

This is a very basic introduction to the preterism view of Biblical Eschatology. Preterism is a view of the End Times taught in the Bible that uses the Bible to show that the Last Days are the Past days. This study starts in Matthew 24 (using the NIV) and is meant for you to look scriptures up to answer the questions, but not just those verses in the questions, read the whole chapter also, at least once. Matthew 24 is recognized as the chapter that describes/prophesies the End Times as does Mark 13 and Luke 21.

1. Look up Matt 24:1-3. Who will be getting talked to in this chapter? (Mark 13:3 gives specific names) _____
Therefore, in Matt.24 verses 4,6,9,15,23,25,26,32,33,42,44,47 who is the "you" referring to? _____
2. V 9 uses a time statement: "then". When is the "then"? (hint: verse 8 groups the events together) _____
3. V 10 uses a time statement: "at that time". What time is being referred to? (hint: verse 9) _____
What do the rest of the verses tell us will also happen "at that time"? _____

4. V11 says "...many false prophets will appear..." What does 2 Peter 2:1 and 1 John 4:1 say about false prophets THEN? _____
_____ Are we, 2000 years later, the recipients of those letters? (1 Peter 1:1 says who it's addressed to. A good study Bible will explain 2 Peter and 1 John and also will explain the possible dates these were written.)
5. V14 What does it say will happen when the gospel is preached to the whole world? _____
When was the gospel preached to the whole world? Read: Acts 13:47; Rom 1:8 & 18; Col 1:6 & 23. A good study Bible will explain approx. dates these letters were written. Who were those letters written to? Read: Acts 1:1; _____ Rom.1:7; _____
Col.1:2: _____
6. V15 Who is the "you" in this verse? _____ What, where and what city is/was the "Holy Place"? Mark 11:15; Heb. 9:1- 3: _____ Still V15: 'the abomination that causes desolation' is talked about in Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11. While there is a debate about exactly who/what this is, what does Daniel say will happen before it's set up? _____ And how many days between those 2 events? _____ Google "When was the Daily Sacrifice abolished?" Whats the answer? _____ Still V15: What can "let the reader understand" mean? Reader of what? The answer could be in the verse - the reader of Daniel, that's what the disciples would have had, that was part of their scripture.
7. V 16. Which people were to flee where? _____ And why to the mountains if these verses are about the world ending, as many teach this chapter is referring to???
8. V17 & 18 Who lives on their housetop? Who has a field? Cloak? _____
9. V 20 When were Sabbaths? Old Covenant Israel had Sabbaths, New Covenant Believers never have. See Col. 2:16 &17.

10. V21 “great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world till now.” Define “distress”:
 _____ Define “now”:
 _____ Does what Jesus tell the disciples in the previous verses about whats going to happen to them and around them fit the definition of distress? Additionally, distressing things were happening already in the NT. For example: Acts 7 talks about Stephen being stoned to death. Acts 8 talks about a “great persecution” breaking out. What does Paul say in 2Cor.1:8&9? _____ What does Saul in 2 Samuel 28:15 say “great distress” is? _____ 2Peter 2:7? _____ . Furthermore, Read a good history book specifically about the Jewish Wars of the first century. Horrific details of death, burning, famines, etc. are documented in history.
11. V22, 24 Who are the “elect’ of those days? ? 1 Peter 1:1 _____
12. V25, again, who is the “you” that got told ahead of time? _____
13. V27 “Lightening”: Read 2 Samuel 22. Also, see the Extra Reading page at the end of the Matthew Study.
14. V28 Carcass and vultures: See Extra Reading page
15. V29. What does “immediately” mean? _____ After what “days”? _____

 _____ V29: What/who is being referred to with the sun, moon, stars? Must it be literally the planets and constellations? Read Gen.37:9 & 10 and Rev12:1: What are the sun, moon, stars representative of?

16. V30 What is “the sign of the Son of Man”? See Extra Reading Pages.
17. V30 Earth = or the tribes of the land, per NIV study notes. The Greek word that our translations say means “earth” firstly means “soil, by extension, region”
18. V30 Clouds? Read Isa.
19. specifically V1: What does God riding on clouds mean? _____ In Matt. 24:30 it says people will mourn. So is riding on clouds a good thing? Happy? As we think Jesus’s Second Coming on clouds should be? What are the “clouds” in Heb.12:1? _____ In Acts 1:9-11 we’re told Jesus will come back in the same way. How is that way described in these verses?
 _____ Another interesting story about things hidden is Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 19. V31 Trumpet call. (See: Matthew 24 Commentary: THAT Generation Shall Not Pass | Revelation Revolution for additional information of written historical evidence of trumpets, multitudes of spiritual bodies and other sightings in the first century.)

20. V33: What are the time statements in this verse? _____ The parable of the fig tree in V32 is our clue as to how close the signs and the event would be. Who is the “you”? _____ See the time verses chart at the end of this study.
21. V34 “this generation”: If Jesus wanted to refer to some future generation that would begin to see those things in the future the word would have been “that” generation. Read Matthew 10:1-23. What is Jesus telling certain specific disciples to go do? _____

 _____ What does Jesus say in Matt 10:23 will happen before the disciples are finished?
 _____ In Matt 23:36 “this generation” is also used. What generation if Jesus referring to there? _____

22. Compare V35 with Matt 5:18. Now read Romans 10:14: What is Christ? _____. So then, according to Matt 5:18, what must have disappeared when the Law ended/all was accomplished? _____. So, in Matt 24:35, does heavens and earth mean the cosmos and globe? Read Deut. 32:1 and Isa 1:2. Also, see Heavens and Earth additional reading at the end of this study.
23. V36 “the day and hour know one knows” But, what does V33 give? _____
24. V 37-41: Verses 40&41 are taught today as the rapture verses: Believers will be taken in the rapture, the unbelievers will be left behind, but in v39, who was “taken away”? _____
 _____ This “one taken/one left” could very well be a warning about the future Jewish Wars of the first century, starting about 66 ad when, like Jesus said it would happen, the temple and Jerusalem were destroyed, historically documented as occurring in 70ad, and where so many people were killed or taken into slavery, it would be like one taken one left. Read up on the Jewish Wars!
25. V42, (and 44) you do not know what day your Lord will come”...But V15 gives what clues to look for? _____ And v33 gives what clues?

Other Signs

TIME STATEMENTS

There are over 100 time statements in the New Testament supporting a soon-to-happen time of events.

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|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Matt. 3:2 | 21. Luke 10:11 | 41. I Cor. 15:51-52 | 61. Heb. 9:8-10 | 81. I Peter 3:3,5 |
| 2. Matt. 3:7 | 22. Luke 20:15-19 | 42. I Cor. 16:22 | 62. Heb. 9:11 | 82. II Peter 3:10-12 |
| 3. Matt. 3:10 | 23. Luke 21:22 | 43. Eph. 1:21 | 63. Heb. 9:26 | 83. I John 2:8 |
| 4. Matt. 3:12 | 24. Luke 21:32 | 44. Phil. 4:5 | 64. Heb. 10:1 | 84. I John 2:17 |
| 5. Matt. 4:17 | 25. Luke 23:28-30 | 45. Col. 1:23 | 65. Heb. 10:25 | 85. I John 2:18 |
| 6. Matt. 10:7 | 26. Luke 24:21 | 46. Col. 2:16-17 | 66. Heb. 10:27 | 86. I John 2:18 |
| 7. Matt. 10:23 | 27. John 14:18,20,22 | 47. I Thess. 4:15,17; | 67. Heb. 10:37 | 87. I John 4:3 |
| 8. Matt. 12:32 | | 48. I Thess. 5:23 | 68. Heb. 13:14 | 88. Jude 1:4,14-15 |
| 9. Matt. 16:27 | 28. John 21:22 | 49. II Thess. 1:6-7 | 69. James 2:12 | 89. Jude 1:17-19 |
| 10. Matt. 16:28 | 29. Acts 2:16-17 | 50. I Tim. 4:8 | 70. James 5:1,3 | 90. Rev. 1:1 |
| 11. Matt. 21:40-45 | 30. Acts 17:31 | 51. I Tim. 6:14 | 71. James 5:7 | 91. Rev. 1:3 |
| 12. Matt. 24:34 | 31. Acts 24:15 | 52. I Tim. 6:19 | 72. James 5:8 | 92. Rev. 2:25 |
| 13. Matt. 26:64 | 32. Acts 24:25 | 53. II Tim. 3:1-9 | 73. I Peter 1:6 | 93. Rev. 3:10 |
| 14. Mark 1:15 | 33. Rom. 4:23-24 | 54. II Tim. 4:1 | 74. I Peter 1:20 | 94. Rev. 3:11 |
| 15. Mark 12:9,12 | 34. Rom. 8:13 | 55. Heb. 1:1-2 | 75. I Peter 4:5 | 95. Rev. 12:5 |
| 16. Mark 13:30 | 35. Rom. 8:18 | 56. Heb. 1:14 | 76. I Peter 4:7 | 96. Rev. 18:24 |
| 17. Luke 3:7 | 36. Rom. 13:11-12 | 57. Heb. 2:5 | 77. I Peter 4:17 | 97. Rev. 22:6 |
| 18. Luke 3:9 | 37. Rom. 16:20 | 58. Heb. 6:5 | 78. I Peter 5:1 | 98. Rev. 22:7 |
| 19. Luke 3:17 | 38. I Cor. 7:29 | 59. Heb. 6:7-8 | 79. II Peter 1:19 | 99. Rev. 22:10 |
| 20. Luke 10:9 | 39. I Cor. 7:31 | 60. Heb. 8:13 | 80. II Peter 2:3 | 100. Rev. 22:12 |
| | 40. I Cor. 10:11 | | | 101. Rev. 22:20 |

EXTRA READING PAGE. (Extra Readings are taken from this website: Matthew 24 Commentary: THAT Generation Shall Not Pass | Revelation Revolution)

LIGHTNING, CLOUDS 2 Samuel 22:10-15 illustrates this fact: He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet. He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind. He made darkness his canopy around him—the dark rain clouds of the sky. Out of the brightness of his presence bolts of lightning blazed forth. The Lord thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded. He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy, with great bolts of lightning he routed them. In Matthew 24:27, Jesus promises to return in a like manner. The fact that Jesus likens His return to “lightning that comes from the east” illustrates the fact that when Christ was expected to come on the clouds in judgment He was to do so as the Lord had done in the past—riding on dark storm clouds accompanied by lightning. Matthew 24:27 was fulfilled both literally and symbolically in the Jewish War. Historical confirmation of lightening marking the second coming of Christ may be found in the writings of the Roman historian Tacitus: In the sky appeared a vision of armies in conflict, of glittering armour. A sudden lightening flash from the clouds lit up the Temple. The doors of the holy place abruptly opened, a superhuman voice was heard to declare that the gods were leaving it, and in the same instant came the rushing tumult of their departure.⁴⁵ In this brief account, Tacitus, a secular Roman, may have unknowingly recorded the lightning flash associated with the heavenly return of Jesus in A.D. 66. Also notice that “a superhuman voice was heard” literally fulfilling 2 Samuel 22:14. In this v. “the voice of the Most High resounded” upon His coming on the clouds in judgment. This event is also mentioned in Wars of the Jews: “[B]efore sunset, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities.⁴⁶ Perhaps the most detailed description of the second coming is found in Revelation 19:11-14. In these verses, Jesus is pictured riding a white horse leading an army of angels on horseback on the clouds. The description of the second coming in Revelation 19:11-14 and Josephus’ account of the army in the clouds over Israel bear an uncanny resemblance. Did Josephus and Tacitus unwittingly record the first appearance of Christ during Israel’s first century war with Rome?⁴⁷ See Historical Evidence that Jesus was LITERALLY SEEN in the Clouds in the First Century. The Temple stood on the Eastern edge of Jerusalem. If Lightning struck the Temple as Tacitus seems to imply, then Here One can see the Literal Fulfillment of the “Lightning that comes from the East.” According to Tacitus, “[a] sudden lightening flash from the clouds lit up the Temple.” Tacitus seems to imply that lightning struck the Temple during what appears to be the miraculous appearance of Christ. The Temple stood on the eastern edge of Jerusalem. Therefore, if lightning struck the Temple, as Tacitus seems to imply, then this event seems to represent the literal fulfillment of the “lightning that comes from the east” mentioned in Matthew 24:27. After the Miraculous Appearance of Christ on the Clouds accompanied by Lightning, the 12th Legion drawn from the EASTERN edge of the Roman Empire encamped outside of Jerusalem with its Flags flying high. The Flag of the 12th Legion is a LIGHTNING Bolt. The lightning of Matthew 24:27 accompanying the miraculous coming of Christ on the clouds seems to have been a sign for the Christians in Jerusalem to leave the city, first at the start of the war in Iyyar of A.D. 66 following the entrance of the Roman army into the city under Florus and then perhaps later in the fall of that same year when Cestius also surrounded Jerusalem (see Alternative Perspectives on Matthew 24:15-30). Recall that in Luke 21:20-21, Jesus says, “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city.” Covenant Eschatology—“For as LIGHTNING that comes from the EAST is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”: The Main Ensign, the Aquila, was the Messenger of Zeus that carried Zeus’ LIGHTNING

Bolt. The Aquila was the Symbol of Rome. It should also be noted that the symbol of Rome was the Aquila which was also the main ensign that all Roman legions carried into battle. Aquila was the messenger of Jupiter that carried Jupiter's lightning bolt. Perhaps in this symbol of Rome and its legions one can see yet another way in which the the "lightning that comes from the east"? Heavenly Beings are said to look like Lightning in Matthew 28:2-3. Thus Matthew 24:27 was Also Fulfilled Literally at the Parousia when Christ appeared in a Brilliant, Radiant Form that looked like Lightning. There also appears to be yet another way in which lightning aptly describes the parousia. The army of angels seen in the clouds in Iyyar of A.D. 66 was also recorded by the medieval historian Yosippon who describes this army as horses and riders of fire: "Moreover, in those days were seen chariots of fire and horsemen, a great force flying across the sky near to the ground coming against Jerusalem and all the land of Judah, all of them horses of fire and riders of fire."⁴⁸ Here Yosippon describes this angelic army of A.D. 66 in much the same way that angels are described in 2 Kings 6:17, Matthew 28:2-3 and 2 Corinthians 11:14; God is described in Ezekiel 1:26-28; and Jesus is described in Acts 9:3-6 and Revelation 1:13-16 after having acquired a new, glorified heavenly body after His ascension into heaven. It is interesting to note that the angel mentioned in Matthew 28:2-3 is explicitly said to look like lightning: "[A]n angel of the Lord descended from heaven . . . his appearance was like lightning[.]" According to Acts 9:3-6 and Revelation 1:13-16, after Jesus' ascension He took on a similar radiant form which also presumably looked like lightning. Thus the fact that the second coming is compared to lightning that comes from the east and is visible in the west seems also to hint at Jesus' glorified heavenly appearance during His Parousia.

CARCASS AND VULTURES

The Dead were not buried during the Siege making Them Food for Vultures. Underlying the literal understanding of this verse appears to be a symbolic prophecy of the fall of the Temple. The carcass in this verse also seems to denote the Temple which as indicated at the beginning of this chapter was soon to be utterly demolished. Interestingly, the word translated vulture in this verse also means eagle—the national symbol of Rome. When the Romans seized the Temple in A.D. 70, they carried their ensigns into the temple courts. As stated above, Rome's main ensign was the Aquila, an eagle. The Roman army offered sacrifices to these eagle images representing Rome on the 9th of Av all while the Temple was in flames. With these literal and symbolic interpretations, one can appreciate the richness of what Jesus meant when he said, "Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures [eagles] will gather."

SUN MOON AND STARS

In Genesis, the Sun Moon and Eleven Stars, Joseph being the twelfth star represent the family of Israel. This represents the Church of God. Revelation 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: This wonder was a woman clothed in the sun, the moon as shoes, and a crown of 12 stars. Sounds familiar right? The composite is the family of Israel or Jacob.⁵ And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. This woman or the family of Israel had a Son. He was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. This is Jesus Christ. He came through this family, from the tribe of Judah. We should have a better understanding of Joseph's dream and its larger meaning and symbolism. These astral omens are very similar to the heavenly signs said to accompany the fall of Judah in the sixth century B.C. (Jeremiah 4:23-26), the fall of Egypt in the sixth century B.C. (Ezekiel 32:7-9), the fall of Babylon in the sixth century B.C. (Isaiah 13:9-13), and the fall of Edom in the sixth century B.C. (Isaiah 34:4-5). And just as various heavenly omens marked a great slaughter at the fall of Judah, Egypt, Babylon and Edom in the sixth century B.C., the same thing is expected to occur at the fall of Jerusalem and Israel at the end of the age. The fact that in v. 29 the sun darkens, the moon turns to blood and the stars fall from the sky are all signs of the destruction of heaven and earth predicted in 2 Peter 3. For a comprehensive explanation of how the

expression “the destruction of heaven and earth” is used in the Bible and how this meaning was fulfilled in the first century see *The Destruction of Heaven and Earth and the New Heaven and Earth Explained!*

THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN The reason the sun and moon darken and the stars disappear at the fall of various kingdoms in the Bible as predicted in Matthew 24:29 is because these are all unavoidable signs marking the coming of God on the clouds in judgment. Whenever God came on the clouds of heaven the sun, moon and stars would all darken. Furthermore, there would also be lightning exactly as predicted in Matthew 24:27: “For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” And there was also expected to be a shaking of the heavenly bodies from reverberating blasts of thunder also predicted in Matthew 24:29. According to Psalm 18:7-14 when God came on the clouds in judgment on a city He rode dark storm clouds that often masked the brightness of His appearance accompanied by lightning and thunder just as predicted in Matthew 24:27 and 29: The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because he was angry. . . . He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet. He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind. He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him —the dark rain clouds of the sky. Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced, with hailstones and bolts of lightning. The Lord thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded. He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy, with great bolts of lightning he routed them [emphasis mine]. The dark storm clouds that mark the presence of the Lord when He comes on the clouds in judgment are presumably the cause of the darkening of the sun and moon mentioned in v. 29 and the lightning in v. 27. The fact that the storm clouds marking the coming of the Lord on the clouds in judgment on a nation are the reason that the sun, moon and stars are darkened is clearly stated in Ezekiel 32:7: “When I snuff you out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light [emphasis mine].” Perhaps “the sign of the son of man” that “will appear in the sky” is all the signs mentioned above? The darkening of the sun, moon and stars (v. 29), lightning (v. 27), and the shaking of the heavenly bodies all normally follow a violent thunderstorm. Recall that the dark clouds of a thunderstorm naturally darken the sun, moon and stars by covering them with a cloud as stated clearly in Ezekiel 32:7. Violent storms are also generally accompanied by lightning like that predicted in v. 27 as well as thunder which appears to shake the sky just as predicted in v. 29: “and the heavenly bodies will be shaken[.]” When the Jews saw all these signs in the absence of a rainbow (Genesis 9:12-16) they feared that God might be coming in judgment. Rather than occurring after the war was over as Matthew 24:29-30 seems to suggest, Matthew 24:3, 30; Mark 13:4; and Luke 21:7 seem to suggest that the sign of the Son of Man was to occur before the destruction of the Temple. Matthew 24
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ON HEAVEN AND EARTH

This following article was copied from: *Heaven and Earth Passed Away: Berean Bible Church* “Let’s look at how the Bible uses the concept of heaven and earth, I think you’ll see that it is not always used physically. Let’s start by reading 2 Peter 3. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:10-13 ESV Most Christians would say that this is the end of the world as we know it, the destruction of the physical heavens and earth that is to happen in our future. But if heaven and earth have not yet passed away, shouldn’t we be obeying the

Mosaic Law? "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Matthew 5:17-18 ESV This would mean that all 613 commandments in the Torah must be followed until some cataclysmic events take place. It means we should be; sacrificing lambs on the alter, celebrating the three Pilgrim Feasts in Jerusalem, not eating shell fish, worshiping on Saturday, not wearing clothes that are a mixture of linen and cotton. I think you get the point. If heaven and earth have not passed away we are still under the Law of Moses. But most believers today would say that it obviously has not passed away because the earth has not been burnt up, the elements have not melted. Modern Christians come up with an end of the solar system scenario because we are so unfamiliar with the first three-fourths of the Bible, we take this language literally. All the language that Yeshua and the writers of the New Testament use comes from the Hebrew Scriptures,..."