

The Kingdom Of Heaven
The Second Coming Of Christ
Matt 24.23-35

In the last three weeks we have studied,

- **The precursors to the End Times. We saw,**
 - [The Re-establishment of Israel as a Nation – May 14, 1948]
 - [Jerusalem the Capital of Israel – President Trump Declared Jerusalem the Capital of Israel on December 6, 2017.]
 - [The Great Falling Away]
*[2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first, . . .]***
 - [Perilous Times (2 Tim 3.1-5)]
*[2 Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, **that in the last days perilous times shall come. . . .]***
 - [The Famine of the Word of God (Amos 8.11-12)]
 - [The Severe Judgment of God, Which are God's warnings to mankind, and the calling of God to repentance (Amos 4.6-12)]
 - **Famine**
 - **Drought**
 - **Blasting and Mildew**
 - **Pestilence**
 - **. . . yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**
 - **The Great Tribulation Period (vs 21)**

*Matthew 24:21 For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

When we started our journey through Matthew 24 we saw the questions asked of our Lord by His disciples.

*Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? **and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?***

As we continue in our study we have in view **The Second Coming** and **there are two views of the Second Coming in view in our text,**

- **The View of the Second Coming of Christ for the Lost.**
- **The View of the Second Coming of Christ for the Born-Again Christ.**

Today we will look at the Second Coming as described by our Lord Jesus Christ.

When Christ returns to this sinful, this evil world, to Deliver Israel and Ultimately Judge the Gentile Nations at the End of the Great Tribulation Period this world will be in Disastrous Shape,

- In one Judgment one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of humanity will have been destroyed.
There are about 7,594,000,000 people live on earth today. So, in that one judgment there will be 1,898,500,000 dead in one judgment. Almost 2 billion people.
- In a second Judgment another third (3rd) of the world's population will die. Of the 5,695,500,000 this will be 1,898,310,150 people dead.
- All of the world's ocean's will have been poison and a life will cease in those oceans
- All of the fresh water on the planet will have turned to blood and become poison.
- The world will heat up so much that men will be scorched as stubble.
- The sun, moon, and stars will have been darkened.
- All nations armies will gather their armies against Jerusalem

The world will be in terrible shape, people will be in misery, Israel will be in peril.

All of this and more will happen in only seven years of the Great Tribulation.

This is the state of existence on earth when our Lord continues His revelation in our text.

Our Lord continues to reveal,

A. Many False Christ's (vs 23-26) – False Religious Systems (In the name of Christ)

- 1. The Strength of their Deception (vs 23-25) –** *Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*²⁴ **For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**
²⁵ **Behold, I have told you before.**

- **False Christs (vs 24) – Notice that there will be false Christs,**

Jim Jones in the 1970's claimed to be Christ. He caused 918 of his followers to commit suicide, 304 of them children. The phrase "Don't drink the Koolaid" came from his deception. He convinced his people he was Christ by his illusion of miracles.

David Koresch and the Branch Davidians in the early 1990's claimed to be Christ or at least his prophet. He caused 79 of his followers to die a horrible death by fire, 21 of these were children.

Without any doubt there are many who claim to be Christ in our world today.

- **False Prophets (vs 24) – False prophets are false religious leaders.** There are many false religious leaders in our day leading false religious systems. **They often claim to provide evidence of their religious acceptance by God through miracles and prophecies.**

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

God warned us about these miracle working false prophets in,

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, **and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,** ² And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, **Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;**

³ Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: **for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.** ⁴ Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. ⁵ And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

The one thing that marks these false religious systems is their abandonment of the Word of God.

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

- **The Warnings of our Lord (vs 23, 25) –** Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

Matthew 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; **believe it not.**

Matthew 24:25 **Behold, I have told you before.**

Our Lord warned that we must not fall to these religious deceivers. The all-important question is, How does one identify these false Christs and False Prophets?

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A. Many False Christ and Prophets – False Religions.

1. The Strength of their deception

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

One must know the Word of God and study it deeply and well.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

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A. Many False Christ and Prophets – False Religions.

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You must know and follow the Word of God, not any person or teacher. Know your Bible.

Colossians 2:8 **Beware lest any man spoil** you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, **and not after Christ.**

2. **The Sign of His Revelation (vs 26-28)** - Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. ²⁷ **For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.** ²⁸ **For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.**

When our Lord Jesus Christ comes He will not come in secrecy it will be seen by all mankind and all creation at his second advent.

In view in our text are two returns of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Which brings us to our next important point.

- B. The Second Advent Of Christ (vs 29-30)** – **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:** ³⁰ **And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: 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.

Rev 6.12

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns and sets foot on the Mount of Olives at the end of the Tribulation Period.

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1. **The Sixth Seal – Revelation 6:12-17** *And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*¹³ **And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth,** even as a

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fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

¹⁴ **And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.**¹⁵ *And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;*¹⁶ **And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;**¹⁷ *For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*

Rev 11.14

The Heavens Departed as a Scroll (vs 14; cf. Isa 34.1-5) – Isaiah describes the heavens rolled together as a scroll and the death and destruction at the Battle of Armageddon.

This is what our Lord means by the Lightning seen from the east to the west (vs 27). No one will miss the heaven rolling back as a scroll.

2. **Seventh Trumpet – Revelation 11:14-19** *The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.*¹⁵ *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*¹⁶ *And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,*¹⁷ *Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.*¹⁸ **And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come,** and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto

thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. ¹⁹ And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, **and an earthquake, and great hail.**

Rev 16.17

3. **Seventh Vial - Revelation 16:17-21** And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, **It is done.** ¹⁸ And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; **and there was a great earthquake,** such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. ¹⁹ And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. ²⁰ **And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.** ²¹ And there fell upon men **a great hail out of heaven,** every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

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1. The Strength of their deception
 2. The Sign of His Revelation
- B. The Second Advent of Christ**
1. The Sixth Seal
 2. The Seventh Trumpet

Why is it that there will be no doubt when our Lord returns at the end of the Tribulation Period? Remember in our text our Lord said,

Matthew 24:27-28 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ²⁸ For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Because when our Lord Jesus Christ returns,

- The Heavens will Roll back as a scroll.
- Our Lord will come to earth riding a glorious white stallion coming through the clouds with Great Glory, His hosts following Him.
- There will be the Battle of Armageddon
- There will be Great Hail
- There will be a Great Earthquake

- The people of the earth will hide in the mountains and dens and beg for death, which will never deliver them.

Everyone will know without any doubt when our Lord returns after the Tribulation Period. Everyone will see Him come from one end of the earth to the other.

Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

C. The Rapture of the Church - The One True

Christ (vs 31-42) – And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the

other . . .³⁶ But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe 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. ⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

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3. The Seventh Vial

C. The Rapture of the Church

1 Thess 4.13

- **The Trumpet and the gathering (vs 31-32; cf. Thess 4.13-18; 1 Cor 15.50-55) – Both are associated with the rapture of the Church.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Cor 15.50

1 Corinthians 15:50-55 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

2 Thess 2.1

The Timing of the Rapture clearly declared,

2 Thessalonians 2:1-11 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, ² 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.**

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Second Advent

³ 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;**

Anti-Christ revealed, happens in the Great Tribulation Period

⁴ 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.

This is the Anti-Christ sitting in the Temple claiming to be God. This is the the Abomination Of Desecrations.

⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
⁶ **And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.** ⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: **only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.**

John 14.15

He who **“letteth”** is the Holy Spirit who will be taken out of the way **before the anti-christ is revealed.** The Holy Spirit **“withholdeth”** and is **“He who now letteth.”** The Holy Spirit must be taken out of the way before the **“man of sin”** can be revealed. When the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way so is the Church, for truly born-again believers will never be without the Holy Spirit in them, as declared by God.

John 14:15-17 ¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, **and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;** ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; **for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

Important Point - So before that “man of sin” can be revealed, which will be the beginning of the Tribulation Period, the “Withholder” must be “Taken out of the way.”

Notice – “Taken out of the way” this literally means taken out of the midst. The Holy Spirit has always existed and had been involved in everything God has recorded within His Word. The Holy Spirit was,

- Involved in Creation (Gen 1)
- At the Baptism of Christ
- Involved in the Resurrection of Christ
- Indwells all Born-Again Believers
- Will be involved in the “End Time Events”

For the “Withholder” to be “Taken out of the way” or taken out of the midst indicates that the Holy Spirit after the Rapture of the Church will return to a work in God’s plan more like that before the manifestation of the Church of

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the Lord Jesus Christ, where the Holy Spirit has the special work of indwelling believers. The Holy Spirit will still be a part of the Godhead and will still be working, but not as He works in our dispensation of the Church.

All of the “Withholding” work of the Holy Spirit in our world will be removed so that Lucifer and the Anti-Christ can do their diabolical work during the terrible Tribulation Period.

2 Thess 2

This is a great revelation about the Rapture!

⁸ **And then shall that Wicked be revealed,** whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

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This revelation of the Anti-Christ is the beginning of the Tribulation Period and is the opening of the first seal.

Incredibly Important Principle for all to understand – The following is a God given truth concerning the Tribulation Period.

¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them **strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:** ¹² **That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

Anyone who has heard the Gospel and rejected Christ before the Rapture of the Church will be given a **“Strong Delusion”** a supernatural delusion and **WILL NOT** be saved during the Tribulation Period. Many will be saved during the Tribulation Period, but not one who refused the clear gospel before the Rapture.

If you are not saved today, you had better get that right, right now!

Matt 24

- **The World at the time of the Rapture - As The Days Of Noe (vs 37-39) -** *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe 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.*

The Lost World will continue in its wickedness as if nothing had happened. This is obviously before the Judgments and Wrath of the Great Tribulation Period. No one is going to be celebrating anything after the Seal, Trumpet, and Vial Judgments begin. Billions of people dead, no water, no fresh food, apparent natural disasters (God's Judgments) everywhere. People will be too busy trying to survive! **This is clearly before the judgments begin.**

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- **The Taking, To be caught up – The Rapture (vs 40-41) –** *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.*

Do not be left behind!

D. The Command (vs 42) – *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

- **For the redeemed** this is our Lord's command for us to heed first Thessalonians chapter five (1 Thess 5), Don't be found sleeping.

Wake up and watch.

- Be found a Faithful Steward
- Be found as a Great Commission Christian
- Be found proclaiming the Word of God this King James Bible.
- Be found striving to live a righteous life as a Bride prepared for your bridegroom.
- **Be found Watching.**

- **For the Lost** don't be left behind having rejected the Gift of eternal life offered by God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **To be left behind is to endeavor to endure or to die under the Judgments of God to be delivered during the Great Tribulation Period.**

Our Lord answers the questions of His Apostles concerning His coming by declaring,

- **His Second Coming (Advent)** at the end of the Tribulation Period and in worldly terror. Absolutely terrifying for this corrupt sinful world and its people. Yet glorious and majestic from the perspective of Heaven.
- **His Coming for His Redeemed and the Rapture** of the Church before the Tribulation Period begins.

If you are alive when the Rapture occurs then you will live in or toward one of these events.

You want to be a partaker of the Rapture. To do so you must be Born-Again. Are you saved!

CrossRoads Baptist, July 5, 2020

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D. The Command