

Matthew 24:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west

—The Greek astrapē (ἀστραπή) means sudden flash, visible to all. Jesus contrasts the parousia (παρουσία, presence/coming) of the Son of Man with false messiahs hiding in deserts or inner rooms (v.26). His return will be unmistakable, universal, instantaneous—not a secret event requiring investigation.

This apocalyptic imagery from Ezekiel 1:4-14 and Zechariah 9:14 emphasizes sovereign power and undeniable glory. The Second Coming brooks no debate about its occurrence; every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7). The lightning metaphor destroys all date-setting and secret-rapture theories—Christ's return will be as obvious as lightning splitting the sky.

Historical Context

Jesus delivered the Olivet Discourse on Tuesday of Passion Week (AD 30), two days before His crucifixion. The disciples had just asked about the destruction of the temple and the end of the age (v.3). Jesus used Jewish apocalyptic language familiar from Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah to describe both AD 70 and final eschatological events.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the undeniable visibility of Christ's return challenge modern 'secret rapture' theologies?
2. What false teachings or hidden spiritual movements today echo the 'secret messiah' claims Jesus warned against?
3. How should the certainty of Christ's visible return affect your daily priorities and watchfulness?

Interlinear Text

ὅσπερ γὰρ ἡ ἀστραπὴ ἐξέρχεται ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν καὶ
as For G3588 the lightning cometh out of the east also
G5618 G1063 G796 G1831 G575 G395 G2532

φαίνεται ἔως δυσμῶν οὖτας ἔσται καὶ ἡ παρουσία
shineth even unto the west so be also G3588 the coming
G5316 G2193 G1424 G3779 G2071 G2532 G3952

τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου·
of the Son of man

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:4 (Parallel theme): And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

Zechariah 9:14 (Light): And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.

James 5:8 (Parallel theme): Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Malachi 3:2 (Parallel theme): But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' sope:

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