

Chapter Fourteen

The Olivet Discourse-Part Four

Matthew 24:1-51; Mark 13:1-37; Luke 21:5-37

I. The Second Coming of Christ (Matthew 24:27, Luke 17:24)

Matthew 24:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Luke 17:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ For as the lightning that flashes out of one *part* under heaven shines to the other *part* under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

The return of Christ with his bride, which is the church, is part of the 2nd advent, which we call the second coming. When Christ comes he will actually stand on earth.

Zechariah 14:4 (NKJV) ⁴ And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

Ezekiel 44:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it *was* shut. ² And the LORD said to me, "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the LORD God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.

II. The Gathering of the Eagles (Matt. 24:28, Luke 17:37)

Matthew 24:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

Luke 17:37 (NKJV) ³⁷ And they answered and said to Him, "Where, Lord?" So He said to them, "Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together."

This verse points to a time in the future, where Christ will destroy his enemies. Christ talks about it in **Revelation 19:15-18**. We will cover this later in more detail.

Revelation 19:15-18 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, **saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven**, "Come and gather together for the supper of the

great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great."

III. Tribulation Judgments (**Matt. 24:29, Mark 13:24-25, Luke 21:25-26**)

Matthew 24:29 (NKJV) 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.

Mark 13:24-25 (NKJV) ²⁴ "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Luke 21:25-26 (NKJV) ²⁵ "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; ²⁶ men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.

There will be many signs in the heavens during the tribulation before the return of the Lord at His "Second Coming". Joel even talked about it.

Joel 2:30-32 (NKJV) ³⁰ "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ³² And it shall come to pass *That* whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

Joel 3:11-16 (NKJV) ¹¹ Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD. ¹² "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. ¹³ Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow-- For their wickedness *is* great." ¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵ The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. ¹⁶ The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

Isaiah 13:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. ¹⁰ For

the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine.

IV. The Sign Of The Son of Man (**Matt. 24:30, Mark 13:26, Luke 21:27-28**)

Matthew 24:30 (NKJV) 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.

Mark 13:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Luke 21:27-28 (NKJV) ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, **look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.** (This is speaking specifically about the Jews)

Jesus left in the clouds and it was witnessed by his disciples and he will return in the clouds.

Acts 1:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Let us remember what John told us in Revelation 1:7

Revelation 1:7 (NKJV) 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. Even so, Amen.

V. The Gathering of The Elect (**Matt. 24:31, Mark 13:27**)

Matthew 24:31 (NKJV) 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.

Mark 13:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ And then He will send His angels, and **gather together His elect** from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

In this verse we find the word “**elect**” being used so we must determine who this verse is talking about. Scripture shows that the “**elect**” are the Jewish believers. The angels will gather the “**elect**” from heaven and earth right before the “Second Coming”. Let’s look at some verses that confirm our conclusions.

If you recall from our previous studies from (**Matt. 24:16-19 and Mark 13:14-17**) there is a Jewish remnant that escaped to the mountains during the destruction of Jerusalem during its destruction in 70 A.D. and this scene will be repeated again, during the second half of the tribulation, before the return of Christ.

Genesis 17:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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." (**Will be covered in more detail later**)

Deuteronomy 30:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ "Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you, ² and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, ³ that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴ If *any* of you are driven out to the farthest *parts* under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. (**Will be covered in more detail later**)

Isaiah 65:9 (NKJV) ⁹ I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, And from Judah an heir of My mountains; **My elect** shall inherit it, And My servants shall dwell there. (**Ref.**)

Isaiah 27:12-13 (NKJV) ¹² And it shall come to pass in that day *That* the LORD will thresh, From the channel of the River to the Brook of Egypt; And you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. ¹³ So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, And shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem. (**Ref.**)

VI. The Fig Tree (**Matt. 24:32-33; Mark 13:28-29; Luke 21:29-31**)

Matthew 24:32-33 (NKJV) 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!

Mark 13:28-29 (NKJV) ²⁸ "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. ²⁹ **So you also, when you see these things happening**, know that it is near--at the doors!

Luke 21:29-31 (NKJV) ²⁹ Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. ³¹ So you also, **when you see these things happening**, know that the kingdom of God is near.

Some interpreters say the fig tree represents Israel and the budding of the fig tree is when Israel became a state in 1948. I do not adhere to this interpretation.

“Parables had a two-fold purpose in Jesus' ministry. When unexplained, they concealed truth; when explained, they revealed truth. When Jesus gave a parable to the multitudes or to the unbelieving religious leaders without also giving an explanation, it was a riddle to them. When He gave a parable to His disciples and explained it, it was a vivid illustration that made a truth clear and understandable.

When the disciples asked Jesus, "Why do You speak to them [the multitudes] in parables?" He replied, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.... Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand" (**Matt. 13:10-11, 13**). Then He said to the disciples, "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear," and He proceeded to tell them the meaning of the parable of the sower (**vv. 16-23**).

In light of the fact that Jesus' parables were given for the sake of helping the disciples understand His teaching, it is evident that He told **the parable from the fig tree** to give them further light about His second coming.”¹

VII. This Generation (Matt. 24:34-35; Mark13:30-31; Luke 21:32-33)

Matthew 24:34-35 (NKJV) ³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Mark 13:30-31 (NKJV) ³⁰ Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Luke 21:32-33 (NKJV) ³² Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all things take place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

¹ MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Matthew 24-28. (Pg.60-61)

When the words “**this generation**” are used they cannot represent the disciples generation because Jesus never returned when Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. Also they could not be talking about us, “The Church” because we will be gone in the rapture. These words are talking about the generation that is alive at the second coming of the Lord which will include both Jews and Gentiles.

First of all, **chapters 2-3** of Revelation speak of the church on earth, and **chapters 4-5** speak of the church in heaven. But beginning with **chapter 6**, which introduces the Tribulation, there is no further mention of the church until **chapter 18**.²

VIII. The Hour That No One Knows (Matt. 24:36; Mark 13:32)

Matthew 24:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Mark 13:32 (NKJV) ³² "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

“In response to the disciples' question, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (**24:3**), Jesus told them of the birth pains that would immediately precede His coming (**vv. 4-28**), of the abomination of desolation (**v. 15**), which would precipitate those signs, and of the supreme sign of His own appearing on the clouds of heaven (**v. 30**). Now He gives them a partial answer to the "when" part of the question.

Although there will be observable, worldwide, and unmistakable indications of His coming just before it occurs, the exact time will not be revealed in advance. **Of that day and hour no one knows**, Jesus declared categorically. The signs He had just been describing will be conclusive proof that His arrival is very near. Once they have begun, the *general* time period of His return will be known, because one of the key purposes of the signs will be to make it known. But even during those sign-days the precise **day and hour** of Jesus' appearing will not be known, a truth He reiterates several times in this Olivet discourse (**see 24:42, 44, 50; 25:13**).

As has been noted, the books of Daniel and Revelation both make clear that the full Tribulation will last seven years and that the second part of it, the Great Tribulation, will last three and a half years (**Dan. 7:25; 9:27; 12:7; Rev. 11:2-3; 12:14; 13:5**). Then, "immediately after the tribulation of those days," Jesus said, "the Son of Man [will come] on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory" (**Matt. 24:29-30**). Precisely *how* is not immediately said.”³

² MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Matthew 24-28. (Pg. 65)

³ MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Matthew 24-28. (Pg. 70)

IX. Like The Days Of Noah (Matt. 24:37-42; Luke 17:26-32)

Matthew 24:37-42 (NKJV) 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. 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.

Luke 17:26-32 (NKJV) ²⁶ **And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:** ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and **the flood came and destroyed them all.** ²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed *them* all. ³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹ In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods *are* in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. ³² Remember Lot's wife.

Jesus is using a comparison between the flood in Noah's days to his (2nd coming). It's incredible to imagine that people will be "living it up" and refusing to repent in the midst of judgment during this horrible time. The people living at that time will not be expecting his coming and will not care about it. They will try to brush it aside. There will be all kind of explanations as to what is going on especially from the scientific community.

The love of God will be reaching out to people, but sinful, materialistic, hypocritical, godless mankind is willfully blind to God's truth, no matter how compelling that truth may be. And when God's truth exposes their wickedness, they make every effort to oppose and condemn it. During the time of the Tribulation, mankind will be hardened to sin and ungodliness as never before in history.

2 Timothy 3:13 (NKJV) ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way.

2 Peter 2:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; ⁵ and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, **a preacher of righteousness**, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

“Only after it was too late did the people of that generation **understand** their tragic destiny. That is precisely the attitude and response that will prevail before **the coming of the Son of man**. The perilous signs, the abomination of desolation, the disruption of the heavenly bodies, and the preaching of God's witnesses during the Tribulation will have no effect on the majority of men. They will see God's signs but attribute them to natural causes or to supernatural causes apart from God. They will hear His Word, in one instance supernaturally preached worldwide by an angel (**Rev. 15:6-7**), but they will respond with disdain or indifference. They will heed neither warnings nor appeals from God up until the very moment **the Son of Man** appears to confront them in righteous judgment.”⁴

According to (**Vrs. 40**) someone is taken, but whom? It states that two men are in the field and one is taken. There are two women grinding and one is taken. At first sight, one might be under the impression that the person being taken is going to be with Christ, but if we examine it a little closer we see that the church is gone and if we compare it to the flood as Christ did we see that they were taken in a flood of judgment, the one left is the one who will enter the millennial kingdom of Christ. When the Lord comes the second time, the ungodly will be swept away, having forever lost the opportunity to be saved.

X. As A Thief (Matthew 24:43-44, Mark 13:33, Luke 12:35-40)

Matthew 24:43-44 (NKJV) 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.**

Mark 13:32-37 (NKJV) ³² "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. ³⁴ *It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. ³⁵ **Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--**in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- ³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

Luke 12:35-40 (NKJV) ³⁵ "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; ³⁶ and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. ³⁷ Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them. ³⁸

⁴ MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Matthew 24-28. (Pg. 74-75)

And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ **Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."**

Matthew 25:1-13(TNIV) ¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ⁹“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹“Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ ¹²“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ ¹³“**Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6(NKJV) ¹But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ²For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord **so comes as a thief in the night.** ³For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

2 Peter 3:8-10(TNIV) ⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰**But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.** The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.[£]

Revelation 3:3(TNIV) ³Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, **I will come like a thief**, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

Revelation 16:15(TNIV) ¹⁵“Look, **I come like a thief** ! Blessed are those who stay awake and keep their clothes on, so that they may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.”

XI. The Faithful And Wise Servant (Matthew 24:45-51)

Matthew 24:45-51 (NKJV) ⁴⁵ "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? ⁴⁶ Blessed *is* that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. ⁴⁷ Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. ⁴⁸ But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' ⁴⁹ and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, ⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him* and at an hour that he is not aware of, ⁵¹ and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

These are things that will be happening during the end times. Anyone who does not accept Christ during the Tribulation will die and be taken to await final judgment.