

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES FOR THE PROPHETIC LANGUAGE OF MATTHEW 24

Jesus uses some language that sounds like He is speaking of His second coming. Some base their rapture ideas on this chapter. Those who do so forget Jesus is describing the destruction of Jerusalem (**vs 1-2**). Believing this to be the rapture due to the “end time” sound of the language doesn’t make sense since, according to the rapture theories, the rapture is not the end of time or the return of Jesus. Grasping the language corrects these concepts and shows how such descriptions can & do refer to such a physical judgment as the destruction of Jerusalem.

1. In Matthew 24:2 the disciples asked, “What will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age.” (See also Matthew 24:27, 37, 44)

- Physical destruction of a nation is commonly described as “the coming of the Lord” (**Zechariah 14:1; Micah 1:3; Isaiah 26:21**)
- The term “age” is used to speak of a specific dispensation or way of doing things (**Heb 9:9; Luke 20:34**)

2. Jesus said, “But the end is not yet (Matthew 24:6)

- The end of what? Keep this in context... Jesus has been talking about the destruction of the temple which symbolized Judaism!
- Such an “end of things” was spoken of to Daniel and it is referring to the end of Judaism, not the end of time (**Daniel 11:36-12:13**)

3. Jesus said, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from haven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” (Matthew 24:29)

- If the rapture, how would those who are left behind be able to survive?
- This language speaks of a shaking up of political governments & changes on earth (**Isa 13:1, 6-13; Joel 3:12-15**)
- Joel 2:28-32 uses this language & Peter quotes from it saying it applied to the things taking place on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:15ff**)

4. Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

- A statement of fact, not a description of what was about to take place
- These words contrast the unsure nature of what was about to take place with the sure foundation of Jesus’ words

5. The language of vs 30-31 sound like the return of Jesus, but such words are also used to describe a physical judgment or destruction (Rev 7:1-3)

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SOME TEXTUAL REASONS WHY MATTHEW 24 CANNOT APPLY TO THE RAPTURE OR THE END OF TIME

- 1. The context does not allow it.** Jesus describes a judgment on Jerusalem for and speaks specifically of its destruction (**Matt 23:31-24:2**)
- 2. The disciples questions are not authoritative.** Some see “Your coming” and “the end of the age” as speaking of the end of time, but these questions are coming from confused men. Also, “coming” easily refers to a coming in judgment and “end of the age” easily refers to the end of Jerusalem. (**Matthew 24:3**)
- 3. The descriptions given by Jesus fit the events surrounding the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman empire in 68-70AD (Matthew 24:4-13)**
 - The Bible doesn’t record this at it happens you have to look to history
 - Wars, rumors of wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes definitely happen today, but they’ve happened throughout time
- 4. Jesus narrows the timeframe down to taking place after the gospel had gone out to the entire world (Matthew 24:14)**
 - Paul spoke of this taking place during the First Century (**Colossians 1:23**)
- 5. Jesus’ instructions for how they should respond don’t make sense if you make this the rapture or the end of time (Mt 24:15-22)**
 - If it’s the rapture why would anyone need to run off to mountains?
Why not go back down into their home to get their belongings?
Why is it more difficult for those who are pregnant or nursing?
 - It certainly fits if they are to flee Jerusalem when they see the signs because it is about to be destroyed by war
- 6. Jesus limits these events to that generation (Matthew 24:34)**
 - Two options: Either there are 2,000 year old people walking around or these events have already transpired! Which one is it?
 - See **Mark 9:1** for a similar statement about the coming of the kingdom
- 7. Two taken & one left sounds easily fits the wars of those days (Mt 24:40-41)**
- 8. Some divide in this chapter, often around vs. 29, and say the first half is the destruction of Jerusalem while the second half is the second coming of Christ:**
 - When you compare Matt 24 to the accounts in the other gospels, such a division is impossible to make (**Luke 21 and Mark 13**)
 - Throughout the second half there are descriptions which are inconsistent with the second coming, but are consistent with the destruction of Jerusalem (**see verses 34, 40-41**)

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