

SESSION 2 - Handout

THE GATHERING OF THE SAVED (the rapture)

(The Latin for gathering, being caught up is 'raptus'=> hence the use of the word 'rapture' in English)

We Cover:

Matt 24, Mark 13, Luke 17, 21 and others.

The questions:

- What did Jesus say about His 2nd Coming, The Tribulation and Great Tribulation, the Abomination of desolation, the rapture, the day and the hour?
- Jesus commands us to be watching. What are the signs we are to watch for?
- What do Jesus' parables of the days of Noah & the days of Lot indicate?

Matthew 24: 3 – 14; Signs of the end.

The disciples asked Jesus 3 questions on the evening after they had heard Jesus' words, that the temple would be destroyed, with not one stone left on another. The future destruction of the temple, being the centre of Jewish culture, would have puzzled and concerned them immensely. They ask:

Matt 24:3
3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying,
Tell us, when shall these things be? ← Question 1:
and what shall be the sign of thy coming, ← Question 2:
and of the end of the world? ← Question 3:

Jesus responds firstly by warning them about deception. The primary danger in the end times was going to be deception.

He answers: "Take heed that no man **deceive** you. (Matt 24:4)"

Jesus then continues with a series of signs that will precede his second coming. They are listed below:

Summary of the SIGNS before Jesus' second coming:

1. Antichrists and The Antichrist:

Many shall come in Jesus' name saying, "**I am Christ**" and shall **deceive** many. (Matt 24:5)

'False Christs and false prophets shall arise. They shall show great signs and wonders, but it will not be possible to deceive the very elect.' (Matt 24:24)

John confirms that there will be one final Antichrist, 1 John 2:18 '*... that antichrist shall come ...*'

John 5:43 '*... if another shall come in his own name ...*': Jesus warns the Pharisees that they would be deceived by the Antichrist due to their unbelief. Their offspring would rather follow the Antichrist than accept Jesus.

The prophet Daniel describes the antichrist as 'rising up' amongst 10 horns. (10 rulers/kings). Refer to sessions 4, 5 and 6 for more detail.

Dan 7:8 ' ⁸ *I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.*'

Dan 7:20-21 ²⁰ *And of the ten horns that were in his head, ...; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.*

The Antichrist will make war with the saints (believers):

²¹ *I beheld, and the same horn **made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;***

Further persecution by the antichrist predicted by Daniel:

*Dan 7:25 ²⁵ And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be **given into his hand** until a time and times and the dividing of time.'*

Further details from Revelation:

' 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.' Rev 13:5-6

Also refer to 2 Thess 2:1-4 alongside: It seems that the antichrist (the 'man of sin') remains behind the scenes until his 'revelation' .

2 Thess 2:1-4
¹ Now we beseech you, brethren,
**by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and by our gathering together unto him,**

That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

³ **Let no man deceive you by any means:** for that day shall **NOT** come, except there come a falling away first, and **that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition**

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Rev 13:12,15 ⁴² And he exercises all the power of the first beast before him, and cause the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, ... ¹⁵ ..., and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.'

PHYSICAL SIGNS:

Jesus firstly explains that mere 'wars and rumours of wars' are **not** signs of the end. Wars have always occurred in history and will continue. On their own they are not signs of the end. Note how Jesus says: "Be not troubled, the end is **not yet**." (Matt 24:6)

But: Jesus does explain that they will increase in severity and in frequency as the end approaches. Jesus lists the following to escalate near the end:

- Nation shall rise against nation. Kingdom against kingdom.
- There will be Famines. Pestilences. Earthquakes in diverse places. (Matt 24:7)
- These events (physical signs) are the beginning of sorrows. or birth pains.

Jesus compares the escalation of wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes to the escalation of birth pains as a birth approaches.

PERSECUTION: Listing Jesus' teaching: (in dot point format)

Jesus warns that believers should be prepared to be killed, martyred, or beaten for their faith as follows:

- They shall deliver you up to be afflicted. (Matt 24:9)
- They shall kill you. (Matt 24:9)
- They shall lay their hands on you. (Luke 12:12)
- They shall persecute you. (Luke 12:12)
- Brought before councils, rulers and kings for Jesus' sake. (Mark 13:9, Luke 12:12)
- Deliver you up to synagogues [G4864] and into prisons. (Luke 12:12, Mark 13:9)

Public opinion against born-again Christians will turn to hate all over the world:

- You shall be hated by **all nations** for Jesus' name sake (Matt 24:9)
- Offence: Many shall be offended; they will take offence at Christian beliefs. (Matt 24:10)

Betrayal: They shall betray one another, even in families: (Matt 24:10)

- Brother shall betray brother to death. The father shall betray his son. (Mark 13:12)
- You shall be betrayed by: Parents, brethren, kinsfolks and friends.
- They shall cause some of you to be put to death. (Luke 21:16) .
- They shall hate one another. (Matt 24:10)
- Children shall: - rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. (Mark 13:12)

Encouragement through persecution:

- It shall be an opportunity for a testimony. (Luke 12:13, Mark 13:9)
- We are to take no thought/premeditate what we shall speak/answer. (Mark 13:11, Luke 21:14)
- The Holy Spirit will give you the words to speak. (Mark 13:11)
- Given a mouth of wisdom. (Luke 21:15)

Rev 12:11 'And they (believers) overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.'

FALSE PROPHETS:

Jesus warns against false prophets who would even be capable of great signs and wonders:

- 'Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.' (Matt 24:11)
- 'For there shall: Arise false Christs and false prophets.
- They shall show great signs and wonders.' (Matt 24:24)
- Matt 7:15 ¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.'
- What is a false prophet? Refer to Jer 23:16, 25-26, 32, Deut 13:1-5 for the definition.
- 2 Pet 2:1-2 ¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as **there shall be false teachers** among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.'
- 1 John 4:1-6 'Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because **many false prophets** are gone out into the world..... ⁵ They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. ⁶ Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.'

Believers will be able to discern between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error by the word of God. (John 6:63 – Jesus' words are spirit and they are life.)

The final 'FALSE PROPHET': The end-time prophet will exceed them all in deception and miracles:

Rev 13:11-14 'And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon'(v11) 'And he does great wonders,'(v13) 'And **deceives them** that dwell on the earth by means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast;' (v14)

DECEPTION: Jesus repeats the danger of deception several times:

- Take heed that no man **deceive** you. (Matt 24:4)
- Many shall come in Jesus' name saying "I am Christ" and shall **deceive** many. (Matt 24:5)
- Many false prophets shall arise and shall **deceive** many. (Matt 24:11)
- False Christs and false prophets shall arise. Shall show great signs and wonders. Not possible to deceive the very elect. (Matt 24:24)

Further scriptures:

- 2 Cor 11:13-15 '... false apostles, deceitful workers ...'

- 2 Tim 3:13 'But evil men and seducers deceiving ...'
- 2 Pet 3:2-3 '... there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts.'
- Jude v17-19 '...there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.'
- 1 Tim 4:1-2 '... in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ...'
- 2 Tim 4:3-4 'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;
- Rev 12:9 '9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: ... '
- Rev 13:14 '14 And **deceives** them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.'

Revelation 18 (below) makes the point that **ALL nations shall be deceived**, especially through 'pharmakeia' (Greek reference [G5331]). i.e., pharmaceutical concoctions, sorcery, witchcraft.

Rev 18:23
 ... : for thy merchants were the great men of the earth;
 for by thy sorceries [G5331] were **ALL NATIONS DECEIVED**.
 Rev 18 is about the: Destruction of the physical Babylon

G5331
 Φαρμακεία pharmakeia
 far-mak-i'-ah
 From G5332; medication ("pharmacy"),
 that is, (by extension) *magic* (literal or
 figurative); - sorcery, witchcraft.

Additional signs may be listed as follows, with scriptures for reference:

MORE SIGNS:

- Iniquity shall abound (Matt 24:12, 2 Tim 3:1-5)
- Love of many wax cold. (Matt 24:12)
- Ungodly, Wicked and evil.(Jude v15, Rev 9:21, Rom 1:29-32)
- Cast truth to the ground. (Dan 8:12, Rom 1:18, 2 Tim 4:3-4, 2 Thess 2:9-12, Rom 2:8-9)
- Rejection and blasphemy of God. Falling away (from truth). Departing from faith. (Rom 1:25,28, Rev 16:9-11, 1 Sam 15:23, 1 Tim 4:1)
- Idolatry. Worship of devils. (Rev 9:20-21, Rev 16:13-14, Rev 18:2)
- Shedding of blood. (Rev 16:6, Rev 17:6, Rev 18:24, Rev 19:2)
- Change times and laws. (Dan 7:25)
- Knowledge increased and they shall run to and fro. (Dan 12:4)
- Greed. (Rev 18:11-13,15, 1 Tim 6:10)
- **Global rule.** (Dan 7:23, Luke 21:35, Rev 6:4, Matt 24:21-22, Rev 3:10, Rev 13:3,7,8,12,16)

GLOBAL RULE: This matches the first seal in Revelation 6, which commences the tribulation. The rider on the white horse establishes global rule, a one world government. **Global rule is a very clear sign** of tribulation about to commence.

However, as there will be '10 kings' working together to create this global 'Beast', it may be that they choose to remain incognito, or even function as apparent opponents. They may succeed to deceive the world (those without discernment) of their true agenda: to work together to serve Satan and promote the Antichrist.

Note that Jesus warns (Luke 21:35 below) that tribulation, as initiated by the first seal (global rule) will come as a snare on the whole earth.

Daniel, Jesus, and Revelation make the move to Global rule clear as follows:

<p>Dan 7:23 ²³ Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.</p>	<p>Rev 13:3 ³and all the world wondered after the beast.</p>
<p>Luke 21:35 ³⁵ For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.</p>	<p>Rev 13:7 ⁷ And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.</p>
<p>Rev 6:4 ⁴ And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.</p>	<p>Rev 13:8 ⁸ And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.</p>
<p>Matt 24:21-22 ²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.</p>	<p>Rev 13:12 ¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.</p>
<p>Rev 3:10 ¹⁰ Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.</p>	<p>Rev 13:16 ¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:</p>
	<p>Rev 14:8 ⁸ And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.</p>
	<p>Rev 18:2-3 ² For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. ³ For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.</p>

Endurance: Jesus encourages end-time believers to endure:

'He that endures to the end shall be saved [G4982].' (Matt 24:13) The greek word G4982 refers to a physical rescue or survival, and not to spiritual salvation. We cannot 'lose' our salvation. We're spiritually saved only by believing in and trusting in Jesus' work on the cross, and not by our endurance or performance or our works.

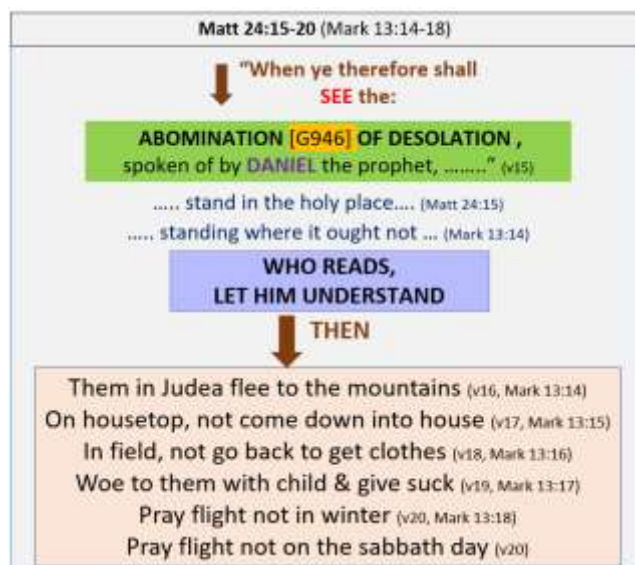
'This **gospel of the kingdom** shall be preached in all the world as a witness unto all nations. Then shall the end come.' (Matt 24:14)

The Abomination of Desolation (AOD) & The Desolation of Jerusalem:

Matt 24:15 When ye therefore shall SEE the **abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand:)

G946
βδέλυγμα *bdelugma* *bdel'-oog-mah*
a detestation, that is, (specifically) *idolatry*: - abomination

The tribulation signs before the Abomination of Desolation (AOD) require discernment as they have already sporadically occurred throughout the ages. **BUT**, by using the 'birth pains' analogy, Jesus prophesies that their severity and extent will increase to a level that is unmatched in history. For the first time ever, it engulfs the entire world. The AOD we're considering next is the first specific and visible sign after the ever-increasing troubles and persecution in the previous verses. The AOD is also the first reference Jesus makes to the Old Testament – to Daniel the prophet.



“Whoso reads, let him understand”:

Jesus encourages us to try understand the cryptic nature of the AOD, as the answer won't be too obvious, thus some effort will be required. We can approach the understanding of the 'Abomination of Desolation' as follows:

- 1) First, we need to understand the use of the term abomination in the Bible: it is a detestation, attempting to defile God's holiness. It is the replacement of God with something detestable, much like idolatry is considered an abomination by God.
- 2) Secondly the word desolate means empty. We may thus understand that the AOD will be an idol which will result in emptiness. This emptiness could be spiritual or physical, or perhaps both.
- 3) The 'Holy place' is not necessarily a temple, but most likely the temple mount. Holy means 'set apart', the holy place is thus a place reserved by God.
- 4) For the Antichrist to accomplish the AOD, Jerusalem will most likely need to be under his/gentile control. Consider also that, spiritually speaking, we as believers are the NT temple of God and that he will also attempt to control and defile us spiritually.

V16: Flee immediately, those in Judea.

Why specifically Judea and not the whole of Israel? Because the focus is Jerusalem where the AOD is set up. Jerusalem will be made desolate because the Antichrist will set up his HQ there and demand to be the only object of worship allowed. He will, most likely, remove any signs of Judaism, or Christianity or Islam in Jerusalem, and remove or destroy both buildings and followers.

Hence the warning: Anyone in Judea: Flee to save your life! You're in danger! Jerusalem is to be desolated.

Referring to Daniel: In Daniel 3 there is a reminder of how Daniel's three friends refused to bow to an idol enforced by the state.

Revelation 13 describes a similar end-time idol as an 'image of the beast' unto which worship is required.


Rev 13 also describes a mandatory allegiance with the Antichrist by the enforced taking of a mark...Refer to future sessions for more detail.

Revelation 13:11, 14-17

¹¹ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth;

¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make **an image to the beast** which had the wound by a sword, and did live. ¹⁵ And he had power to give life unto **the image of the beast** that **the image of the beast** should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship **the image of the beast** should be killed.

¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,



The desolation of Jerusalem:

In Luke 21, Jesus explains that Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies before the 'desolation thereof'. This will be coincident with the erection of the AOD. Those who notice these armies gathering around Jerusalem should flee immediately.

Luke 21's 'Desolation of Jerusalem' is 'bookended' with the same events as those surrounding the Matt 24:15 AOD. Thus, we can safely conclude that these two events are concurrent. Zechariah 14:2 confirms this event, which is clearly NOT the armies assembling at Megiddo (Armageddon)

"For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city"


Luke's 'desolation' passage and 'the Times of the Gentiles' is described in more detail in session 3.



THE GREAT TRIBULATION

After the Abomination is set up, it seems that the Antichrist takes control and a severe world-wide persecution of believers and Jews commences, which is additional to the general troubles experienced by the entire population. Jesus calls the period after the 'Abomination of Desolation' the 'Great Tribulation' – so intense that He adds: ...'such as was not since the beginning of the world'!

Jesus states that no one would have survived if God had not shortened those days.

<p>Matthew 24:21-22</p> <p>↓ "For then shall BE</p> <p>GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (v21)</p> <p>No flesh shall survive unless those days are shortened.</p> <p>BUT</p> <p>for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (v22)</p>	<p>Dan 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.</p>	<p>Rev 7:9-14</p> <p>GREAT MULTITUDE BEFORE THE THRONE No man could number All nations, kindreds, people & tongues Stood before the throne Stood before the Lamb Clothed in white robes Palms in their hands</p>  <p>Who are they in white robes Where did they come from?</p> <p>Those that came out of GREAT TRIBULATION washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb</p>
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Matt 24:23: '**Then...**': Jesus emphasises the sequential nature of events by the frequent use of 'Then, when and after'.

- "...Believe it not if any man says: "here is Christ or there."
- 'For there shall: Arise false Christs and false prophets.
- They shall show great signs and wonders to deceive the nations.

However, Jesus assures us that it will not be possible to deceive the very elect with false miracles.' (Matt 24:24)

Jesus warns: "I've foretold you'!

Jesus told us before..... (Matt 24:25)

Mark 13:23 ²³But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

Is 42:9,
Is 46:9-10
Is 48:3, 5

Hence: 'Do not go if they say: 'He is in the desert'.'

'Believe it not if they say: 'He is in the secret chamber.'" (Matt 24:26)

'As the lightning from the east to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of man be.' (Matt 24:27)

Jesus warns not to believe any rumours of a localised 'second coming' because, in v27, Jesus emphasises that his 2nd coming will be as visible as lightning across the entire heavens everywhere on earth, so that 'every eye will see him' (Ref 1:7).

Refer to the session 1 handout for more detail about 'every eye'.

Jesus continues: 'Where the carcass is, there the eagles gather.' (Matt 24:v28) This could mean widespread death.

Verse 28 concludes Jesus' teaching on the tribulation, and moves to the signs surrounding His Second Coming!

" **AFTER the tribulation...**" . Matt 24:29

SIGNS AFTER THE TRIBULATION':

Now consider the signs 'AFTER THE TRIBULATION' but before Jesus' second coming':

Matt 24:29: *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:*



Who are the **elect [G1588]** in the New Testament?

The elect: (Col 3:11-12)

Greek & Jew
Circumcised & uncircumcised
Barbarian & Scythian
Bond & Free

The elect:
(1 Pet 1:1-2)

The **strangers** in
Pontus,
Galatia,
Cappadocia,
Asia,
and Bithynia

G1588
ἐλεκτός, ἐλεκτος
ek-iek-tos'
From G1586;
select; by implication
favorite: - chosen, elect.

The elect: [G1588]
Those in Christ:
-> ALL BELIEVERS
-> THE SAVED

Refer to session 1 for confirmation that the elect are all believers.

The entire New Testament (e.g. Col 3:11-12 and 1 Peter 1:1-2) teaches that the 'elect' are believers without consideration of race or status. All believers are gathered (raptured) when Jesus comes on the clouds of heaven with power and glory. (v30 & 31)

Why will "ALL the tribes of the earth" mourn? (v30): They can't miss the second coming! It's like lightning right across the entire sky. They will ALL SEE Jesus' power and glory, and they mourn as they know their time of reckoning is coming and are in distress.

Jesus' fig tree parable:

After describing his second coming and the rapture, Jesus continues with a parable:

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Adding the other gospels, Mark 13:28-29, Luke 21:29-31 to Matt 24:32-33:

SO LIKEWISE: -> When you **SEE** all these things. -> **Know** the time is near! -> **Know** that the **kingdom of God is near!**

The end-time generation: 'This generation shall not pass till ALL THESE THINGS BE FULFILLED' (Matt 24:34) 'All these things' refers back to Jesus' earlier teaching from Matt 24 v3-v31. Jesus refers to the tribulation and the second coming. Jesus confirms that the end-times won't drag on for centuries, but the duration will only be for one generation, perhaps even less than 30 years! We can thus be sure that the duration of end times is one generation or less, once the move to a global rule (seal 1) becomes apparent!

Luke 24:44 adds: 'And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **ALL THINGS MUST BE FULFILLED**, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.'

Heaven and earth shall pass away. (Matt 24:35)

Heb 1:10-12

¹⁰ And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:
¹¹ They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; ¹² And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed:
but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

Is 65:17

¹⁷ For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Rev 21:1

¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

'But Jesus' WORDS shall not pass away.' (Matt 24:35)

1 Pet 1:23-25 ²³ Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. ²⁴ For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass

withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: ²⁵ But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.'

The day and hour:

'But of that day and hour knows no man. Only the Father knows.' (Matt 24:36)

Rev 3:3 'Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. **If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.**'

If thou shall not watch,
I will come on thee as a thief....
WATCH THEREFORE!

Clearly Jesus' intent of 'not knowing the day and hour' is to motivate us to be watchful!

'Not knowing' is no excuse for ignoring all the signs leading up to Jesus' second coming!

'**Watch therefore. For you know not what hour the Lord comes.**' (Matt 24:42)

'**Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man comes.**' (Matt 24:44)

'**Watch therefore.**' (Matt 24:42) '... had known in what watch **the thief** would come, **he would have watched.**' (Matt 24:43)

Thief in the night: (1 Thess 5:1-4)

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.² For yourselves know perfectly that the **day of the Lord** so cometh as a thief in the night.³ For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon **them**, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

⁴ **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief** '

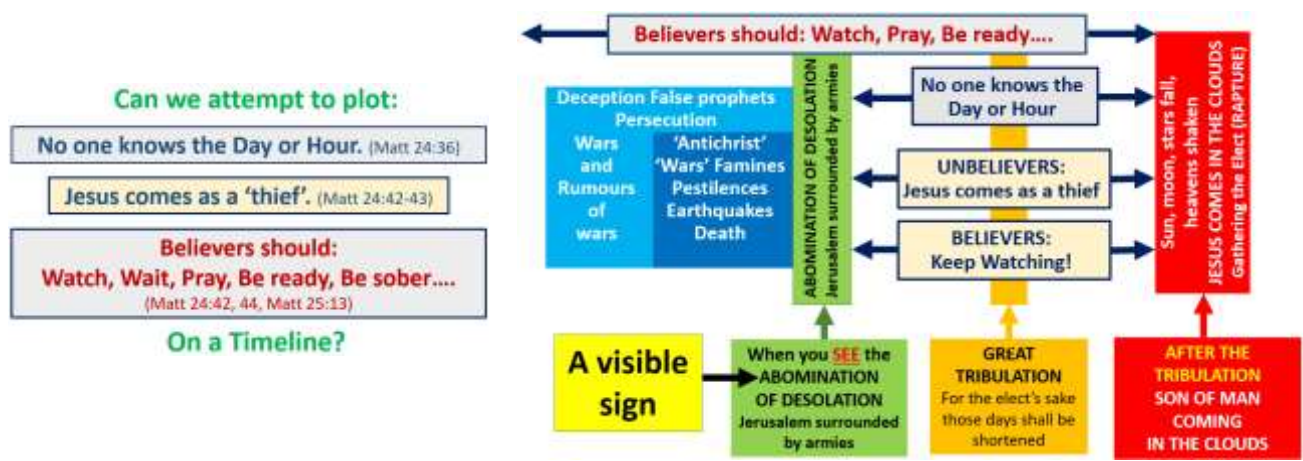
Believers will not be in darkness about that day! (only unbelievers will experience it as a 'thief in the night')

Referring back to Matt 24:15, we saw that the Abomination will be a visible sign. From Daniel 12 we know that it will be 1290 days (~3.5 years) from the Abomination to Armageddon (Jesus establishing his Millennial kingdom).

The rapture seems somewhere in the first half of this 1290-day period, when allowing enough time for the Wrath of God' judgements (The 7 trumpets and the 7 vials). Referring to the chart below, it seems we can know the season (1 Thess 5:1) but not the day or the hour.

Again: "But ye, **brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief ..**"

Believers will clearly not be taken by surprise by Jesus' second coming. Because they will watch, pray and be ready to meet the bridegroom, they don't need to know the exact day!



The end-time parables of Noah and Lot in Matt 24 and Luke 21:

Jesus emphasises with these parables that believers will be raptured before the wrath of God is poured out on the wicked. This is paralleled in Matthew 24:38-41, a parable describing Noah’s rescue from the global flood.

Because of the extreme wickedness of the world, God destroyed all except Noah and his family. His escape on the ark is paralleled with the rapture, just as ‘God’s wrath’ is poured out: Peter (2 Pet 2) also describes the Flood and Sodom as an example to the wicked (‘the day of judgment’) ...and of God’s deliverance of the righteous.

The days of Noah & The days of Lot.

2 Pet 2:5-9

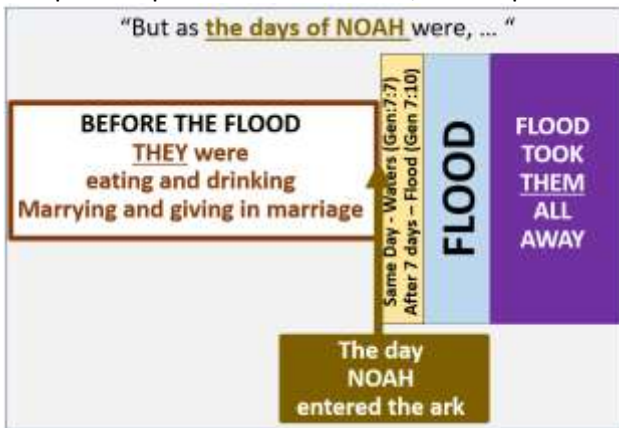
⁵ And spared not the old world, but **saved Noah** the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ And turning **the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes** condemned them with an overthrow, **making them AN EXAMPLE** unto those that after should live ungodly; ⁷ And **delivered just Lot**, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: ⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) ⁹ The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and **to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:**

Gen 6:5 ‘And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.’

Gen 6:9-12 ‘9 Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. 11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.’

The parable of Noah: *v38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

The parable pictured is on the LHS, and its parallel with Jesus’ second coming on the RHS below:



The application is clear:

The wicked are unaware of their impending doom, the day that God removed Noah (a picture of the rapture), the judgement of God on the wicked is poured out.

Note the additional wording, emphasising and confirming the rapture, added immediately after this parable....

*40 **Then** shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

A clear picture of the rapture ...‘one taken and the other left’

From the above we conclude that the ‘gathering of the elect’ (rapture) occurs at the coming of the Son of Man (Jesus).

The parable of Lot:

Luke 17: 28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded,²⁹ But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.³⁰ Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed

And the parable is followed with these verses:

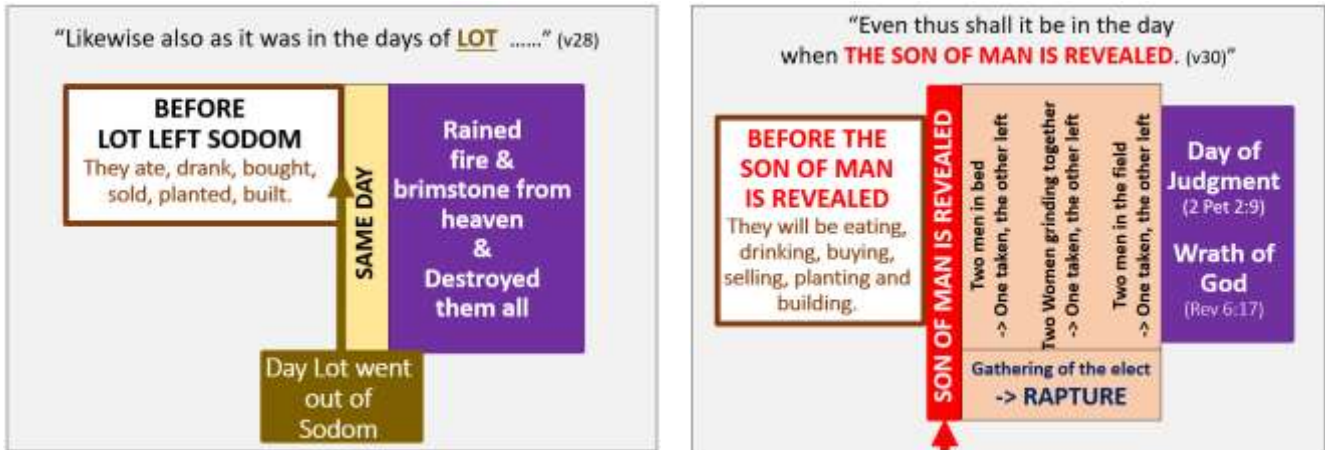
v34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left

Verse 34 to 36 are clearly three descriptions of the rapture, and when added to the parable:

The parable pictured is on the LHS, and its parallel with Jesus' second coming on the RHS below:



Similar to Noah's days, the wickedness of Sodom was extreme:

Gen 18:20 ' ²⁰And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

2 Pet 2:7-8 ' ⁷And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: ⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;

Gen 19:5 ' ⁵And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.'

Jesus adds a warning to those too attached to their possessions and/or lifestyle and unwilling to leave it behind: "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32). She perished with the Sodomites.

Luke adds a warning and some encouragement:

- It will come as a snare – unexpectedly for those too involved in the world.
- But: we may pray to escape (flee- stay out of reach) of these tribulations.

Luke 21:27, 34-35

See the Son of man coming in the cloud with power and great glory

TAKE HEED that **this day** come upon you unawares.....

Because of:

Surfeiting – Drunkenness (indulging)
Drunkenness – Intoxication
The cares of this life

As a snare shall it come on **ALL them that dwell on the WHOLE EARTH!**

Luke 21:36

Watch ye therefore, and pray always:

That ye may be accounted worthy to escape [G1628 - to flee out: - escape, flee.] all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Therefore:

Pray that we may be accounted worthy to:

- Escape persecution
- Escape being killed
- Escape being beaten
- Escape betrayal
- Escape offence
- Escape deception
- Escape wars
- Escape famines
- Escape pestilences
- Escape earthquakes

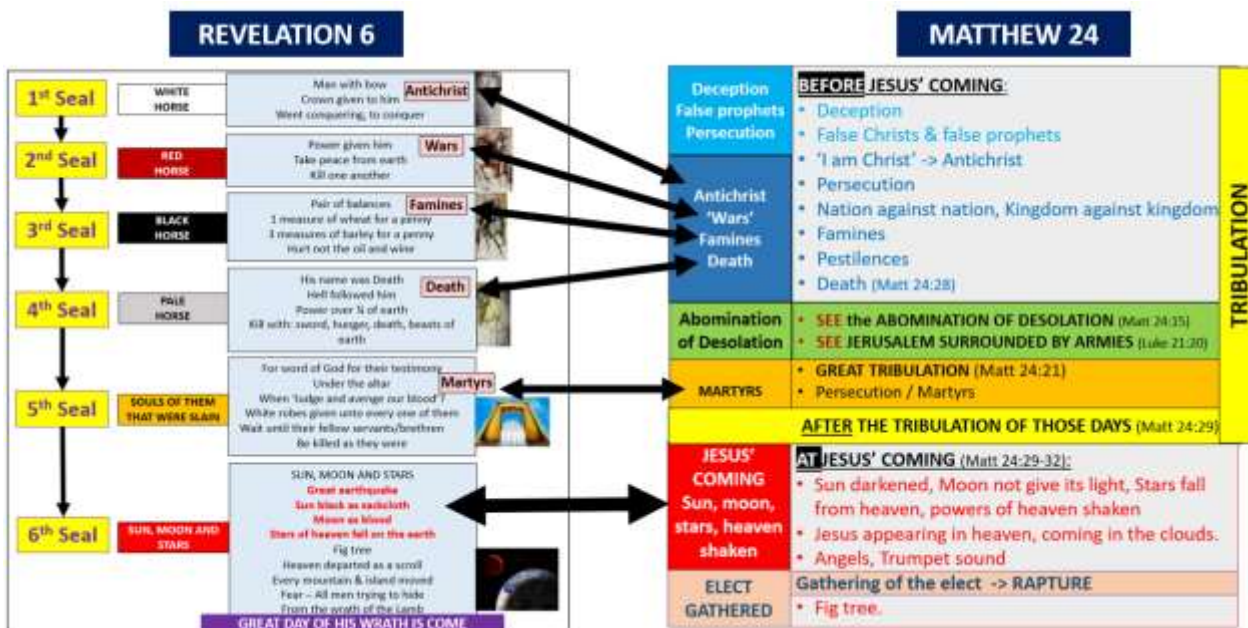
Summary of Signs Before Jesus' second coming:

TRIBULATION	Deception False prophets Persecution	BEFORE JESUS' COMING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deception • False Christs & false prophets • 'I am Christ' -> Antichrist
	Antichrist 'Wars' Famines Death	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEE the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (Matt 24:15) • SEE JERUSALEM SURROUNDED BY ARMIES (Luke 21:20)
	MARTYRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GREAT TRIBULATION (Matt 24:21) • Persecution / Martyrs • Days will be shortened for the elect's sake

Summary of signs 'AFTER THE TRIBULATION': (v29-33)

AFTER THE TRIBULATION OF THOSE DAYS (Matt 24:29, Mark 13:24)	
JESUS' COMING Sun, moon, stars, heaven shaken	AT JESUS' COMING (Matt 24:29-32): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun darkened, Moon not give its light, Stars fall from heaven, powers of heaven shaken • Jesus appearing in heaven, coming in the clouds. • Angels, Trumpet sound
ELECT GATHERED	Gathering of the elect -> RAPTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fig tree.

Comparing Matthew 24 with Revelation 6 (as per session 1) we note that the sequence of events match:



Projecting the summary in a Timeline sequence:



All believers are the elect.
 The elect are raptured at Jesus' 2nd coming which is at the 6th Seal.

AFTER the tribulation of those days
 But **BEFORE** the Wrath of God judgements.

Therefore:
The Rapture is PRE-WRATH

TWO QUESTIONS:

- 1) Where does Jesus' coming on the White Horse (Rev 19) fit on the timeline?
- 2) Are there any other confirmations of the Pre-Wrath rapture in revelation?

Jesus comes on a WHITE HORSE: (Session 6 & 7)

Jesus' second coming is on the clouds, when every eye will see him. (Rev 1:7)

His second coming is on the clouds **before** the Wrath of God judgements and is not on a white horse at Armageddon. (Refer to session 1 for the Pre-Wrath rapture presentation)

When Jesus comes on a white horse it is to engage in the Battle of Armageddon (Rev 19:11-21) and to establish his kingdom (Rev 20:1-6), which is chronologically **after** the 'wrath of God' judgements.

There is no mention in Revelation 19, when he is coming on the White Horse, that 'every eye will see him'. Neither is there a trumpet, nor the resurrection of the saints. Hence Rev 19 can't be seen as Jesus' second coming.

When studying the Old Testament prophets, it seems that Jesus (on the white horse) reveals himself locally to the repenting Jewish remnant, and supernaturally empowers them (the restored and believing Jews) with great strength to go to battle with him. (Zech 12:8-10)

8 In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them.

*9 And it shall come to pass **in that day**, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.*

*10 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 mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

REV 19:11-16 (summary)
JESUS COMES ON A WHITE HORSE

Heaven opened - A WHITE HORSE
 Called Faithful and True
 In righteousness he does judge and make war (v11)
 His eyes as flame of fire
 On his head many crowns
 A name written only himself knew (v12)
 Clothed with a vesture dipped in blood
 His name The Word of God (v13)
 Armies in heaven, clothed in white, white horses (v14)
 Out of his mouth goes a sharp sword
 With it he will smite the nations
 He shall rule them with a rod of iron
 Treads the winepress of the fierceness
 and wrath of Almighty God (v15)
 On his vesture, on his thigh:
 KING OF KINGS, LORD OF LORDS (v16)

JESUS ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH

Matt 19:28 '....
when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'

Dan 7:13-14 ⁴³ *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. ¹⁴ And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.'*

JESUS ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH:

Matt 19:28-29 ²⁸ *And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.*

Adding the white horse onto the timeline:



Believers will serve and rule with Christ during the millennium, which is when he establishes his kingdom:

Dan 7:27 ²⁷ *And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.'*

Luke 19:12-19
Certain nobleman went into a far country. To receive for himself a kingdom and then to return. He called his 10 servants, and said to them: 'Occupy till I come'.
<u>It came to pass:</u> He returned after having received the kingdom. He called his servants unto him. (to whom he had given the money) The <u>first servant</u> gained 10 pounds. Good servant - faithful in very little - Authority over 10 cities
The <u>second servant</u> gained 5 pounds. Good servant - faithful in very little - Authority over 5 cities

Rev 20:4-6 *“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; **and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.** ⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**”*

Why can we say that the Pre-wrath Rapture = Jesus' Second Coming, in accordance with scripture: (and why the 2nd coming is not Rev 19 or Zech 14)

- 1) The disciples asked Jesus about the sign of His coming (Matt 24v3). Jesus answered in v27-31 (note the last three verses are each linked by the word 'And'): *...so shall also **the coming** of the Son of man be [i.e. his 2nd coming]” (v27), ...and they shall see the Son of man coming [his 2nd coming] in the clouds(v30)... and in v31: ... they shall gather together his elect from the four winds. Jesus clearly links his second coming to the rapture. (the *gathering of the elect*).*
- 2) John 14:2 *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will **come again** [his 2nd coming], and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* His coming is when Jesus receives us (gathers us). i.e. the rapture
- 3) 1 Cor 15:22-23 confirms our resurrection (or change to our eternal state) is at his coming:
*22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at his coming** [his 2nd coming] ...V52band the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*
- 4) 1 Thess 4:15 .. “we which are alive and remain unto the **coming of the Lord** [his 2nd coming] ... For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven ... Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”.

Hence the second coming is not at the Rev 19 appearing on a White Horse or Zech 14:4 appearing on the Mount of Olives.

These are later events after the wrath of God is poured out and is at the timing of Armageddon. At these events there is nothing in scripture to indicate that 'every eye will see him'.

Question:

Do we find another similar event/s in the book of Revelation (preview of session 4)?

Yes, Revelation 14 also describes 'the Son of man coming on a cloud and the earth being reaped (the rapture)'. (Matt 24:14-20)

Refer to the separate 2-page handout of the Summary of Revelation:

Start of parallel sequence	
Rev 6: The Lamb opens 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th and Tribulation (5 th Seal – Great Tribulation)	Rev 13: The woman in the wilderness Beast out of the sea – the Antichrist and the Antichrist 'system' Given power over all Beast out of the earth - the False prophet Deception by wonders and miracles
6 th Seal = Matt 24:29-31 JESUS 2nd COMING in the CLOUDS	Rev 14: Son of Man coming in the CLOUDS
6 th Seal: Sun, Moon and Stars	The Son of man coming in the clouds Reaping of the harvest
The great day of His wrath is come. 144,000 -> Sealed in foreheads Great multitude appearing in heaven Came out of the Great Tribulation	Rev 15: The victorious standing on sea of glass Song of the Lamb & Song of Moses 7 Angels
Rev 7: 144,000 -> Sealed in foreheads Great multitude appearing in heaven Came out of the Great Tribulation	Rev 16: Wrath of 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
SESSION 1 (Rev 1, 4, 5, 6, 7)	SESSION 4 (Rev 12, 13, 14, 15)
Rev 8: W 7 th	Rev 16: Wrath of 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd

REVELATION 14:14-20 (summary)

JESUS COMING ON A CLOUD

On a **WHITE CLOUD** one sat
like **THE SON OF MAN**.
A golden crown on His head
A sharp sickle in His hand. ^{v14}

Out of the temple - An angel cried to him on the cloud:
"Thrust in thy sickle and reap. The time is come for thee
to reap. The harvest of the earth is ripe" ^{v15}

THE EARTH WAS REAPED ^{v16} -> Rapture

ANGEL THRUST HIS SICKLE INTO THE EARTH The vine was
gathered from the earth.
Cast into great winepress of **the Wrath of God** ^{v19}

Question: Is what Jesus said to his disciples in Mark 13:37 (see alongside) a valid statement applying to all believers, even though not repeated in all gospels?

Answer: 'YES', Jesus' instruction to 'watch!' applies across all gospels, and applies to all people, because of the parallel and sequential nature of the gospels.

Who does Jesus' teaching apply to?

A key verse: **Mark 13:37**
37 And what I say to you, I say to **ALL**: Watch!

Therefore:
Matt 24, Mark 13 & Luke 21 is written
TO ALL PEOPLE

Matthew 24 applies to all believers.

All believers will experience trouble (tribulation) and persecution, **BUT** not the wrath of God:

John 16:33 ⁴³These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.'

1 Thess 3:2-4 ²And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow-labourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: ³That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. ⁴For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.'



2 Tim 3:12 ¹²Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.'

The gathering of the elect is at Jesus' 2nd coming ->therefore: The rapture is at Jesus' 2nd coming: (more verses)

- '... I will come again, and receive you unto myself ...' (John 14:3)
- '... in Christ shall all be made alive they that are Christ's at his coming.' (1 Cor 15:20-23)
- '... by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him...' (2 Thess 2:1)
- '.... in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming.' (1 Thess 2:19)
- '... the coming of the Lord ... shall be caught up together with them in the clouds ...' (1 Thess 4:17)
- '... the Son of man coming in the cloud ... shall gather together his elect ...' (Mark 13:26-27)
- '... the Son of man coming in a cloud ... your redemption [G629] draws near.' (Luke 21:27-28)
- '... waiting for the adoption ... the redemption [G629] of our body ...' (Rom 8:23)

- 'you are sealed with the holy Spirit ... until the redemption [G629] of the purchased possession.' (Eph 1:12-14)
- '... the holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption [G629].' (Eph 4:30)

ENCOURAGEMENT for us until Jesus comes/appears:

- '... your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.' (1 Thess 5:23)
- '... your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.' (1 Thess 5:23)
- 'Fight the good fight of faith lay hold on eternal life until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.' (1 Tim 6:12,14)
- 'Eat this bread ... this is my body', 'Drink this cup ... this is my blood', 'Do this in remembrance of me'. Paul says: 'You show the Lord's death till he come' (1 Cor 11:24-26)
- '... be patient ... steadfastly set, ... strengthen' your hearts ... unto the coming of the Lord.' (James 5:7-8)
- 'That the testing of your faith ... might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.' (1 Pet 1:7)

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