



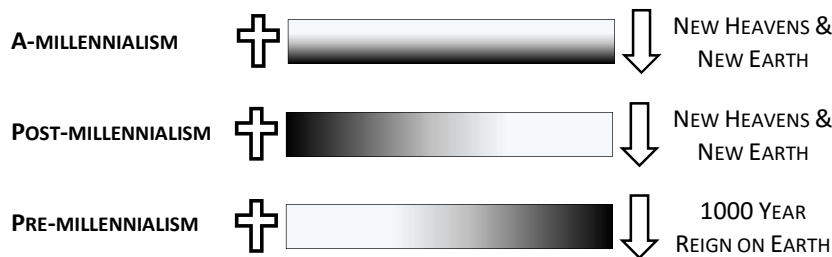
Matthew 24:15-31

THE RETURN OF THE KING

We must not suppose that this part of our Lord's prophecy (Mt 24:15-28) is exhausted by the first taking of Jerusalem in 70AD. It is more than probable that our Lord's words have a further and deeper application still. It is more than probable that they apply to a second siege of Jerusalem, which is yet to take place, when Israel has returned to their own land—and to a second tribulation on the inhabitants thereof, which shall only be stopped by the advent of our Lord Jesus Christ. Such a view of this passage may sound startling to some. But those who doubt its correctness would do well to study the last chapter of the prophet Zechariah, and the last chapter of Daniel. These two chapters contain solemn things. They throw great light on the verses we are now reading.

—J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)

There are three main views regarding biblical prophecy and the future, largely based on how one interprets the 1000 years in Rev. 20:1-6:



Within premillennialism, there is the dispensational view which sees a distinction between God's program for the church and for Israel.



These different views impact how one interprets Matthew 24:15-28.

- Does it refer to the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70)?*
- Does it refer to general characteristics of the church age?*
- Does it refer to the last 3 ½ years of the future tribulation?*

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (24:15-20; Daniel 9:27)

The actions of Antiochus Epiphanes (215-164 BC), a Greek ruler over Israel, foreshadow the "abomination of desolation" (Dan. 11:21-35):

- He stopped all practice of Jewish _____.
- He erected a statue of _____ in the temple.
- He sacrificed a _____ on the altar.

We must keep in mind that the atmosphere of this discourse is Jewish. Jesus talked about Judea, the Sabbath, the temple, and the prophecies of Daniel concerning the Jewish people. This is the time of "Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7).

—Warren Wiersbe

The **abomination** denotes an object of disgust, something loathsome and detestable, while **desolation** describes the effect produced, causing something to be deserted and left desolate. It portrays not the destruction of the temple but rather its profanation.

—D. Edmond Hiebert

When the Antichrist shall have devastated all things in this world, he will reign for 3 ½ years and sit in the temple at Jerusalem; then the Lord will come from heaven in the clouds...bringing in the times of the kingdom for the righteous.

—Irenaeus (AD 130-202)

Antiochus IV (175-164 BC)...was by nature a despot; eccentric and unreliable. The epithet Epiphanes is the designation given himself on his coins, and means "the god who appears or reveals himself."

—Frank E. Hirsch

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

—2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Who?

What?

Where?

When? At the 3 ½ year mark of the tribulation (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 13:5).

How? The Jews should _____ without hesitation! (24:16-20)

Why? It leads to the most difficult time the world has ever seen.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION (24:21-28)

- It is a time of great _____ (24:16-21; cf. Jer. 30:4-7; Dan. 7:25; Rev. 6:9-11; 12:6-17).
- It is a time of great _____ (24:22; cf. Rev. 6:1-17; 8:1-9:21; 15:1-16:21).
- It is a time of great _____ (24:23-28; cf. 2 Th. 2:9-12; 2 Tim. 4:1-3; Rev. 13:13-14).

THE RETURN OF THE KING (24:29-31)

The second coming of Jesus Christ will not be secret or hidden. Instead, He will come back in all the fullness of His glory and in divine judgment.

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RETURN OF CHRIST:

1. Universal _____ (Is. 13:10; Joel 2:31; 3:15).
2. Cosmic _____ (Hag. 2:6; Rev. 6:13; 8:8-11).
3. Glorious _____ (Zech. 14:3-5; Rev. 19:11-16).
4. Global _____ (Zech. 12:10; Rev. 1:7; 6:15-17).
5. Total _____ (Is. 27:12-13; Rom. 11:25-27).

History is moving toward a climax—Jesus Christ will reign on this earth! Do you know Him as your Savior? Have you bowed to Him as your King?

Let the reader understand reinforces the fact that Jesus was not giving the warnings in the Olivet discourse to the disciples themselves but to believers in the end time, who will read those truths in Scripture and thereby be enabled to understand the trials they are enduring. —John MacArthur, Jr.

The great tribulation will be of a magnitude unparalleled in the entire history of the world; such trouble has never been, nor will it ever be equaled thereafter.

—Leon Morris

A full-scale nuclear war could lead to as much as 150 million tons of soot being injected into the atmosphere. All that soot would quickly spread around the globe and block incoming sunlight, putting a shade over the planet and leading to drastic global cooling. Crops would wither and die, as would the livestock that depend on them. As a result, global calorie production could drop by as much as 90%, leaving an estimated 5 billion people dead from famine in what is now known as nuclear winter.

—Lili Xia and Alan Robock

Vultures swoop down upon a carcass. When morally and spiritually the world has degenerated to such an extent that it resembles carrion, when the Lord judges that the world's cup of iniquity is full, then, and not until then, Christ shall come to condemn that world.

—William Hendriksen

He did not say be watching for the antichrist, but be watching for the One whose name is above every name, before whom every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father [Phil. 2:9-11].

—J. Dwight Pentecost