

"He is Coming With the Clouds"

(Rev 1:7-8)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

Brief Overview of Today's Study



- œ The entire book of Revelation is a book of prophecy
 - œ All that it is in it is future from the date it was written (95/96AD)
- œ BEHOLD HE IS COMING IN THE CLOUDS is one of many
- œ To no surprise, this prophecy
 - œ Has its foundation in the OT
 - œ Comes to its fulfillment in the NT
- œ So what we'll do for our study today is to see this prophecy in both the OT/NT and try to glean its fullness
- œ We're in for a bit of surprise at the end (at least for me it was)

Scripture Reading



Revelation 1:7-8 (NASB)

7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Exposit Rev 1:7a



For today's study, we're looking at the first part of verse 7 in 2 parts:

- ☞ "BEHOLD"
- ☞ "HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS"

Next Study we'll look at remaining parts of verse 7:

- ☞ "every eye will see Him"
- ☞ "even those who pierced Him"
- ☞ "all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him"

“BEHOLD”



- ❧ “BEHOLD” is ‘idou’ which is a demonstrative participle calling one’s attention to something external to oneself
- ❧ ‘idou’ is used 165x in the NT and is used to all attention to an important fact or detail
- ❧ Some examples...

“BEHOLD”



Matthew 1:20-21 (when Joseph pondered to divorce Mary)

20 But when he had considered this, behold (idou), an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

☞ “behold” is used by Matthew to call attention to the angel who intervened and appeared in Joseph’s dream

☞ BONUS POINTS: Who are “His people”?

“BEHOLD”



Matthew 3:16-17 (during Jesus's baptism)

16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold (idou), the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

☞ “behold” is used to call attention that after Jesus was baptized, the heavens were opened and both the Holy Spirit (as a dove) and the Father (voice from heaven) spoke and were present

☞ We'll look at one more example...

“BEHOLD”



1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (about the mystery of the resurrection)

51 Behold (idou), I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

☞ NOTE: we'll refer back to this passage when we get to the 7 trumpets

☞ "Behold" is used to call attention to a mystery not previously revealed (at least explicitly) in Scripture up to that point

☞ Paul wanted to call attention that not all believers will die (sleep), but nonetheless all will be changed (like Enoch)

“BEHOLD”



- ❧ So when verse 7 begins with “BEHOLD HE IS COMING...”, John is calling our attention to that SPECIFIC event
 - ❧ Kind of like a forerunner like John the Baptist
- ❧ That SPECIFIC event is JESUS IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS
- ❧ Now let’s look at this prophecy further...

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



☞ “clouds” are connected with Jesus’s ascension:

Acts 1:9-11 (the Ascension account)

9 And after He [Jesus] had said these things [to His disciples], He [Jesus] was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him [Jesus] out of their sight. 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold (idou), two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11 They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

☞ A cloud escorted Jesus into heaven!

☞ A cloud will escort Jesus when He comes back to earth!

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



MORE FOOTNOTES ON “HE IS COMING”:

- ❧ “HE IS COMING” is in the future tense meaning this is prophecy and was future of the penning of Revelation (post 95/96AD)
 - ❧ AMIL View: holds/believes Jesus came in the hearts of believers at or following the cross is debunked with this single verse
- ❧ “COMING” ‘erchomai’ which speaks of arriving
 - ❧ ‘erchomai’ denotes leaving one location and arriving at another location
 - ❧ In this case, Jesus is coming (erchomai) from heaven to earth
- ❧ This arrival is “WITH THE CLOUDS”
- ❧ Now from here I’d like to talk about clouds and its role in prophecy

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



☞ In our go-to Daniel 7 vision clouds is mentioned there:

Daniel 7:13-14 (Daniel’s vision into heaven)

13 “I kept looking in the night visions,

And behold, with the clouds of heaven

One like a Son of Man was coming,

And He came up to the Ancient of Days

And was presented before Him.

☞ Remember, Jesus was taken up to heaven with clouds in His ascension

☞ Here, Jesus “came up” to His Father’s throne “with the clouds of heaven”

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



14 “And to Him (the Son of Man) was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and men of every language
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed.

☞ Jesus surrounded with clouds was given dominion, Glory, and a kingdom

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



QUESTION:

- ❧ When was the Son of Man presented before the Ancient of Days?
- ❧ Understanding the answer to this question will help understand the “HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS” prophecy in Rev 1:7...
- ❧ Of course, we’ll look to Scripture for answers...

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



- ✧ It the context of Dan 7, the vision of Jesus coming and being presented before the Ancient of Days was AFTER the little horn in Daniel’s vision
 - ✧ Beginning of Dan 7:9 says “I kept looking” AFTER the vision of the little horn
 - ✧ “little horn” as we learned is referring to ANTICHRIST
 - ✧ So the context of Daniel 7 tells us that Jesus coming with the clouds of heaven and being presented before His Father’s throne is AFTER Antichrist arrives on the scene
- ✧ Which means, “HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS” is prophecy after ANTICHRIST is revealed
- ✧ And lo and behold, this is corroborated in Revelation which gives us more insight on the timing of this event...

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



Revelation 11:15-19 (the 7th Trumpet)

15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.” 16 And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying, “We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. 18 And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.” ... v. 19 cont’d...

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



19 And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

- ❧ TRUTH: The Dan 7 vision of the Son of Man being presented before the Ancient of Days occurred during the 7TH TRUMPET of Revelation!
- ❧ This is AFTER the man of lawlessness is revealed and Antichrist (claiming to be Christ) arrives on the scene... more on this when we get to the Seals
- ❧ Which must mean, Antichrist will be on the scene before the 7th trumpet!
- ❧ I'd still like to talk a bit more about clouds and its role in prophecy
- ❧ Now only did clouds accompany Jesus when He was presented before His Father, but clouds are also associated with the day of the LORD in judgment!

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



Joel 2:1-2

1 Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For **the day of the LORD is coming;**

Surely it is near, 2 **A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness.** As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations.

☞ “the day of the LORD” and “darkness of gloom” are associated with

☞ “day of clouds and thick darkness”

☞ Zephaniah gives other descriptions...

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



Zephaniah 1:14-16

14 Near is **the great day of the LORD**, Near and coming very quickly;

Listen, **the day of the LORD!** In it the warrior cries out bitterly.

15 **A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress,**

A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom,

A day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 **A day of trumpet and battle cry**

Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers.

☞ “the day of the LORD” is also associated with “the great day of the LORD”, a day of wrath/trouble/distress/destruction/desolation/trumpet/battle cry/thick darkness

☞ Now from here I’d like to talk a bit about “thick darkness”

“thick darkness”



- ☞ “thick darkness” is araphel which means a heavy cloud
 - ☞ “clouds and thick darkness” means “clouds and heavy clouds”
- ☞ Scripture uses araphel to describe God coming in judgment
 - ☞ I’d like to reference 2Samuel to show this...

“thick darkness”



2 Samuel 22:7-12 (David's Psalm 18 after deliverance from Saul)

7 “In my distress I called upon the LORD, Yes, I cried to my God; And from His temple He heard my voice, And my cry for help came into His ears. 8

“Then the earth shook and quaked, The foundations of heaven were trembling And were shaken, because He was angry. 9 “Smoke went up out of His nostrils, Fire from His mouth devoured; Coals were kindled by it. 10 “He bowed the heavens also, and came down **With thick darkness under His feet.**

11 “And He rode on a cherub and flew; And He appeared on the wings of the wind. 12 “And He made darkness canopies around Him, A mass of waters, thick clouds of the sky.

☞ “bowed the heavens” is “natah shamayim” which means to stretch out the heavens, the prophecy here is God “came down” from heaven in judgment!

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



More on this OT prophecy

- ☞ It says “He bowed (natah; stretched open) the heavens (shamayim) and CAME DOWN with “thick darkness under His feet. And He rode on a cherub (angelic being; cherubim) and flew”
- ☞ The prophecy also says “He appeared on the wings of the wind. And He made darkness the canopies around Him, A mass of waters, thick clouds of the sky”
- ☞ There is so much mystery behind this, but just know that this depicts God coming down from heaven to earth!
- ☞ In this prophecy, Messiah is:
 - ☞ Riding a cherub (NOT a horse for this prophecy), wings of the wind
 - ☞ Hiding in darkness, clouds

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



- ❧ All this is to say “thick darkness” is associated with clouds and God coming to judge the world!
- ❧ 2Sa 22/Psa 18 is end times prophecy and gives us the following details:
 - ❧ Yahweh heard the cries of His people from heaven’s Temple
 - ❧ At the cries of His people, the earth shook and quaked
 - ❧ The foundations of heaven were shaken because He was angry
 - ❧ Smoke came out of His nostrils, fire from His mouth
 - ❧ A las the day of the LORD is at hand!
 - ❧ We will see as we progress in our study where this falls in Revelation

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



I know a lot of this is confusing, but let me see if I can help explain this:

- ❧ The time will come when God is done punishing the sins of His people Israel (and Judah)
 - ❧ “final period of the indignation” (this coincides with the Day of the LORD)
- ❧ When that appointed time comes, His people will cry out to Him,
- ❧ At the cries of His people there will be a great earthquake (global)
 - ❧ Mountains and islands will be moved from its boundaries!
- ❧ Then the heavens will literally be STRETCHED OPEN!
 - ❧ More on this when we get to the 6th Seal of Revelation
- ❧ And the time came for God to arrive from heaven to earth to rescue His people and judge the world with among other things, clouds and thick darkness!

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



☞ One other thing about clouds and “thick darkness” (araphel) is it not only describes God arriving in judgment, but God being present! Exodus 20:18-21 (the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mt Sinai)

18 All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. 19 Then they said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die.” 20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; **for God has come** in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.” 21 So the people stood at a distance, while Moses **approached the thick cloud (araphel) where God was.**

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



- From the Mount Sinai account we see that lightening flashes, sound of a trumpet, mountain smoking are all indicators that God is present (but not seen at that time)!
- Interesting that Jesus connects “lightning” to His 2nd coming:
Matthew 24:27
27 For just as **the lightning** comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will **the coming (parousia) of the Son of Man** be.
 - Parousia means presence (depending on context, may be seen or unseen)
- So if we take both of the OT/NT into account here is what we can expect to accompany Jesus’s 2nd coming...

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



- ❧ Jesus's 2nd coming will be accompanied with what can be seen/heard/felt:
 - ❧ Clouds
 - ❧ Thick darkness
 - ❧ A trumpet being blown
 - ❧ Lightning
 - ❧ Sounds and peals of thunder
 - ❧ Great earthquake
 - ❧ Islands and mountains will be moved from its place
 - ❧ The shaking of the heavens
 - ❧ Earth will be hit with asteroid shower
 - ❧ Sun blackened, Moon blood red
- ❧ We will get into more depth on this when we get to the 6th seal prophecy

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



☞ Last comments on the mystery of clouds....

MYSTERY OF CLOUDS



☞ Clouds not mentioned in the Torah

☞ First mention is in Judges

☞ God uses the clouds as His chariot

Psalms 104:3

3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters;

He makes the clouds His chariot;

He walks upon the wings of the wind;

☞ Man uses physical chariots

☞ God can use clouds as His chariots

☞ God also uses clouds to hide Himself...

MYSTERY OF CLOUDS



Job 22:14

14 'Clouds are a hiding place for Him, so that He cannot see;
And He walks on the vault of heaven.'

- ☞ "hiding" is *sitrāh* which means a hiding place, a secret place
- ☞ Clouds serve as a hiding or secret place for God (El, plural form)
- ☞ God may choose to conceal Himself in clouds
- ☞ But not only clouds, but darkness as well...

MYSTERY OF CLOUDS



Psalms 18:11

11 He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him,
Darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies.

- ❧ “darkness” is choshek which also means obscurity
 - ❧ The darkness of the heavens is a hiding or secret place
- ❧ It also says God made darkness His “canopy” (sukkah) which means booth the same Hebrew word for the Feast of Booths (Sukkot)
 - ❧ Correlation with the Feast of Booths and God coming out of His canopy of darkness in heaven!

MYSTERY OF CLOUDS



☞ Clouds is associated with the “day of the LORD” and will involve Egypt, Ethiopia (Arabia):

Ezekiel 30:1-4

1 The word of the LORD came again to me saying, 2 “Son of man, prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Wail, ‘Alas for the day!’

3 “For the day is near, Even **the day of the LORD** is near; It will be **a day of clouds**, A time of doom for the nations. 4 “A sword will come upon Egypt, And anguish will be in Ethiopia; When the slain fall in Egypt, They take away her wealth, And her foundations are torn down.

☞ We will keep Egypt, Ethiopia (ancient Arabia) in mind as we progress

☞ 3rd Beast: Leopard with four heads + four wings of a bird

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



Ok now I'd like to tie “HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS” w/the NT...

Matthew 24:29-31 (Jesus speaking of His return)

29 “But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 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. 31 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.

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



- ☞ Mt 24:30-31 & Rev 1:7 is the same vision and prophecy
- ☞ How do we know that?

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



Matthew 24:30-31

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. 31 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.

Revelation 1:7

7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and **all the tribes of the earth will mourn** over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



Matthew 24:30-31

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. 31 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.

Revelation 1:7

7 BEHOLD, **HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS**, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



☞ So now that we were able to connect Mt 24:30-31 w/ Rev 1:7, we can rely on Mt 24 on the timing of this prophecy:

☞ It will be “AFTER the tribulation of those days”

☞ After wars, rumors of wars

☞ After nation rises against nation, kingdom against kingdom

☞ After famines, plagues, earthquakes

☞ After being delivered to authorities to be killed

☞ After being hated by all nations because of God’s Name (authority, cause)

☞ After the falling away and betrayal and hatred of one another

☞ After the many false prophets

☞ After lawlessness is increased (forsaking of the Law of Moses)

☞ After the love of most grows cold

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



- ❧ AFTER the ABONIMATION OF DESOLATION (great tribulation)
- ❧ AFTER the arrival of Antichrist (“here is the Christ”; or “there He is”)
- ❧ AFTER false Christs and false prophets show great signs and wonders
- ❧ AFTER the heavens are shaken
- ❧ AFTER the sun is darkened
- ❧ AFTER the moon will not give its light
- ❧ AFTER the stars all from the sky

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



☞ AFTER all these things:

☞ THEN the Sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky

☞ THEN all the tribes of the earth will mourn

☞ THEN they will see the **SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY** with power and great glory!

☞ AND THEN the angels will gather together the elect from the four winds!

☞ I went through all that to say this...[don't peek]

☞ But what is the sign of the Son of Man?

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



- ✧ Because we were able to tie Mt 24:30-31 w/Rev 1:7... we can deduce that
- ✧ “BEHOLD HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS” prophecy is tied to “THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN” in the sky!
- ✧ Let me say this another way “BEHOLD HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS” = “THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN” in the sky!
- ✧ So when the disciples asked Jesus for a sign of His coming, the single sign He gave them was “THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN” in the sky!
- ✧ In other words, Jesus told His disciples (and us) that the Sign of the Son of Man = Jesus Coming with the Clouds in power and great glory!
- ✧ It’s a sign that no one in the world is going to miss!

“HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS”



- ❧ From Matthew 24, the last events leading up to the Sign of the Son of Man is the heavens will be shaken:
 - ❧ “THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED”
 - ❧ “THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT”
 - ❧ Asteroids will hit the earth
- ❧ So AFTER the blackout of the Sun and Moon, AFTER asteroids makes it way to earth, then the Sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky and that sign is JESUS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY!

In Closing



☞ So HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS is prophecy connected with the day of the LORD (the Great Day) and the SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN IN THE SKY is JESUS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS in power and great glory!

☞ Again no one in the world is going to miss this sign!

In Closing



- ❧ When JESUS COMES WITH THE CLOUDS for the **unbelieving** it will be:
 - ❧ A day all the tribes of the earth will mourn
 - ❧ A day every eye will see Him (even those who pierced Him)
 - ❧ A day of clouds and thick darkness
 - ❧ A day of wrath
 - ❧ A day of trouble and distress
 - ❧ A day of destruction and desolation
 - ❧ A day of darkness and gloom for the nations
 - ❧ Egypt, Ethiopia (ancient Arabia)
 - ❧ A day of trumpet and battle cry
 - ❧ A day of judgment and punishment

In Closing



☞ But when JESUS COMES WITH THE CLOUDS for the **believing** it will be:

- ☞ A day we are confirmed
- ☞ A day we are received
- ☞ A day His good work is perfected in us
- ☞ A day we are found blameless
- ☞ A day we receive salvation
- ☞ A day we are glorified...

In Closing



- ☞ WHEN JESUS COMES WITH THE CLOUDS for **believers** it will be:
- ☞ A day Jesus sends forth His angels with a GREAT TRUMPET to gather together the elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to another!
 - ☞ A day we will be caught up to be with our Lord Jesus Christ and meet Him in the air! (Raptured)
 - ☞ A day we will be united with believers who have died
 - ☞ A day we will forever be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

In Closing



- ❧ When John says BEHOLD HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS it's a prophecy and warning that
 - ❧ **Unbelievers** will experience God's wrath and judgment
 - ❧ **Believers** will receive God's blessings and promises and kingdom!

- ❧ BEHOLD HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS IS a prophecy and warning that
 - ❧ **Unbelievers** will be eternally damned
 - ❧ **His people and believers** will be rescued and eternally saved!

- ❧ And with that we along with John say AMEN! Come quickly LORD!
Come quickly!