

**Olivet Discourse Part IV – Be Ready!
Matt 24:29-44**

Overview

- 1. The test of a prophet (Deut 18:18-19)**
- 2. The signs of the end-times**
- 3. The Great Tribulation**
- 4. The Second Coming of Christ and the Rapture: Be Ready!**
- 5. The Contrast: Faithful vs Foolish**
- 6. The Millennial Kingdom**

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, 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

- 7. We talked last week that this will be an event that no one will mistake, no one will miss...**

Rev 1:7

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.

- a. When the kingdoms of this world, which have been ruled over by man, influenced by Satan, will once again be restored to the Lord and His Son Jesus Christ:**

Rev 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

- 8. Three things will happen at this event concerning the nation of Israel:**
 - a. First - Israel will recognize Yeshua, Jesus Christ as the Messiah, and they will mourn.**

Zech 12:10-11

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a

great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

- b. We saw last week that 2/3 of the Jews will be killed during the Tribulation, (Zech 13:8-9), but the 1/3 that remain, that remnant will recognize that the one whom their fathers had crucified in ignorance and blindness, was the one who had loved them and given himself for their sins – Jesus Christ.**
- c. They will cry out in sadness and heartache over the long years of rejection that have followed his crucifixion.**
- d. Perhaps Israel will repeat the mourning statement of Isaiah...**

Isa 53:1-6

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

- 9. Second: As a result of recognizing that Yeshua *was and is* the true Messiah, there will be a world-wide wave of salvation of Jews.**
 - a. Paul tells us of this event in Rom 11:**

Rom 11:25-27

*For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the **fullness of the Gentiles** has come in. And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."*

- 10. Third, God will gather together His elect – Israel – to the holy city Jerusalem.**

31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

- 11. This is not the Rapture, the elect is Israel. This will be an incredible completion of the prophecies of Deut 28 and Isaiah 11**
- a. **After destruction of the temple in 70 AD in came the dispersal of the nation that was spoken of in Deut 28:**

Deut 28:64-66

"Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known -- wood and stone. And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

- b. **After Titus conquered Jerusalem, the Jew were scattered all across the globe. For almost 2000 years they were dispersed, until the rebirth of the nation in 1948, and since then millions have returned by decree of the "Law of Return" passed by the Knesset in 1950.**
- c. **Yet still, 2/3 of the Jewish people live outside the nation.**
- d. **But on the day that the Lord returns they will be gathered from the four corners in fulfillment of Is 11:**

Isa 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.***

- 12. We need to understand that God is not taking them to heaven, He is bringing them to the land that He promised would be theirs as an everlasting covenant.**

Gen 17:7-8

And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

- 13....but when will these things happen? Jesus gives us a little parable.**

The Fig Tree

32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near -- at the doors! 34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

14. So, what does this parable mean?

15. One view - Fig tree represents Israel, so when you see the rebirth of the nation of Israel, then *this generation* will not pass until these things take place.

a. How long is a generation?

i. 38 years? Deut 2:13-14

ii. 40 years? Num 32:13

iii. 70-80 years? Ps 90:10

iv. 100 years? Gen 15:13-16

b. Well, Jesus certainly didn't come in 1986, or 1988, maybe He'll come before 2048... BUT – the parallel scripture in Luke gives us a little more info:

Luke 21:29

*Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and **all the trees.***

c. In other words, the parable is about *trees* – it is about *seeing the signs* and knowing that a season is near!

16. "This generation" may be the life of one person, but it also may be "nation", the word *geneos* is used for generation, for times, for ages, for nation...

a. In other words Jesus may be saying "the nation of Israel will NEVER pass away!"

Jer 31:31-40

(read through if time)

b. In other words, it does not matter if Herod tries to kill off the Jews,

c. ...or Nero, or Haman, or Hitler, or Hamas Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, or even the Anti-Christ tries to exterminate Israel, it will never happen!

d. And Jesus says "You can count on it..."

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

The Rapture

36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

17. Jesus is now speaking of an event that is different from the one He just described.

- a. How do I know? Unless Jesus is talking about two events, **this statement doesn't make sense.**
- b. See Daniel gave us an exact timetable: 1290 days from the "agreement" with the Anti-Christ and the Abomination of Desolation, and 1290 days from that day to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ on a white horse.
- c. So once the Tribulation period starts, anyone with a bible can know the exact day that Jesus is going to return.

18. As opposed to this "day" where "no one knows the day or the hour".

- a. Jesus *has* to be speaking of two events: His second coming at the end of the Great Tribulation, and now the Rapture of the church.

The Rapture

37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

19. Noah – Jesus draws a parallel to "the days of Noah" and the days preceding His coming.

20. First – we need to get an idea of what the world was like. The genealogical record in Gen 5-6 tells us some startling facts;

- a. People lived a very long time: average of 800 years!
- b. Families had "sons and daughters" at least two sons, and two daughters, and probably more (*how many kids would you have if you lived to be 800?*) (*the First-century historian Josephus, noted that Adam and Eve had 33 sons and 23 daughters*)
- c. The time from Adam to the flood is 1656 years.
- d. According to the established population growth formula that is used today, that would put the population of the earth somewhere between 3.5 – 6 BILLION people.

21. And what was happening on the earth? There are some rather interesting parallels:

Parallel #1

Gen 6:5

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Gen 6:11-12

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

- a. In other words every evil and wicked thing that could be imagined was practiced, immorality was rampant, and people did whatever made them feel good.
 - b. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? (*we kill millions of babies every year, you can go online and see any disgusting thing you want, and if you want it in person just go online and people advertize their willingness to just 'hook up', churches have openly gay ministers*)
- 22. Parallel #2 - In the midst of this evil and violence and immorality there was this crazy guy, Noah, who believed he heard from God to build an ark. In a place far from any large body of water.**
- a. And he had been warning people – “a flood is coming!” “*That crazy Noah, c'mon lets go get a beer.*”
- 23. Then one day Noah and his family were told to take the animals and go into the ark. God shut the door of the ark so that Noah and his family, eight people in all, and they were separated from the world.**
- a. Then a full week went by and nothing happened. Noah, his family and all the animals were in the ark for a week and during that time the skies were blue, the sun shone, men went to work in the morning and came home in the evening.
 - b. Lovers strolled hand in hand as they had done for centuries. Babies cried, men ate and drank and rose up to play; life went on as usual.
 - c. Then suddenly clouds began to form, the skies darkened, the earth began to heave, the bottom of the sea raised and great tidal waves came crashing across the earth, the skies poured down untold tons of water for forty days and forty nights. All those who lived in the world of that day perished.
- 24. Sound familiar? It should...**
- a. There are people today – Christians (the real ones) who say “Jesus is coming!”, and people scoff and go on about their lives.
 - b. We've been preaching this for 2000 years!
 - c. Yet one day Jesus will “remove” His people from the earth, in an event called “The Rapture”
 - d. They will be taken to a safe place, “above” the judgment and destruction. – for 7 years (one week Daniel calls it)
 - e. Judgment will rain down upon the earth and those who have rejected God, this time not by water, but by fire.

25. Jesus describes it thus:

40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

1 Cor 15:51-52

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed -- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

26. Are you ready?

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