

## Rapture versus Second Advent in Matthew 24

Dr. John Niemelä: Water of Life      7 Mar 2013

Background: The Church as a Parenthesis: Mat 16:18b says,

On this Rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

Ephesians 3: the Mystery:

Memory: Eph 3:6 introduced by 3:4b ...the mystery of Christ [is] that Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and [fellow] partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.

In Ephesians: *you* always = Gentiles (Cf. Eph 2:11; and in the Majority Text & NKJ, 4:17)

Note Ephesians 2:1 "*You \_\_\_\_\_ were dead*" and 2:5a "*and we \_\_\_\_\_ were dead*"

Note Ephesians 2:5c    *He [God] made \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ alive together with Christ*

In Ephesians: *we* (if not yet a believer) = Jewish unbeliever; *we* (if a believer) = the church

Illustration: A few minutes before the preacher said, "I pronounce you...",

One could say, "We [on this side of the sanctuary] are my family;

You [on the other side of the sanctuary] are not my family."

A few minutes later, "We [on both sides of the sanctuary] are my family."

Ephesians 2:1ff

Ephesians 3:5ff: the previously unrevealed mystery

*Parousia* (*para* + *ousia*, literally, *presence*) appears 4× here, but nowhere else in Matthew. 2 Cor 10:10 shows this meaning. The NKJV translates both *parousia* and *erchomai* as *coming*. Write *parousia* or *presence* next to *coming* in the asterisked verses. Since the disciples did not then expect Jesus to leave,

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24:3\* *parousia*

24:27\* *parousia*

24:30 *erchomai*

24:37\* *parousia*

24:39\* *parousia*

24:42 *erchomai*

24:44 *erchomai*

24:48 *erchomai*

(24:1–2) His disciples pointed out the Temple; Jesus said not one stone shall be left upon another

(24:3) They asked:

1. When will these things be?

He answers this question last: starting in 24:36

2. What will be the sign of Your *parousia*?

3. What will be the sign of the end of the age?

(24:36) No one (apart from the Father) knows [right then] when the *parousia* will be

Mark 13:32 tells us that not even Jesus knew [right then] when it would be

(24:37–39) When the *parousia* starts (at Rapture), all unbelievers will be unprepared (as in Noah's day)

24:4–14 describes the calamities that will follow a seeming time of peace 3

(24:40–41) When the *parousia* starts (in the Rapture), none of the 4 people expected it

Did Jesus reveal the Ephesians 3 mystery here?

(24:43–51) Disciples will not know the date of the Rapture, so they need to be rewardable at all times

(24:4–14) Then (after Rapture + a gap) labor pains begin (first half of the Tribulation)

(24:15–31) Then the Great Tribulation starts (2<sup>nd</sup> half of Trib) and Christ will return (Second Advent)

(24:15–28) The world will enter the Great Tribulation

In v 22, the days will be shortened to seven years, not shortened from seven years.

(24:29) As Trib nears end, sun & moon will darken, stars will fall, & heavens will shake

Do the events of verse 29 happen in secret?

(24:30–31) Son of Man will appear in sky (clouds) as sign; mourning earth will see Him come on clouds; He will gather together His elect from the ends of the heavens

### **OBSERVATION AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Rapture is quite distinct from the Second Advent