

Mt. 24:3 – 31 The following three pages unlock a **huge** key to prophetic understanding!

What are the two explicit topics of inquiry raised by the disciples in verse 3c?

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What word is used throughout this portion of Scripture that clearly states this passage presents a progression of events (vv. 9, 10, 14, 16, 21, 23, 30)?

\_\_\_\_\_ (The N.T. Greek word in these verses is  $\tau\omicron\tau\epsilon$ .)

What are other textual signs indicating this passage is indeed chronological?

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_ f. \_\_\_\_\_

g. \_\_\_\_\_

h. \_\_\_\_\_

In light of the biblical data in Matthew 24:3-31, place the following events in their correct order. (Please use only the left column at this time.)

1. \_\_\_\_ A. The sign of the Son of Man 1. \_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_ B. The abomination of desolation and the great tribulation 2. \_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_ C. The gathering of the elect 3. \_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_ D. The false christs and false prophets who perform signs and wonders as they give incorrect reports as to the physical location of Christ 4. \_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_ E. The time of tribulation (i.e., persecution) 5. \_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_ F. The beginning of sorrows/birth pains 6. \_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_ G. Heavenly signs involving the sun, moon and stars 7. \_\_\_\_

or  
~~D~~  
~~A~~

Is there any room to allow for adjustment of this chronological progression **given the data contained in this passage**? Specifically, the tribulation is followed by the word “then” in verse 23. This indicates the event following the great tribulation period is what? (vv. 23-28)

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Does the text specifically state how long after the tribulation this deception takes place?

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But after this (vv. 23-28) paragraph, additional chronological information is recorded in this chapter. What **word** in verse 29 identifies the rate of that which rapidly follows the time of tribulation?

\_\_\_\_\_ (The N.T. Greek word in this verse is εὐθεως.)

What are the events that quickly follow the tribulation (vs. 29)?

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Is it possible the signs which “immediately” follow the tribulation actually **precede** (chronologically) the content of vv. 23-28? On what textual grounds is this possible?

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Here’s our proposal tied to the view of this workbook (and which is more thoroughly defined in the book, *The Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering: An Introduction*):

We believe the great tribulation is immediately followed by the astronomical signs of verse 29. “Then,” as verse 30 describes, another sign takes place—the sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky. After this initial appearing of Jesus Christ—an appearing only—He again disappears, for the passages which inform on this event (namely Mt. 24:30 and Rev. 6:14-17) do not state He descends to the earth at this time nor do they teach the sign continues. In other words, these passages describe the event of His revealing, not that He continues to hang in the sky for days, weeks, or months.

This is why we find a fascinating event which we believe takes place AFTER the tribulation ... AFTER the astronomical signs in the sky (which are stated to take place “immediately after the tribulation”) ... and AFTER the sign of the Son of Man in the sky.

And what is this fascinating event according to Matthew 24:23-28 (as we understand the chronology to unfold, as the text explicitly states and as we’re presenting it here)?

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This observing-the-text interpretation in no way violates the data of the biblical texts addressing the time of the end. In other words, in conformity with literal interpretation principles, we affirm the deceit of the false christs and false prophets takes place AFTER (due to the use of the word “then” in 23) the great tribulation. But because the event of the heavenly signs (S1) is said to take place “immediately after the tribulation of those days” (which is followed by the sign of the Son of Man [S2]—substantiated by the inclusion of the word “then” in verse 30), we believe these two events (S1 & S2) actually PRECEDE the event of the deceptive false prophets of vv. 23-28. We believe this in agreement with the grammar and syntax of the passage AND in light of the content. This also clarifies why the false prophets bring the deceptive messages they do.

As a result of the initial appearing of the true Christ in the sky (who then disappears again), false prophets then emerge who falsely declare the whereabouts of Christ. This understanding of the passage resolves some major difficulties some end-time positions have concerning the chronological unfolding of the events of this Matthew chapter, not to further develop why the false prophets would make such claims concerning the location of Christ after the tribulation period and after the initial appearing of the Son of Man.

In light of these comments, go back to the first page and fill in the order of events, only this time use the column on the right. Note the two possible options under this arrangement.

Why does the event of the sign of the Son of Man coming before the false christs and false prophets of vv. 23 – 28 (instead of inverting these two events where the false prophets make their appearance before the sign of the Son of Man) better fit the context? (Hint: Answer in light of the content of the false messages of vv. 23 and 26)

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Permission is granted by the author – Jon Swanson – to use this handout for Gospel & Discipleship purposes.

To order the book (titled, *The Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering: An Introduction*) which affirms this Matthew 24 outline of prophetic events, please go to:  
[www.therapturegathering.org](http://www.therapturegathering.org).

To contact the ministry sponsoring this biblical proposal, please email our field director at [email@endmin.org](mailto:email@endmin.org).