

The Future According to Jesus (Part 7)

Mark 13:3-37



THE FUTURE ACCORDING TO JESUS

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The Early Church

- *The Didache* (written shortly after 80 A.D.): "the Lord shall come and all his Saints with him. Then shall the world see the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven."
- Epistle of Barnabas (70-100 AD): "When His Son comes He will destroy...the wicked one, and will judge the godless, and will change the sun and the moon and the stars, and then He will truly rest..."

The Early Church

- Justin Martyr (100-165 AD): "hear, too, how He was to ascend into heaven according to prophecy... And how He should come again out of heaven with glory."
- Irenaeus (130-200 AD): "when this Antichrist shall have devastated all things in this world, he will reign for three years and six months, and sit in the temple in Jerusalem; and then the Lord will come from heaven in the clouds, in the glory of the Father, sending this man and those who follow him into the lake of fire."

The 7-Year Tribulation

(Daniel's 70th Week; 9:24-27)



The Rapture

- No hint of judgment
- No warning signs precede
- Rapture of living believers
- Resurrection of dead believers
- Before the Tribulation
- Christ comes in the air
- For His saints
- To take the saints to heaven

The Second Coming

- Emphasis on Judgment
- Dramatic signs precede
- No Rapture of living believers
- No Resurrection of dead believers
- After the Tribulation
- Christ returns to the earth
- With His saints
- To defeat His enemies/ establish His kingdom

I. The Beginning of Birth Pangs (5-13)

- A. False Christs, Prophets, and Predictions (5-6)
- B. War (7-8a)
- C. Natural Disasters (8b-c)
- D. Intense Persecution (9-13)
 - 1) False Religion (9a)
 - 2) Secular Authorities (9b)
 - 3) Personal Relationships (12-13)
- E. The Global Gospel (10)

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II. The Great Tribulation (14-23)

- A. Initiated by the Abomination of Desolation (14a)
- B. Marked by the Persecution of Israel (14b-18)
- C. Described as a Time of Unparalleled Tribulation (19)
- D. Shortened for the Elect (20)
- E. Filled with Spiritual Deception (21-22)

III. The Second Coming (24-27)

- A. The Timing of the Second Coming (24 a)
 - Matt. 24:36 - "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.
 - Acts 1:6-7 - So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;
 - Matt. 24:29 - "But immediately after the tribulation of those days...

III. The Second Coming (24-27)

- B. The Signs of the Second Coming (24b-25)
 - 1) The Sun Darkened (24b)
 - Is. 13:9-15; 12:9-11; 34:1-5 Ezek. 32:7; Joel 2:10, 30-31; 3:15.
 - Cf. Rev. 6:12a - I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair.
 - 2) The Moon Darkened (24c)
 - Cf. Rev. 6:12b - the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

III. The Second Coming (24-27)

- B. The Signs of the Second Coming (24b-25)
 - 3) The Stars Fall (25a)

Stars Will Fall?

- The 6th Seal
 - Stars will fall (6:13) ; Sky will be split apart (6:14)
- The 2nd Trumpet
 - Rev. 8:8-9
- The 3rd Trumpet
 - Rev. 8:10-11; freshwater made bitter

III. The Second Coming (24-27)

- B. The Signs of the Second Coming (24b-25)
 - 3) The Stars Fall (25a)
 - 4) The Powers of Heaven Shaken (25b)

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Powers of Heaven Shaken?

- The 4th Trumpet
 - Rev. 8:13; 1/3 of sun, moon, and stars
- The 4th Bowl
 - Rev. 16:8-9; sun scorches men
- The 5th Bowl
 - Rev. 16:10-11; darkness & pain

III. The Second Coming (24-27)

- A. The Timing of the Second Coming (24 a)
- B. The Signs of the Second Coming (24b-25)
- C. The Appearance of the Son (26)
 - Cf. Rev. 1:7 - BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.
 - Dan. 7:9-14
 - Zech. 14:1-4; Rev. 19:11-16

The People of Earth Respond

- Matt. 24:30 - "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.
- Luke 21:25-26 - "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- Rev. 1:7 - BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

III. The Second Coming (24-27)

- D. The Focus of the Son (27)
 - Cf. Dan. 12:1 - "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.
 - Cf. Zech. 12:9-11; 13:1
 - Rev. 7:9, 14 - After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;... [one of the elders] said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

When We Think of the Second Coming, It Should...

- 1) Confront us with the future judgment.
 - Matt. 16:27 - "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.
 - Heb. 9:27 - it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.
 - Acts 17:31 - because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

When We Think of the Second Coming, It Should...

- 2) Strengthen our hope.
 - 2 Th. 1:7-10
- 3) Encourage our personal holiness.
 - 1 John 3:1-2
- 4) Remind us of Jesus' love for us.