

# The Rapture

## Part 2 - Matthew chapter 24

Jesus said that “at the coming of the Son of Man,” **Matthew 24:39**, “Two men will be in the field; one will be taken, the other left” (40), and likewise two women, “one taken, one left” (41), which sounds exactly like a ‘secret rapture’ suddenly whisking all the good people off to heaven and leaving all the bad people behind.

Which again is a bit awkward, because in Jesus comparing this to what happened to people in Noah’s flood in **verses 38-39**, it means the ones who were “taken away” were the **bad** people, not the good ones. And what made the bad people bad was ignoring Noah’s warning, and carrying on “eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark”(38), as if what Noah was saying had no relevance to their lives at all.

Result? **Verse 39**, “the flood came and **took them all away.**” That entire generation of people was completely wiped out.

And this, Jesus says (same verse), is how things will be “in the days of the Son of Man” - it’s the same problem with the same result. People will reject him like they rejected Noah, and just like the Flood swept that generation of people alive in Noah’s day away, so will those who reject Jesus in his generation be “taken,” meaning swept away too.

And Jesus makes it clear in Luke’s version of the same story, **who he’s talking about too**, when he says in **Luke 17:25** that “first he (the Son of Man) must suffer many things **and be rejected by this generation.**” Jesus, therefore, is talking about **his own generation** of people rejecting him, just like Noah’s generation of people rejected him.

In which case, the **consequences** for the Jews of Jesus’ day will be similar too. It was to them that Jesus had been “revealed” (30), but despite the obvious evidence of his miracles and fulfilled Old Testament prophecies, they ignored him in favour of chasing their own selfish pursuits - just as people did in Noah’s day, and in the city of Sodom in Lot’s day (28-29).

Which raises another awkward question, because the prevailing 'Rapture' view of these verses is that Jesus is talking about people **in the future**, but why would he be doing that when he said in **Matthew 24:34**, that **"this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened"**? And to prove his point, he specifically mentions two things those people **in that generation will see with their own eyes happening**.

The first of the two is in **verse 2**, that "not one stone (of the magnificent temple in Jerusalem, verse 1) will be left on another, every one will be thrown down." And forty years later that's exactly what happened when the Roman General Titus flattened the temple, and had the huge stones pried apart to get at the molten gold.

The second of the two is in **verse 15**, "when you **see** (witness with your own eyes again) standing in the holy place (the Jewish temple) the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of through the prophet Daniel." Jesus then adds, "let the reader understand," because whatever Daniel wrote was obviously hugely significant, and especially for the Jews at that time, since **they'd be the ones to see it happen**.

It was a strong hint to go back to the book of Daniel, who spoke of such an abomination of desolation in **Daniel 9:27**, caused by a "ruler who will destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (the temple)" after "the Anointed One (Jesus) is cut off" (26). And **it's Jesus who lifts this up to it happening in his day**, tying it in with the people of his day "seeing Jerusalem surrounded by armies," **Luke 21:20**, as a clear and obvious signal that "you'll know its **desolation** is near."

And again he ties it in with **his day** by telling those in Judea, who see with their own eyes the obvious signs of this happening, to get out of Jerusalem fast and "flee to the mountains" (21). And don't hang around packing up their favourite things either (Luke 17:31) because what's coming to their nation for rejecting him will be sudden and a "great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now - and never to be equalled again," **Matthew 24:21**.

But isn't that talking about the disastrous events in the end-times "Day of the Lord"?....(continues in Part 3)