

THIRTY THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS

#30 | THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST | MATTHEW 24:4-31

Someday the Lord Jesus is going to return to earth and will, at that time, fulfill what remains of the Messianic prophecies. In Matthew 24, Jesus explained His return. In Revelation 6:1-7:8 John describes the seven seals of the revelation with words that are so similar to Matthew that one must conclude they are talking about the same events.

THE TWO PARTS OF HIS RETURN

- Part 1: The *suntelos*
 - *together with the end* – “The Beginning of the End” – Matthew 24:1-8
 - Compare vv. 3, 6, and 8.
- Part 2: The *telos*
 - The Greek $\tau \epsilon \lambda \omicron \varsigma$ [telos] is *the uttermost*.
 - Matthew 24:9-31 explains “the end of time.”

THE CHRONOLOGY OF HIS RETURN

- The rapture is not discussed in Matthew 24 because it is a matter of the church age, an age which had not yet been revealed. Everything in Matthew 24 takes place after the rapture.
- Following the rapture, the seven seals of the Revelation are opened, each seal describing the progress of end times.

THE FIRST FOUR SEALS

- Seal 1
 - Matthew 24:4-5 corresponds with Revelation 6:1-2
 - A man on a white horse goes forth with a *toxon* (a bow) wearing a *stephanos* (a victor’s crown) and he is both conquering and continuing to conquer.
 - Though his identity may not be readily identifiable at this point in history, this is the release of the Antichrist (the restrainer having been removed (2 Thes. 2:7)).
- Seals 2-4
 - Matthew 24:6-7 are comprehensive of three seals, covered in Revelation 6:3-8.
 - Seal 2: Revelation 6:3-4 describe war upon the earth.

- Seal 3: Revelation 6:5-6 describe famine upon the earth.
- Seal 4: Revelation 6:7-8 describe the death of ¼ of the population of the earth.

- In my estimation, seals 1-4 take place after the rapture and before the final seven years.

THE LAST THREE SEALS

- Seal 5
 - Matthew 24:8-28 corresponds with Revelation 6:9-11
 - The fifth seal is the seal of martyrs and persecution. It is the first half of the Tribulation, leading up to the Abomination of Desolation.
- Seal 6
 - Matthew 24:29-30 corresponds with Revelation 6:12-17
 - The sixth seal is one in which God sends every kind of disaster to destroy the earth and its inhabitants, yet they do not repent.
- Seal 7
 - Matthew 24:31 corresponds with Revelation 7:1-8
 - Jesus does not elaborate further on what happens to the gathered elect. The book of Revelation discusses seven trumpets and seven vials of wrath.

THE RETURN OF CHRIST

Revelation 19:11-16 describes the return of Jesus Christ to earth, where He will **judge and make war**.

The scriptures describe a resurrection, a time of judgment, the establishment of the Kingdom, and the complete conquering of death, followed by the new heaven and new earth.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus!