

## "The Olivet Discourse"

### Matthew 24-25

#### Part 7

**Introduction:** In our study of the Olivet Discourse we have been looking at the answer Jesus gave to the questions which His disciples asked about His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

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

They asked 3 questions here:

1. When shall these things be?

This was a question about the destruction of the Temple.

2. What shall be the "sign" of thy coming?
3. What shall be the "sign" of the end of the age?

Jesus did not answer the first question but He did answer the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The disciples were looking for signs so in the verses which we have been looking at Jesus is telling them of the "sign" which will precede His coming.

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

Jesus refers to the "signs" as "sorrows" in our Bible but the word means "birth pains". He is telling His disciples of various birth pains which will happen before His return. Just as a woman has birth pains before she delivers a child so the world will experience birth pains before Jesus comes back and sets up His Kingdom.

Now, we must remember the Olivet Discourse pertains to the Great Tribulation. Therefore the "birth pains" which Jesus refers to here in this passage will all happen after the church has been raptured away. The disciples did not know this for they believed the Jesus was about to set up His Kingdom.

### **Luke 19:11**

*<sup>11</sup> And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.*

What they did not know was that when Jesus began to answer their questions in Matthew 24:4 was that He stepped over the Church Age and walked them into the Great Tribulation. He took them from the 69<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel to the 70<sup>th</sup> week but He did not tell them there would be a gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> and the 70<sup>th</sup> weeks which is the Church Age we live in now. This age will end with the rapture and then the 7 year tribulation will start. Those 7 years of tribulation is what Jesus is describing in Matthew 24.

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

### **Matthew 24:4-44**

#### **Part 4**

So far we have looked at several birth pains.

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

**Notice Matthew 24:4-5**

#### **2. Civil Unrest**

**Notice Matthew 24:6-7a**

### **3. Great Catastrophes**

#### **Notice Matthew 24:7b**

There were 3 catastrophes which Jesus spoke of here:

- a. Famines**
- b. Pestilences**
- c. Earthquakes**

Now as we looked at the first 3 birth pains we paralleled what Jesus said here with the Seal Judgments of Revelation 6 and we were able to see that they mirror each other. Therefore, what Jesus describes in Matthew 24 is the same thing which we find in Revelation 6.

But I believe it covers even more than just the Seal Judgments. I believe Jesus Words also take in the Trumpet and the Vial Judgments of the book of Revelation. Those judgments are also part of the birth pains which will occur before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus Christ. With that said I believe we need to look at the Trumpet and the Vial Judgments so that we might gain some deeper understanding as to what life will be like when during that 7 year period.

#### **A. The Trumpet Judgments**

##### **Trumpet #1**

#### **Notice Revelation 8:7a**

Here we can see that the 1<sup>st</sup> of the Trumpet Judgments will be hail, fire and blood which fall to the earth. This judgment tells us about the weather conditions of the Great Tribulation. When there is a hail storm that happens today it is always associated with severe weather. When this hail falls there will be severe weather conditions but it will

go beyond anything we have ever seen. With the hail will fall fire and there will be blood mingled with the hail and the fire.

Now the blood here is a mystery because we are not told where it comes from. Let me give you something to consider if I could about this event. Last week we looked at the earthquake in Revelation 6.

### **Revelation 6:12-14**

*<sup>12</sup> And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*

*<sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*

*<sup>14</sup> And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*

This earthquake will be so severe it will move every island and mountain out of its place. I also told you that it will cause volcanoes to erupt which will darken the sun and make the moon appear to be red like blood. Now I want you to think with me for a moment. That earthquake happens with the opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> seal. This 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet Judgment will come from the 7<sup>th</sup> seal.

### **Notice Revelation 8:1-6**

The 7<sup>th</sup> seal contains the 7 Trumpet Judgments.

I point this out because when the first Trumpet Judgment happens there is a really good possibility that the fire which falls with the hail is fire from the volcanic eruptions which happen with the 6<sup>th</sup> seal. Remember I told you that the judgments will overlap each other.

The fire may well be lava from the volcanoes. But the blood remains a mystery. I have heard many theories about the blood. Some people believe the blood will come from the death of 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the world's population and their blood will evaporate and fall as rain from the sky. The bottom line is we do not know.

But what we really need to pay attention to is the result of the hail, fire, and blood falling to the earth.

### **Notice Revelation 8:7b**

This will destroy 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all vegetation.

Now the problems which come with this will be devastating. We have all seen the smoke from a grass fire or a brush fire and it can fill the air for quite some time. But consider the smoke when 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all vegetation burns up. I am sure that many will die from respiratory problems. Then along with this there are famines which are happening so when 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the vegetation burns up many of the crops which are growing will also be destroyed. This will add to the lack of food.

### **Trumpet #2**

### **Notice Revelation 8:8-9**

The 1<sup>st</sup> trumpet destroyed 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of vegetation this trumpet destroys 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of life in the oceans. This is will no doubt be a meteor or an asteroid which will come from outer space and when it passes through the atmosphere it will ignite and will be a huge ball of fire. But the size of this thing will be far greater than we can imagine. It will be about the size of a continent. It will be like one of the largest mountain ranges flying through the sky while on fire.

I personally believe this will be viewed by the world. The largest asteroid known to man at this present time is roughly about 570 miles wide and about the same in length and height.

When the asteroid or meteor which John speaks of, starts toward the earth the world will be watching very closely. Let me show you a clip that was in the news yesterday.

*"A bus-sized asteroid passed by the Earth at a distance closer than the moon Saturday [May 3, 2014]— but the more disconcerting part is how little warning astronomers had of the event. Scientists learned of the 25-foot asteroid named 2014 HL129 just three days before it came within 186,000 miles of Earth. The asteroid was spotted by astronomers with the Mt. Lemmon Survey, located in the Catalina Mountains of Arizona."*

All of this is causing people to be more concerned and therefore the watch is beginning to ramp up.

There has been much concern lately about a meteor or asteroid hitting the earth and so space is being watched closely today. I can imagine the reports as this thing will be monitored. Some may report it will just pass by, others will say it will miss, and others will predict a direct hit. There will also be much speculation as to where it will strike the earth. Can you imagine the panic as the point of impact is unknown for a time? This meteor or asteroid will come through the atmosphere and when it does it will ignite. The heat from it will be felt thousands of miles away. I believe many will die from the heat which radiates from this object as it enters the atmosphere. It will hit the ocean with far more force than we can imagine and it will cause a tsunami like the world has never seen.

Let me give you some facts:

There was a meteor which struck the earth in Russia in February of 2013. It was about 65 feet long so compared to others in space it was considered very small. It came through the atmosphere at about 42,900 miles per hour. The light from the meteor was brighter than the sun. Those who were eyewitnesses felt a very intense heat as it came through the atmosphere. The shock wave broke windows in 7200 buildings in 6 different cities and about 1500 people were injured. When this "small" meteor came through the atmosphere it generated 20-30 times more energy than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

How devastating will the one be in Revelation 8?

### **Notice Revelation 8:8-9**

The devastation will be extreme. This thing will destroy 1/3 of ocean life, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the ships on the sea and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the salt water will become blood.

This will bring great harm to the world's economic system. Much of the world's food supply comes from the ocean and many people are employed in the shipping industry. When this judgment comes much of this will be destroyed. There will also be major loss of life. People on the ships will not survive.

### **Trumpet #3**

### **Notice Revelation 8:10-11**

Now John sees something like a great star fall from heaven and whatever it is it will poison 1/3<sup>rd</sup> part of all fresh water. It is called "wormwood" and when men drink the water they will die. So when this

happens streams will still flow, rivers will still run, springs will still produce and wells will contain water. But much of it will be poison.

There has been much speculation about what this "wormwood" star is. Some believe it to be a nuclear bomb and when it is detonated 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the fresh water will be poisoned by radioactivity. That is a possibility with the wars which will be happening.

Now let me pick your mind again. There are famines so food is very hard to get but you can survive on a little food. But now the fresh water is beginning to go away and you cannot live long without water. You can just imagine how savage people will become when it comes to survival at this time. There will be terror spread over the globe due to these judgments. I believe people will turn to cannibalism in order to attempt to survive during this time.

I cannot help but wonder if much of this will be blamed on "global warming"?

#### **Trumpet #4**

#### **Notice Revelation 8:12**

When this judgment comes it will be far more devastating than what we see on the surface. This judgment will darken 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the sun, moon and the stars. We have no idea how God will do this but He is God and He spoke it all into existence and through His power it is sustained.

#### **Colossians 1:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

<sup>17</sup> *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

When 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the heavenly bodies are darkened it will cause drastic temperature changes on the earth. It will stop the growth of any crops which people will be trying to grow. It will plunge temperatures in some regions far below zero.

But the most devastating effect of this will be the storms which will develop from the drop in temperatures. Any time there is a cold air meeting with warm air there will be severe storms. That is what causes the tornadoes which we see today. There is hot humid air which meets with cold air and when the 2 come together it means violent thunderstorms which lead to strong winds and tornadoes. When 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the sun, moon and stars are darkened the temperature changes will be major and the winds which this will cause will be very destructive.

During all of this I am sure the "climate change" people will be having their meetings and their seminars trying their best to find a way to stop what is happening. Before they will get their minds wrapped around one catastrophe another one will strike. Those who have made the earth their god will be devastated in the midst of all of this.

### **Conclusion:**

There is still more devastation to come which according to God's Word will be more severe than what we have already considered.

### **Notice Revelation 8:13**

There is a warning in this verse for people who are on the earth. There are 3 "woes" which are yet to be poured out on the earth. A "woe" is a time of misery. There are yet 3 trumpets to sound. Each one will

contain a "woe" or a time of misery. The last trumpet will open the door to the Vial Judgments. The Vial Judgments will collectively be seen as a woe because they will fall so rapidly they will appear to be one final judgment to those who are on the earth when all of this unfolds. I find it interesting that none of the judgments which we have seen so far have been referred to as "woes" but the rest of the judgments are which tells us the most severe is yet to come.