The Power and the Glory
Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

    A. Text: Matthew 24:29-35.

    B. Much of the New Testament refers to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

    C. This section deals with the manifestation of the presence of Christ during the Great Tribulation.

II. This period is the manifestation of the presence of the Lord--the *parousia*.

    A. The Coming of the Lord is introduced by a violent event in nature.

        1. This is distinctly separated from the tribulation.

        2. These cosmic phenomena have happened before.

        3. This event will be followed by a visible appearance of Christ.

    B. The sign of Jesus' Coming will likely be the shekinah glory that accompanied Israel in the wilderness.

        1. The Lord is speaking of a new age.

        2. God will dwell with His people.

        3. The glory of God will be made visible to man.

        4. The result will be the mourning of Israel as the people see Jesus whom they crucified. (Zechariah 12:10, Isaiah 53)

        5. God is doing a work that will restore Israel.

            a. The elect are the remnant of Israel who will be restored under God's grace into wholeness. (I Thessalonians 4, Matthew 13, Isaiah 11:11-12, Romans 9-11)

            b. One begins to enter into the fullness of life God has planned when he begins to depend and trust upon God instead of himself.

    C. The verifying assurances of the Lord.

        1. The fig tree putting forth its fruit indicates an unfolding of events that are inevitable.

        2. The indestructible people--the nation Israel--are the other assurance.

        3. The infallible promise--Jesus' words will not pass away because they are true.

D. Conclusion.

      1. Jesus is inescapable. Life was made for God.

      2. The present moment of our life reveals something. If one is taking from God's provision, he will find that he yearns more and more for it.

Application questions:

1. Why do you think so much of the New Testament is devoted to Jesus' second coming?
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2. How does the restoration of Israel give security to the church? Explain.
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3. What are some reasons you look forward to the coming of Jesus as a believer?
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