

MATTHEW 24, LUKE 21, DANIEL 9, ROMANS 11

Matthew 24 and Luke 21:5-33 give Jesus' parallel accounts of two times of future tribulation for Israel. The more immediate future tribulation occurred in 70 AD with the destruction of Jerusalem occurring about 40 years after the crucifixion of Jesus. The more future tribulation is the last seven years before the Second Coming of Jesus to set up His earthly Kingdom.

Luke 21 gives a clearer view of the 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem. Matthew 24 gives a more prominent view of the yet future time of Jacob's trouble, the 7 years of tribulation.

In Matthew 24 verses 1-35, Jesus answers what shall be the sign of the Second Coming. The sign will be for the Jews and the city of Jerusalem during the last days. The Jews will finally confess that Jesus is their Messiah, they will evangelize throughout the world, and Jesus will gather all the saved from the four winds to enter His millennial kingdom. "490 years are determined upon Israel and upon Jerusalem, to finish the transgression, make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy." Daniel 9:24 At the end of the 483rd year Jesus makes reconciliation for iniquity (Daniel 9:26) and 40 years later Jerusalem is destroyed. Israel is put on "hold" at the crucifixion of Jesus (the 483rd year) awaiting the final seven years in which God will use Israel again (through the power of Jesus) to bring in everlasting righteousness, seal up vision and prophecy, and anoint the most Holy. At the end of the 490th year Jesus will bring in everlasting righteousness. So, 490 years are allotted to Israel in God's plan of redemption. In 70 AD, the people of the prince destroyed Jerusalem (Luke 21:24; Deuteronomy 28: 63-68; 30:1-6). In 1948 AD, God brought Israel back to their land established and recognized as a nation, and at some future time Israel will be engaged in the 7 years of Tribulation, Jacob's Trouble.

During the tribulation, the prince will make a covenant with Israel for seven years, but after 3.5 years, Antichrist will break the covenant. Daniel 9:27 At the end of the seven years of tribulation, Jesus will conquer Antichrist and the world of evil, and cast Antichrist into the Lake of Fire. Revelation 19:20

In Matthew 24 verses 36-51, Jesus is answering the disciples' question concerning when His Second Coming will be. His response is applicable to both the rapture of the church and the gathering of the elect from the four winds in order to set up His millennial kingdom. The Second Coming of Jesus has multiple platforms. The Day of the Lord is preceded first by the rapture of the church, then commences with the seven years of tribulation, and continues with the coming of Jesus to conquer and set up His millennial kingdom. In the rapture, the one taken applies to the church being taken to heaven and those left behind are those who will experience the great tribulation. At the Second Coming and Armageddon, the one taken is taken away in judgment, the one remaining enters the Millennial Kingdom. Only the Father knows the time when the rapture will occur and when the Second Coming occurs. The rapture of the church precedes the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord begins in darkness with the seven years of tribulation, but the Sun will arise with victory and the setting up of the millennial kingdom. Jesus again uses similar language to teach parallel truths (two truths expressed by the same language) which will occur in the future. Verses 29-35 refers to Second Coming whereas verses 36-41 refers to both the Second Coming and the Rapture which precedes the 7 years of tribulation. Paul speaks of the rapture just as Jesus did describing the event as coming like a thief in the night. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:5

Also Daniel 9:26 and 27 is teaching parallel truths describing two different events.

The Prophet Daniel in 9:24-27 describes the seventy weeks of years (490 years) in which God uses 483 of those years to bring about the crucifixion of Jesus , condemnation of sin, and reconciliation for believers. And Daniel also proclaims the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple which the people of the "prince which shall come" destroyed in 70 AD (verse 26). In verse 27, Daniel jumps to the last 7 years of the 490 years allotted to Israel's reparations for disbelief. The prince, Antichrist, will make a covenant with Israel and will break the covenant in the middle of the 7 years.

The years between the stoning of Stephen, the pivotal moment separating Judaism from Christianity, and the Second Coming of Christ, are referred to as the times of the Gentiles wherein the Church, mostly Gentiles, will spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The phrase "times of the Gentiles" appears in Luke 21:24, where Jesus says, "Jerusalem will be trampled

underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled". During the last 7 years, God will use Israel to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and then the Kingdom will come to earth with King Jesus enthroned. Read Romans 11:1-36

So when does Jesus say His Second Coming will be? After the rapture, and after the 7 years of tribulation, Jesus will return and set up His millennial Kingdom.