep you out of hell?
 3. You can be saved today, Acts 16:31; Romans 10:13, John 3:16.
- C. If you are saved, are you living for God?

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