

# THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Mark 13:24-27

24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;

25 the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

27 And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

Remember where we are at in Mark's gospel. Jesus had been teaching in the temple court in Jerusalem. At the beginning of chapter 13 Jesus leaves the temple. He left the city of Jerusalem. Went out the eastern gate of the temple mount and up the Mount of Olives and He's sitting on the Mount of Olives with His disciples and they're looking back at the city of Jerusalem and Jesus pronounces judgment on that city at the beginning of chapter 13. He says in verse 2, **"Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down,"** speaking of the temple and the city of Jerusalem. That history came to pass in 70 A.D. when the Romans came and did just that...destroyed the temple, destroyed Jerusalem, and went on to destroy almost a thousand towns and villages throughout Israel, slaughtering Jews from one end of the land to the other in an absolute holocaust.

So our Lord is talking then about the destruction of the temple and the judgment of God to come on an unbelieving apostate Israel. With that in mind, the disciples, namely Peter, James, John and Andrew, pull Him aside and ask Him in verse 4, **"Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?"** Not only the destruction of Jerusalem, when will that be? But as Matthew tells us they ask, **"And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"**

Before Jesus went to the cross to die for sins, He wanted His disciples to be ready for what would come in the future, not only the immediate future and the destruction of Jerusalem, but also the time of His second coming.

Jesus went away with the promise that He would come again, John 14:3; Acts 1:9-11. If He is coming again, and He is, then we need to be ready for that coming and we need to know what will take place, so that we can warn a lost world to prepare.

We need to live in the light of His coming, Titus 2:11-13, **"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."**

In today's lesson on *The Second Coming Of Christ* I want you to see *The Sequence Of His Coming*; *The Setting For His Coming*; and *The Sign Of His Coming*.

## I. THE SEQUENCE OF HIS COMING v. 24a

Jesus tells us He will come **"after the tribulation of those days."**

The days He is referring to are identified in verses 14-23. The days the Lord has just described will be no ordinary period of time. Jesus says that they will be days of **"tribulation"** in verse 19. That word means **"trouble, difficulty and distress."**

We are living in troublesome times now, and there have been troublesome times in the past. But the days mentioned in these verses will be times so filled with turmoil and suffering that they are hard to imagine. In fact, Jesus says **"in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be."** The tribulation described by Jesus will be the worst period of time the world has ever or will ever experience.

The days described by Jesus will begin at a specific time. As we saw last time, in verse 14 Jesus talks about **"the abomination of desolation"**. Mark says the abomination of desolation is, **"standing where it ought not."** Matthew says it is **"standing in the holy place."** Luke speaks of seeing **"Jerusalem surrounded by armies."**

From history we know that Jerusalem has been surrounded by armies many times both before Christ came and since. Jerusalem and the temple has been a place of abominations and has been laid desolate by her enemies many times. But I believe all of these times are just setting the stage for the final ultimate abomination of desolation that will come later. As Luke tells us, **"Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."**

I believe that there will be a future demon-possessed world ruler whom Paul calls the man of sin, John calls the Anti-Christ or the beast of Revelation. He will make a seven year peace treaty with the nation of Israel. They will rebuild their Temple in Jerusalem and will once again worship God by keeping the sacrifices mandated in the Law of Moses. Half way through that seven year period, the Antichrist will break his treaty with Israel. He will enter the Holy of Holies in their Temple and he will declare that he is god and he will demand to be worshiped. Thus will he **"abominate"** or **"desecrate"** the Temple.

This event will mark the beginning of the Great Tribulation. That period of time will last three and one-half years. As Revelation chapters 6 through 19 show, it will be a time of warfare on an unprecedented scale. It will be a time marked by earthquakes, famines, disease, and false religion and false Christ's. It will be a time so severe that in Mark 13:20 Jesus says, **"except the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved."**

Those are the days described by Jesus. When those days are ended, He is coming.

## I. The Sequence Of His Coming

## II. THE SETTING FOR HIS COMING v. 24b-25

It is amazing to see how the Lord sets the stage for His Second Coming. Earthly rulers announce their coming with parades, pomp and ceremony. They sound trumpets and attend their appearances with all manner of elaborate preparations.

Jesus Christ will set the stage for His return by demonstrating His authority over all the universe. When Jesus comes back, all of creation gets in on the act.

To fully understand everything Jesus said would take place, we also need to look at what was recorded by Matthew and Luke.

Here is what Mark says, “...***the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken,***” Mark 13:24-25.

Here is what Matthew says, “...***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;***” Matt 24:29.

Here is what Luke says, “***And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken,***” Luke 21:25-26.

All three of these writers tell us that there will be “***signs***” in the heavens. The sun will not shine. In that darkness, the moon will not give its light. It can't because it merely reflects the light given off by the sun.

The stars that sit poised in the heavens will fall from their places. Luke tells us that even seas and the tides of the earth are affected.

Luke 21:26 says, “***Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth:***” The events of those days will be so terrifying, so frightening, that people will literally die of heart failure when they see these things happening.

What causes all this mayhem in the universe? Our Mark says, “***the powers in the heavens will be shaken.***” In Hebrews 1:3, we are told that Jesus “***upholds all things by the word of His power.***” The Lord Jesus created this universe and He holds it all together. He controls the movement of every planet, every star and of every particle of dust in the universe. Nothing moves anywhere without His permission. On that day, Jesus will allow it to spin out of control as He sets the stage for His return to the earth.

## I. The Sequence Of His Coming

## II. The Setting For His Coming

## III. THE SIGN OF HIS COMING v. 26-27

Matthew 24:30 records the Lord's words this way, “***Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven . . .***” Jesus' disciples had wanted to know the “***sign***” of His coming. In verses 5-25, He gave them a list of general signs that do not predict when Jesus will come, but they do teach us what the world will be like before He does come.

So, the events of the Tribulation will occur. A terrifying scene develops in the heavens as the Sun, Moon, and stars show signs of chaos. Then we have the “***sign***” of His coming.

What is that “***sign***”? The early church fathers believed that after the heavens went dark, the Lord would fill the darkened sky with a bright red cross. The Bible doesn't say anything about that. Other theologians believed that the heavens would be filled with the “***Shekinah***” glory of God. They believed that the glory of God will light the heavens. That is closer to the truth.

So what is the “***sign***”? It isn't a cross. It isn't some light sent from God. The “***sign***” is the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself in the clouds above the earth. How will He come?

- A. **He Will Come In Splendor** – **Verse 26** says that He will come “***n the clouds with great power and glory***”. When Jesus comes back, He will appear in His unveiled glory.

The world has had glimpses of that glory before. On the mount of transfiguration Peter, James and John saw a little of it. Israel had a glimpses of it when the glory of God descended on Mount Sinai and when God's glory dwelt between the wings of the cherubim in the Tabernacle and the Temple. Ezekiel saw it when it departed from the temple.

When Jesus appears, He will appear in clouds of glory. When Jesus ascended back into Heaven, Acts 1:9-11 tells us that a “***cloud received Him out of their sight***”. Angels standing there told the disciples that Jesus would “***come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven***”, v. 11. Daniel 7:13 tells us that the Son of Man will come “***with the clouds of Heaven***”. John in Revelation 1:7 says that He will come with the clouds. Mark, Matthew and Luke all say the same thing. Jesus is coming in the clouds when He return to this world.

Jesus will come on clouds of glory. It will be unmistakable. The whole world will see Him. Every inhabitant on the earth will see His glory!

- B. **He Will Come In Strength** – Mark says He will come with “***great power***”. The word “***power***” has the idea of “***strength***”. When Jesus comes, He will coming with “***strength***”. No power on earth will be able to oppose Him. When He comes, He will come with a display of His strength in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

His power will be displayed in the chaos of the heavens. It will be displayed in the darkness that surrounds the earth. It will be displayed in the clouds of glory upon which He rides. It will be displayed in the fact that He is able to defeat all His enemies with the power of His Word, Rev. 19:11-16.

When His feet touch the earth, they will do so on the top of the Mount of Olives. The very place He gave the prophecy we are studying now. The very place from which He ascended. When His feet touch the top of that mountain, Zech. 14:3-4 says it will split from top to bottom. That is power!

I don't know about you, but I want to be on the right side of that power. The only way to be on the right side of that power is to be in a faith relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? Rom. 5:9 says we are “***saved from wrath through Him.***”

- C. **He Will Come With Salvation** – Mark tells us that, when Jesus comes, He will send His angels throughout the world to “***gather His elect***”. The remnant of Israel will be saved in that day and they bow at the nail pierced feet of the Messiah. The Gentiles who were saved through the preaching of the 144,000 and the angel of Rev. 14:6, will be gathered together and will be brought into the presence of the Lord.

The language of this verse makes it clear that no one will be left out. Every single living saint will be brought to Jesus and they will stand before Him redeemed and rejoicing! Those on earth are gathered, and those in heaven are with Him as well. Luke actually records that Jesus said, “***Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.***”

Not everyone will rejoice when Jesus returns. Matt. 24:30 says, “***and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn***”. As we have already seen, many will die of sheer terror when Jesus comes. His return will be a time of sorrow for them and they will be destroyed by His power.

**Conc:** That is how the Lord Jesus describes His Second Coming. Here is what we need to remember:

- Jesus is coming again – John 14:3; Acts 1:9-11.
- His coming is salvation for those who are His elect.
- His coming is a terrible judgment for those who have refused His salvation and His Lordship.
- What about you? If you have never trusted Jesus Christ for your soul's salvation, you are playing a dangerous game. You are gambling with your soul. You need to come to Jesus today, ask Him to forgive you of your sins and to save your soul. I pray that you will do that.
- I also pray that we who are saved will carry a burden for those who are not. I pray that we would pray for them that they would be saved from the wrath to come.
- If the Lord has spoken to your heart, you need to come as He leads you.