

“The apocalyptic can function as a reminder that **not all can bear to live in the world as it is**. It offers the assurance that **God is still on the throne**, that our endurance will be rewarded, and that **justice will prevail**. It not only guarantees a final judgment, it insists that this judgment is to be carried out by God, not by human action.” *Amy-Jill Levine*

Apocalyptic literature reveals a
heavenly perspective on
earthly circumstances -
most often, situations of crisis
and catastrophe.







*The sun will be
darkened and the
moon will not give its
light, and the stars
will be falling from
heaven, and the
powers in the
heavens will be
shaken.*

Merry Christmas!

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heavenly perspective on
earthly circumstances -
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Heavenly Perspective



Earthly Circumstances



“...our **great hope** is founded
not in human history,
not in any human development,
but in something else,
another power,
Some One Else,
whose reality and sovereign power
is independent of human history
and is **shaping it to the divine
purpose** in spite of all appearances
to the contrary.”

-Fleming Rutledge, *Advent*



Verse 24
days...

In **those**



Verse 24
days...

In **those**

Verse 26
the

You will see

Son of Humanity
**coming with great
power** and glory...



Verse 24
days...

In **those**

Verse 26
the

You will see

Son of Humanity
**coming with great
power** and glory...

Verse 27
his

He will send

angels **to gather**
his chosen...



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SUMMARY

1. Christ comes to us in our crisis and catastrophes (v24)
1. Christ comes with power and purpose (v26)
1. Christ comes to hold us near (v27)



Because Christ
comes...

We name, share,
and grieve our
troubles.



Because Christ
comes...

We persist in
doing good.



“What I say to
you, I say to all:
Keep awake.”
Mark 13:37





“There are
other Forces
at work in
this world,
Frodo,
besides that
of evil.”

Gandalf





Loving Savior, into _____,
Come, Lord Jesus, and be
my/our hope.

Lord, in Your mercy.
Everyone: **Amen.**

