

“Heaven Shaken and Heaven Opened”

Matthew 24:29–31

**Big Idea: Jesus now describes the sign of his coming at the end of the age.**

Hint: this sign will not be something hidden or cryptic. It will involve the unraveling of the created universe and the sight of the returning Christ.

- I. The powers of the heavens will be shaken. (verse 29)
  - A. This will happen immediately after climactic tribulation. (verse 29a)
  - B. This will involve the shaking of all creation. (verse 29b)

Genesis 1:1, 14–19; 8:20–22; 2 Peter 3:1–7; Zechariah 14:6–7; Isaiah 13:6–13; 34:1–4; Joel 2:28–32; Luke 21:25–28; Haggai 2:6–7, quoted in Hebrews 12:25–27; Joel 3:1–3, 9–16; Revelation 6:12–17; 16:17–21; 20:7–11
- II. The heavens will display the coming Son of Man. (verses 30–31)
  - A. The royal approach of the Son of Man will be visible to the entire earth.
  - B. The approach of the Son of Man will smite the world with grief and terror.

Revelation 1:7
  - C. The Son of Man will come with visible and indescribable power and glory.

Daniel 7:13–14; Nahum 1:2–8; Matthew 16:27
  - D. The Son of Man will be attended by the entire heavenly host.

Matthew 25:31–32; Revelation 19:6–8, 11–16; 2 Thessalonians 1:5–10

(Compare with 2 Kings 6:15–17.)
  - E. The Son of Man will then gather his elect to share his glory.
    1. A loud trumpet will signal this gathering.

Old Testament Precedents of Such a Trumpet Blast: Exodus 19:9, 16–20; 20:17–19; Leviticus 25:8–10; Numbers 10:1–10; Joshua 6:2–5
    2. The angels will gather the elect.

Compare with Hebrews 1:13–14; Luke 16:22a; 2 Kings 2:11.

The Elect at Christ’s Return: Matthew 25:33–34, 41, 46
    3. All the elect, both living and dead, will be gathered.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 5:9–10

For “the Voice of the Archangel,” see Jude 9; Daniel 12:1–3  
1 Corinthians 15:50–58; John 14:2–3

What shall we say to these things?

1 John 2:28

“And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.”

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 52:

“What comfort is it to thee that ‘Christ shall come again to judge the quick and the dead’?”

“That in all my sorrows and persecutions, with uplifted head I look for the very same person, who before offered Himself for my sake to the tribunal of God, and has removed all curse from me, to come as judge from heaven; who shall cast all His and my enemies into everlasting condemnation, but shall translate me with all His chosen ones to Himself, into heavenly joys and glory.”