

Matthew chap. 24

The Olivet discourse

1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. 15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. 23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 Behold, I have told you before. 26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. 27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. 29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days

shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. 34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. 35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. 36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. 37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. 45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; 49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

All of our studies of prophecy so far have been thru the prophets and apostles but here we have the actual words of Christ or God himself. So the Olivet discourse which is repeated in Matthew, Mark and Luke should be seen as higher and more authoritative. Many see the Olivet discourse as spanning from the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD until the second coming but is this accurate? We will go thru all three iterations and discover that Jesus has actually given a short, concise overview of the end-time period in a few paragraphs. Jesus

departed from the temple and said to his disciples - do you see all these things? There shall not be left one stone on another that shall not be thrown down. The temple at this time was a fabulous structure that had been adorned and embellished by the Jews and Herod so that it looked little like it did when constructed by Zerubbabel. Some may say that every stone of the temple was thrown down in 70AD and this is true but the verse declares that the disciples showed Jesus the 'buildings of the temple' and he said 'see ye not all these things' indicating that it was the temple and surrounding structures. The wailing or western wall of the temple mount is still standing today and contained some of the largest stones of all with the inner structures dating back to the time of Solomon.

Next the disciples asked Jesus three things - when shall these things be and what shall be the sign of your coming and the end of the world? Every stone has not been thrown down yet so Jesus answered truthfully and gave a accurate depiction of the end of the world and the second coming. The first thing he mentions is that many will come in his name saying I am Christ and will deceive many. Now this certainly has happened in the past with deceivers too numerous to mention but has an angel from heaven ever appeared in the name of Christ? No this hasn't happened yet but when it does it will be the beginning of the last days. Next are wars and rumors of wars with nation rising against nation with famines, pestilences and earthquakes. This follows almost verbatim the first four seals with the white horseman and Satan's deception and then peace is taken from the earth with wars and rumors of wars followed by famine and pestilence and lastly the pale rider of death or the fourth kingdom of the beast. After the fourth kingdom is set up with the ten horns and the little horn this is said to be the beginning of sorrows.

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you and you shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. This will be the three and half year reign of the little horn who will make war with the saints and overcome them. The fifth seal speaks of a terrible time when the saints are put to death for the testimony they held that was sealed in blood. And many shall be offended and betray and hate one another because their love shall wax cold. It appears many of the saints will be betrayed by their brethren because this time will be so terrible that a weak faith will quickly turn into no faith and no love for those that stand in opposition to the beast. Jesus next gives the famous saying that he who endures until the end will be saved which are the same words given to the seven churches indicating they are in fact end-time churches. The Revelation began with Jesus sending an angel to each of the seven churches and ends with Jesus stating that he has sent his angel to testify in the churches Rev. 22:16. So the entire book of Revelation is written to the church. The belief that it is written to the church and then switches to Israel of the flesh is false.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations and then shall the end come. The end-time has a beginning, a mid-point and an ending with each part lasting three and a half years or roughly ten years total. The end will be when the seven last plagues are poured out. Jesus said when you see the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place it will be a sign to flee. Somewhere during the mid-point of the tribulation a command will go forth to restore and rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. It will not take long for this to be built because Satan with his legions of angels will not need construction workers or heavy equipment. They will build a fantastic city made of gold and precious stones and the temple will be the crown jewel of 'Satan's seat'. Satan himself will sit in the temple at the very end and declare himself to be God. This will be the sign to flee because many of God's people will be in Jerusalem at this time. They are commanded to leave in haste and not return for anything and flee to the mountains.

For then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time nor ever shall be. The great tribulation with the seven last plagues will be the worst time in human history and except those days be shortened then no flesh would survive. Three and a half years per Dan. 12 and Rev. 12 are allotted for the great tribulation or time of trouble. Jesus says for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened so they could be three years or two and a half no one knows but God. God will have a group of elect saints perhaps the 144,000 who live thru this time and will be alive for the second coming. They will have special temptations and delusions to deal with that involve false Christs and false prophets and a false second coming. This is nothing new for it will happen all throughout the tribulation but it appears that Satan will use great signs and wonders not used to this point to deceive the elect of God. The plagues will be falling on Jerusalem and the world during this time and one of the final acts is three unclean spirits like frogs who go out to deceive the world and gather them together for the battle of Armageddon. This battle occurs just prior to the real second coming so this is a clue for the elect that they may discern between the true and the false.

For as the lightning comes out of the east and shines to the west so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. The second coming will be global and able to be seen from anywhere on earth. When Christ comes into the atmosphere it will be like the sun at full strength coming into the atmosphere. Men will cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them. We will save the signs and parables for the next chapter.