

# Harmony of the Olivet Discourse

Comparing the Matthew, Mark and Luke Accounts, (NASB)

The Olivet Discourse is clearly a message given directly by the Messiah, Himself, for the sake of the saints who will be alive on earth during the future time of the Great Tribulation, just prior to His second coming in great glory to rule and reign on earth. Consequently, this is not specifically talking about the close of the present time period of the Church which is Christ's body. The fact is that immediately after the close of the "out-calling of *Gentiles*" (Acts 15:14 & Romans 11:25), in the present "Age of Grace" (Ephesians 3:2), the events of the Olivet Discourse will immediately follow. Therefore, the truth is that the final generation of the saints of the present Age of grace will be able to observe the "stage being set" for that final Great Tribulation of which Christ is speaking.

One should also note in this regard the very clear descriptions of the *Jewishness* of the saints, the particular geographical center of attention, and the time period—see "the Temple" (Matt. 24:1 & 15); "Judea" (verse 16); "hated by all nations" (v. 9); "Sabbath" (v. 19); "signs" (vs. 3 & 24); "fig tree" (v. 32); "Messiah" (v. 4); "gospel of the Kingdom" (v. 14); "birth pangs" (v. 8); and the "end of the age," (i.e., the age in which the disciples and Christ lived, v. 8). The Great Tribulation time period of which Christ is speaking was prophesied many times in the Hebrew Scriptures. That brief time period was considered "the end of the (Jewish) age." This period of time will prepare the saints who will go alive into the Messianic Kingdom Age.

In addition, one needs to note that there are actually two distinct events in view in this discourse. The first has to do with the immediate destruction of the Temple which happened in 70 A.D. because that is what prompted their curiosity to ask about the final events of the "end of the age." The second has to do with the actual second "coming" of the Messiah and the events at "end of the age." Matthew and Mark will emphasize the final events surrounding the second coming of Messiah, whereas Luke will emphasize the event of the immediate destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. This is yet another case in the prophetic Scriptures where two distinct events are spoken of in the same context, yet we find that a vast amount of time separates the two (see Isa. 61:1-4; Isa. 11:1-9; Isa. 9:6-7 and Zech. 9:9 & 10). In this case, there is the vast period of time of the present age that intervenes between Christ's death, the immediate destruction of Jerusalem that soon follows and the final Great Tribulation event.

## *Harmonizing The Three Accounts*

### MATTHEW 24

1. And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2. And he answered and said to them, 'Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down.'

### MARK 13

#### *1. The Setting*

1. And as He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!' 2. And Jesus said to Him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another which will not be torn down.'

### LUKE 21

5. And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, 6. 'As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down.'

## **2. Questions on the Mount of Olives**

3. And as he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'

3. And 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. And they questioned Him, saying, 'Teacher, when therefore will these things be? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?' (Note that Luke does not specifically mention Christ's coming.)

## **3. Do Not Be Mislead**

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.'

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.'

8. And He said, 'See to it that you be not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, "I am He," and, "The time is at hand"; do not go after them.'

## **4. Preliminary Wars and Natural Catastrophes**

6. And you will hear 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.

7. And 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 against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These are merely the the beginning of birth pangs.

9. And when you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for those things must take Place first, but the end does not follow immediately.' 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.'

## **5. Persecution**

9a. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, (The rest with Mark 13 below.)

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. (Verse 10 with Matt. 14 below.)

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 sake.

## **6. The Holy Spirit Will Speak Through You**

11. And when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not be anxious beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who

12. 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

10. speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.

And wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.

### ***7. Family Betrayal***

10. And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another.

12. And brother will deliver brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

16. But you will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death,

### ***8. Hated by All Nations***

9b. and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name.

13a. And you will be hated by all on account of My name,

17. and you will be hated by all on account of My name.

### ***9. Lawlessness Abounds, Love becomes Cold***

11. And many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. 12. And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

### ***10. Endurance***

13. But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.

13b. but the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.

18. Yet not a hair of your head will perish. 19. By your endurance you will gain your lives.

### ***11. Gospel of the Kingdom Preached World Wide***

14. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come.

10. And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.

### ***12. Abomination of Desolation***

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), 16. then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; 17. let him who is on the housetop not go down to get the things out that are in his house; 18. and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak. 19. But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babies in those days! 20. But pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath;

14. But when you see the Abomination of Desolation standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15. And let him who is on the housetop not go down, or inter in, to get anything out of his house; 16. and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak. 17. But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babies in those days! 18. But pray that it may not happen in the winter.

20. But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is hand. 21. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city; 22. because these are the days of vengeance, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23a. Woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babies in those days; (*Luke does not mention the Abomin. of Desola.*)

*(Parenthetical-Times of Gentiles)*

23b. for there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people. 24. and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

**13. The Great Tribulation**

21. for then there will be great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. 22. And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.

19. For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of creation which God created, until now, and never shall. 20. And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He shortened the days.

**14. False Christs**

23. Then if anyone says to you, 21. "Behold, here is the Christ," or, "There he is," do not believe him. 24. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25. Behold, I have told you in advance.

And then if anyone says to you, "Behold, here is the Christ," or, "Behold, He is there"; do not believe him; 22. for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray. 23. But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

**15. Do Not Follow Them**

26. If therefore they say to you, "Behold, He is in the wilderness," do not go forth, or, "Behold, He is in the inner rooms," do not believe them. 27. For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. 28. Wherever the corpse is, is, there the vultures will gather.

**16. The Second Coming of Christ**

29. But 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 the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, 30. and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son

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 that are 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

25. And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26. men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31. And he will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

32. Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33. even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 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 shall not pass away.

36. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

37. For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39. and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. 40. Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. 41. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

42. Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43. But be

He will send forth the angels, And will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth, to the farthest end of heaven.

### ***17. Parable of the Fig Tree***

28. Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29. Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 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.

### ***18. No One Knows the Day or Hour***

32. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

### ***19. Comparable to the Days of Noah***

33. Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time is. 34. It is like a

27. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

29. And He told them a parable: 'Behold the fig tree and all the trees; 30. as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31. Even so you, too, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. 32. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. 33. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

34. Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and

sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44. For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

man, away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. 35. Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cock-crowing, or in the morning— 36. lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37. And what I say to you I say to all, “be an the alert!””

drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day come on you suddenly like a trap; 35. for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. 36. But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

### ***21. The Faithful Stewart***

45. Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46. Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. 47. Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 48. But if that evil slave says in his heart, “My master is not coming for a long time,” 49. and shall begin to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; 50. the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, 51. And shall cut him in pieces and assign him a Place with the hypocrites; weeping shall be there And the gnashing of teeth.’

### ***22. Parable of the Ten Virgins***

Matthew 25:1-13

### ***23. Parable of the Talents***

Matthew 25:14-30

### ***24. Judgment of the Nations***

Matthew 25:31-46