

## **"The Olivet Discourse"**

### **Matthew 24-25**

#### **Part 4**

**Introduction:** Tonight as we come back to our study of the Olivet Discourse we have been given a wonderful opportunity of looking into the very Words of Jesus Christ and His prophetic teaching.

Now, we have looked at placement of Matthew 24-25 as it relates to God's timetable. These chapters cover the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel which is also known as the Great Tribulation. The events of these chapters will unfold over a 7 year period for that is the time span of the Great Tribulation.

I want to start tonight by giving you an outline of these 2 chapters. There are 3 parts which we will work our way through.

#### **I. Jesus' Answer to the Disciple's Questions**

**Matthew 24:4-44**

#### **II. Jesus' Teaching in Parables**

- 1. The Parable of the Wise Servant (Matthew 24:45-51)**
- 2. The Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)**
- 3. The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)**

#### **III. Jesus Teaching on His Appearing and His Judgment.**

**Matthew 25:31-46**

Now we are ready to get into the prophetic teaching of our Lord.

## I. Jesus' Answer to the Disciple's Questions

### Matthew 24:4-44

#### Part 1

Now as we start into this first section of Jesus' teaching there is something very important which we need to see here which will correct much false teaching on this passage. You see there are many people who teach that the events which we are about to look at have already been fulfilled. They teach that what we are about to step into is a description of what led up to the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. But there is a verse here which helps us to see that is not the case.

#### **Notice Matthew 24:8**

The word "sorrows" here is very important. It actually refers to the "pain of child birth". It is speaking of the birth pains which a woman experiences when she delivers a baby. Now I want you to think with me for a moment. When do birth pains come? Not at the time of conception. Not in the middle of the pregnancy. Birth pains come at the end of the pregnancy which helps the mom to know the baby is about to be born.

Therefore, the events which we are about to look at are the birth pains which will come at the "end of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel". They are called "birth pains" because the Son of God is coming. Remember the questions the disciples asked?

#### **Matthew 24:3**

*<sup>3</sup> And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world [age]?*

They asked Jesus when the "end of the age" would come.

Let me show you something which we will look at closer when we get there.

### **Matthew 24:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

<sup>14</sup> *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

What is the "end" which Jesus refers to here? It is the "end of the age" which His disciples asked about. The point I want you to see is that these events have not been fulfilled. The "birth pains" come at the "end" not in the beginning or the middle of a pregnancy. But let me also say that birth pains start out slowly and then as the birth draws closer that happen more frequently and with greater intensity. It will be the same way during the Great Tribulation period. The birth pains will start out slowly but as the 7 year period progresses they will become more frequent and they will gain intensity.

As we go through this study we will eventually look at the Judgments of the book of Revelation. There are 3 series of Judgments. The Seals, the Trumpets, and the Vials and each one grows with intensity and as they progress there is less time between them.

### **Revelation 1:1**

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:*

The phrase "**must shortly come to pass**" means that when the Judgments start they will fall like hammer blows meaning they will fall in rapid succession. But it all starts out very slowly.

### **A. The Birth Pains**

As we start into the first section we can see several birth pains which Jesus refers which will happen in the Great Tribulation. Now let me also say that the closer we get to the end of the Church Age we also will begin to see the signs of these birth pains beginning but not to the severity which they will happen in the Great Tribulation period.

#### **1. Great Deception**

##### **Notice Matthew 24:4**

Before I get into the deception spoken of here let me just comment on something. Many people have a problem with the wording of this verse. It appears as though His disciples will be the ones who must be careful. He says, "Let no man deceive YOU." So people take those words and say that this could not be in the future because He was speaking to the disciples who were with Him.

Let me just say that prophecy is often worded this way. But the words are meant to speak to those who will exist during the Great Tribulation and in this case especially to the Jews of the Great Tribulation.

Let me show you another prophecy which was written 700 years before the death of Jesus.

##### **Isaiah 53:4**

<sup>4</sup> *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

Isaiah uses the word "we" and we know that Isaiah was not at the cross when Jesus died. This was a prophecy written about how Israel would view Jesus suffering on the cross. It pertained to those who were at the cross the day Jesus was crucified.

It is the same way with Matthew 24. It looks as though Jesus is directly addressing the disciples with the warning but it is prophecy and it is worded to speak directly to the Jews during the Great Tribulation period. Let us get back to the great deception.

In order to understand this great deception there is another passage which we need to consider.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:3-8**

*<sup>3</sup> Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

*<sup>4</sup> Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

*<sup>5</sup> Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?*

*<sup>6</sup> And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

*<sup>7</sup> For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [hinders] will let [hinder], until he be taken out of the way.*

<sup>8</sup> And **then** shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

In verse 7 we are told that there is a Restrainer who is holding back the forces of evil. That Restrainer is the Holy Spirit and when the Rapture of the church takes place the restraining power of the Spirit will be taken away and all hell will break loose on the earth.

Evil in our day is nothing compared to what it will be like during the Great Tribulation. Society will begin to fall apart at a much more rapid pace than what we see today. Restraints will be lifted from the demonic world and therefore society will be driven by demonic forces. During this time many will be searching for answers and that is why Jesus warned of deception. People will be looking for answers and Satan will plant false teachers to lead people down a path of destruction.

### **Matthew 24:12a**

<sup>12</sup> And because iniquity shall abound,

Here Jesus says that iniquity shall abound. Life during those 7 years will be far worse than we can begin to imagine.

### **Notice Matthew 24:5**

Here we see that MANY will come in the name of Christ and they will claim to be the Messiah. Let us understand that Satan will pull out all stops at this time. He will plant false Messiah's everywhere he can. We are also told here in this verse that MANY will be deceived.

Let me tell you why so many will be deceived in those days.

1. The Jewish people did not believe that Jesus was their Messiah. They are still looking for their Messiah. Let me show you an Old Testament prophecy which the Jews will cling to which speaks of Jesus Christ.

### **Isaiah 61:1-3**

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*

*<sup>2</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;*

*<sup>3</sup> To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*

The section I bolded was fulfilled in the first coming of Jesus. But many of the Jews missed the fulfillment of this. The section which is underlined is pointing to the Great Tribulation and the Kingdom Age.

Now during the Great Tribulation life will be so difficult for the Jewish people and they will be looking for the fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1-3. So when these false Messiahs come many will be quick to follow them.

### **Matthew 24:23-24**

*<sup>23</sup> Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*

<sup>24</sup> For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, **and shall shew great signs and wonders**; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Demonic activity will far exceed anything the world has ever known. Demons will empower many people and these people will be able to do supernatural wonders.

There is also another reason why so many will be deceived.

2. Those who have heard the Gospel before the Rapture and rejected it will be sent a strong delusion and they will believe the lies of the false Messiahs and the anti-christ.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**

<sup>9</sup> Even him [anti-christ], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

<sup>10</sup> And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

<sup>11</sup> **And for this cause** God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

<sup>12</sup> That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

All who reject the Gospel before the Rapture will go into the Great Tribulation and they will be sent a strong delusion from God and they will believe the lies of the anti-christ and also the lies of the other false Messiahs and false prophets.

So, many who will be deceived will be deceived because of the strong delusion which God sends to them. It will be impossible for the person who has rejected the Gospel on this side of the Rapture to be saved during the Great Tribulation period.

Now, we need to know that all of these false Messiahs will give way to the man of sin himself. That will be the anti-christ. He will be the King of deception. His entrance into Great Tribulation will be one of deception.

### **Revelation 6:1-2**

*And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.*

*<sup>2</sup> And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.*

Here in Revelation 6:2 we see a rider on a white horse. This is the anti-christ. This is the beginning of the Great Tribulation and what we find in this chapter will parallel with the birth pains in Matthew 24.

The picture which this verse paints of the anti-christ is very interesting.

#### **1. He is seen on a white horse and he has a crown.**

In John's day white horses were ridden by victorious army Generals. When they would go out to battle the people of the city would wait for the return of the soldiers of the city. When the General returned on a

white horse it was a sign of victory and the people of the city would love him and praise him for his accomplishments.

That is the very idea here in the introduction of the anti-christ on the white horse. When he steps forward in the beginning of the Great Tribulation he will be loved by the world.

**2. He has a bow but no arrows.**

This means he comes on the scene in a peaceful way. He will be a world ruler with the answers to the world's problems. He will also have a peace treaty for the nation of Israel. This however will be a false peace. We will see this as we go deeper into Matthew 24.

**3. He goes forth conquering.**

The anti-christ will conquer the entire world. His kingdom will encompass the world. But while the anti-christ does all of this in a peaceful way it is just a cover-up of his true nature. This is all a part of the deception which Jesus warned about.

**Conclusion:**

The first of the birth pains will be deception. Next week we will continue to look at the anti-christ and then move on to the other birth pains.