

Dominion or Departure?

Matthew 24 – The Olivet Discourse

Matthew 24:1-3 – Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” ³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Context from Matthew 21-23:

- Jesus pronounces “woes” upon the Pharisees.
- Ended with v. 38 – Behold, your house is being left to you desolate.
- Not one stone will be left here upon another.
- The disciples are surprised, as the Temple was the center of the world.

The disciples ask 3 interrelated questions.

- When will the Temple be destroyed?
- What will be the sign of Your coming?
- What is the sign that will tell us the end of the age has come?

Question #1: When will the Temple be destroyed?

- Timing is everything.

- Matt. 23:36 – Assuredly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.
- Matt. 24:34 – Assuredly I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away until all these things take place..
- Bookends for understanding the timing of these things.
- “this generation”
- “genea” = the generation living at that moment
- 37 times in the N.T.; It never means “race”
- Scofield: Race; Thayer’s confirms
- Thayer’s: The whole multitude of men living at the same time (Matthew 24:34; Matthew 23:36; Mark 13:30)
- David Chilton: “Not one instance of ‘this generation’ speaks of the entire Jewish race over thousands of years. All verses use the word in its normal sense of those living at that time. It always refers to contemporaries. In fact, those who say it means ‘race’ tend to acknowledge this fact, but explain that the word suddenly changes its meaning when Jesus uses it in Matthew 24! We can smile at such a transparent error, but we should also remember that this is very serious. We are dealing with the Word of the Living God.”
- “this generation”, not “that generation”
- “that” = ekeinos = speaks of a time out in the future
- Matt. 7:22 – Many will say to Me in **that** day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?”

- Matt. 26:29 – But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until **that** day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.
- “you” not “them”
- Luke 21:12 – They will lay their hands on you (not them) and will persecute you (not them), delivering you (not them) to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you (not them) before kings and governors....
- Matt. 24:1-3 – Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, “**Do you not see all these things?** Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another...”
- Heb. 9:9-12 – This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. ¹⁰ They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings – external regulations applying until the time of the new order [time of reformation]. ¹¹ But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.
- John 2:19 – Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
- In the Old Testament, God created a tabernacle for His people; but in the New Testament, God created a people to be His tabernacle.
- John 4:21-23 – A time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...a time is coming, and even

now has arrived, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...

- Heb. 12:22-23 – But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.
- Heb. 12:26-28 – Now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.” ²⁷ This expression, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken – that is, created things [physical things; types & shadows of the spiritual things] – so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken...”

Question #2: What will be the sign of Your coming?

- Rev. 2:5 – Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent.
- Matt. 16:27-28 – For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. ²⁸ Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.
- Matt. 17:1 – Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and his brother John, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them...
- What does “coming in glory with His angels” mean?

- 2 Thess. 1:6-7 – For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,⁷ and to give relief to you who are afflicted, and to us as well, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire.
- James 5:8-9 – You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!
- Henry Hammond: “Jesus speaks of His coming, and that is fulfilled in many of His Apostles seeing the famous destruction of the Jews, which was to fall in that generation (see Matthew 24), and is called the Kingdom of God, and the Coming of Christ, and the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom – that is, His coming in His Kingly office, to work vengeance on His enemies, and distinguish the faithful believers from them.”

Question #3: What is the sign that will tell us the end of age has come?

- Not the end of the world (kosmos); the end of the age (aion).
- The Age of the Law & Prophets.
- The Age of the Messianic Kingdom.
- There is no more need for the Old Covenant system:
 - Jesus replaced the sacrificial system as the Lamb of God. (John 1:29)
 - Jesus replaced the dwelling of God as the Temple of God. (John 2:19-22)

- Jesus replaced the earthly high priest as the perfect high priest. (Heb. 7:26-28)

Matthew 24:4-5 – And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”

- Dositheus
- Simon Magus (Acts 8).
- Theudas (Acts 5).
- Egyptian imposter (30,000 followers).
- Thomas Newton: “There were so many of these imposters preying on the gullibility of the people, that under the procuratorship of Felix, many of them were apprehended and killed every day. They seduced great numbers of the people still expecting the Messiah. No wonder our Savior cautioned His disciples against them.”

Matthew 24:6-8 – And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.

- “Wars and rumors of wars”.
- Alexander Keith: “The Jews resisted the erection of the statue of Caligula in the Temple, and such was the dread of the Roman resentment, that the fields remained uncultivated. At Caesarea, the Jews and Syrians contended for mastery of the city. Twenty thousand Jews were put to death, and the rest were expelled. Every city in Syria

was then divided into two armies, and multitudes were slaughtered. Alexandria and Damascus presented a similar scene of bloodshed. About fifty thousand Jews were killed. The Jewish nation rebelled against the Romans. Italy was convulsed with contentions for the empire. And as proof of the troublous and warlike character of the period, within the brief space of two years, four emperors – Nero, Galba, Otho, and Vitellius suffered death.”

- The Annals of Tacitus: “Disturbances in Germany...Commutations in Africa...Commutations in Thrace...Insurrections in Gaul...Intrigues among the Parthians...War in Britain...War in Armenia.”
- Josephus: “I have omitted to give an exact account of them, because they are well known by all, and they are described by a great number of Greek and Roman authors. Yet for the sake of the connection of matters, and that my history may not be incoherent, I have just touched upon everything briefly.”
- “Famines”
- Acts 11:27-28 – Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and indicated by the Spirit that there would definitely be a severe famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.
- “world” = oikoumenē = inhabited earth; Roman Empire
- Tacitus: “This year witnessed many prodigies...repeated earthquakes...a shortage of corn, resulting in famine...It was established that there was no more than fifteen days’ supply of food in the city of Rome. Only heaven’s special favor and a mild winter prevented catastrophe.”
- “Earthquakes”

- The number of earthquakes during this time period (AD 30 to AD 70) is staggering, and supported by various secular 1st and 2nd century historians.
- Marcellus Kik: “As to earthquakes, many are mentioned by writers during the period leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem. There were earthquakes in Crete, Smyrna, Miletus, Chios, Samos, Laodicea, Hierapolis, Colossae, Campania, Rome, and in Judea. The city of Pompeii was destroyed by an earthquake occurring on February 5, 63 AD.”
- Josephus describes an earthquake in Judea of such magnitude “that the constitution of the universe was confounded for the destruction of men.”
- “Signs in the heavens”.
- Comet in AD 60 (during Nero’s reign).
- Tacitus: “As if Nero were already dethroned, men began to ask who might be his successor.”
- Suetonius: “Nero took no chances. All the children of the condemned man were banished from Rome, and then starved to death or poisoned.”
- Halley’s Comet appeared in AD 66; Nero committed suicide within two years.
- Caption on a 17th century painting: “Halley’s Comet of AD 66 shown over Jerusalem. The comet was regarded as an omen predicting the fall of the city to the Romans, which actually occurred four years later.”

Matthew 24:9–13 – Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

- “Tribulation”
- Acts 8:1 – And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles.
- Acts 4:3; Acts 4:17; Acts 5:40; Acts 7:54-60; Acts 9:1; Acts 12:1-3; Acts 14:19; Acts 18:12; Acts 24:1; Acts 25:3; Acts 25:7
- “Falling away and betrayal”
- 2 Tim. 1:15 – This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me.
- Tacitus: “Under Nero’s persecution, at first several were seized who confessed, and then by their discovery a great multitude of others were convicted and barbarously executed.”
- “False Prophets”
- 2 Peter 2:1 – But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.
- 2 Cor 11:13; Acts 13:6; 2 Pet. 2:16-18; Acts 20:29-30; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Tim. 3:12-13; 1 John 4:1.

- “Increased lawlessness”
- 2 Thess. 2:7 – For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work.
- “Endures to the end”
- End of what? The world (kosmos)? Or the age (aion)?
- Remember the question that the disciples asked, to which Jesus is responding to.

Matthew 24:14 – And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

- “preached in all the world”
- “world” = oikoumenē = inhabited earth; Roman Empire
- Luke 2:1 – Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.
- Rom. 1:8 – First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.
- Romans 16:25–26 – Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, ²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith.
- Colossians 1:3–6 – We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in

Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth.

- Colossians 1:23 – ...if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

Matthew 24:15 – Therefore, when you see the “abomination of desolation,” spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand)...

- Luke 21:20 – But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.
- Zealots; Idumeans (Edomites); Romans; Jews
- James B. Jordan: “False worship is idolatrous worship. When the Jews rejected Jesus and kept offering sacrifices, they were engaged in idolatry. This was the “wing of abominations” (Daniel 9:27) that took place in the Temple. It is why the Temple was destroyed. A full picture of this is provided in Ezekiel 8-11. There you will see that when the apostate Jews of Ezekiel’s day performed the sacrifices, God viewed it as an abomination. He called the holy shrine an “idol of jealousy, that provokes to jealousy” (Ezekiel 8:3). The Jews had treated the Temple and the Ark as idols, and so God would destroy them, as He did the golden calf. Ezekiel sees God pack up and move out of the Temple, leaving it empty or desolate. Once God had left, the armies of Nebuchadnezzar swept in and destroyed the empty Temple. When we recognize that Ezekiel and Daniel prophesied at the same time, the correlation between Ezekiel 8 and Daniel 9 becomes even more

credible.”

- John Calvin: “God deserted His Temple, because it was only founded for a time, and was but a shadow, until the Jews so completely violated the whole covenant that no sanctity remained in either the Temple, the nation, or the land itself.”

Matthew 24:16-20 – ...then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

- Notice that Sabbath travel restrictions are in place.
- Luke 21 (parallel passage) tells us that the warning sign of the approaching desolation would be Jerusalem under siege.
- Luke 21:20-21 – But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. ²¹ Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city.
- 1st & 2nd century historians tell us that not a single Christian was killed in the destruction of Jerusalem, as they fled to Pella, a rock fortress in the hill country 60 miles northwest of Jerusalem, because of a prophecy given by the founder of that sect.

Matthew 24:21–22 – For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

- Ezek. 5:9 – And because of all your abominations, I will do among you what I have not done, and the like of which I will never do again.
- “great tribulation”
- Matt. 23:35-36 – And so **upon you** will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶ Truly I tell you, all this will come on **this generation**.
- Key time & location indicators.

Matthew 24:23–27 – Then if anyone says to you, “Look, here is the Christ!” or “There!” do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶ Therefore if they say to you, “Look, He is in the desert!” do not go out; or “Look, He is in the inner rooms!” do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

- Acts 21:37-38 – As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the commander, “May I say something to you?” And he said, “Do you know Greek? ³⁸ Then you are not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?”
- Lightning often signifies the presence of the Lord and His coming in judgement.
- Deut. 33:2 – The Lord came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; At His right hand there was flashing lightning

for them.

- Isa. 42:24–25 – Who gave Jacob up for spoil, and Israel to plunderers? Was it not the Lord, against whom we have sinned? For they would not follow His ways; they did not obey His law. ²⁵ So He poured out on them the heat of His anger and the fierceness of battle; And it set them aflame all around, yet they did not understand; And it burned them, but they did not take it to heart.
- 2 Thess. 1:6–7 – For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and to give relief to you who are afflicted, and to us as well, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire.
- Luke 23:28–30 – But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’
- Rev. 6:16–17 – And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”
- Luke 21:20–22 – But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. ²¹ Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; ²² because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.
- “days of vengeance”

- Isa. 61:1-2 – The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God.

Matthew 24:28 – For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

- Amazing comparisons with Jeremiah 7 & 19.
- Upon Jesus' death on the cross, God was finished with the type & shadow. He warned them of that when He rent the veil in the Temple.
- But they rejected the Blood of the Lamb, and continued making animal sacrifices – now abominable in God's eyes.
- Parable of the Landowner.
- Jewish religious leaders: "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will pay him the fruit in the proper seasons."
- Jesus: "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."

Matthew 24:29 – Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

- Gen. 37:9–10 – Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰ He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him

and said to him, “What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?”

- Judges 5:19–20 – The kings came and fought. They fought the kings of Canaan at Taanach near the waters of Megiddo. They took no plunder in silver. ²⁰ The stars fought from heaven, from their courses they fought against Sisera.
- Isa. 13:9–10 – Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation. And He will exterminate its sinners from it. ¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash forth their light. The sun will be dark when it rises, and the moon will not shed its light.
- Ezek. 32:7–8 – “And when I extinguish you, 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. ⁸ All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you, and will set darkness on your land,” declares the Lord God.
- Isa. 34:4–5 – And all the host of heaven will wear away, and the sky will be rolled up like a scroll. All their hosts will also wither away, as a leaf withers from the vine, or as one withers from the fig tree. ⁵ For My sword is satiated in heaven, behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom and upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction.
- Amos 5:18 – Alas, you who are longing for the day of the Lord, for what purpose will the day of the Lord be to you? It will be darkness and not light.
- Amos 8:9 – “It will come about in that day,” declares the Lord God, “That I will make the sun go down at noon, and make the earth dark in broad daylight.”

- Harold Fowler: “The once-exalted, unique theocracy of Israel went into permanent eclipse as God’s light-bearers before the nations (study Hebrews 12:25-29 as a commentary on this transition). Now the Church of Jesus Christ occupies this glorious position (Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:15; 1 Peter 2:9). Although Christianity would be established at a time when kingdoms, thrones, and religious systems would be thoroughly shaken, it would be a Kingdom that shall never be shaken or replaced by anything better this side of glory (Daniel 2:44; Daniel 7:14; Hebrews 12:28). From the viewpoint of Jesus’ contemporaries, the loss of Judaism’s glory would be a world-shaking tragedy indeed. From God’s point of view, however, the removal of things that can be shaken in order to establish a Kingdom that cannot be shaken is but to treat the former as obsolete.”

Matthew 24:30 – Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

- “coming on the clouds” (or “coming with clouds”) is a favorite Biblical imagery for the Lord coming in judgment.
- Psalm 18:8-9 – Smoke rose from His nostrils; consuming fire came from His mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. ⁹ He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet.
- Psalm 104:3 – He makes the clouds His chariot, and He rides on the wings of the wind.
- Isaiah 19:1 – See the Lord rides on a swift cloud and is about to come to Egypt. The idols of Egypt will tremble at His presence, and the hearts of the Egyptians will melt with fear.
- Mark 14:62-63 – And Jesus said, I am: and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming with the clouds of heaven. ⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes, and said, “What

further need do we have of witnesses?”

- Dan. 7:13–14 – I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.
- Harold Fowler: “The imagery in Matthew 24:30 clearly links it to Daniel 7. In Daniel’s vision, coming on the clouds means that the Son of Man was coming onstage, into the scene. It is not a coming toward Daniel, or toward the earth, but a coming seen from the standpoint God – “came up to the Ancient of Days”. This is no picture of the Second Coming, because the Son of Man is going the wrong way for that. His face is turned, not toward earth, but toward God. His goal is not to receive His saints, but to receive His Kingdom.”
- Verse 30 word for word translation from the original Greek: “And then will appear the sign of the Son of Man **in heaven**, and then will mourn all the **tribes of the land**, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”
- The sign appears in **heaven**, not in the **sky**.
- The **sign of** the Son of Man, not the **Son of Man**.
- Who is going to mourn? The “tribes of the land”.
- The sign is that the Son of Man is enthroned in heaven.
- Rev. 1:7 – Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him – even those who pierced Him, and all the tribes of the land shall wail because of Him.

- James Glasgow: “The subject of the text is ‘the people of the land’, in other words, Judea. And it would be a direct misinterpretation, as well as false logic, to strain a term beyond its subject, by applying it to the final judgment of all. That all men shall see Him, we learn from other scriptures (2 Cor. 5:10), but we must deal faithfully with the text, and not force any word in order to make out a case. Truth never requires this. That the land of Judea, in this prophetic sense, is the subject, is evident from the related passage in Zech. 12:10, from which the words were taken. Those who pierced Him are obviously those who had a hand in His death. The text declares they shall see Him, employing for seeing the verb “optomai”, which from other usages, we know it is not limited to ocular seeing. Though those who pierced Him saw not His person after His ascension, yet they saw His power bringing judgment on them, and making His cause prevail in despite of their persecution, and they speedily saw their kingdom terminated.”

Matthew 24:31 – And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

- “angels” = angelos = messengers
 - John the Baptist is an angelos (Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:24)
 - Jesus sent angelos before Him into a city (Luke 9:52)
 - Rev. 2 & 3 – the angelos of the churches
- “gather together” = epi-sunago = synagogue
- The “sound of a great trumpet” is a reference to Numbers 10, where silver trumpets were made to call the people together for worship, and to set them on the march to conquest.

- Numbers 10:1-2 – The Lord spoke further to Moses, saying, “Make yourself two trumpets of silver, of hammered work you shall make them; and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for having the camps set out.”
- Year of Jubilee: the year that Satan is dispossessed, and the world reverts to its original owner.

Matthew 24:32-35 – Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! ³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

- “until **all** these things take place”
- Matt. 21:19 – No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you.
- Rom. 11:17-18 – If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, ¹⁸ do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.
- Isa. 11:10 – In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to Him, and His resting place will be glorious.
- Rom. 11:19-21 – You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰ Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.

- Matt. 21:43 – Therefore I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and given to a people who will produce its fruit.