

Calamity and Restoration in the New Testament

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—In last week's article, we discussed the connected prophecy themes of calamity and restoration as found in the Old Testament—specifically in the book of Joel. This week, we will recognize the same prophecy themes foretold in the New Testament.

First comes the bad news. Then comes the promise of the good news.

Warnings about calamity

Matthew 24:2—The stones of the temple were to be thrown down.

Matthew 24:4-5—People were going to be deceived.

Matthew 24:6-7—There were to be wars and rumors of wars.

Matthew 24:7—There were to be famines, pestilences and earthquakes.

Matthew 24:8—All these occurrences were only the beginning of sorrows.

Matthew 24:9—Disciples were going to be delivered to people (whether to government officials or to mobs) and killed. This action was a behavior of hatred.

Matthew 24:10—Disciples were going to betray one another.

Matthew 24:11—False prophets were going to deceive many.

Matthew 24:12—Because lawlessness was going to abound, the love of many disciples was going to wax cold.

Matthew 24:15-16—The abomination of desolation was going to affect the disciples in Jerusalem.

Matthew 24:21—There was going to be tribulation as has not been seen since the beginning of the world.

Matthew 24:29—The sun and moon were going to be darkened, stars were going to fall from heaven and the powers of heaven were going to be shaken.

Foretold of restoration

Matthew 24:30-31—"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."

Matthew 25:31-34—"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. 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. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.' "

Acts 1:10-11—"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.' "

1 Corinthians 15:50-52—"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—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."

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18—"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. 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. 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words."