

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 7]

OLIVET'S PROPHECIES - FULFILLED OR FUTURE? (4)

Reading: **Matthew 24:29 - 31**

Introduction

- In the opening verses of Matthew 24, Jesus has foretold the destruction of the temple.
- In response to that, the disciples ask Jesus 2 questions:
 1. When will these things be? (the end of the temple) and
 2. What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?
- Two separate questions about the end of two separate things.
- In [vs 4 - 20] Jesus answers their 1st question.
- In [vs 21 - 28] He deals with the era between the end of the temple in AD70 and the end of the age.
- In [vs 29 - 31] He deals with His coming at the end of the age.

1. Jesus Is Coming Again

- History is NOT a haphazard collection of chance events taking us nowhere.
- It is taking us to the climax & culmination of the ages - the glorious return of the Lord Jesus in power and glory.
- He is coming to set up His kingdom, defeat His enemies, destroy the devil and restore paradise lost.
- This is the blessed hope of the church.

2 The Creeds Of The Church

- All the historical church creeds of the church declare their belief in Christ's return.
- The word '**creed**' comes from the Latin word '**credo**' meaning '**I believe and trust.**'
- This shows the teaching of Christ's return is not some new doctrine but an old one.

3 The Coming Or Parousia Of Jesus Christ

- The words '**coming**' or '**come**' or '**comes**' occur 10 times in Matthew 24.
- The term '**the Coming**' occurs 3 times in [vs 27, 37 and 39]. In these 3 instances it is the Greek word '**Parousia.**'
- It is used of someone's presence or arrival.
- Used of an invading army or the arrival of a king to one of his provinces.
- When used of a visiting king, the leading citizens would go out to meet the king and return with him.
- Futurists teach that there are 2 returns of Christ. Firstly coming for His church and then 7 years later coming with His church back to earth.
- They say that His 1st of these 2 comings will be secret, the world not knowing what has happened.
- During the 7 years the believers are in heaven.
- On earth a temple is rebuilt and an antichrist arises and sits in temple to be worshipped.
- Those who refuse will suffer persecution and tribulation.
- After the 7 years, Jesus returns with us to destroy antichrist. This theory implies not just a 2nd coming but a 3rd.
- There is nothing of this in the text of Matthew.
- [Vs 29] Immediately after the tribulation of the church age.
- [Vs 30] There is nothing secret about His coming in this verse. Its very visible.
- The whole world will witness it. [Revelation 1:7].
- Consider [1 Thessalonians 4:16/17]. The noisiest verses in the Bible and the '**rapture**' happens in the middle of it.
- A great shout and the trumpet of God. Nothing secret here.
- **"He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet."**
- Christ will come at the head of legions of angels. Consider [James 5:4].
- They are coming to **"gather 'His elect'"** and rapture them to meet the Lord in the air.
- Consider [1 Thessalonians 4:16/17] and [Psalm 91:11].
- The end of the age is harvest time and the reapers are the angels.
- The Rapture will facilitate the greatest '**re-union**' of all time. The dead in Christ now resurrected with the living believers.
- **'What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see.'**
- ***"Forsaking not the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."***
[Hebrews 10:25].

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