

# Matthew 24:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

## Analysis

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**Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened—**

This cosmic upheaval language (thlipsis, θλίψις = tribulation/pressure) draws directly from Isaiah 13:10, 34:4, Joel 2:10, 31, and echoes throughout Jewish apocalyptic. The sun (hēlios, ἥλιος), moon (selēnē, σελήνη), and stars (asteres, ἀστέρες) represent created authorities collapsing before the Creator's glory.

**The powers of the heavens shall be shaken** (dynameis, δυνάμεις)—not merely celestial bodies, but spiritual powers and earthly kingdoms. This is theophanic language: God's appearing disrupts all created order. Whether literal cosmological events or apocalyptic metaphor for political collapse, the meaning is clear—human power structures dissolve when the King arrives.

## Historical Context

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Isaiah and Joel used identical cosmic imagery to describe historical judgments on Babylon and locust plagues. First-century Jews would recognize this as covenant lawsuit language—God vindicating His people by overthrowing oppressors. The 'tribulation' likely references both the Roman destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70) and future tribulation before Christ's final return.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Old Testament apocalyptic language help you understand Jesus's prophecy without demanding wooden literalism?
2. What 'powers of the heavens'—cultural authorities, institutions, ideologies—do you see being shaken in our time?
3. How does the cosmic scope of Christ's return reshape your view of His sovereignty over all creation?

## Interlinear Text

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Εὐθέως G2112	δὲ G1161	μετὰ G3326	τὴν G3588	θλίψιν G2347	τῶν G3588	ἡμερῶν G2250
	Immediately	after		the tribulation		days
ἐκείνων G1565	ὁ G3588	ἥλιος G2246	σκοτισθήσεται G4654	καὶ G2532	ἡ G3588	σελήνη οὐ G4582 G3756
	of those	shall the sun	be darkened	and	the moon	not
δώσει G1325	τὸ G3588	φέγγος G5338	αὐτῆς G846	καὶ G2532	οἱ G3588	ἀστέρες G792
	give	light		and	the stars	shall fall
ἀπὸ G575	τοῦ G3588	οὐρανῶν G3772	καὶ G2532	αἱ G3588	δυνάμεις G1411	τῶν οὐρανῶν G3772
	from	heaven	and	the powers		heaven
σαλευθήσονται						
	shall be shaken					
	G4531					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Amos 8:9** (Darkness): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

**Joel 3:15** (Darkness): The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

**Isaiah 13:10** (Light): For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

**Isaiah 24:23** (Parallel theme): Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

**Isaiah 34:4** (Parallel theme): And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

**2 Peter 3:10** (Parallel theme): But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

**Revelation 8:12** (Darkness): And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

**Joel 2:10** (Darkness): The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

**Amos 5:20** (Light): Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?