

## THE OLIVET DISCOURSE, Mt. 24 & 25

### The Setting: 23:37-24:1,2

Matthew to this point has related the rejection of Israel of her Messiah-King and the King's rejection of Israel. Mt. 23 records 8 woes upon the religious leaders pronounced by Jesus as a climax to this issue. All is now in readiness for the "cutting off of Messiah" as Daniel had prophesied. But before this occurs, Jesus tells his disciples of the events that will precede his 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent in the Olivet Discourse, his longest prophetic message recorded in the Gospels.

This discourse is a response to questions from the Eleven. Before we look at these, it is imperative that we observe the setting that prompted the questions (23: 37- 24:2).

**23:37** Jesus utters his final lamentation over \_\_\_\_\_ due to her willful rejection of God's truth.

**23:38** Jesus utterly rejects Jerusalem and her Temple. The Temple, once \_\_\_\_\_ house, is now your [Israel's] house and it is DESOLATE.\*

\*desolate = ερημος / eremos = a desert, hence, applied to the Temple, "a religious wasteland"

**23:39** Israel is rejected but not indefinitely: she will one day welcome the Lord Jesus Christ as her Messiah/King! NOTE THE INDEFINITE \_\_\_\_\_ GAP BETWEEN V. 38 & 39. This time gap prompts the questions of the disciples in 24:3.

**24:1,2** Jesus predicts the complete destruction of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jerusalem (fulfilled in 70 AD).

### 24:3 Two Questions from the Eleven Disciples

Before we can understand Jesus' answer, we must first understand the disciples' questions. There are two, the second of which has two parts.

**v. 3a Question #1:** "\_\_\_\_\_ shall these things be?" Their concern is the timing of "these things." What things?: the destruction of the Temple and the coming of the Lord when Israelites receive Him as their Messiah.

**v. 3b Question #2** (two parts): "What shall be the \_\_\_\_\_ 1) of your coming\* and 2) of the end of the age\*\*?"

\*coming = παρουσια / parousia = arrival and attendant presence

\*\* end of the age = συντελειας του αιωνος / sunteleias tou aionos = consummation of the age

## CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS ON THESE QUESTIONS

1. The disciples associate both questions with Christ's \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The "\_\_\_\_\_" of these events was their first expressed concern: the timing, the chronology. In response to these statements of Christ, the disciples were thinking thusly:
  - a. the King would depart
  - b. at some time the Temple of Herod would be destroyed
  - c. upon this destruction, Israel would repent and Messiah would return to issue in a new age.

The questions of the disciples took for granted that all 3 things went together: the destruction of the Temple, the parousia of the Son of Man (the Messiah), and the end of the current age. **THAT THESE DO NOT HAPPEN IMMEDIATELY ONE AFTER THE OTHER IS IMPLICITE IN JESUS' ANSWER AND EXPLICITE IN HISTORY.**

3. What age would \_\_\_\_\_ (consummate)? Luke clarifies this in his account of the Olivet Discourse (Lu. 21:20-24). From Divine viewpoint the world is now in what Jesus calls "the TIMES of the Gentiles," the historical era when world balance of power is in Gentile hands and Israel is relegated to total insignificance. The times of Gentile world dominion will end with the overthrow of the Antichrist.
4. What age would \_\_\_\_\_? The age of the long awaited Millennial Kingdom ushered in by the glorious 2<sup>nd</sup> advent of Messiah, the Son of Man. See Acts 1:6: the disciples were anxious!

With this understanding of these questions, we will move on to Jesus' answer.

### **24:4 – 25:46 Jesus Answers His Disciples: The Olivet Discourse**

The Olivet Discourse comprises Christ's answer to these questions. The Olivet Discourse divides itself nicely as in the following outline, which we will use as our guide for the rest of this series.

#### **I. 24: 4-31 Direct Answers to the Questions of the Disciples**

v. 4 –14 General Predictions before the \_\_\_\_\_ comes, (general signs; not specific)

v. 15-31 Two Specific Signs just before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent

#### **II. 24: 32-25:30 Illustrations (Parables) to Illustrate the Certainty but Unknown Time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent, therefore the need to be \_\_\_\_\_**

#### **III. 25: 31-46 Judgment of the Nations at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent**

## Matthew 24: 8 & 13

### Mt. 24: 4-14 General Predictions Before the End Comes

**9 things are stated that describe the character of the age & the end of the age:**

- 1) v. 5 false Messiah's
- 2) v. 6 wars & rumors of wars (but the \_\_\_\_\_ is not yet!)
- 3) v. 7 international conflict everywhere
- 4) v. 7 famines & earthquakes in various places
- 5) v. 9 severe persecution of believers
- 6) v. 10 betrayal and hatred of believers
- 7) v. 11 false teacher/prophets who deceive many
- 8) v. 12 a noticeable lack of love due to iniquity abounding
- 9) v.14 worldwide preaching of the Gospel of the \_\_\_\_\_: THEN COMES THE \_\_\_\_\_ !

### MT. 24: 8 & 13 RELATE THIS CONTEXT TO THE TRIBULATION PERIOD

**Mt. 24: 8 All these [things] are the beginning of sorrows.**\*

\* "sorrows" = "birth-pangs" NOTE: "THESE ARE THE BEGINNING OF BIRTH-PANGS."

Both ancient Judaism and the O. T. allude to "birth-pangs" as introducing a seven year period of severe tribulation before the coming of Messiah.

See Jeremiah 30: 1- 7, especially v. 6.

**Mt. 24: 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**\*

\* "saved" = "delivered," or saved physically by Christ's Coming as in v. 22

THIS VERSE CANNOT REFER TO BEING SAVED FROM SIN BECAUSE THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS WHO ARE SAVED FROM SIN WILL DIE IN THE TRIBULATION... THAT IS, THEY WILL NOT ENDURE PHYSICALLY TO THE END.

Christ here has in mind those that do endure physically who will be saved or delivered physically by His 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent. They will be the citizens of His Millennial Kingdom.