

The Olivet Discourse

Lesson 14

Jesus Spoke On The End Of The World

- Jesus talked about the end times. After all, Jesus is the beginning and the end, the source and the goal of God's work in human history.
- Most of what Jesus told his first followers about the end times took the form of parables
 - A Parable is an analogy in the form of a short story with a specific point about God's work
- Jesus told his disciples about
 - A field where weeds and wheat grew together because an evil neighbor had tossed weed seed into the field ([Matthew 13:24-43](#))
 - A net filled with every kind of seafood; some fish were saved in baskets while the rest were hurled into a raging furnace. ([Matthew 13:47-50](#))
 - A king who condemned an uninvited guest for crashing the crown prince's wedding banquet ([Matthew 21:1-4](#))
 - Five bridesmaids who missed the bridegroom because they didn't bring enough olive oil with them ([Matthew 25:1-13](#))
 - Three servants who would be glorified or condemned, based on what they did with what they were given ([Matthew 25:14-30](#))
 - People from all nations who would be separated as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, "based on how they responded to the followers of Jesus" ([Matthew 25:31-46](#))
- The above parables illustrate directly three truths
 - Jesus will return
 - No one knows when Jesus will return
 - There will be a final judgment
- The Mount of Olives discussion (The Olivet Discourse) where Jesus explains the end.

The Olivet Discourse

- One day when Jesus left the temple with his disciples who were commenting on the splendor of the newly renovated temple, Jesus responded by saying it would be destroyed.
- Later on the Mount Of Olives the disciples questioned Jesus on his statement. (They were astonished by his statement as the temple was central to their belief, their lives and their future.)
- Jesus answer to the disciples is confusing but depends upon one's point of view.

Disciples Questions	Jesus Answers
The destruction of the temple	No answer was given
The sign of the Messiah's return	The calamities at the beginning of the tribulation. The Antichrist's sacrilege in the rebuilt Jewish temple.
The end of the age.	The return of "the Son of Man" to earth.

Outline of the Apocalyptic Chapters of the Synoptic Gospels

<u>Part 1: The Last Days</u> (The Era of the Church)	<u>Matthew 24:1-14</u>	<u>Mark 13:1-13</u>	<u>Luke 21:5-19</u>
<u>Part 2: End Time Events</u> (The Great distress)	<u>Matthew 24:15-29</u>	<u>Mark 13:14-25</u>	<u>Luke 21:20-26</u>
<u>Part 3: Day of The Lord</u> (The second coming)	<u>Matthew 24:30-44</u>	<u>Mark 13:26-37</u>	<u>Luke 21:27-36</u>

Part 1 The Last Days

Matthew 24: 1-2	Mark 13: 1-2	Luke 21:5-6
[1] Jesus Left the temple and was walking away when His disciples came up to Him to call his attention to the buildings. [2] “Do you see all these things? He asked, “I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another, every one will be thrown down.”	[1] As He was leaving the temple, one of His disciples said to him, “Look teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” [2] “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another. Every one will be thrown down.”	[5] Some of His disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, [6] “As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”

Baiting The Real Question ...

- Jesus used His disciples' admiration of the temple to teach them about the close of the current age and the almost here church age.
- In part 1 Jesus moves from the imminent events (destruction of the temple which was going to occur inn 70 AD) to the coming of the ‘abomination that causes desolation” while continuously emphasizing the importance of remaining faithful until He returns.
- The temple will be utterly raised.

Part 1 The Last Days (2)

Matthew 24: 3	Mark 13: 3-4	Luke 21:7
[3] As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign <u>of</u> Your coming, and of the end of the age?"	[3] As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately, [4] "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?"	[7] They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?"

Now The Teaching Begins ...

- The Disciples were seeing a Messianic Kingdom and Jesus was seeing the restoration of the Jewish nation and all peoples back to God.
- Man wants to know the signs and wants to know w-h-e-n will I get what I want or what is ours.
- The temple will be utterly raised.

Part 1 The Last Days (3)

Matthew 24: 4-8	Mark 13: 5-8	Luke 21:8-11
<p>[4] And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. [5] For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. [6] You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. [7] For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. [8] But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.</p>	<p>[5] And Jesus began to say to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. [6] Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and will mislead many. [7] When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. [8] For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.</p>	<p>[8] And He said, "See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them. [9] When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately."</p> <p>Things to Come [10] Then He continued by saying to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, [11] and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.</p>

Signs Signaling... Beginning of Birth Pains

- False doctrines: Don't easily be led astray.
- False Christs
- Wars, rumors of wars, nation rising against nation, earthquakes, famines and pestilences
 - Compare to [1 Thessalonians 5:3](#)

The Last Days (4)

Matthew 24: 9-14	Mark 13: 9-13	Luke 21:12-19
<p>[9] "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. [10] At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. [11] Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. [12] Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. [13] But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. [14] This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.</p>	<p>[9] "But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them. [10] The gospel must first be preached to all the nations. [11] When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit. [12] Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. [13] You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.</p>	<p>[12] "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. [13] It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. [14] So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; [15] for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. [16] But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, [17] and you will be hated by all because of My name. [18] Yet not a hair of your head will perish. [19] By your endurance you will gain your lives.</p>

Signs Signaling... Beginning of Birth Pains (2)

- *You will be my* Witness Before Authorities
- *You will suffer* Persecution & Martyrdom
- *You will be my* Worldwide Witness
- *You must be* Faithful unto Death

The Last Days (5)

Matthew 24: 15	Mark 13: 14	Luke 21:20
[15] "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),	[14] "But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.	[20] "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.

Summarization of Part I: The Last Days

- The destruction of Jerusalem.
 - The temple will be utterly razed, and it was in 70 AD
- Impersonators
 - Many will claim to be the Christ.
 - Don't be deceived.
- Wars, rumors of wars, nation rising against nation, earthquakes, famines and pestilences:
 - These happenings are just the beginning of birth pains. The end is still to come, but it will not come right away. [Luke 21:9](#)
 - Don't be frightened or alarmed (Compare to "labor pains" [1 Thessalonians 5:3](#))
- Witness before authorities
 - Believers will bear witness before kings and governors in words the authorities will hate but cannot contradict
 - Don't worry about what you are to say; wisdom for the moment will be given to you by the Holy Spirit.

Summarization of Part I: The Last Days (2)

- Persecution and Martyrdom
 - Christ followers will be hated, persecuted and arrested.
 - Some will be betrayed by false brethren and even family members
 - Some will be killed
 - All are commanded to stand firm.
- Worldwide Witness
 - [Mark 13:10](#) The gospel to be preached throughout all the world.
 - The Great Commission [Mark 16:15](#)
 - Interestingly, Paul's comments in [Colossians 1:6, 23B](#), [Romans 13:11b-12a](#), though probably intended as hyperbole, convey the impression he believed the world was evangelized to the extent that the culmination of this age could happen at any time.
- Faithfulness unto death
 - Many will lose their love for God,
 - But the person who keeps on loving and obeying him to the end will gain his life – though he may die.
 - [Luke 21:16-19](#)
- The Abomination That Causes Desolation

The Abomination That Causes Desolation

- Part 1 of this study of the synoptic gospels ends at this reference.
- Daniel calls the event that precipitates the shift the ***abomination that causes desolation***. ([Daniel 9:27 \[22-23\]](#))
- Although the synoptic writers describe the ***abomination that causes desolation*** in somewhat different ways, its matching position in the apocalyptic chapters indicates the writers are obviously describing the same event.
 - According to Matthew, the ***abomination that causes desolation*** “stands in the holy place”;
 - According to Mark, the ***abomination that causes desolation*** “stands where it does not belong”
 - According to Luke , the desolation of Jerusalem is near when “the city is surrounded by armies.”

When You See The Abomination
That Causes Desolation

The Abomination That Causes Desolation

Matthew 24	Mark 13	Luke 21
<p>¹⁵ “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.</p>	<p>¹⁴ “But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁵ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, ¹⁶ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁷ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ¹⁸ Pray that it may not happen in winter. ¹⁹</p>	<p>²⁰ “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²² for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.</p>

The Tribulation

Matthew 24	Mark 13	Luke 21
<p>²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²² And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.</p>	<p>¹⁹ For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. ²⁰ And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.</p>	<p>²³ Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.</p>

Beware of False Claims & Prophets

Matthew 24:	Mark 13:	Luke 21
<p>²³Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. ²⁴For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. ²⁷For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.</p>	<p>²¹And then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. ²²For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.</p>	

The Coming Of The Son of Man

Matthew 24:	Mark 13:	Luke 21
<p>²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.</p>	<p>²⁴ “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.</p>	<p>²⁵ “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”</p>

Knowing When Christ Is Near

Matthew	Mark 13	Luke 21
<p>³² "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.</p>	<p>²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.</p>	<p>²⁹ And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.</p>

No One Knows That Day Or Hour

Matthew 24	Mark 13	Luke 21
<p>³⁶ “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,^[b] but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.</p>	<p>³² “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard, keep awake.^[a] For you do not know when the time will come.</p>	

Be Diligent, Be Watchful

Matthew 24	Mark 13	Luke 21
<p>⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.</p> <p>⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.</p>	<p>³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants^b in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵ Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows,^c or in the morning— ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”</p>	<p>³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”</p>

Summary (1)

- When you see the Abomination That Causes Desolation – Get out of town fast, superfast
 - Armies surrounding Jerusalem
 - Abomination of Desolation standing in the holy place in the temple
 - Everyone in Judea should get out and flee to the mountains
 - Flight will be especially difficult for pregnant and nursing women
 - Pray it won't happen in winter
- Great Distress – Time of wrath
 - The 'distress' will be unequaled from the beginning of the world until now and never will be equaled again
 - It is the time of punishment foretold by the prophets
 - The wrath against the Jews will be great
 - For the sake of the 'elect', those days will be shortened.
- Jerusalem conquered and trampled
 - People of Jerusalem will fall by the sword be taken as prisoners to all nations of the world.
 - Jerusalem will be trampled upon by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled. [Revelation 11:1](#) says this will be 42 months.

Summary (2)

- Great Signs & Miracles of the False Crowd
 - False christ and false prophets will attempt to mislead God's people
 - They will use counterfeit signs and miracles to establish authenticity
 - Christ's return will be viewed by everyone
 - God will gather his own to himself
- Heaven & Earth in upheaval
 - The end time events are put into play by the AOD and end with the heavens and earth in upheaval.
 - Causes great anguish, perplexity and terror worldwide
- The whole world will witness the coming of the Son of Man
 - Jesus return in the clouds will be witnessed worldwide. See [Rev 1:7](#), [Matt 26:4](#), [Luke 17:24](#), [Acts 1:9-11](#)
- The nations will mourn
 - Unredeemed man's response to Jesus' return will be to mourn
 - Believer's response to Jesus return will be to rejoice.

Summary (3)

- God's angels will gather the elect
 - Trumpet Blast sends God's angels out to gather all the elect
 - They will be with God forevermore
- The end time events herald our redemption
 - As new tree leaves are a sign that summer is near, so the onset of the 3 1/2 –year period of end-time distress indicates the Kingdom of God is near – at the very door.
 - The generation that witnesses the 'leaves' coming out, will also witness the arrival of Jesus.
- The outcome is assured
 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but Jesus' words will last forever
- Only the Father knows the precise moment of Christ's return
 - Neither Jesus nor the angels know the day/hour of his return
 - Jesus coming, although anticipated by believers, will still take the whole world by surprise

Summary (4)

- Be ready when Jesus comes, Don't get mired in
 - Drunkenness
 - Debauchery
 - Choked by the anxieties of life
 - Pulled aside by the normal events of life (eating, marriage, drinking)
- Keep Watching
 - When Christ appears, he will separate those who serve Him from those who don't.
- The prize: To stand before the Son of Man