

Matthew 24:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Analysis

The cosmic sign 'then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory' describes Christ's visible, glorious return. 'Sign of the Son of man' (possibly the cross or Shekinah glory) announces His coming. 'All tribes... mourn' indicates universal recognition—both mourning of the lost (judgment) and godly grief (repentance). 'Coming in clouds' echoes Daniel 7:13, identifying Jesus as the divine Son of man receiving kingdom authority.

Historical Context

This contrasts with Jesus' first coming in humility. His second coming will be unmistakable—visible, glorious, powerful. The mourning tribes recall Zechariah 12:10 about Israel recognizing their pierced Messiah. Every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7)—no secret rapture but public, global manifestation. This is the blessed hope.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does anticipating Christ's glorious return affect your daily priorities?
2. What does 'all tribes mourning' teach about final judgment and universal accountability?

Interlinear Text

καὶ τότε φανήσεται τὸ σημεῖον τοῦ υἱὸν τοῦ
And then shall appear the sign of the Son of G3588
G2532 G5119 G5316 G4592 G3588 G5207 G3588

ἀνθρώπου ἐν τῷ οὐρανοῦ καὶ τότε κόψονται πᾶσαι
of man in heaven And then mourn all
G444 G1722 G3588 G3772 G2532 G5119 G2875 G3956

αἱ φυλαὶ τῆς γῆς καὶ ὄψονται τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ
the tribes of the earth And they shall see the Son of G3588
G3588 G5443 G3588 G1093 G2532 G3700 G3588 G5207 G3588

ἀνθρώπου ἐρχόμενον ἐπὶ τῶν νεφελῶν τοῦ οὐρανοῦ
of man coming in the clouds G3588 G3588 G3588
G444 G2064 G1909 G3507 G3772

μετὰ δυνάμεως καὶ δόξης πολλῆς·
with power And glory great
G3326 G1411 G2532 G1391 G4183

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 1:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Daniel 7:13 (Parallel theme): I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

Matthew 26:64 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Acts 1:11 (Parallel theme): Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Luke 21:27 (Glory): And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Zechariah 12:10 (Parallel theme): And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Matthew 24:3 (Parallel theme): And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Mark 13:26 (Glory): And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

2 Thessalonians 1:7 (Parallel theme): And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

Luke 22:69 (Parallel theme): Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.