

Chapter Twelve

The Olivet Discourse-Part Two

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

When Jesus answers the disciples questions He answers them in reverse order. First He answers the “what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?”, then he answers the “when”.

I believe that the birth pains chapter 24 mentions, have been going on since the beginning, however slightly. They have been increasing in intensity up to this point and will continue to increase. There is no time limit to the birth pains except what God has purposed in His plans.

I. THE BEGINNING OF BIRTH PAINS (What? Part 1)... (Mt.24:4-14, Mark 13:5-13, Luke 21:8-23)

A. Deceivers’ and false Christ’s - Mt. 24:4-5, Mark 13: 5-6, Luke 21: 8 (Rev.6:1-2)

Matthew 24:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Mark 13:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁶ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He*,' and will deceive many.

Luke 21:8 (NKJV) ⁸ And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He*,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.

Revelation 6:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." ² And I looked, and behold, **a white horse**. He who sat on it **had a bow**; and a **crown was given to him**, and he went out **conquering and to conquer**.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV) ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; **for *that Day* will not come unless the falling away comes first**, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, **(Ref.)**

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NKJV) ⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, **with all power, signs, and lying wonders**, ¹⁰ and with **all unrighteous**

deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. **(Ref.)**

2 Timothy 4:3-5 (NKJV) ³ For the time will come when they **will not endure sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. **(Ref.)**

That the rider **had a bow** but no arrows, and that he was honored with **a crown that was freely given to him**, reveals that his **conquering** will involve bloodless victories. His crown (*stephanos*) is a winner's crown. He is no real king and has no real monarch's crown (*diadēma*), but has won a crown from the world for his triumphant achievements leading to world peace. He will not **conquer** by military force, but by cunning and deceit (cf. 2 Thess. 2:9-11). His conquest will be a "cold war" victory, a peace won by agreement, not conflict (Dan. 9:24-27). Even as the final doom of the world approaches, Antichrist will promise a golden age of peace and prosperity. In gratitude, the world will honor him and elevate him to the position of supreme leadership. But both the accolades and the peace will be short-lived.¹

B. Wars and rumors of wars - Mt. 24:6-7a, Mark 13:7-8a, Luke 21:9-10, (Rev. 6:3-4)

Matthew 24:6-7a (NKJV) ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

Mark 13:7-8a (NKJV) ⁷ But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for *such things* must happen, but the end *is* not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

Luke 21:9-10 (NKJV) ⁹ But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end *will not come* immediately." ¹⁰ Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

Revelation 6:3-4 (NKJV) ³ When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁴ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And **it was**

¹ MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Revelation 1-11.

granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and **there was given to him a great sword**.

John also noted that **a great sword was given to the rider**. *Machaira* (**sword**) refers to the short, stabbing sword a Roman soldier carried into battle. It was also a weapon used by assassins. The vision depicts a **great** sword to describe the extent of the war. Antichrist's false peace, then, will dissolve in a maelstrom of battle, assassination, rebellion, revolt, and massacre.²

C. Famines, pestilences – **Mt. 24:7b, Mark 13:8b, Luke 21:11a, (Rev. 6:5-6)**

Matthew 24:7b (NKJV) ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

Mark 13:8b (NKJV) ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of sorrows.

Luke 21:11a (NKJV) ¹¹ And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

Revelation 6:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it **had a pair of scales in his hand**. ⁶ And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "**A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.**"

Famine is a logical consequence of worldwide war as food supplies are destroyed and those involved in food production are killed. Jesus also predicted this future famine in Matthew 24:7: "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes." God has used famine as a means of judgment in the past (e.g., Lev. 26:26; Deut. 32:24; 2 Kings 8:1; Ps. 105:16; Isa. 3:1; Jer. 16:4; Ezek. 4:16-17; 5:16; 14:13; Hag. 1:11), but this will be the most devastating famine in all of human history.³

The **pair of scales** the rider carried **in his hand** pictures the rationing that will result from the famine. As in the United States during the Depression, in Europe in the aftermath of World War II, and today in many war-torn third-world nations, there will be starving people standing in food lines. But they will not find enough food to live on, as the fourth seal in John's vision reveals. Following the appearance of the black horse and its rider, John **heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures**. Since the **four living creatures** were stationed around the throne (4:6), this is likely the voice of God, the One sitting on the throne (4:2-3). God also

² MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Revelation 1-11.

³ MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Revelation 1-11.

speaks in connection with the fifth seal (6:11). He speaks here as a reminder that the famine is a direct judgment from Him.

God's pronouncements reveal how devastating the famine conditions will be. **A quart of wheat** is barely enough to sustain one person for one day, while a denarius represents one day's wages for an average worker. People's labor will barely provide enough food for themselves and not enough to feed their families. Those with families will be able to purchase **three quarts of barley for a denarius**. That will provide food for their families, but barley was low in nutritional value and commonly fed to livestock. Thus, a person's wages will barely feed three people with low quality food. Both of those scenarios represent starvation wages, and signify severe famine conditions.⁴

D. Famines and earthquakes in different places - Mt 24:7- 8, Mark 13:8b, Luke 21:11b, (Rev. 6:7-8)

Matthew 24:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ **All these are the beginning of sorrows.**

Mark 13:8b (NKJV) ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. **These are the beginnings of sorrows.**

Luke 21:11b (NKJV) ¹¹ And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

Revelation 6:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁸ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the **name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him**. And **power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.**

Isaiah 19:2 (NKJV) ² "I will set Egyptians against Egyptians; Everyone will fight against his brother, And everyone against his neighbor, City against city, kingdom against kingdom. **(Ref. – nation against nation)**

2 Chronicles 15:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ And in those times *there was* no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil *was* on all the inhabitants of the

⁴ MacArthur New Testament Commentary, The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Revelation 1-11.

lands. ⁶ So nation was destroyed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every adversity. **(Ref. – nation against nation)**

E. Severe persecution by the nations - Mt. 24:9-13, Mark 13:9-13, Luke 21:12-19, (Rev. 6:9-11)

Matthew 24:9-13 (NKJV) ⁹ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. **(Some scholars believe this is the persecution of Tribulation saints)**

Mark 13:9,11-13 (NKJV) ⁹ But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. ¹¹ But when they arrest *you* and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. ¹³ And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. **(Some scholars believe this is the persecution of Tribulation saints)**

Luke 21:12-19 (NKJV) ¹² **But before all these things**, they will lay their hands on you and persecute *you*, delivering *you* up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. ¹³ But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. ¹⁴ Therefore settle *it* in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put *some* of you to death. ¹⁷ And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head shall be lost. ¹⁹ By your patience possess your souls. **(Same as above)**

Revelation 6:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed.

Acts 5:40-41 (NKJV) ⁴⁰ And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ So they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. (Ref.)**

Acts 7:57-59 (NKJV) ⁵⁷ Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; ⁵⁸ and they cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." **(Ref.)**

Acts 8:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ Now Saul was consenting to his death. **At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria,** except the apostles. ² And devout men carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made great lamentation over him. ³ As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing *them* to prison. **(Ref.)**

Revelation 12:13, 17 (NKJV) ¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. **(Ref. - Tribulation)**

Revelation 13:7, 15 (NKJV) ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ¹⁵ He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. **(Ref. - Tribulation)**

Revelation 17:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶ **I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.** And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. **(Ref. - Tribulation)**

Matthew 10:17-23 (NKJV) ¹⁷ But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who

speaks in you. ²¹ Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. ²² And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. (**Tribulation period**)

Note: We will cover (**Rev. 6**) in more detail in chapter fifteen since our main objective in these chapters is (**Matthew 24 and 25**).

F. The preaching of the gospel... **Mt 24:14, Mark 13:10**

Matthew 24:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Mark 13:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

1. Preached to the whole world – This commission was originally given to Jesus' disciples.

Colossians 1:5-6,19-23 (NKJV) ⁵ because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from **the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven**, of which I, Paul, became a minister. (**Partial fulfillment and complete fulfillment in the future**)

2. Then **the end** will come.

a) The second part to the disciple's original question was "what will be the sign of your coming and of **the end of the age**?"

b) I believe the end of the age is up to the point of Jesus' second coming and establishing His millennial reign.

Jesus not only gave us an outline of the signs that would lead up to “**the end of the age**” He also gave us an outline of the signs that will be present before his second coming and the establishing of His millennial kingdom.

II. THE CONTINUATION OF BIRTH PAINS (What? Part 2)... (MT. 24:15-35, Mark 13:14-18)

A. Abomination that causes desolation - Mt. 24:15, Mark 13:14

Matthew 24:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the '*abomination of desolation,*' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

Mark 13:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ "So when you see the '*abomination of desolation,*' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

- 1. You will be able to see the “**abomination that causes desolation**” standing in the Holy Place.**
- 2. Spoken through the Prophet Daniel.**
- 3. We are to understand.**

Jesus did not explain the “**abomination that causes desolation**” but he directed us to the book of Daniel. Jesus gave validity to the book of Daniel. Jesus (as God) revealed it to Daniel through an angel (Gabriel). For us to fully understand this “**abomination**” we must go to the book of Daniel.

I would like to say at this moment, that I personally believe that we the Church, those who have accepted Christ as their personal savior will not be here to witness this moment in prophetic history, we will be raptured, more on this later. **We will cover the book of Daniel at a later date, for now we will continue with the book of Matthew.**