

**“While the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.” (Mt 25:5)**

**✠ Lecture V: The Second Coming & the Events that Accompany It ✠**

After discussing the events that precede the Second Coming, we shall, by the grace of God, discuss the events that will accompany it:

**1. The Universal Destruction:**

- “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heaven will be shaken.” **(Mt 24:29)**
- “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” **(Lk 21:25,26)**
- “The heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men... but the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” **(2 Pet 3:7-10)**
- **(Ps 102:26; Is 34:4; 51:6; Mt 5:8; 24:35; Mk 13:31; Lk 21:33; Rom 8:21; Rev 20:11; 1 Cor 7:31)**

**2. The Apparition of the Sign of the Son of Man:**

- “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, ...” **(Mt 24:30)**

→ The Church Fathers have interpreted the “sign of the Son of Man” as the cross, which, in the absence of the sun and moon, will illuminate and will be visible to all.

**3. The Apparition of the Son of Man in His Glory:**

- “... and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” **(Mt 24:30; Mk 13:26; Lk 21:27)**
- “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.” **(Rev 1:7)**

**4. The Trumpet & the Rapture:**

- “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” **(1 Cor 15:51,52)**
- “And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” **(Mt 24:31)**
- “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.” **(1 Thess 4:16,17)**

**5. The Terror of the Ungodly:**

- “Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ And to the hills, ‘Cover us!’” **(Lk 23:30)**
- “And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, his themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’” **(Rev 6:15-17)**

## **6. Judgment → (Reward & Punishment):**

- “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ... Then he will say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels ...’ (Mt 25:31-41)

## **7. The New Things:**

- “Now I saw a **new heaven** and a **new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for **the former things have passed away.**’” (Rev 21:1-4)
- “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (Is 64:4; 1 Cor 2:9)

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\* This lecture is adapted from ‘*The Salvation that We Are Awaiting – Book IV*’ by Fr. Shenouda Maher.