

The Order of Events in the End Times Denoted by Clear Scriptures

Due to the near total confusion of many in the church on this topic, I have sought here to simply list the clear scriptures that refer to the end times in their logical and Biblical order. I have avoided using any obscure references to disputed and apocalyptic texts so that the verses cannot be twisted out of their obvious contextual meaning.

It is a sound Biblical principle of interpretation that the clear passages must explain the obscure. This means that it is these passages which must set the scene for our understanding of eschatology, not the symbolism of Daniel, Zechariah or Revelation. After establishing the progress of events at the end from these clear scriptures, we then turn to the obscure texts and must interpret them in the light of what has been established. If everyone did this there would be little confusion.

Signs of the imminent coming of the Lord, understood by watching believers

Phase One - The beginning of the sorrows

- For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. [Matt 24:5] For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He*, 'and will deceive many. [Mk 13:6]
- And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. [Matt 24:6] But when you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be troubled; for *such things* must happen, but the end *is* not yet. [Mk 13:7] "But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end *will not come* immediately." [Lk 21:9]
- For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. [Matt 24:7-8] For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of sorrows. [Mk 13:8] Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven". [Lk 21:10-11]

Phase Two - persecution of the church world-wide

- Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. [Matt 24:9] But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. [Mk 13:9] But when they arrest *you* and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. [Mk 13:11] "But before all these things,¹ they will lay their hands on you and persecute *you*, delivering *you* up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle *it* in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. [Lk 21:12-15]
- And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. [Matt 24:10] Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. [Mk 13:12-

¹ Robertson (Word Pictures) feels that this means the same as Matt/Mk that these things follow Phase One even though it appears otherwise. Or Luke may be emphasising that persecution is the lot of the church throughout history (i.e. it occurs before Phase One), but it will be heightened at the end.

13] "You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put *some* of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls." [Lk 21:16-19]

- Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. [Matt 24:11]
- And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. [Matt 24:12]
- 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. [Matt 24:14] And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. [Mk 13:10]
- For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. [Matt 24:24] Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here *is* the Christ!' or, 'Look, *He is* there!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand. [Mk 13:21-23]

This persecution equates to the 'falling away' and revelation of antichrist (or 'the lawless one', 'the man of sin', the son of perdition').

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 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,

4 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.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way.

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

9 The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2 Thess 2:1-12

19 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

1 Jn 2:18-22

and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

1 Jn 4:3

Followed by great tribulation paralleled with the fall of Jerusalem

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),

16 "then let those who are in Judaea 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.

21 "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.

Matt 24:15-22

14 "So when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judaea flee to the mountains.

15 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house.

16 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

17 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

18 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter.

19 "For *in* those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.

20 "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

Mk 13:14-20

20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.

21 "Then let those who are in Judaea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.

22 "For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

23 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people.

24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."

Lk 21:20-24

Followed by signs in heaven

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.

Matt 24:29

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Mk 13:24-25

25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

26 "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken."

Lk 21:25-26

Followed by the glorious and universally visible return of the Lord

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matt 24:27

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.

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."

Matt 24:30-31

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Mk 13:26

For as the lightning that flashes out of one *part* under heaven shines to the other *part* under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

Lk 17:24

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Lk 21:27

7 and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,
8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thess 1:7-8

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

2 Thess 2:8

This coming is unexpected by the world

36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

37 "But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

38 "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

39 "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matt 24: 36-39

26 "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

27 "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

29 "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed *them* all.

30 "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed."

Lk 17:26-29

"For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Lk 21:35

2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

1 Thess 5:2-3

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night

2 Pt 3:10

[Note: Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place Matt 24:24; Lk 21:32: There is an interconnection between Jesus' warning about the end of the world and his warnings to Jews regarding the destruction of Jerusalem. There are many

parallels of one to the other. The early church remembered this verse and fled before the final onslaught of the Romans and escaped the awful consequences suffered by Jews. There needs to be a careful exegesis of Matt 24 to unravel the differences as Jesus veers off onto an aside to warn disciples about the destruction in 70 AD. For a detailed exposition of Matt 24, Lk 21 and Mk 13 see my paper, *The Signs of the End in the Olivet Eschatological Discourse*; an excerpt appears in appendix one.]

Followed by the Day of Judgment

40 "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

41 "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,

42 "and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Matt 13:40-43

And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

Mk 13:27

47 " Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,

48 "which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.

49 "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,

50 "and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Matt 13:47-50

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.

Matt 16:27

31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

33 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matt 25:31-33

5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds":

7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honour, and immortality;

8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness -- indignation and wrath,²

9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

10 but glory, honour, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

11 For there is no partiality with God.

12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

Rm 2:5-12

² This is not an indication of works self-righteousness. Paul later say that 'no one does good' (Rm 3:10,12), echoing the Psalmist (Ps 14:3; Ps 53:3). Those who do good and seek glory are only those who know Christ and have been justified by faith, as Paul explains in chapters 3-5.

I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

2 Tim 4:1

it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,
Heb 9:27

The General resurrection - The wicked are raised to be sentenced to hell, the righteous to eternal life

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels ...

46 "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Matt 25:41, 46

28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

29 "and come forth -- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Jn 5:28-29

39 "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

40 "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Jn 6:39-40

7 and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

2 Thess 1:7-10

5 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

17 saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

Rev 11:15-18

10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book* of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.
 Rev 20:10-15

Saints are given new bodies and are perfected in holiness

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
 Jn 11:25

21 For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.
 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.
 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.
 24 Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed --
 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.
 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."
 1 Cor 15:21-24, 51-54

When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.
 Col 3:4

... so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.
 1 Thess 3:13

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.
 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
 17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
 1 Thess 4:15-17

so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.
 Heb 9:28

and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. [i.e. a glorious new body]
 1 Pt 5:4

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
 1 Jn 3:2

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

1 Jn 4:17

[Note the order:

1. Christ raised first.
2. Then dead saints in Christ are raised at his Second Coming - those who had been in heaven are given new resurrection bodies and come with Christ.
3. Saints left on earth are changed immediately into new bodies following the dead saints.
4. Then the end - the destruction and reconstruction of the earth, the Day of Judgment, the glorious Lordship of Christ over all.]

God destroys the earth, marred by sin, and creates a new heaven and a new earth where man is in fellowship with God

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope;

21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now.

23 Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Rm 8:20-23

For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water.

7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

2 Pt 3:10-13

14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Rev 6:14-17

Believers must be watchful and prepared

32 "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!

Matt 24:32-34

And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

Mk 13:5

28 "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.

29 "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near -- at the doors! ...

32 " But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

33 "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. ...

37 "And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

Mk 13

And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He*, 'and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them."

Lk 21:8

28 "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.

30 "When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

31 "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near."

Lk 21:28-31

34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

35 "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Lk 21:34-36

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

1 Thess 5:4-6

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Appendix One

Excerpt from, *The Signs of the End in the Olivet Eschatological Discourse.*

Phase One (Matt 24:6,8)

- There will be great deception and the coming of false christs, (Matt 24:5).
- There will be wars and rumours of wars (Matt 24:6).
- There will be national uprisings and tribal wars (Matt 24:7).
- And there will be famines, pandemic diseases, and earthquakes in various places. (Matt 24:7)

Phase Two

- All nations will hate God's elect people, true believers; persecution will arise (Matt 24:9).
- There will be many betrayals and much hatred (Matt 24:10,12).
- Many false prophets will arise and deceive many (Matt 24:11).
- The church must endure through this, there is no secret rapture to spare them (Matt 24:13).
- The Gospel of the Kingdom is preached throughout the world, then the end comes (Matt 24:14).

After this breakdown of events, Jesus then qualifies certain matters. The following applies to a time when 'the abomination of desolation' occurs in God's temple (Matt 24:15).

- Those who are in Judaea should flee to the mountains (Matt 24:16).
- One who is on the housetop should not go down to take anything out of his house (Matt 24:17).
- Him who is in the field should not go back to get his clothes (Matt 24:18).
- Those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days will be in jeopardy (Matt 24:19).
- The material Sabbath particularly applies to these people (Matt 24:20).
- A great and unique tribulation occurs (Matt 24:21).
- For the elect's sake those days will be shortened (Matt 24:22).

These matters seem to especially apply to the fall of Jerusalem. The Jesus seems to return to general principles and the theme of the end of the world.

General Principles

- Do not be taken in by false christs (messiahs, Matt 24:23).
- These false messiahs will manifest great signs and wonders which may even deceive the elect. Jesus emphasises this particular warning (Matt 24:24-6).
- The Second Coming will be like the days of Noah (Matt 24:37). At this time life carried on as normal (Matt 24:38) until the flood came suddenly (Matt 24:39). One person died and suffered judgment while another was rescued and saved in the ark (Christ, Matt 24:40-2)

Signs related to the end

- The second coming of Christ will be like lightning coming from the east and flashing to the west (Matt 24:27).

- There is a tribulation before this event which is like the death of the world (Matt 24:28-9).
- After this tribulation there is an unusual eclipse of the sun as well as the moon. The sky will seem to shake as stars fall (Matt 24:29).
- 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 (Matt 24:30).
- Then the elect are gathered (Matt 24:31).

Warnings to be watchful

- Believers will recognise the approaching event (Matt 24:32-33)
- But no one knows the actual time for certain (Matt 24:26,44).
- Since we do not know the actual time, we must always be watchful (Matt 24:42).
- Satan does not know the time of the end (Matt 24:43).

A problem

Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place, (Matt 24:34).

This has been explained in various ways: 'these things' refer to the glory of Christ which was seen in the ascension and early church miracles. 'These things' refers to the destruction of Jerusalem which would occur within a generation (70AD), forty years later. Some feel that 'all' must include all the statements and, therefore, none of them apply to the end. But this is contradicted by many clear statements about the Second Coming and the answer to the disciples' question which specifically mentions the signs of the end.

Appendix Two

Summary in graphic form

<p>Signs: Phase One The beginning of the sorrows</p>	<p>False christs: Matt 24:5; Mk 13:6 Many wars: Matt 24:6; Mk 13:7; Lk 21:9 Famines, pandemics: Matt 24:7-8; Mk 13:8; Lk 21:10-11</p>
<p>Signs: Phase Two Persecution of the true church</p>	<p>World-wide persecution: Matt 24:9; Mk 13:9, 11; Lk 21:12-15 Brotherly hatred: Matt 24:10, 12; Mk 13:12-13; Lk 21:16-19 False prophets: Matt 24:11, 24; Mk 13:21-23 Universal preaching of the Gospel: Matt 24:14; Mk 13:10 Revelation of antichrist: 2 Thess 2; 1 Jn 2:18-22, 4:3</p>
<p>The Great Tribulation</p>	<p>Has a parallel with the destruction of Jerusalem: Matt 24:15-22; Mk 13:14-20; Lk 21:20-24 Reign of antichrist: 2 Thess 2</p>
<p>Signs in heaven</p>	<p>Unusual eclipse of sun and moon, 'falling stars': Matt 24:29; Mk 13:24-25; Lk 21:25-26</p>
<p>The glorious and universally visible return of the Lord</p>	<p>Matt 24:27; 30-31; Mk 13:26; Lk 17:24, 27; 2 Thess 1:7-8 Unexpected by the world: Matt 24: 36-39; Lk 17:26-29, 21:35; 1 Thess 5:2-3; 2 Pt 3:10</p>
<p>General Resurrection & Day of Judgment</p>	<p>Matt 13:40-43, 47-50; 16:27; 25:31-33; Mk 13:27; Rm 2:5-12; 2 Tim 4:1; Heb 9:27; Matt 25:41, 46; Jn 5:28-29; Jn 6:39-40; Thess 1:7-10; Rev 11:15-18, 20:10-15 Saints perfected: Jn 11:25; 1 Cor 15:21-24, 51-54; Col 3:4; 1 Thess 3:13, 4:15-17; Heb 9:28; 1 Pt 5:4; 1 Jn 3:2, 4:17</p>
<p>New Heaven and earth</p>	<p>Rm 8:20-23; 2 Pt 3:10-13; Rev 6:14-17</p>