

**How Can Everyone Know What No One Knows?
A Key Distinction of the Second Coming from the Rapture**

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Introduction

Disclaimer: Few of my fellow dispensationalists see the rapture in Matthew 24

1. Ephesians 3:4-5, 9-10 says that the Church was a previously unrevealed mystery—first revealed by apostles (not by the OT and not by Jesus). Amen!!!!

The OT never even hinted that Jews and Gentiles would be together in one corporate body (the Church), a mystery.

Mystery, a previously unrevealed truth

A simplified dispensational chart. The Church is a parenthesis.

1 Mankind	2A Israel: Pt. A	3 Church	2B Israel: Pt. B	4 1000 Yr Kgdm
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What the Old Testament revealed (It did not reveal the mystery)

1 Mankind	2 Israel	3 Kingdom
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2. How could Jesus reveal the rapture without revealing the Church mystery?
If Jesus had revealed this mystery, then Ephesians 3 would not be true.
Therefore, any view in which Jesus reveals this mystery would be wrong.

(I will deal with this issue on the final page)

Contextual Background to Matthew 24: The disciples admire the temple (24:1-2)

Parousia: coming? or presence?

- ▶ Now 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 presence, and of the end of the age?” (24:3)
- ▶ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the presence of the Son of Man be. (24:27)
- ▶ But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the presence of the Son of Man be. (24:37)
[They] did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the presence of the Son of Man be. (24:39)

Another word (*erchomai*) shows up in context that means *to come*. It is helpful to keep *parousia* (*presence*) distinct from *erchomai* (*to come*).

The temple would be destroyed: Not one stone (24:2)

When will these things be? What will be the sign...? (24:3)

Matthew doesn't record the answer about the temple, but Luke 21:12-24 does

When will these things be? He answers in reverse order

The answer starts in Matthew 24:36

What will be the sign of Your presence and of the end of the age?

The answer starts in Matthew 24:4

What will we learn from His answers?

One event's date will be unknown and unknowable:	No one will know it
Another event will be widely known and knowable:	Many will know it
These must be two distinct events	

Jesus and the angels, didn't know the day/hour. No one except the Father knew it (24:36)

Unbelievers will not know the day or hour (24:37-39)

Two men in the field will not know (24:40)

Paralambanō (take) does not have a negative connotation. It does not imply judgment
The following verses in Matthew use the word: 1:20, 24; 2:13, 14, 20, 21; 4:5, 8;
12:45; 17:1; 18:16; 20:17; 24:40, 41; 26:37; 27:27

Two women in the mill will not know (24:41)

Relationship of 24:36-41 and 24:42

Jesus, angels, unbelievers, believing farmer, unbelieving farmer, believing woman, unbelieving woman will not know the day/hour. Only the Father knows it (24:36-41).

Watch, therefore, for you do not know the hour your Lord is coming (24:42)

Homeowner would have watched, if he knew (24:43)

Be ready by living for the Lord now (24:44)

**No one will know the rapture's date, but many will know the date of the second coming
How can no one know what everyone knows? They are two events**

Some events will happen at the start of the tribulation (seven years before its end) (24:6, 8)



In the middle of the tribulation, Jewish sacrifice will cease & the desolating abomination will appear in the temple (24:15)



Mid-point: This is the signal for Judean believers to flee to the mountains (24:16)



Mid-point: Those fleeing must take the warning seriously: forsake personal effects (24:16-17)



Mid-point: Those who are pregnant or who have infants will face extra problems (24:19)

Mid-point: Winter or sabbath rules would create problems (24:20)



The second half of the seven-year tribulation will be the great tribulation (24:21)



God must shorten those days to seven years (24:22)

This does not mean that it will be shortened from 7 years, but shortened to 7 years



At the end of the tribulation there will heavenly disturbances (24:29)



Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear; He will come to earth in great glory (24:30)



The date of the second coming will not be secret

How can everyone know what no one knows? The rapture and second coming are distinct

The mystery (the Church) not revealed: only 4 people mentioned (Mat 24:40-41)