

GATHER HIS ELECT

Three Verses of Jesus Christ Coming

The Coming of Christ

'And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ' Revelation 19:11-14 (KJV)

The Coming of Christ

'For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming [parousia] of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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 [from Latin rapio] together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.' 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

(KJV)

The Coming of Christ

'For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming [parousia] of the Son of man be.

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: 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. 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. ' Matthew 24:27,29-31 (KJV)

Immense Unprecedented Events

- ◆ 1 Thess. 4 - Living and dead saints meet the Lord in the air
- ◆ Rev. 19 - Heavens open and King of kings comes with armies
- ◆ Matt. 24 - Coming on the clouds of heaven and gathers the elect

Revelation 19 - When?

- ◆ Around the end of the 70th Week
- ◆ 7th Seal has been opened
- ◆ 7 trumpet judgments
- ◆ During or after the 7 bowl judgments

1 Thessalonians 4 - When?

- ◆ Pre-tribulation rapture teaches this is around the beginning of the "tribulation" or 70th Week of Daniel 9.
- ◆ Pre-wrath rapture teaches this is before the 7th Seal, which is The Day of the LORD and also the prophesied Wrath of God.
- ◆ Post-tribulation rapture teaches this happens at the end of the 70th Week, "at the last trump".

Olivet Discourse

- ◆ 'As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming [parousía] and of the end of the age?"' Matthew 24:3 (ESV)

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ 'All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. 'Matthew 24:8
- ◆ Wars, kingdom rising against kingdom, famines, earthquakes
- ◆ Corresponds to the first 4 seals in Revelation 6
- ◆ Birth pains and labor are in the prophets, gospels and Thessalonians describing the end of the age.

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ ' "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ' Matthew 24:15
- ◆ 'And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.'" Daniel 9:27
- ◆ Abomination of desolation is the mid-point of the 70th Week.

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ 'For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.' Matthew 24:21-22
- ◆ The "great tribulation" starts at the mid-point and is cut short.
- ◆ The martyrdoms of the 5th seal and elsewhere in Revelation

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ ' "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ' Matthew 24:29-30
- ◆ Corresponds to the 6th Seal, announces the Wrath and Day of the LORD.

The 6th Seal is Great Cosmic Signs

- ◆ "When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" Revelation 6:12-17

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ After the beginning of birth pains (first 4 seals)
- ◆ After abomination of desolation (middle of week)
- ◆ After 'the great tribulation' (5th seal)
- ◆ After cosmic signs of the sun, moon & stars (6th seal)

Matthew 24:31 - When?

- ◆ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will **gather his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ' Matthew 24:31

Same Greek word for "gather"

- ◆ Verb form "he (the Son of Man) will send forth his angels with a loud trumpet call and they will gather (*epísunagō*) his elect..." in Matthew 24:31
- ◆ Noun form *epísunagōgē* "Now concerning the coming (*parousía*) of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him" 2 Thessalonians 2:1
- ◆ That's because Matt 24:31 is the gathering together or rapture at the *parousía*.

Born-again believers in the body of Christ are called the elect.

- ◆ 'Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 'Colossians 3:12
- ◆ 'Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ' 2 Timothy 2:10
- ◆ 'Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; ' Titus 1:1

Matthew 24:31 - Who are his elect?

- ◆ 'And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ' Matthew 24:22
- ◆ 'For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told **you** beforehand. 'Matthew 24:24-25
- ◆ 'And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. 'Matthew 24:31
- ◆ These "elect" are on earth for the great tribulation and cosmic signs (Seals 5 & 6)

Whom is AC targeting in the great tribulation?

- ◆ 'Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on **the rest of her offspring**, on those who keep the commandments of God and **hold to the testimony of Jesus**. And he stood on the sand of the sea.' Revelation 12:17
- ◆ 'Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.' Revelation 13:7,10

'Who shall bring any charge against **God's elect**? It is God who justifies. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our

Lord.' Romans 8:33,35-39

What about the elect Jewish remnant?

- ◆ They are either Jews who have come to faith before Christ returns and are in the rapture or survivors who come to believe when they see him come to earth.
- ◆ Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, And shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:
Romans 11:5,25-26
- ◆ 'And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.' Zechariah 12:10

New Covenant fulfillment for Israel

- ◆ ' "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord , when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord : I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord ,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord . For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." ' Jeremiah 31:31,33-34

What about the re-gathering of Israel?

- ◆ Timing does not work. Matt. 24:31 is after the 6th Seal and the re-gathering of Israel is after the 7th Seal at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom.
- ◆ 'As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.' Ezekiel 34:12-14,23-24

What about the re-gathering of Israel?

- ◆ In Ezekiel 39, the re-gathering happens after the invading forces of antichrist have been wiped out after the 7th Seal.
- ◆ Compare Ezekiel 39 with Revelation 19.
- ◆ 'when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies' lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore. And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord God.'"Ezekiel 39:27-29

What about the 144,000?

- ◆ 'And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. ' Revelation 7:4
- ◆ This is after the 6th Seal when the elect are gathered and the 144,000 stay on earth through all the 7th Seal.
- ◆ At this time, in Rev. 7:9-17, notice the multitude in heaven of all nations in front of the throne and the lamb. This is the elect who were gathered.

Gathered out of the great tribulation before the 7th Seal

- ◆ After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;
- ◆ ... And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Revelation 7:9,14
- ◆ The 7th Seal not opened until Revelation chapter 8

Similarities Matt. With 1 Thess.

- ◆ Lord Jesus coming from heaven (the sky) in both passages
- ◆ He shall send forth his angels = cry of command and voice of archangel
- ◆ Clouds in both passages
- ◆ Sound of trumpet in both passages
- ◆ Survivors who endure to the end shall be saved = those who remain
- ◆ Gather his elect = meet the Lord in the air

Same Greek word for "gather"

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- ◆ Noun form *epísunagōgē* "Now concerning the coming (*parousía*) of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him" 2 Thessalonians 2:1
- ◆ That's because Matt 24:31 is the gathering together or rapture at the *parousía*.

Parousía !!!

- ◆ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your **coming** and of the end of the age?" Matthew 24:3
- ◆ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the **coming** of the Son of Man. Matthew 24:27
- ◆ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the **coming** of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 1 Thessalonians 4:15

What and When is the Matthew 24 Gathering of his Elect?

- ◆ Matt. 24 - Coming on the clouds of heaven and gathers his elect
- ◆ 1 Thess. 4 - Living and dead saints meet the Lord in the air
- ◆ Rev. 19 - Heavens open and King of kings comes with armies
- ◆ It is a momentous event after the 6th seal that can only be the rapture or gathering together of the Church.