

# Matthew 24:29–41

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Wednesday-night Bible studies, I recently began a series covering Matthew 24. After presenting the material orally on Wednesday night, I decided to write a short article about the material for the Saturday bulletin.

Today we will make a few comments about Matthew 24:29-41.

## **Watching world events**

In Matthew 24:29-30, the Son of God told His disciples that He would appear in heaven with power and great glory.

In Matthew 24:31, the Son of God said He would send angels to gather His elect from the four winds—from one end of heaven to the other.

In Matthew 24:32-33, the Son of God mentioned the importance of watching our surroundings.

## **How preterists view Matthew 24:34**

According to merriam-webster.com, a preterist is: “One who holds that the prophecies in the Bible about the End Times have already been fulfilled.”

Many preterists believe that Matthew 24:34 is proof that the Olivet Prophecy of Matthew 24 and 25 refers to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and not to future events.

What is their reason? In Matthew 24:34, the Son of God mentioned “this generation.”

## **How atheists view Matthew 24:34**

On the other hand, many atheists use Matthew 24:34 as an opportunity to mock religious people—and many religious people deserve to be mocked. Why?

Many religious people set specific dates about “this generation” and should be embarrassed when the imaginations of their heart (Jeremiah 23:16, 21) are abysmally wrong.

## **Presumptuous predictions are foolish**

Religious people who presumptuously and foolishly set dates and who espouse crazy scenarios dishonor the Lord as well as making fools of themselves.

*Matthew 24:36*—“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

## People taken

*Matthew 24:40-41*—"Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left."

At this time, I want to show a difference between Matthew 24:17-18 and Matthew 24:40-41.

- Matthew 24:17-18 discusses disciples making a choice to get out of town.
- Matthew 24:40-41 discusses a choice made by the Son of God about disciples.

## Three questions

- When will this happen?

Disciples don't know (Matthew 24:36).

- Where will the people go?

The answer to that question depends on when it happens. At some point, disciples will go to the sea of glass (Revelation 15:2). Disciples should avoid being dogmatic about where these people go.

- Who will go?

Disciples should avoid being dogmatic about which individuals will be taken.

## The Lord knows who are His

*2 Timothy 2:19*—"Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.' "

## Are good people left behind?

*Revelation 20:4*—"And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."