

"The Olivet Discourse"

Matthew 24-25

Part 14

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Olivet Discourse we looked at one verse which was a key verse in understanding the chronology of Jesus teaching here in Matthew 24.

Notice Matthew 24:15

This was the verse we looked at and it is a verse that refers to the anti-christ and how he will desecrate the Temple during the tribulation. The "abomination of desolation" is a reference to the time when the anti-christ will set himself up as God and demand the worship of the world.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

³ *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;*

⁴ *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.*

But it goes beyond the anti-christ setting himself up as God. There will also be an image of the anti-christ set up in the Temple for people to worship.

Revelation 13:11-15

¹¹ *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

¹² *And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

¹³ *And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,*

¹⁴ *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

¹⁵ *And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

All of this is the "abomination of desolation" which was spoken of by Daniel.

Now all of this happens at the midpoint of the tribulation.

Revelation 13:4

⁴ *And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

⁵ *And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.*

The 42 months spoken of here is $3\frac{1}{2}$ years which is the last half of the tribulation period.

Now there is something else I need to point out concerning this 42 month period. Daniel records something that we need to look at. The time period of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years or 42 months would be 1260 days based on the Jewish year of 360 days.

Now watch what Daniel says:

Daniel 12:11

¹¹ And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Here we see that Daniel tells us there will be 1290 days. That is 30 days more than the 42 months spoken of in Revelation. But that is not all.

Daniel 12:12

¹² Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

Here Daniel us the one who waits 1335 days will be blessed. This is now another 45 days. So we are now 75 days beyond the 42 months of the second half of the Great Tribulation. So what is the purpose of these 75 extended days?

Let me explain what this is all about. The Great Tribulation will end in 42 months from the midpoint which will be 1260 days after the "abomination of desolation". The first additional 30 days spoken of by

Daniel in 12:11 seems to be the time of judgment which is recorded in Matthew 25.

Matthew 25:31-34

³¹ When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

³² And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

³³ And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

³⁴ Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

The 30 seems to be for the judgment of the nations which will take place after the return of Jesus Christ to the earth. Now when Jesus returns to the earth there will be the battle of Armageddon and then the capture of Satan and then the judgment of the nations.

Revelation 19:17-20:3

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

¹ And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

It is after these events that the judgment of the nations will take place. But what about the other 45 days which Daniel speaks about? Let us look at the verse from Daniel one more time.

Daniel 12:12

¹² Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

We see this person is "blessed" who lives 75 days beyond the return of Jesus Christ. Therefore this extra 45 days must mark the beginning of

the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ. In other words this is the start of the Messianic Kingdom on this earth.

Now let us get back to our study in Matthew 24.

Now remember that at the midpoint of the tribulation the anti-christ will break the treaty he had made with Israel to be their "savior" and he will turn upon them. Jesus will now give to His disciples 3 warnings about what will happen after the treaty is broken.

1. Great Persecution

Notice Matthew 24:16-18

Now we looked at the persecution which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24:9-10.

Notice Matthew 24:9-10

These verses seem to be in direct reference to those who are believers during the tribulation. Jesus says they will be hated for His name's sake. Let us also remember that starting in 24:4 and going through 24:14 Jesus has given an overview of the tribulation.

Therefore what we read in 24:16-18 is also included in the persecution of verses 9-10.

But the focus of the persecution we are introduced to here in verses 16-22 seems to be directed at the nation of Israel. I say this because of 2 statements which Jesus makes in these verses.

- 1. They were to pray this did not happen on the Sabbath day.**

Notice Matthew 24:20

This tells us He is speaking directly to the people of Israel. The command to keep the Sabbath was given to Israel and not to the church.

2. He makes reference to the elect.

Notice Matthew 24:22

Now I know that the word "elect" is also used to refer to the church but the church will not be here. But the nation of Israel will be and they are also called the "elect".

Isaiah 45:4

⁴ For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

So the focus here is on the Jews of the tribulation but no doubt includes those who have become believers after the rapture.

Now when we read this we can see that at the midpoint of the tribulation when the treaty is broken life will become very difficult really quickly.

Notice Matthew 24:16-18 again.

Jesus tells them they are not to take time to gather any of their belongings but they are commanded to flee as quickly as they possibly can. When this happens there will be a mass exodus out of the city of Jerusalem. But many will never make it out.

Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸ And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

There is going to be a great slaughter of the Jewish people but it gets even worse.

I believe we can see this attack which is launch by Satan in Revelation 12.

Revelation 12:1-9, 13-17

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

² *And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.*

³ *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*

⁴ *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

⁵ *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

⁶ And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

⁷ And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

¹⁴ And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

¹⁵ And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

¹⁶ And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

¹⁷ And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Here we can see that Satan will attack the woman who is Israel and then he will attack the believers of the tribulation and this is all taking place in the 2nd half of the tribulation. But there is more.

Notice Matthew 24:19

Here is a special warning to those who are pregnant at that time or who have children. Now we would think it would be because of how difficult it would be for a pregnant woman to run or how difficult it would be to flee with a small child. But I believe there is another thought here. Let me show you a prophecy in Hosea that was fulfilled in the Old Testament but also was a prophecy for the tribulation.

Hosea 13:16

¹⁶ Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.

There was a partial fulfillment in 2 Kings 15:16 but this will also happen again during the Great Tribulation. Satan will launch an attack on the nation of Israel and his attack will know no limits.

This should be of no surprise to us for it we can see something very similar twice in the history of Israel. Remember the political orders given in the days when Moses was born? They were to kill all baby boys. Remember the political orders given by Herod when the Wise Men came looking for Jesus? They killed every child from the age of 2 years down to newborns.

Conclusion:

We must stop here for tonight but I just want to remind you that the Great Tribulation will be far worse than anything the world has ever witnessed.

Notice Matthew 24:21

Wednesday July 9, 2014

The Olivet Discourse

There were about 6 million Jews who died during the holocaust and Jesus tells us the *Great Tribulation* will be far worse.