

MATTHEW 16:27-28 = MATTHEW 24:30-31 & MATTHEW 25:31-34

The following short study provides powerful biblical evidence for a first century Parousia (second coming) of Christ, in fulfillment of Jesus' Olivet discourse.

Notice the perfect parallels between Matthew 16:27-28 and Matthew 24:30-31.

Matthew 16:27-28

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds. Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

Matthew 24:30-31,34

And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, *and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.... Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.*

The chart below illustrates that Matthew 24 and 25 cannot be divided, but together form one united prophecy concerning the Parousia of Christ for the judgment of the Jewish nation at the end of the Jewish age.

MATTHEW 24:30-34	MATTHEW 25:31-34
Coming of the Son of Man (24:30)	Coming of the Son of Man (25:31)
Coming in glory (24:30)	Coming in glory (25:31)
With his angels (24:31)	With his angels (25:31)
Gathering of the elect (24:31)	Gathering of the sheep (25:32-33)
Kingdom is established (Luke 21:31 - parallel passage)	Kingdom is established (25:34)
Fulfilled at the end of the age, in Jesus' generation (24:3,34)	

Based on these parallels, consider the implications for those who see Matthew 25:31-34 as a prophecy of the second coming of Christ.

-The coming of the Son of Man in Matthew 25:31-34 prophesied the second coming of Christ.

-But, the coming of the Son of Man in Matthew 25:31-34 = the coming of the Son of Man in Matthew 24:30-31 which Jesus said was to be fulfilled in the lifetime of his own generation (24:34).

-Therefore, the coming of the Son of Man in both Matthew 24:30-31 and 25:31-34 prophesied the same second coming of Christ which must have been fulfilled in Jesus' generation.

But that's not all. The following chart demonstrates that the coming of the Son of Man (the second coming of Christ) in the Olivet discourse is the coming of the Son of Man in Matthew 16:27-28.

MATTHEW 16:27-28	MATTHEW 24:30-31	MATTHEW 25:31-34
Coming of the Son of Man (16:27-28)	The coming of the Son of man (24:30)	Coming of the Son of Man (25:31)
Coming in glory (16:27)	Coming in glory (24:30)	Coming in glory (25:31)
With the angels (16:27)	With the angels (24:31)	With the angels (25:31)
Judgment of all men (16:27)	All tribes of the earth mourn, gather together the elect (24:30)	Judgment of all nations (25:32)
To establish the kingdom (16:28)	To establish the kingdom (Luke 21:31-parallel passage)	To establish the kingdom (25:34)
Fulfilled in the lifetime of Jesus' disciples (16:28)	Fulfilled in Jesus' first century generation (24:34)	

Author Gary DeMar gives an honest assessment of these connections when he says, *“There is little evidence that the “coming of the Son of Man” in Matthew 24:27,30,39 and 42 is different from the coming of the Son of Man in Matthew 25:31. Compare Matthew 25:31 with 16:27, a certain reference to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70... These verses are almost identical.”*

Based on the foregoing evidence which agree with DeMar’s statement, consider the following conclusion:

-The coming of the Son of Man in Matthew 24:30-31 and 25:31-24 prophesy the second coming of Christ.

-But, the coming of the Son of Man in Matthew 24:30-31, Matthew 25:31-34, and Matthew 16:27-28 are all parallel prophesies.

-Therefore, Matthew 16:27-28, Matthew 24:30-31, and Matthew 25:31 all prophesy the second coming of Christ which Jesus limited to the lifetime of his own generation.

Matthew 16:27-28

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds. Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

Matthew 24:30-31,34

And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.... Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.