

INTRODUCTION

TWO PRELIMINARY ISSUES:

What does “the sign of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:30) mean?

Parousia literally means presence (cf. 2 Cor 10:10)

Matthew 24:3, 27, 37, 39 use *parousia* for *presence*, despite it being translated *coming*.

Matthew 24:5, 30, 39, 42, 43, 44, 46, 48; 25:6, 10, 11, 13, 19, 27, 31, 36, 39 use the word *erchomai* (“come”), when Jesus meant *come*.

DIFFERENTIATING THE RAPTURE FROM THE SECOND COMING:

Jesus' disciples asked two questions in Matt 24:3 that He answered in reverse order:

- A. When will these things be?
- B. What will be the sign of Your *parousia* and of the end of the age?
- B'. The world seeing Jesus in heaven = the sign with advance warning (24:4-35)
- A'. An initial event will come with no advance warning (24:36-44)

Observe that Jesus answered these questions in reverse order. Why?

Illustration: The Lincoln and Douglas Debates of 1858.

We will reverse the order that Jesus used, because Event A will precede Event B chronologically.

A. The initial event (the rapture) will come with no advance warning:

1. The flood came without warning, so too the *parousia* (24:37-39)
2. Two men in a field; one raptured, the other not (24:40): *Paralambanō* is positive in Mat 2:13f, 20f [Joseph took Mary/Jesus to safety]; 17:1 [transfiguration]
3. Two women in a mill; one raptured, the other not (24:41): *Paralambanō* is positive
4. You will not know when the Lord is coming to rapture (24:42)

B. The world seeing Jesus in heaven (just before He returns) is a sign with advance warning:

1. Wars and rumors of wars will be part of the beginnings of sorrows (24:4-8)
2. The abomination of desolation will be at the midpoint (24:15-28)
3. Immediately after tribulation of those days sun/moon dimmed (24:29a)
4. After the sun/moon dims, heavens will be shaken (24:29b)
5. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear, then He will come (24:30)

How Bad Will the Tribulation Be? (Remember, Church Age believers will not be there)

By comparison: The Nazi Holocaust, the Nazi Generalplan Ost, the Soviet Holodomor, the Nazi occupation of Poland, Pol Pot's genocide, and the Soviet Kazakh genocide total 33,650,000 dead.

In the fourth seal judgment _____ of the world's population will die (Rev ____:____-____)

In the sixth trumpet judgment _____ of the world's population will die (Rev ____:____-____)


The seal and trumpet judgements occur in the _____; the bowl judgments in the _____,

Therefore, the bowl judgments will be _____.

Earth's population at the start of the millennial kingdom will be _____.

Special Provision for Children in the Millennium

John 6:44-45:

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| A. | No one can <u>come to Me</u> unless the Father...draw him... | (6:44) |
| B. | It is written in the Prophets, "And they all shall be <u>taught by God</u> ." | (6:45a) |
| B'. | Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, | (6:45b) |
| A'. |  <u>comes to Me</u> . | (6:45c) |

Where in the Prophets? Isaiah 54:13, a passage about the millennial kingdom. Its context speaks of the decimation of Israel's population during the tribulation.

Matthew 19:14 // Mark 10:14 // Luke 18:16: For of such is the kingdom of heaven/God.

2 Samuel 12:23

Conclusion