

"The Olivet Discourse"

Matthew 24-25

Part 8

Introduction: In our study of the Olivet Discourse we have been looking at the "birth pains" which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24:8.

Notice Matthew 24:8

The word "sorrows" means "birth pains". In this passage Jesus is answering a question which His disciples asked about His second coming.

Matthew 24:3

³ *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?*

They asked 3 questions here but Jesus only answered the last two. Jesus focused upon the signs of His 2nd coming and the signs of the end of the world (age). So in the text we have been looking at Jesus has told them of several "birth pains" which the world will experience before His 2nd coming. Just as a woman goes through birth pains before she delivers a baby so the world will go through "birth pains" before Jesus comes back. These birth pains which Jesus speaks of in Matthew 24 will all take place after the rapture of the church and during the Great Tribulation. They will begin very slowly and as time progresses in the Great Tribulation the pains will become more frequent and more severe.

Now in Matthew 24 Jesus did not mention all the "birth pains" which the world will experience so in our study we have went to the book of Revelation to look at the 3 sets of judgments which will be poured out during the 7 years of tribulation. These judgments are also "birth pains" and so we have been looking at them in order to try to understand what life will be like on the earth during the Great Tribulation period.

We have worked our way through the Seal Judgments, and 4 of the Trumpet Judgments. So let us now pick up where we left off the last time we were together.

A. The Trumpet Judgments

Trumpet #5

Notice Revelation 9:1-11

The 5th trumpet judgment is the opening of the bottomless pit and the release of demonic creatures upon the face of the earth. Let me point out several points about this judgment.

1. The fires of hell are literal fires.

Notice Revelation 9:2

Here we see that when the bottomless pit was opened the smoke darkened the sun and the air. This tells us that this is a real fire and hell is a real place. This abyss exists today and it is the holding place for the unsaved and certain angels which God will use for judgment during the tribulation period.

2. There will be restrictions placed upon these demonic spirits.

Notice Revelation 9:3-4

They will not be permitted to hurt the vegetation. This is an interesting statement because of what we looked at when the first trumpet sounded.

Notice Revelation 8:7

Here we see that all green grass burns up. Then when the demons are loosed they are restricted and are not permitted to harm the grass. How can we harmonize these 2 thoughts? It is simple. When grass is burned off it grows back rather quickly. There is apparently some time which will elapse from the 1st trumpet until the 5th trumpet. It would only take several weeks and the grass would be growing back again.

The demonic spirits of the abyss are only permitted to hurt those who do not have the mark of God in their foreheads. Who are those who have the mark of God in their foreheads?

Revelation 7:1-4

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

² *And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,*

³ *Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*

⁴ *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

The only people who will escape the torment of these demonic spirits will be the 144,000 Jewish missionaries of the Great Tribulation.

3. The demonic spirits will not be given power to kill but only to torment.

Notice Revelation 9:5

These demonic spirits will be able to inflict some kind of poisonous sting which will cause pain that of a scorpion. The reference to "5 months" can be taken in 2 ways:

- a. It may refer to the time limit of the demons on the earth.
- b. It may refer to the time the pain lasts in those who are poisoned (This seems to fit the text the best).

4. Life will be extremely difficult during this time.

Notice Revelation 9:6

The pain will be so severe that men will seek ways to die and will not be able to reach the point of death. Even suicide attempts will fail. They may wound themselves even more but they will not be able to take their own lives.

5. The description of these demons is terrifying.

Notice Revelation 9:7-10

6. They had a leader who was focused upon destruction.

Notice Revelation 9:11

Both names "Abaddon" and "Apollyon" mean destruction.

Trumpet #6

Notice Revelation 9:13-19

Let us consider several points from this trumpet.

- 1. At the sound of this trumpet there will be 4 angels loosed.**

Notice Revelation 9:14

At the sound of this trumpet there will be 4 angels set free who are bound at this time in the Euphrates River. These also are 4 fallen angels which will be used by God to deliver judgment on the earth.

- 2. Their mission is to kill.**

Notice Revelation 9:15

These angels are being held for a specific time to execute God's judgment. Through their mission they will kill 1/3 of the population. If we combine this with the 4th seal judgment which will kill $\frac{1}{4}$ of the population then at this time over $\frac{1}{2}$ of the world's people will be dead. By today's numbers that would be over 3.5 billion people.

- 3. The 4 angels will organize an army of 200 million.**

Notice Revelation 9:16-19

It is unclear if this is an army of men or demons. The description sounds like demonic spirits but it is very possible that John is describing some kind of military vehicle which will be used in this battle. The smoke and the fire could very well be the firing of the weapons on the vehicles.

Trumpet #7

As the 7th trumpet will sound it will contain the next 7 judgments.

Notice Revelation 11:15, 19

When this trumpet sounds the temple of God will be opened in heaven.

Notice Revelation 15:1

Here is a continuation of the scene in heaven. John sees 7 angels holding the last 7 plagues.

Notice Revelation 15:6-7

There are 7 golden vials or bowls full of the wrath of God which will be poured out on the earth.

The Vial Judgments

Vial #1

Notice Revelation 16:1-2

When the first vial is poured out it causes a very painful sore upon everyone who has the mark of the beast. This sore is described as "noisome and grievous". The word "noisome" has several meanings such as "evil, grievous or miserable". The word "grievous" means "intense pain".

It is interesting that the Blue Letter Bible says the word "grievous" when referring to Satan could be translated "the malignant one". With that thought some people believe these sores of the 1st vial will be cancerous sores on the people who have the mark of the beast. Whatever they are they will be very painful.

Vial #2

Notice Revelation 16:3

This vial is poured on the sea and the water becomes as the blood of a dead man. The blood of a dead man would be cold, thick, motionless, and lifeless. That is exactly why every living creature in the sea will die. This will be far worse than our minds will grasp. The smell of the dead sea life will fill the air in those days. During this judgment there will also be the famines which we looked at earlier. Now with this judgment the remaining food source from the oceans will die.

Vial #3

Notice Revelation 16:4

This vial will be poured on the fresh water supply and it will all turn to blood. Notice it does not say they became AS blood. But it says they BECAME blood. All there will be to drink at this time will be blood. For those who are living at this time they will get blood from the faucet, the well pump and even the spring.

I believe they will be forced to drink the blood in order to survive.

Notice Revelation 16:5-7

Vial #4

Notice Revelation 16:8

When this vial is poured out it will be poured upon the sun. The sun's power will then increase and men will be scorched from the heat of the sun. Let us not forget the water has all been turned to blood so they again will be forced to drink the blood in order to satisfy their thirst. I am also reminded they will have no water to dress the sores and the burns.

Malachi was able to see this judgment.

Malachi 4:1

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Let me tell you what else this judgment will do. The increase temperature of the sun will melt the ice caps and scientists tell us that if that ever happens it will raise the sea levels will raise 200 feet. That means flooding will overtake many areas miles and miles inland.

Vial #5

Notice Revelation 16:10

Here we see that darkness will cover the kingdom of the beast. I believe this darkness will cover the entire earth.

Isaiah 60:2

² For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Joel 2:1-3

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

² A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and

a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

³ *A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.*

There are some who believe the darkness in Revelation 16:10 is some sort of a black flame that burns the people who are of the beast's kingdom. Whatever it is it causes them to gnaw their tongues for pain.

Conclusion:

I don't know your hearts so there is something I need to say as we close this out. If you are not saved you better come to Jesus now. If you think it is ok to wait then you need to pay attention to the response of the people during these judgments we have been looking at.

Let's start with the Seal Judgments:

Revelation 6:16-17

¹⁶ *And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:*

¹⁷ *For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*

The Trumpet Judgments:

Revelation 9:21

²¹ Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

The Vial Judgments:

Revelation 16:9

⁹ And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

Revelation 16:11

¹¹ And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.