



## Matthew chapter 24, part 3 -- The Rapture and Second Coming

Compilation and edition of prophetic commentaries by Gaetan

In this third and last part of our study of Matthew chapter 24, we will now go through what happens after the great tribulation.

**MAT.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:

**MAT.24:30** 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.

**MAT.24:31** 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.

Bible prophecy scholars have all kinds of interpretations about the rapture and teach all kinds of things about the Tribulation. Some people think Jesus is coming before the Tribulation, others think He's going to come in the middle, some people think He's going to come at the end and still others think there are all kinds of different stages in-between.

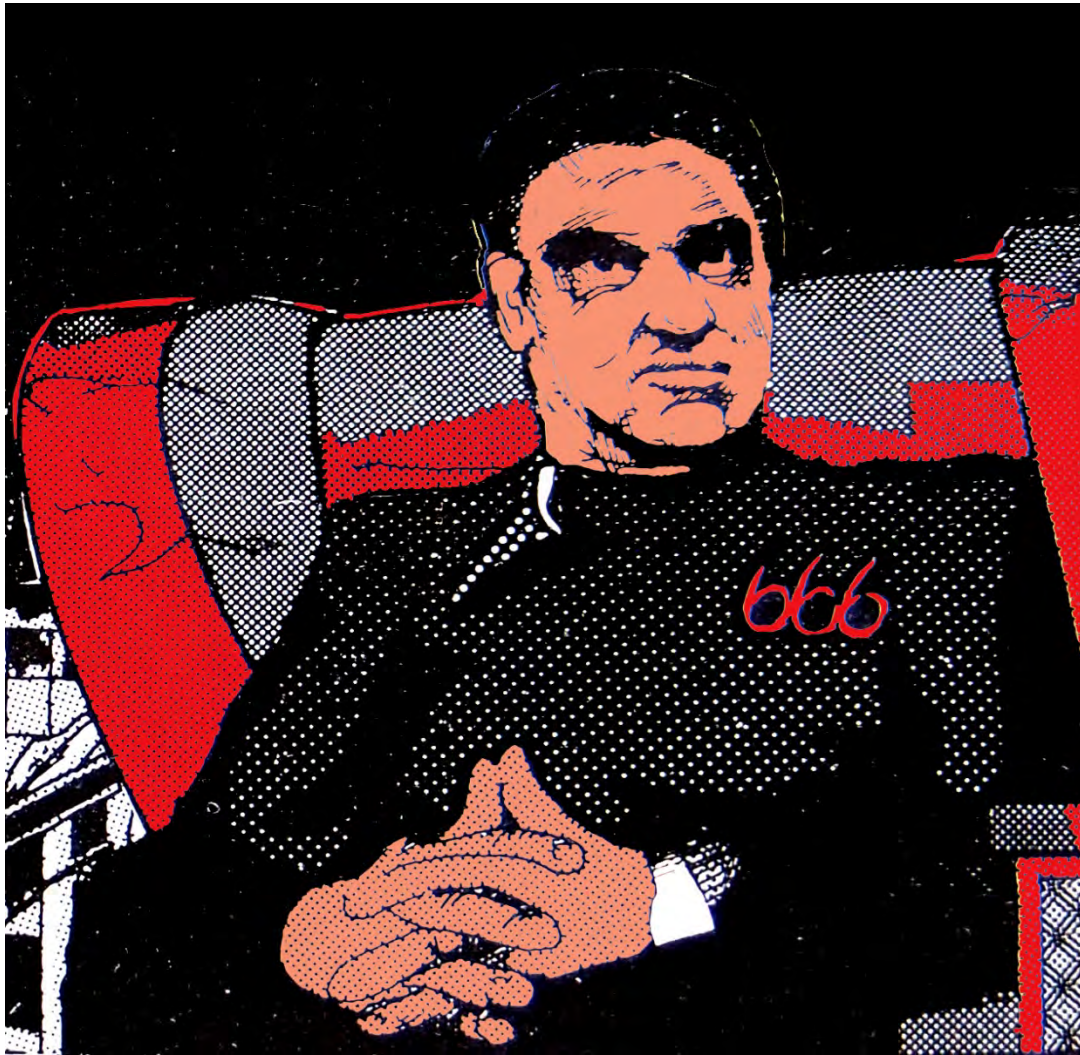
But we believe the Bible says it just as simply as can be when Jesus is going to come and Matthew chapter 24 is one of the simplest summaries of all. The Tribulation period has occurred **before** the Coming of Christ.

Jesus comes "**after the Tribulation**"! Jesus says it as plain as day in that 29th verse. "**Immediately after the Tribulation of those days.**" It says after the Tribulation shall appear the sign of the Son of man in Heaven. **After** the Tribulation, **then** shall all the tribes of the Earth mourn. **After** the Tribulation they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory. **After** the Tribulation He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather together His elect. That's **when** Jesus is going to come back for His elect, to rapture His Saints, to gather them together! In fact, at the very end of the Tribulation!

**NOT BEFORE!**



Another strong indication that “*our gathering together unto him*” or the rapture will not occur before the Tribulation is that the apostle Paul wrote that the Lord will definitely not come back until the Antichrist be revealed. That's what Paul said in 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:1-4:



**2TH.2:1-4** Now we beseech you, brethren, **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him (rapture), 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.** Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day (**rapture and second coming of the Lord**) will not come unless the falling away comes first, and **the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

For those who say that the Lord could come at any time, then where is “*that man of sin, the son of perdition,*” the antichrist? Is he revealed yet and do we see him sitting in the temple of God today, “*showing himself that he is God?*” **NO, not yet! The Lord won't come unless the man of sin is revealed!**

*(Note: It is important not to confuse the Great Tribulation and the Wrath of God which immediately follows it. They are two distinct events. Our understanding is that the Church will go through the Tribulation but will be raptured before the Wrath of God. See the chart at the end of this class.)*

Now **after** the tribulation, in verse 30 and 31, everything is obviously a sign of the second coming as these passages fulfill all the other signs and Scriptures.

**MAT.24:30** ...and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory...

**ACT.1:9-11** *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **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.***

**MAT.24:31** 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... (**MAR.13:27**)





**1TH.4:16-17** 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: **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.

**1CO.15:51-52** Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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.**

**DAN.7:13-14** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, **one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven,** and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there **was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him:** his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

**REV.11:15** And the seventh angel sounded [the last trumpet]; 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.**

**In verses 29 to 31, Jesus is telling us that the world's darkest period of tribulation and horror will abruptly end with the dawning of the brightest day—the day Jesus Christ returns to gather His people to be with Him! The world will be shocked by the awesome sights and sounds that will herald Jesus' Second Coming. When the greatest sign of all is revealed, Jesus Himself coming in the clouds, supernaturally beaming God's power and might around the world, those who have rejected Him and worshiped the Beast will be thunderstruck.**

***“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.” (Revelation 1:7).***

**But for those of us who know and love the Lord, His return will bring us greater joy and deliverance and freedom than we have ever known! God's people who have died since Jesus' days on Earth will be miraculously resurrected in new supernatural bodies, bursting out of their graves and ascending to meet Him in the air. Those of us still alive on Earth will be instantly transformed with new bodies as well, and we'll soar into the clouds to meet the Lord! Jesus will snatch His people out of the reach of their anti-Christ persecutors and whisk them away to the grandest, most thrilling victory celebration that's ever been held—an event known as the *“Marriage Supper of the Lamb”* in Heaven! *(Revelation 14:14–16; 19:6–9).***



Jesus' Second Coming is the major prophetic end time event for Christians, as it will signify the end of this world, as we now know it, as well as our place in it in these present physical bodies. Following His coming will be our complete translation and rapture as we're caught up together with Him in the air and taken off into heavenly places. His coming is the pivotal point, the end of this present life and work on earth, when "*time shall be no more*" for us, and we will enter the great eternal now. (*Rev.10:6-7*)





**God has a set time and schedule for the return of His Son, Jesus Christ, to this earth to rescue His people. He's going to come right on the button, just like these space launches which have a preset countdown. Only there aren't going to be any problems to delay His countdown. Jesus is going to fulfill His Word. You can rest assured that He is not going to change plans and come contrary to all the things that He Himself taught and the prophets and the apostles wrote. He is not going to misfire, but His return is going to fulfill the specific, detailed prophecies of His Word regarding end time events which must come to pass before He returns.**

**The final countdown to Christ's Second Coming will start **after** the Antichrist has been revealed and his image is set up in the temple at Jerusalem, **then** will begin the Great Tribulation period for which His Word gives us the exact three-and-a-half-year**

**length over and over again in so many different ways that you cannot possibly misunderstand it as we have seen previously.**



**Mat. 24:27** 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.

Jesus warned us not to expect His return any sooner than has been predicted. He tells us, *“When I come, you’ll know it.”* The sky will light up like permanent lightning from one end to the other, and there will be such a sign in the heavens that you couldn’t possibly mistake the fact that Jesus is coming.

**Mat. 24:28** For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Here the Lord is speaking in cryptic, very puzzling language, saying, *“Wherever the body is, there will be gathered those that feed on Christ.”*—A rather unsavory comparison that we, like vultures, feed upon the body of Christ. But He said, *“Except you eat of My flesh and drink of My blood, you’re not going to have any part in Me.”* (Jn 6:53–58) So here He’s speaking of our gathering together or rapture to Him.



Wherever His followers are, they're going to be drawn like a magnet, like the eagles to the carcass, like vultures to the body, who have to eat and feed upon Christ to live spiritually. Wherever the carcass is, there will all of us little eagles be gathered together.

What could be more cataclysmic, dramatic, terrific, and more obvious than the coming of the Lord as described here by Jesus himself? The whole sky will be lit up like lightning, the saved of all ages will be literally ***“gathered together”*** in the air, the sun and the moon will be darkened and meteors will be falling, and Jesus Himself will appear in the atmospheric heavens, causing the unsaved to mourn and weep as they see His coming in the clouds ***“with power and great glory.”***

***But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 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.” (1 Thessalonians 5:1–3)***



It will be like sudden destruction, suddenly, without warning. Because their false prophets have been telling them, *“Everything’s peaceful now, and you don’t have to worry about anything. We have our world government, we have our Antichrist, we have our Messiah, we have our superman to run the world now, and everything’s going to be okay. Peace and safety.”* And then sudden destruction hits them! Jesus returns, rescues His Bride, and God begins pouring out His final wrath and judgments on the Antichrist’s world empire.

**MAT.24:37** But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

**MAT.24:38** 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,

**MAT.24:39** And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

They didn't pay a bit of attention to Noah's message. They just went right on, business as usual, living as usual until the day that he entered into the Ark, a type of our resurrection and rapture by Jesus.



**In another prophecy related to His prediction about the situation and the prevailing attitude in the world just before His coming, Jesus says:**

*“Likewise also as it was **in the days of Lot**; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. **Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.**”*

**LUK.17:28-30)**

**Well, like the ancient impious cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, the world today is full of evil. (Mt.24: 12.) (2Tim.3: 1-4.)**

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

*“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day (of **Christ’s Second Coming**) should overtake you as a thief.” (1 Thessalonians 5:4)*

**Christians who know His Word and have “discerned the signs of the times” (Matthew 16:3) are not going to be surprised.**





You may not know the precise day or hour, but you'll certainly know **when** approximately three and a half years from the placing of the abomination of desolation has passed, and will be looking for and anxiously awaiting Jesus' return.

*“Ye are all the children of light and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.” (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:5–8)*

Jesus' magnificent Second Coming won't catch His children by surprise, like a thief in the night, as it will the rest of the world. *“They shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”* Our rapture, our resurrection, is part of our triumph, our God-given victory, our great exodus from this world. In Revelation it says, *“Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him.” (Revelation 1:7)*

What greater witness could there be than the resurrection and the rapture? That's the final witness, when they actually see Jesus and see us rise from the dead and from the earth to meet Him in the air.



Nobody's going to be left behind that loves Jesus. Nobody is going to be left behind that has received Jesus as his Savior. No one is going to be left behind who is saved. Not a single, genuine, Bible-believing, Christ-trusting, Jesus-loving Christian is going to be left behind, not one. For ***“we shall all be changed,”*** (1 Corinthians 15:51) and we will all be raised. He'll send His angels out to gather His children from everywhere, from all around the whole earth, and He won't leave one behind. He won't forget one, not one. Isn't that wonderful?

***Note: While the Bible is clear on certain major events and there is a lot we can understand, there are still many details that are open to conjecture. The Bible is often cryptic in what it says about some events and we will not clearly understand some of the things it is talking about until they happen. This study is intended to provide a basic foundation of understanding to its readers so that as the End time events begin to transpire, they can be aware of what is happening and know how to react.***

Compiled and edited by Gaetan from multiple sources. [gaetan.goye@gmail.com](mailto:gaetan.goye@gmail.com)

# DETAILS OF THE ENDTIME!

## THE BEGINNING OF GOD'S WRATH ON THE ANTICHRIST KINGDOM! SEVEN TRUMPETS OF TRIBULATION

-DETAILS OF THE END!  
Rev. 8-14



FIRST SECOND THIRD FORTH FIFTH SIXTH SEVENTH

**FIRST**  
WALL & FENCE WITH  
BLOOD, 3RD OF GRASS  
BURST Rev. 8:7

**SECOND**  
GREAT MOUNTAIN CAST  
INTO SEA, 3RD OF SEA  
TURNING TO BLOOD, IN SEA  
OF LYING, 1/3 OF ISLANDS  
OF LIVING, 1/3 OF SEA  
DESTROYED Rev. 8:8-9

**THIRD**  
STAR FALLS FROM HEAVEN  
TO  
3RD OF WATERS TURN TO  
WORMWOOD, MANY DIE  
Rev. 8:10, 11

**FORTH**  
3RD PART OF SUN, MOON  
& STARS DARKENED  
Rev. 8:12

**FIFTH**  
LOCUSTS FROM THE BOT-  
TOMLESS PIT TORMENT THE  
UNSEALLED FOR FIVE  
MONTHS Rev. 9:1-12

**SIXTH**  
200 MILLION HORSEMEN  
KILL 3RD OF MANKIND  
Rev. 9:13-21

**SEVENTH**  
JESUS  
RETURNS  
Rev. 11:15-19  
MAL. 2:28-31



PERSECUTION!  
TRUE CHURCH FLEES  
INTO THE WILDERNESS  
Rev. 12

TWO GREAT  
WITNESSES  
Rev. 11

THE RESURRECTION &  
THE RAPTURE of the Saints!



THE MARRIAGE SUPPER  
OF THE LAMB Rev. 19  
JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST & REWARDS

## THE SEVEN VIALS OF GOD'S WRATH Rev. 15-22

FIRST SECOND THIRD FORTH FIFTH SIXTH SEVEN



**FIRST**  
SCORCHING SORE  
ON THE FOREHEADS OF  
THE WORSHIPPERS OF  
THE BEAST Rev. 16:2

**SECOND**  
SEA TURNS TO  
BLOOD Rev. 16:3

**THIRD**  
RIVERS AND FOUNTAINS  
TURN TO BLOOD Rev. 16:4

**FOURTH**  
SUN SCORCHES  
FLESH OF MANKIND  
Rev. 16:7-9

**FIFTH**  
BEAST'S KINGDOM  
DESTROYED  
Rev. 16:10-11

**SIXTH**  
EUPHRATES RIVER  
DRIES UP Rev. 16:12

**SEVENTH**  
JESUS & SAINTS  
RETURN TO SETTLE  
BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON  
Rev. 16:16

ON THE KINGDOM  
of the  
ANTICHRIST

JESUS & SAINTS  
DESTROY ANTICHRIST ARMIES  
IN BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

WORSHIPPERS  
OF THE BEAST

(Cor. 13:1, 12)