

Jesus Teaches Prophecy Matthew 24 & 25 (3/1/09 PM)

The Olivet Discourse is recorded in three passages; Matthew 24 & 25, Mark 13, and Luke 21:5-36. His departing from the temple (1) is symbolic as well as actual. As Jesus leaves the Temple he shocks His disciples by announcing its coming destruction (2) "not one stone shall be left upon another".

The Olivet Discourse Explains When and How the Messianic Kingdom Would Come Into

The Disciples Asked Jesus Three Questions (3)

When will these things be? What will be the sign of Your coming?
And of the end of the age?"

1. Question #1 – The Destruction of the Temple

This Question Is Not Answered In Matthew

This question is answered in Luke 21.

Luke 21:7, So they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?"

In Luke 21:12-19 Jesus predicts the personal sufferings of the Apostles

- **The sign of the _____ of Jerusalem**

(20-24) "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies"

This is the sign that precedes the destruction of the Temple that Jesus prophesied. In 68 AD a new Roman general named Titus returned. In 70 AD the Romans sacked the city and destroyed the Temple. Over 1 million Jews were killed. The Temple has not been rebuilt since that time.

Jesus Declared that This Event Ushered In "The Times of the _____"

2. Questions #2 & #3 – The Sign of Christ's Coming and the End of the Age

The Disciples Were Asking About the Kingdom

The word "coming" is *parousia* which has the basic idea of presence and secondly of arrival. The disciples were thinking of Jesus manifesting His presence in the promised Messianic Kingdom in Israel. From their perspective they were not thinking of His return for they did not yet grasp that He was truly leaving. Jesus reveals that the event that precedes His manifesting Himself as King is an event known as the Tribulation. This is a major theme of the Old Testament; Jeremiah 30:7, Joel 2:1-3.

- **The _____ 3 ½ years of the Tribulation (4-14)**

The description that Jesus gives parallels the Seal Judgments of Revelation chapter 6 and events in chapter 7.

Jesus calls this "the beginning of sorrows" (8). The Greek word means birth pangs.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, "But concerning times and seasons...the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night....*as labor pains*.."

Labor Pains Steadily Increase In Occurrence and

(14) "and then the end will come" meaning the second half of the Tribulation.

- **The _____ of the Tribulation (15-20)**

The Seventy Weeks Prophecy in Daniel 9 revealed the key elements of the Tribulation as well as the length. It will be a seven year period which begins

with the Antichrist signing a peace treaty with the nation of Israel. The period will be equally divided by a significant event, "the abomination of Desolation".

Paul and John will also predict this same event, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 and Revelation 13:14-15.

Jesus Saw This Event As Yet _____ From His Time.

The references show that this is a Jewish setting, "not in winter or on the Sabbath". Winter time in Israel is the rainy season that floods the wadis and washes out the roads. In modern times all public transportation is shut down

on the Sabbath. John also speaks of this event, Revelation 12:14.

- **The _____ 3 ½ years of the Tribulation (21-28)**

Jesus calls this time "great tribulation". Jesus' words echo those of Daniel 12:1,

This period is revealed in Revelation Chapters 8-18.

The Coming of Jesus Will Be _____ By the Seven Year Tribulation Period

• **The _____ of the Tribulation (29-31)**

There will be cataclysmic cosmic and worldwide events occurring.

Luke 21:25-26, "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken."

This could indicate a period of complete darkness covering the entire planet. At this time Jerusalem will again be encircled by an army of the nations of the world.

Zechariah 14:2-5, "And in that day His feet will stand **on the Mount of Olives**"

Revelation 19 also depicts this event. At that time "the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven", Matthew 24:30. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9, "And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming."

The Specific Sign of the Coming of Jesus is His

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ will usher in the Kingdom Age. Verse 31 is the re-gathering of Israel in preparation for the kingdom.

Isaiah 11:11-12, "It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

According to Zechariah 13:8-9 about one third of the nation will survive the Tribulation and populate the Kingdom.

Jesus then gives a series of exhortations and parables specifically for the tribulation generation (24:32-25:30). The fig tree does not represent Israel.

They are examples for us as we prepare for His return at the Rapture.

The Closing Events of This Age Involves the Judgment of the _____ (25:31-46)