

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics 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

ὥσπερ	γὰρ	ἡ	ἀστραπή	ἐξέρχεται	ἀπὸ	ἀνατολῶν	καὶ
as	For	G3588	the lightning	cometh	out of	the east	also
G5618	G1063		G796	G1831	G575	G395	G2532
φαίνεται	ἕως	δυσμῶν	οὕτως	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·				
G3588	of the Son	G3588	of man				
	G5207		G444				

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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