

MATTHEW:
THE GOSPEL
OF THE KINGDOM

This Generation Will Not Pass Away

Matthew 24:29-35

Introduction:

- First, an apology...
- 3 years of Messianic presentation
- It has now come to a head, and His own reject Him (Jn1:11)
- The *dominant theme* beginning with ch.21
 - Proclamation of judgement upon Israel (as in past)
 - 23:32, 35-36 - Wrath-cup filled and poured, all these things, this generation
 - 23:37-38 - Lament, house left desolate
 - 24:2 - Every stone cast down
- 24:3 - Tell us, **when** will **these things** be...?

- Outline: basic linguistic markers *these things/that day*
- When will *these things* be? Answer primarily vv.4-35
 - Jesus' response concerning events, birth pangs, abomination of desolation, this generation etc. that are things which identify *when* "these things" will happen
- Transition re: *that day*...24:36
 - In contrast to the preceding section, Jesus says that no one knows except the Father
 - He then spends the rest of ch.24/25 using images that speak of uncertainty of timing, the necessity to be always ready, and the fact that there aren't signs or time markers

A Significant Difficult - v.34-35

Truly, I say to you,
this generation will not pass away
until *all these things* take place.
Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away.

- **Proposition:** this section is initially fulfilled in the local judgement on Jerusalem in 70AD
- The most difficult pill to swallow is how vv.29-31 are fulfilled “literally” in 70AD
 - **The nature of prophetic oracles:** cyclical diversity, chronological compression, poetic ambiguity, multiple fulfillments (with varying degrees of literalness)
 - We are used to thinking about this is language exclusively to describe the “final” coming of Jesus
 - The images and of words of this section saturate the OT prophets, symbolizing God’s use of foreign armies to accomplish His judgments of Jerusalem

Immediate Events Following Tribulation - v.29

Immediately after the tribulation of *those days*
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will fall from heaven,
and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

(Is 13:10 34:4 Ezek 32:7; Amos 8:9 Joel 2:10,
30-31; 3:15; Mt 24:29; Rev 8:12)

The Coming of the Son of Man - v.30

Then will appear in heaven
the sign of the Son of Man,
and then all the tribes of the earth (or land) will mourn,
and they will see the Son of Man
coming on the clouds of heaven
with power and great glory.

The Calling of the Elect - v.31

And he will send out his angels
with a loud trumpet call,
and they will gather his elect from the four winds,
from one end of heaven to the other.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree - v.32-33

From the fig tree learn its lesson:

as soon as its branch becomes tender
and puts out its leaves,
you know that summer is near.

So also, when you see all **these things**,
you know that he is near,
at the very gates.

Conclusions/Applications

- 70AD is a primary prophetic evidence vindicating the person and work of Christ of Messiah (Prophet/Priest/King)
- This interpretation maintains the integrity of Jesus and the Apostles in the fulfillment
 - What Jesus promised would happen actually happened
- Despite that judgement, the great mercy and promises still extend to the remnant of the descendants of Abraham
 - A strong warning against a history of anti-Semitism in the Church
- This interpretation maintains the reality of the future coming of Jesus in Judgement
- This is assurance that He is coming again...as He said
