

## The Discourse On The Last Things, Pt 4.

“The second coming of the Lord.”

Mark 13:24-27.

### I. Signs in the heavens. Vs. 24,25.

A. The genre of literature we are dealing with is prophetic literature. It is therefore difficult to say what the precise meaning of this language is. Only in light of the fulfillment of these scriptures will there meaning ultimately be known with certainty.

#### 1. A literal fulfillment:

- Signs in the heavens during the Exodus; Three days of thick darkness in Egypt and the cloud shading Israel by day and illuminating her camp by

night

- Signs in the heavens accompanied the birth and death of the Lord; The star guiding the wise men; and the three hours of darkness, from noon until 3 pm.  
- Signs in the heavens accompanied the siege and fall of Jerusalem in 66-70 AD. According to Josephus a sword shaped star and a comet stood over Jerusalem for a whole year during the siege. One afternoon toward evening, but before dark, the inhabitants of Jerusalem saw chariots and troops in full armor running about among the clouds of heaven all around the city. Josephus, The Jewish War, Book 4, ch.5, par. 3.

#### 2. A figurative (poetic) fulfillment.

- Language surrounding the fall of Babylon to the Medes in Isaiah 13:9,10.  
- Language describing the fall of Edom in Isaiah 34:4.  
- Language used to predict the fall of Samaria in Amos 8:9.  
- Language describing the fall of Egypt in Ezek 32:7-8  
Figuratively, or poetically speaking, the lights went out over these nations.

#### 3. A spiritual fulfillment.

Here the heavenly bodies represent the spiritual powers which govern the affairs of man on earth. Rev. 12:1-4 represents the heavenly bodies that way.  
- The woman (God’s covenant people) is clothed with the sun, and the moon is under her feet, and a garland of 12 stars is on her head, representing the

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patriarchs and the 12 apostles.

- A fiery red dragon with seven heads and ten horns draws together a third of the stars of heaven and throws them on the earth, representing the devil and his angels, the demonic powers.

- See also Eph. 6:12 ....the principalities and powers; the rulers of the darkness of this age; the spiritual host of wickedness in heavenly places. There will be a total collapse of the powers of darkness at the Lord’s coming. “The powers of the heavens will be shaken (removed, Hebr.10:26,27).” Vs.25.

#### 4. What may be the most reasonable in terms of our expectation as to the fulfillment of this passage is some combination of all three views.

### II. The arrival of the Son of Man as deliverer. Vs. 26.

A. He is coming with the clouds.

This is the glory-cloud of the Lord's presence, power and provision for His people.

The cloud that overspread the camp of Israel during the Exodus. Ex. 13:21,22

The cloud that covered Mount Sinai when the law was given. Ex. 19:9,16

The cloud that descended on the temple when Solomon dedicated it. 1Ki. 8:10

The cloud that Ezekiel saw in his vision of the Lord Ezek. 1:4

The cloud that overshadowed the Lord on the mount of transfiguration. Mark 9:7.

The cloud that received the Lord Jesus at His ascension. Acts 1:9.

B. With great power.

With infinite authority bestowed on Him by His Father, the Lord God Almighty.

With infinite ability to subdue all His and our enemies before Him.

With infinite authority and ability to implement the saving reign of God in the midst of His suffering creation.

C. With great glory.

Not merely great outward splendor, though that will no doubt be there, but the splendor of the fruits of His salvation.

- His redeemed people; a multitude no one can number.

- The passing away of old things, and the making all things new. Rev 21:4,5.

### III. The ingathering of the Elect. Vs. 27.

A. Matthew adds that He will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet so that

His coming will not only be visible but also audible. Matt 24:31.

B. These words must then be compared with 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, where the same event is described in somewhat different words, filling in different details.

C. The composite picture that emerges is:

1. The Lord comes with the glory-cloud, the cloud of the divine presence.

2. He sends His angels out with the sound of a trumpet, signaling the ingathering of the Lord's people.

3. Believers, resurrected and changed, meet the Lord in the air, in the glory-

cloud

4. The Lord's people return with the Lord to execute judgment on the earth.

Jude 14,15. 1 Cor. 6:1,2.

### IV. Four Questions:

A. What effect should this teaching have on my life here and now?

"Looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace; without spot and blameless." 2 Peter 3:14.

B. How do I do that?

1. By trusting the Lord for the full and free forgiveness of all your sins.

2. By entrusting yourself to the living Lord to form and transform you preparing you for that day.

C. What is the first step?

Presenting yourself; yielding yourself as a servant to the Lord. Rom 12:1,2.

D. Where and when do I begin?

The Lord will show you; just give yourself with a servant spirit and a humble heart to the good works God places on your path. Eph. 2:10. The Lord will direct you from there. Look around you; what good work can you do to make someone else's load a little easier?