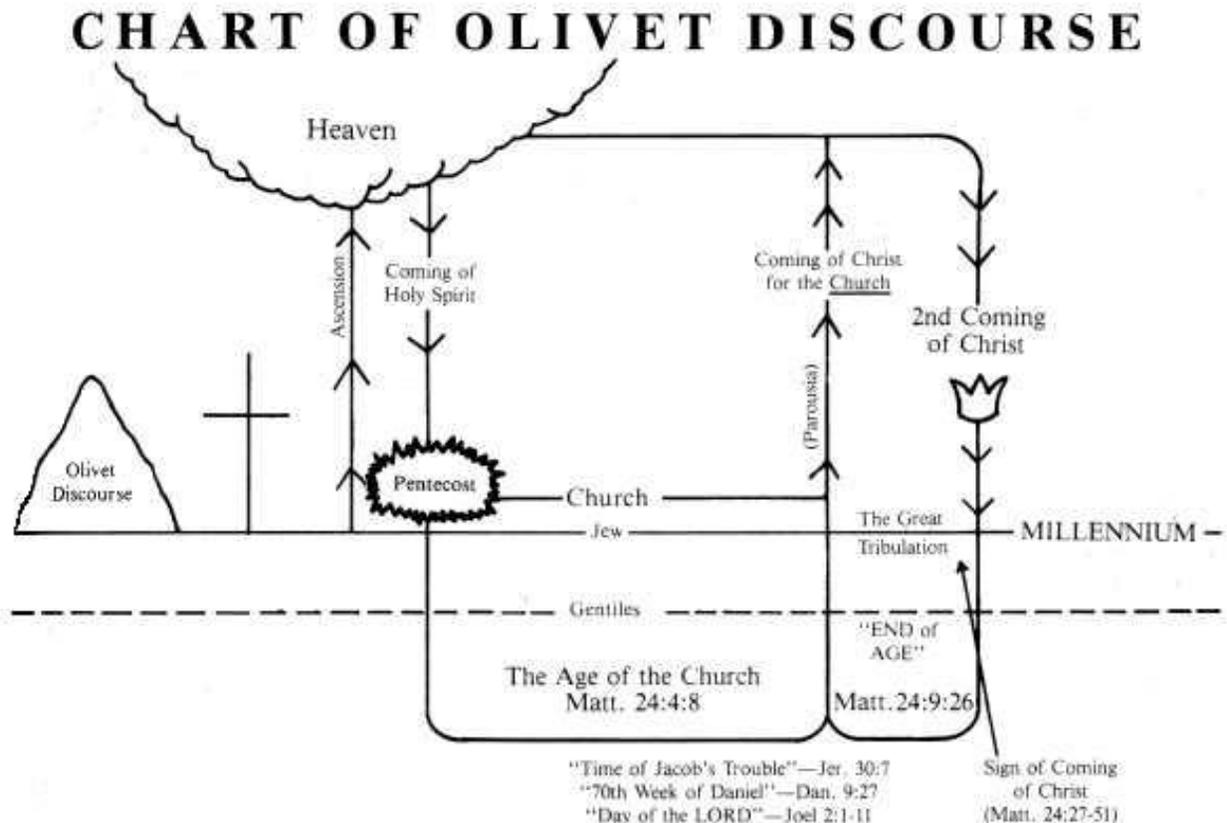


MATTHEW 24:1-14 – Jesus’ Olivet Discourse – When will these things be? What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?

3/7/26 Sat. Morn. Prayer - <https://www.ptwente.com> (20211221 Mat_24_1-14) ptwente@gmail.com 714 425 9221

(Mat 24 1-14) [1] Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. [2] And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." [3] Now as He sat 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?" [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. [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. [8] All these are the beginning of sorrows. [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. [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.

A chart of the Olivet Discourse from J. Vernon McGee’s commentary is shown below:



Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple

Mat 24:1-2 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. [2] And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

- Mark tells us they were remarking at the great stones. Today on the Temple Mount that Herod built, you can see stones that are eight feet thick, five feet high, forty-five feet long. Some of them weighing up to a hundred and sixty-five tons. Jesus made a remarkable prediction.
- **Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.** What an amazing prediction! The disciples must have had a tough time actually conceiving of such a thing, these huge stones being thrown down! Yet, forty years later, Titus came in with the Roman troops and they destroyed the temple. How inconceivable this must have seemed to His disciples! What a predicting prophecy, which will come true in about 40 years!

Signs of the End of the Age

Mat 24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be?" (the answer to this question is recorded in *Luke 21:20-24*) And what will be the sign of Your coming, and (even) of the end of the age?"

- **He sat upon the Mount of Olives, which has a magnificent view of the wall of Jerusalem and the whole Temple Mount.**
- **The disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be?"** The "these things" being the destruction of the temple that He had just prophesied. When is it going to happen? When is the temple going to be destroyed?
- **And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"** It is interesting that they are asking concerning the sign of His coming. At this point, they were really believing that the kingdom was still going to be immediately set up. So, the idea of Your coming, that is Your coming into Your kingdom, **The end of the age is the end of the world governments.** We are living in what the Bible terms the "time of the Gentiles."
- **They are asking Jesus the signs of His coming; the end of the age; and for the time of the destruction of the temple.** Therefore, in the intervening discourse by Jesus, which makes it difficult to completely understand, you have intertwined here prophecies of the events that will precede the destruction of the temple, along with prophecies that will be the signs of His coming and the end of the age!
- **So, first, "When shall these things be?"—when one stone would not be left upon another? Second, "What shall be the sign of Your coming?"—The answer to this question is found in verses (Mat 24:23-51); and third, "What shall be the sign? ... of the end of the world, the completion of the age?"** The answer to this question is found in verses (Mat 24:9-22). The Lord Jesus is going to answer these three questions. We refer to His answers the Olivet Discourse because it took place on the Mount of Olives.

Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

- **Verses 4-8 are signs and warnings for those who live in a time leading up to the tribulation.**
- **Deception is something that Jesus is quite concerned with.** It is characteristic of this entire age. People being deceived by men who would offer themselves as the Messiah, who would declare themselves to be the saviors of the world. The Lord gives this word of caution because there will be much deception, especially during the Tribulation period when the Antichrist will appear.

Mat 24:5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

- **In verse eleven, many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many.** Then in verse twenty-four, *For there shall arise false Messiahs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*
- **In light of this warning of Jesus concerning the deception, it has to do basically with the coming of the antichrist and the false prophet** as is predicted in the book of Revelation chapter thirteen, and in Second Thessalonians chapter two. As we read these prophecies, (*Rev 13:14*) *And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.* Jesus said, Beware, let no man deceive you. He talks about the signs and wonders that they will be showing that if possible, they would deceive the very elect, and here he is able to deceive by the miracles and the powers that he is doing.
- **In (2Th 2:9-12) 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.**

- **Jesus warns three times concerning this very important sign.** The man who will come on the scene claiming to be Christ and having, it would appear, supernatural powers, the ability to do marvelous, wondrous feats that will astound the people and by those, deceive the people. And so that was a continued warning by Jesus through the message.

Mat 24:6 *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.*

- **They, of course, did have the wars, the rumors of wars.** The Roman troops came. They besieged Jerusalem. They destroyed Jerusalem, but Jesus said, the end is not yet. "What will be the time of the end?" is one of the questions. This is not the end. This is the destruction of Jerusalem and all but not the end.
- **But the end is not yet.** False prophets, as well as wars and rumors of wars, characterize the whole of the present age, but will escalate toward the end. (2Ti 3:13) *But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

Mat 24:7 *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

- **Famines, pestilences, earthquakes.** We see pictures and hear stories of famines through Africa. Relief programs sending relief and we have just experienced that tragedy in the area of Africa where we sent in our troops to try to somehow help these people and supply them with food, but how the whole thing just fell apart and now we are moving out, and the problem is the same as it was before we entered.
- **It is famines, pestilences,** the world has made tremendous advancements in medical science. We have miracle drugs, it is marvelous how the scientists have been able to develop so many marvelous drugs and ways by which we can prevent certain, what used to be, deadly plagues from destroying vast amounts of people.
- **Earthquakes in various places!** In California, earthquakes have been occurring throughout our lifetime. It seems like their frequency, worldwide, is increasing, that there is a general adjustment of the plates or whatever and we are finding more faults all the time. Earthquakes in various places. Also, tornadoes seem to be increasing.
- **This appears to be referring to these days** in which we are living. It is interesting how that those of the present world view are trying to blame fundamental Christians for the antagonisms and the problems in our society..

Mat 24:8 *All these are the beginning of sorrows (birth pangs).*

- **Sorrows.** The word means "birth pangs." Two things are characterized in birth pangs. Those are the frequency, which decreases in intervals between contractions and the intensity of the contractions, which increases! Famines, earthquakes, and conflicts have always characterized life in a fallen world; but by calling these things "the beginning" of labor pains, Jesus indicated that things will get notably and remarkably worse at the end of the era as these unique tribulations, signal the coming of Messiah to judge sinful humanity and set up His millennial kingdom.

The Beginning Of The Tribulation With Its Signs

Mat 24:9 *"Then they will deliver you (who is the "you"? It is Israel and tribulation saints) up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.*

- **Now, in verses 9-14, the Lord begins to speak of the first three and one-half years of the time of tribulation.** You and I are living in the "age of the church" or the "age of the Holy Spirit," as some people like to speak of it. The Bible divides the world today into three groups of people: the Jews, the Gentiles, and the church of God (1Co 10:32). In this age God is calling out a people to His name from both Jews and Gentiles to compose the third group, the church. It is this third group which will be taken out of the world at the time of the Rapture. Then the seven year Tribulation Period will begin. I believe that this verse speaks of this beginning.
- **The Bible supports the time of the Rapture prior the tribulation period.** (Known as the "pre-tribulation position. Three reasons for this position, include:
 - **First, the New Testament teaches for us as Christians is that we are not appointed for God's wrath.** (1Th 5:9) *For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - **Secondly the Rapture of the church is intended to be a comfort,** concerning Christians. (1Th 4:17-18) *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. [18] Therefore comfort one another with these words.*
 - **Thirdly is the imminence! That is the idea that the Rapture could occur anytime.** We told in the Scriptures to "watch and be ready!" (1Th 5:6) *Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.* Only the Pre-Trib position allows us to look at the Rapture of how it is described in the Scriptures as something that could happen at any time. Neither the Mid-Trib nor the Post-Trib position could meet this requirement.

Mat 24:10 *And then many will be offended (caused to stumble), will betray one another, and will hate one another.*

- **We see there many being offended, betraying one another, and hating one,** coming to pass literally. The pillaging, the destruction, the killing, the gangs, all of the things that were taking place in Jerusalem when it was under siege. According to Josephus, more Jews were killed by the Jews themselves than were killed by the Roman troops!

- *Many will be offended*, "caused to stumble." This suggests that professing believers fall away and even turn against "one another" in shocking acts of spiritual treachery. Those who fall away in such a manner give evidence that they never were true believers.

Mat 24:11 *Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many* (worldwide spiritual deception).

Mat 24:12 *And because lawlessness will abound* (be multiplied), *the love* (agape form used) *of many will grow* (passive) *cold*.

- **A world that is abounding in iniquity.** Although we are hoping and praying for a worldwide revival. There is no assurance in the Scriptures that this will occur in the church. At the time of the coming of Christ, iniquity will be abounding on the earth, just as it was in the times of Noah. When the body politic gets so weak that it cannot purge the poisons from its system, the body is ready to die. *Lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.* How much lawlessness is now occurring throughout the world?
- **Sin has never been more available than it is now.** All types of perverted sin is being accepted in our society today. First, the homosexuals and the lesbians sought and have received acceptance by the general society. The next who are attempting now for general acceptance are the pedophiles.
- **The love (agape) of many will grow (passive) cold.** We need to be reminded and be on guard today, as we see lawlessness being multiplied, that our love does not grow cold! Note it is in the passive tense. It can happen to us without our causing our love to grow cold! May we be careful not to look at the lost, who are given over to lawlessness and think, let them continue in their wickedness and go to hell. They deserve it! May we remember to ask the Lord to fill us with His Holy Spirit daily!

Mat 24:13 *But he* (tribulation saints) *who endures to the end* (of the tribulation period) *shall be saved*.

- **We are to endure to the end!** One may ask, but what about those that do not endure to the end? There is no promise for them. There is only a promise for the one who will endure to the end!
- **The people who persevere are the same ones who are saved, not the ones whose love grows cold.** This fact does not suggest that a person's perseverance secures salvation. Scripture teaches precisely the opposite. God, as part of His saving work, secures a believer's perseverance. True believers "are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation." The guarantee of one's perseverance is built into the new covenant promise.

Mat 24:14 *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.*

- **What will be the time or signs of the end of the world?** One of them will be the gospel will be preached as a witness unto all nations. God is fair and God will give every man an opportunity and chance to repent, (**2Pe 3:9**) *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.* The message of the kingdom will be preached to all nations.
- **It's told in (Rev 14:6-7)** *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—[7] saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."* Angels proclaiming the Gospel in all the world, flying through the midst of heaven and challenging men to fear God, give glory to God, worship Him, the One who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and the fountains of water. No one is going to say, "I didn't hear!" We see the everlasting Gospel will be preached to all of the world as a witness by the angels, and then shall the end come. That is, it.

Pray Today: We thank the *LORD* for a continuing great worldwide harvest! For continuing protection and security of all believers! For a great revival in the Church! For many to come to Jesus! *President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; J.D & Usha Vance;* Senate majority leader *John Thune;* Speaker of the House *Mike Johnson;* We **thank You** for the many believers in our current leadership! We pray for more!

ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED? (AT THE CROSS) *Isaac Watt 1707 Grace Comm (3:51)*

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die! Would He devote that sacred head for such a worm such as I?

Refrain: At the cross, at the cross Where I first saw the light, And the burden of my heart rolled away, It was there by faith I received my sight, And now I am happy all the day!

Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree! (refrain)

Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in, when Christ, the Mighty Maker, died for man the creature's sin. (refrain)

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe. Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do. (refrain)