

Biblical Notes – Matthew 24 vs. 1 Thess. 4

“the differences between Paul’s Thessalonian statements and Matthew 24:30-31 far outweigh any alleged similarities.”

—— Steven L. McAvoy, *A Critique of Robert Gundry’s Posttribulationism*, Th. D. dissertation, Dallas Theological Seminary, 1986, 136.

“Where does Paul mention the darkening of the sun (Matthew 24:29), the moon not giving its light (Matthew 24:29), the stars falling from the sky (Matthew 24:29), the powers of the heavens being shaken (Matthew 24:29), all the tribes of the earth mourning (Matthew 24:30), all the world seeing the coming of the Son of Man (Matthew 24:30), or God sending forth angels (Matthew 24:31)?”

—— John A. Sproule, *An Exegetical Defense of Pretribulationism*, Th. D. dissertation, Grace Theological Seminary, 1981, 53.

“Notice what happens when you examine both passages carefully. In Matthew the Son of Man comes on the clouds, while in 1 Thessalonians 4 the ascending believers are in them. In Matthew the angels gather the elect; in 1 Thessalonians the Lord Himself (note the emphasis) gathers the believers. Thessalonians only speaks of the voice of the archangel. In the Olivet Discourse nothing is said about a resurrection, while in the latter text it is the central point. In the two passages the differences in what will take place prior to the appearance of Christ is striking. Moreover, the order of ascent is absent from Matthew in spite of the fact that it is the central part of the epistle.”

—— Paul D. Feinberg, *Response: Paul D. Feinberg*, in *The Rapture: Pre-, Mid-, or Posttribulation?* by Richard R. Reiter, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), 225.