

Those Who Crucified Jesus saw His Return

Revelation 1:7

The verse found in **Revelation 1:7** has been commonly misunderstood and therefore thrust into the future. A closer look at **Revelation 1:7** and all of the other Scriptures that deal with the same subject within the same time period will help us get a clear understanding of just what this verse really means.

Revelation 1:7 says, *"Behold, he cometh with clouds and every eye shall see him, **and they also which pierced him**: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."*

First, let's look at the meaning of the expression **"cometh with clouds"**. A "cloud coming" in the Bible, was often used as imagery symbolizing the presence, glory, and power of God.

Many times, it often symbolizes divine judgment and divine guidance. For example, divine judgment came against heathen nations as a cloudy day. (**Ezekiel 30:3-5**) The Lord guided Israel through the wilderness by a cloud during the day. (**Exodus 14:19-20**)

In the New Testament, clouds represented the Return of Jesus Christ with power and glory. Clouds were present at the transfiguration and at the ascension of Jesus.

At the Return of Jesus, clouds symbolized His divine authority and majesty. It is not a literal, physical description, but rather a symbolic representation of His power and glory.

Clouds were frequently used when God desired to reveal Himself to humanity. Clouds are a recurring symbol used throughout the Old and New Testaments to symbolize the ultimate fulfillment of God's redemptive plan.

Another Scripture that deals with this same subject is found in **Zechariah 12:10-11**, *"And I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: **and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon."*

This is a reference to where King Josiah died who was one of the most pious Kings of Judah. When King Josiah died, there was great mourning by all Judah and Jerusalem. **(2 Chronicles 35:22-24)**

Here in Zechariah, the house of David refers to physical national Israel under the Old Covenant. The Old Covenant was getting ready to vanish away in the first century. **(Hebrews 8:13)**

Today, the church is God's Holy Nation once and for all. **(Hebrews 10:9-10, 12:22-23)** We, the born-again Church, now are the new Temple of God. **(1 Corinthians 3:16, 2 Corinthians 6:16)** Now, we who have believed and obeyed this Gospel message of Jesus Christ, are the royal priesthood and we, the Church, are the holy nation. **(1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 1:6)**

Jesus said in **Matthew 24:30**, *"...All **tribes** of the earth will mourn and they will see the son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."*

The Greek word used in **Matthew 24:30** for the word "**tribes**" is the same Greek word used in **Revelation 1:7**.

This Greek word is "**phule**" which is translated "**tribes**" in **Matthew 24:30**. This same Greek word is used in **James 1:1** and again is translated "**tribes**".

In **Revelation 1:7**, this same Greek word "**phule**" is translated as kindreds.

Clearly all of these verses are referring to the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel. The Greek word "**phule**" has never been used to refer to all nations of the world.

Another Greek word, "**ethnos**" is used when referring to all nations. Other references to the coming of the son of man are found in **Daniel 7:13-14** and in **Matthew 26:64-65**.

A closer look at the word "**earth**" used in **Revelation 1:7** has several meanings. The word "earth" used here comes from the Greek word "**ge**".

Some examples of the usage of the Greek word "**ge**" is: a clump of earth, plant a seed in the earth, or cover a seed with earth. The Greek word "**ge**" can also mean region, territory, or a land within fixed boundaries.

In **Matthew 24:30**, the word "**earth**" is the Greek word "**ge**". This same Greek word "**ge**" is translated as "**land**" in several Scriptures such as **Matthew 2:6** - "*And you Bethlehem, **land** of Judah...*", **Matthew 2:20** - "*.....Go into **the land** of Israel.....*", and **Matthew 27:45** "*From the sixth hour darkness fell upon **the land**....*"

In **Revelation 1:7**, "*.... all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him...*" **should be understood as all tribes of the land of Israel will mourn.**" "*.... every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him....*" is a common Hyperbole used throughout Scriptures.

It refers to the whole group of people that were being addressed. The full meaning of **Revelation 1:7** is many will perceive that Jesus is the Christ or Messiah, even those guilty of his murder, and all the tribes of the land of Israel will mourn over him. In **Matthew 13:13-17**, we read that the believers would comprehend who he was.

The fact that the Book of Revelation was addressed to the seven churches, which were in existence in the first century and to the fellow servants of the Apostle John, places **Revelation 1:7** back in the first century as well as all of the events recorded in the Book of Revelation.

The fact that some of those would still be alive, those who pierced Him, at the Return of Jesus in the clouds also proves that His Return occurred in the first century. **Revelation 1:7** clearly refers to the destruction of the land, people, city, and temple in AD 70.

Conclusion

Upon closer examination of **Revelation 1:7** and all other Scriptures that describe the same event, bring clarity to this verse. “**Behold, he cometh with clouds**”.

“**Clouds**” here means with power and divine authority. “**Every eye shall see Him and they also which pierced him**”. Since the Book of Revelation was addressed to first century people who were still alive, including those who pierced him, these are all of the eyes that would see His coming. “**All kindreds of the earth shall wail**”.

Here “**kindreds**” comes from the Greek word “**phule**” which means “**tribes**” and the word “**earth**” comes from the Greek word “**ge**” which means “land”, the land of Israel. It is the twelve tribes of Israel, who were alive at His return, who mourned.

The Scriptures clearly state that Jesus came to reward the righteous, to resurrect the dead, and to judge the wicked. (**Matthew 16:27-28, John 5:28-29, Revelation 22:12**)

All eschatological events including the return of Jesus, the resurrection, and judgment were fulfilled in AD 70.

Jesus did what He said he was going to do; He did it when He said He was going to do it.

The time frame is identical in **Revelation 1:7**, in **Zechariah 12:10-11**, and in **Matthew chapter 24**. All of this happened in AD 70 when Jesus came to bring the ultimate fulfillment of the redemptive plan of God. This is when Jesus returned to consummate the New Everlasting Covenant.

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