

The Olivet Discourse (Mt.24-25)

A. The addresses

1. This discourse refers to the future events concerning the Jewish nation. It describes a time of the outpouring of God's wrath on unbelievers (Rev. 6:16,17; 11:18; 14:19; 15:1,7; 16:1,19).
2. This time of God's wrath will fulfill His purpose of disciplining the nation of Israel and bringing her to repentance (Dan. 9:24; Jer.30:7; Dan. 12:1; Ro. 9-11; Zech. 12:10).
3. This time of God's wrath has no reference to the church and therefore this discourse has no relationship to church saints or believers. The church will be spared this time of God's wrath (Ro.5:9; I Thess. 5:9). If the church had to endure the Tribulation period God would be exacting punishment twice and that would be Scripturally untenable (Ro. 5:1; 8:1).

B. The answers which the Lord Jesus gave to the questions of the disciples (Mt.24:1-3).

1. The ***two-fold question*** (Mt.24:3).
 - a. When shall these things be? "These things" refer to the destruction of the temple which the Lord Jesus had just described. The answer to this question is found in Lk. 21:20-24. Two times of destruction are intimated in the Olivet Discourse- one fulfilled in 70 AD and the other as the end of the age (Rev. 19:11-21; Zech. 14:2-4).
 - b. What shall be the sign of thy coming and the end of the age? This coming refers to Christ's Second Coming which is associated with the end of the age.
2. The ***answers*** which the Lord Jesus gave (Mt.24:4-33). Certain signs would characterize the end of the age and Christ's coming. These signs co-inside with the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy concerning Israel (Dan. 9:24).

C. The details describing the Tribulation Period (Mt. 24:4-26).

1. The signs describing the **first** half of the Tribulation Period (Mt. 24:4-8). These signs parallel the seal judgments of Revelation chapter six.
2. The signs describing the **second** half of the Tribulation Period (Mt. 24:9-14). These verses describe Israel's persecution when the Anti-christ breaks his covenant (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 12:6; 13-170).
3. The second half of the Tribulation Period given in **greater** detail (Mt. 24:15-26).

The **Abomination of Desolation** will be the sign of the second half of the Tribulation Period (Mt. 24:15).

Antiochus Epiphanes who desecrated the temple in 171 BC by offering a pig on the altar is a type of the Anti-christ who will put an image of himself in the temple and exalt himself as God (Dan. 11:36; II Thess. 2:3,4; Rev. 13:8).

D. The Second Coming of Christ and admonitions for Israel to be prepared (Mt. 24:27-51).

1. The parable of the Fig Tree (Mt. 24:32-36). When the fig tree puts forth its leaves (April) one knows that the summer is near. So the generation that will see the signs mentioned in Mt. 24:9-26 will also be the generation that will witness the Second Coming of Christ (Mt. 24:34).
2. The illustration of the days of Noah (Mt. 24:37-41).

This illustration demonstrates the indifference which will characterize that generation during the Tribulation Period. Just as the anti-deluvians were indifferent to Noah's message so will those be in the Tribulation Period. This is not a reference to the Rapture. The ones who are taken away are taken away in judgment just as those taken away by the

Flood. Note Lk.17:27-37. The ones who are left will enter the Millennial Kingdom.

3. The Parable of the Householder (Mt.24:42-44) demonstrates the need to be prepared.
4. The wise servant and the evil servant (45-51). The wise servant who prepares for his Lord's coming will be blessed (46,47).

The evil servant who fails to prepare for his Lord's coming will be caught unawares and consigned to judgment (48-51).

E. The judgment upon Israel represented in two parables (Mt.25:1-30).

1. The parable of the **Ten Virgins** (Mt. 25:1-30).

The 5 foolish virgins represent unbelieving Israel that fails to prepare for the Messiah's return. These will be shut out of the Millennial Kingdom (10).

2. The parable of the **Talents** (Mt.25:14-30).

Those having the five and two talents are those who properly interpreted the signs during the Tribulation Period and prepared themselves. The one-talent person is the Jew who lives during the Tribulation and ignores the signs of Messiah's return. He will be excluded from the millennial Kingdom like the five foolish virgins (26-30).

F. The judgment upon the Gentiles is represented in the parable of the sheep and the goats (Mt.25:31-46).

1. The word nations (ethnos) identifies this event as a judgment of individual Gentiles or ethnic groups.
2. The sheep represent believers who believe the message of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and demonstrate their faith by extending kindness to them (40). These will inherit

the Millennial Kingdom(34).

3. The goats represent unbelievers who refuse to respond to the gospel of the kingdom message as proclaimed by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists.

Their lack of faith will be demonstrated in their failure to show hospitality and kindness to God's messengers during the Tribulation Period. These will go away into eternal punishment (46).