



The Purpose of Revelation (4)

A study of the “Little Apocalypse”
(Matthew 24:3-13)

The “Little Apocalypse”

(Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21)

- Was a response to a question by His disciples.
- They were in Jerusalem at the Temple, marveling at its construction.
- Jesus foretold it would be completely destroyed.
- They came to Jesus, privately, for details.



What Was the Question?

- Many (including myself) have taught there were two (or three) questions.
 - When will these things be?
 - What will be the sign of Your (second) coming?
 - What will be the sign of the end of the age?
- We *assumed* the apostles misunderstood, believing the end of the Temple was the end of the world.
- The disciples had spent three years, under Jesus' personal tutelage.
- Did they misunderstand, *or have we?*



What was “the” Question?

Matthew 24:1-3	Mark 13:1-4	Luke 21:5-7
Written to Jews	Written to Romans	Written to Gentiles
<p>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, that shall not be thrown down." 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 <i>will be</i> the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:1-3 NKJV)</p>	<p>Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings <i>are here!</i>" And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what <i>will be</i> the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?" (Mark 13:1-4 NKJV)</p>	<p>Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, "These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down." So they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign <i>will there be</i> when these things are about to take place?" (Luke 21:5-7 NKJV)</p>

A Comparison and Clarification

Matthew 24:3	Mark 13:4	Luke 21:7
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When will these things be?2. What will be the sign of Your coming?3. <i>What will be the sign of the end of the age?</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When will these things be?2. What will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When will these things be?2. What sign will there be when these things are about to take place?

The “Little Apocalypse”

(Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21)

- Was a response to a question by His disciples.
- They were in Jerusalem at the Temple, marveling at its construction.
- Jesus foretold it would be completely destroyed.
- They came to Jesus, privately, for details.
- The entire discourse concerned *the destruction of Jerusalem*.



But, What About Verses 29-31?

Matthew 24:29-31	Mark 13:24-27	Luke 13:25-28
<p>"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. 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. 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.</p>	<p>"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. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 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.</p>	<p>"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; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."</p>

Apocalyptic “De-Creation”

- [Isaiah 13:10-11 NKJV](#) For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. (11) "I will punish the world for *its* evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.
- [Jeremiah 4:23-29](#) - **READ**
- [Ezekiel 32:7-8 NKJV](#) When *I* put out your light, I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, And the moon shall not give her light. (8) All the bright lights of the heavens I will make dark over you, And bring darkness upon your land,' Says the Lord GOD.
- [Joel 2:30-31 NKJV](#) "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. (31) The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.
- [Amos 8:9 NKJV](#) "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord GOD, "That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight;
- [Zephaniah 1:14-15 NKJV](#) The great day of the LORD *is* near; *It is* near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. (15) That day *is* a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,



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Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21

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EVENTS	MATTHEW 24	MARK 13	LUKE 21	REVELATION 6
WAR	VS. 6	VS. 7	VS. 9	VS. 1-2
INTERNATIONAL STRIFE	VS. 7a	VS. 8a	VS. 10	VS. 3-4
FAMINES	VS. 7b	VS. 8c	VS. 11b	VS. 5-6
EARTHQUAKES	VS. 7c	VS. 8b	VS. 11a	VS. 12
PERSECUTION	VS. 9-13	VS. 9-13	VS. 12-19	VS. 9-11
PLAGUES			VS. 11b	VS. 7-8
“DE-CREATION”	VS. 15-31	VS. 14-27	VS. 20-27	VS. 12-17

Summary of Lessons on the Purpose of Revelation

- Revelation concerns the exercising of vengeance, for the blood of the apostles and prophets, against an “adulterous” city.
- The book of Revelation parallels the “little apocalypse” found in the synoptic gospels.
- The fervent and relentless persecution by the Jewish leadership, was having a devastating effect on the first century church.
- Jesus laid the responsibility for the death of the prophets *solely* on Jerusalem.
- Revelation parallels the book of Ezekiel, a *covenant lawsuit* against Judah for violating the Mosaic covenant.

Revelation Was
Written To
Announce:

- **The Execution of Wrath against *apostate* Israel**
 - **The End of the Persecutions Orchestrated by Satan, and Apostate Judaism**
 - **The final destruction of the vestiges of the Old Covenant**
 - **Christ's Affirmation of the Covenant with the Church (The Marriage Supper of the Lamb)**
- **Charge Christians to Conquer the World Through the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of His Testimony**