

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On July 22, 2012, we received the following inquiry:

“I have a question. in Matthew 24, 30-31 it is written the angels will gather the elect from the ends of heaven. what does heaven outer end mean? is not the elect on earth when this happens.”

Thank you for you inquiry. The scripture you refer to states:

“And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in lamentation, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send forth his angels with a great trumpet sound, and they will gather his chosen ones together from the four winds, from one extremity of the heavens to their other extremity.” – ***Matthew 24:30-31***

We previously posted a response to a question similar to your second one: “Is not the elect on earth when this happens?” Please see **response of February 29, 2012**. We believe the scripture means that Christ will gather his “chosen ones” to himself from wherever they are located – whether that be in heaven or earth. We base that belief on Paul’s words to the Ephesians:

“This he caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and good sense, in that he made known to us the sacred secret of his will. It is according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself for an administration at the full limit of the appointed times, namely, **to gather all things together again in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth.**” – ***Ephesians 1:8-10***

Nevertheless, if we take a literal interpretation of the scripture, it appears the “chosen ones” will be located in heaven.

If you are asking whether heaven has an outer end, we would need to consider what has been discovered by scientists who study the cosmos. They tell us that the universe is ever-expanding. That means to us that there is an outer end, but it is always changing and extending further out.

We hope that answers your questions.

“Elaia Luchnia”
