

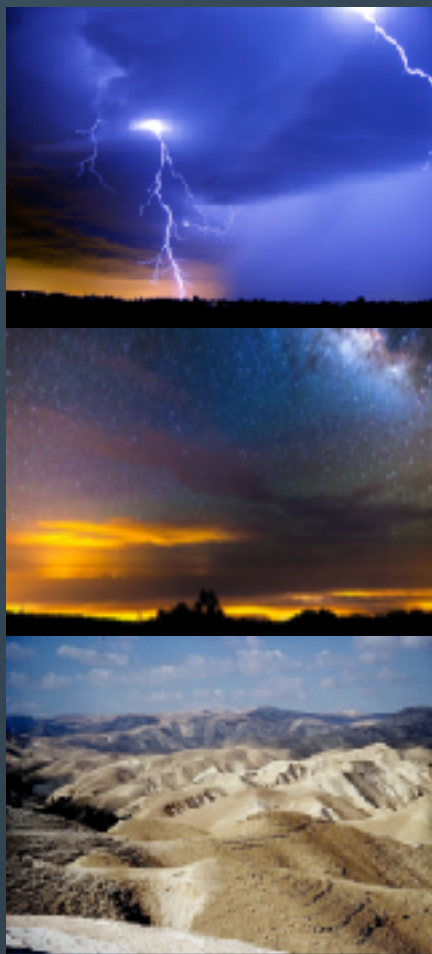


THE OLIVET PROPHECY

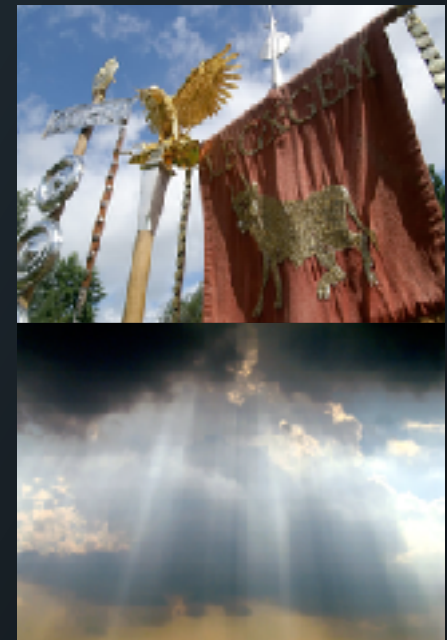
WITNESSING THE WAYS OF GOD

Session 4 - The Coming of the Son of Man

Reading - Matthew 24:30



- 1 - From Abstract to Tangible
- 2 - For Then Shall Be Great Tribulation
- 3 - The Sun Shall Be Darkened
- 4 - The Coming of the Son of Man
- 5 - They Shall Gather Together His Elect



SERIES OUTLINE

Goal: to elucidate Christ's message in the signs of the Olivet prophecy, and to enhance our understanding of God's hand at work.

4 - The Coming of the Son of Man

- Timing
- The Sign
- Christ's Old Testament Basis

Core: God values understanding.

Why: did the Lord switch suddenly to prophecies about his second coming?

would the tribes of the earth mourn after seeing their Messiah?

THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

Matthew 24:30

Is this verse about **AD 70** or the **second coming**?

- It uses the term “erchomai.”
- It uses the pronoun “they” rather than “you.”
- And it is quoted by the apostle John *after* AD 70.

Matthew 24:30 - “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

Revelation 1:7 - “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”

"PAROUSIA" = 
"ERCHOMAI" = 

Somehow, we need to get from here...

...to here.

AD 70

AD 70

AD 70

RETURN

RETURN

AD 70

coming

The signs of Christ's ST. MATTHEW 24. coming to judgment.

say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28 For whosoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

37 But as the days were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

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

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

42 Watch therefore: for ye know not the day of the Lord's coming.

43 Consider this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour the Son of man cometh.

45 Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of.

51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“We may say with perfect correctness, General Washington was elected President, then General Jackson, then Mr. Polk, and then General Pierce, without it being supposed that they were immediately following one another with no President between. The ‘thens’ would be generally understood as indicative of indefinite succession...this is the fact in relation to Matthew’s, or rather Christ’s use of the ‘thens’ in ch. 24:30.” John Thomas; “The Prophecy of Mount Olivet”

“AND THEN...”

I Corinthians 15:22-24



“then cometh the end”

That’s almost 1000 years!



In fact, the Lord had used “then” *in this way earlier!*

Matthew 24:14 → “and then shall the end come”

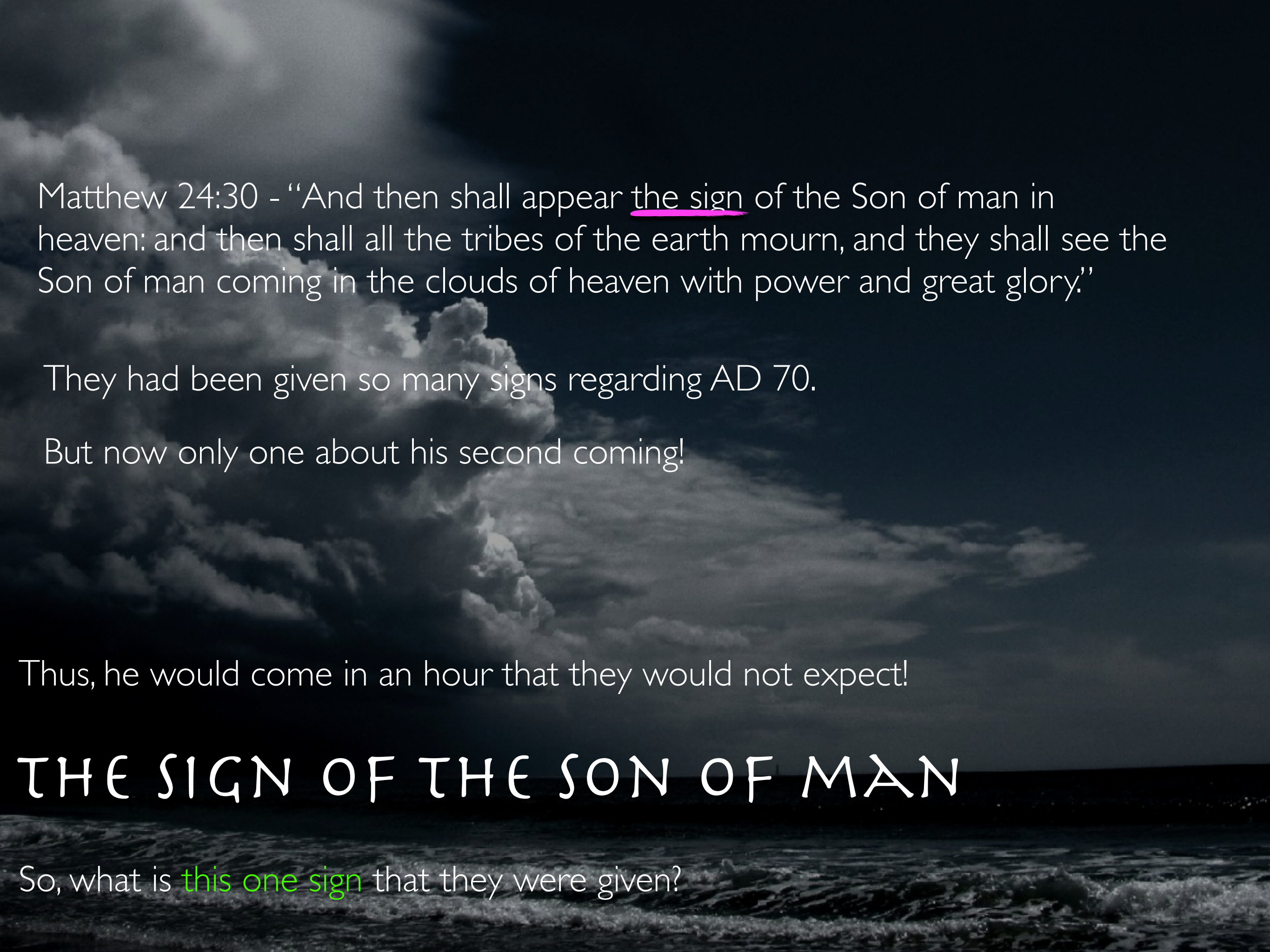
And the apostle Paul used it this way in his “man of sin” prophecy.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 → “until he be taken out of the way”

“and then shall that wicked be revealed”

Because Paul was arguing over the *exact same thing!*

cp. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3



Matthew 24:30 - “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

They had been given so many signs regarding AD 70.

But now only one about his second coming!

Thus, he would come in an hour that they would not expect!

THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN

So, what is this one sign that they were given?

Consider that the meaning changes depending on how you read it:

- The son of man's sign will appear in the sky.
- Something would happen that would prove that the son of man was in heaven.
- The son of man in the sky is the sign.

But how was “heaven” just used?

PERHAPS NONE OF THE ABOVE.

That doesn't fit with any of the suggested meanings of the passage!

Matthew 24:30 → “and then shall appear the sign of the son of man in heaven”



THE JEWISH HEAVENS

The context is the key! Matthew 24:29

Perhaps we can support this further:

- 1 - The immediate context - Matthew 24:29
- 2 - The general context - a prophecy specifically *about Israel and the Jews*
- 3 - The idea of a “sign” or wonder in heaven is used four other times.

Every time *it is symbolic*.

Acts 2:19 → reference to the destruction of the Jewish heavens

Revelation 12:1 → reference to the political heavens

Revelation 12:3 → reference to the political heavens

Revelation 15:1 → reference to the political heavens

BUT DIDN'T THE JEWISH HEAVENS AND
EARTH PASS AWAY?

Yet implicit in this prophecy was the promise that **they would come back.**

Luke 21:24 - “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

The Old Testament background reinforced that as well:

Isaiah 5-6 - Despite their destruction, God would cleanse a remnant

Jeremiah 31 - God would never cast off the seed of Israel

Thus, we are looking at **the restored Jewish heavens**—after the times of the Gentiles.
But what was the sign that would appear in this Jewish heavens?

Consider one of the uses of the word “sign” (σημεῖον; G4592):

Luke 2:12 → “this shall be a sign unto you”

Luke 2:34 → “this child is set...for a sign”

Luke 11:30 → “As Jonas was a sign...”



THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN

Isaiah 8:18 - “Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.”

“signs” → σημεῖον G4592 same word as Matthew 24:30

In the Jewish heavens!

And this verse is quoted *about Christ!* Hebrews 2:13

Consider one of the uses of the word “sign” (σημεῖον; G4592):

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Luke 11:30 → “As Jonas was a sign...”

Perhaps the sign is the Lord himself.

1 - He will appear in the Jewish heavens.

THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN

2 - The tribes of the earth mourn *when they see the sign*. Old Testament echo?

So, the heavens are the Jewish heavens.

And the sign is perhaps the Lord himself.

HE WOULD COME IN AN HOUR THEY
WOULD NOT EXPECT!

Thus, Christ's words told the disciples:

- The Jewish heavens would be dissolved.
- Sometime after this, he would return—to a new Jewish heavens.
- He would be a sign to the Jews.
- Upon seeing that sign, they would mourn.
- And he would come in clouds, with power and great glory.

The Old Testament background backed up each of these points.

And also brought out a few others.

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THE OLD TESTAMENT "SON OF MAN"

Matthew 24:30 - "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

“the sign of the son of man” perhaps has Old Testament roots.

Only **two people** are called “son of man” in the Old Testament:

Daniel: Daniel 8:17

Ezekiel:	Ezekiel 2:1	Ezekiel 2:3	Ezekiel 2:6	Ezekiel 2:8
	Ezekiel 3:1	Ezekiel 3:3	Ezekiel 3:4	Ezekiel 3:10
	Ezekiel 3:17	Ezekiel 3:25	Ezekiel 4:1	Ezekiel 4:16
	Ezekiel 5:1	Ezekiel 6:2	Ezekiel 7:2	Ezekiel 8:5
	Ezekiel 8:6	Ezekiel 8:8	Ezekiel 8:12	Ezekiel 8:15
	Ezekiel 8:17	Ezekiel 11:2	Ezekiel 11:4	Ezekiel 11:15
	Ezekiel 12:2	Ezekiel 12:3	Ezekiel 12:9	Ezekiel 12:18
	Ezekiel 12:22	Ezekiel 12:27	Ezekiel 13:2	Ezekiel 13:17

Ezekiel 14:3	Ezekiel 14:13	Ezekiel 15:2	Ezekiel 16:2
Ezekiel 17:2	Ezekiel 20:3	Ezekiel 20:4	Ezekiel 20:27
Ezekiel 20:46	Ezekiel 21:2	Ezekiel 21:6	Ezekiel 21:9
Ezekiel 21:12	Ezekiel 21:14	Ezekiel 21:19	Ezekiel 21:28
Ezekiel 22:2	Ezekiel 22:18	Ezekiel 22:24	Ezekiel 23:2
Ezekiel 23:36	Ezekiel 24:2	Ezekiel 24:16	Ezekiel 24:25
Ezekiel 25:2	Ezekiel 26:2	Ezekiel 27:2	Ezekiel 28:2
Ezekiel 28:12	Ezekiel 28:21	Ezekiel 29:2	Ezekiel 29:18
Ezekiel 30:2	Ezekiel 30:21	Ezekiel 31:2	Ezekiel 32:2
Ezekiel 32:18	Ezekiel 33:2	Ezekiel 33:7	Ezekiel 33:10
Ezekiel 33:12	Ezekiel 33:24	Ezekiel 33:30	Ezekiel 34:2

Ezekiel 35:2	Ezekiel 36:1	Ezekiel 36:17	Ezekiel 37:3
Ezekiel 37:9	Ezekiel 37:11	Ezekiel 37:16	Ezekiel 38:2
Ezekiel 38:14	Ezekiel 39:1	Ezekiel 39:17	Ezekiel 40:4
Ezekiel 43:7	Ezekiel 43:10	Ezekiel 43:18	Ezekiel 44:5
Ezekiel 47:6			

Total count: 93 verses

When the Lord called himself the “Son of man”...
...who do you think the Jews thought of?

Not only that, but he said that they would see *the sign* of the Son of man.

What connection did the Old Testament “Son of man” have to signs?

Ezekiel 12:6 → “for I have set thee for *a sign* unto the house of Israel.”

Ezekiel 12:11 → “Say, I am your *sign*”

Ezekiel 24:24 → “Thus Ezekiel is unto you *a sign*”

Ezekiel 24:27 → “and thou shalt be *a sign* unto them”

Thus, Christ's words told the disciples:

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- ✓ - **He would be a sign** to the Jews.
 - Upon seeing that sign, **they would mourn**.
 - And he would come **in clouds, with power and great glory**.

THE TRIBES OF THE EARTH

Matthew 24:30 - “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

Matthew 24:30 → “and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn”

Zechariah 12:10-12 → “and the land shall mourn, every family apart”

“tribes” → φυλή G5443

“earth” → γῆ G1093

“mourn” → κόπτω G2875

The Lord was thinking back to Zechariah’s picture of his return!

And **when** does this mourning happen?

Zechariah 12:10 → “they shall look upon me...**and they shall mourn** for him”

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COMING IN THE CLOUDS

Matthew 24:30 - “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

Recall any Old Testament prophecies about the Son of man?

...where he comes in clouds?

Matthew 24:30 - "...and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of
heaven with power and great glory."

Daniel 7:13 - "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man
came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they
brought him near before him."

Thus, Christ's words told the disciples:

- ✓ - The Jewish heavens **would be dissolved**.
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THE BACKGROUND'S MESSAGE



The Old Testament background put many steps before the second coming!

Zechariah 12:10-12 - “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart.”

The same was the case with Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:7-8 → “there came up among them another little horn”

The great apostasy, the Papal system, **had to develop first!**

But it didn't just have to develop...

Daniel 7:25 → “they shall be given into his hand until a time and times...”

1260 years!

The Old Testament background **required:**

- The Lord to be pierced
 - The Papal system to develop
 - The Papal system to rule for a period of 1260 years
 - The Jewish heavens to be restored
 - The Jewish heavens to be attacked
- ...all **before** the Lord would come in power and great glory.

Thus, Christ sought to show them that the Kingdom was not coming immediately.

IT WOULD BE CENTURIES BEFORE HE WOULD RETURN!

Because God values understanding.

Matthew 13:10-16

2 Thessalonians 2:10