

**FAST FORWARD PART ONE
THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES
JESUS' OLIVET DISCOURSE #1
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MATTHEW 24:1-15
1-06-08
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TITLE SLIDE #1: Today we begin a four-Sunday emphasis on Jesus discussion concerning future events in the Olivet Discourse of Matthew 24. We will call this series, "Fast Forward." This passage is referred to as the Olivet Discourse because Jesus and His disciples were on the Mount of Olives when He shared these details of the future.

Read Matthew 24:1-3 and set up signs of the times game.

7:50: Jan and Andy and Megan Wile
9:15: Larry and Jack and Megan Wile
10:45: Gary and Frank and Megan Wile

Seven categories of signs mentioned by Jesus

SLIDE 2: What world leader was assassinated last week?
Putin; Bhutto; Pluto; Leno?

SLIDE 3: What country has the most nuclear weapons?
Russia; China; Israel; Hawaii (This is a trick question.)

SLIDE 4: What is the single greatest environmental threat to the planet.
Fuel emissions, cow patties; nuclear waste

SLIDE 5: What cataclysmic event rocked Indonesia?
Cyclone, earthquake, tsunami, pastrami

SLIDE 6: Which false messiah will have the greatest spiritual impact in the near future?
Dalai Lama; Mary Baker Patterson Glover Eddy; The Twelfth Iman; Tom Cruise
(One stated foal of the Iranian govt is to push the twelfth iman as the spiritual world leader.)

SLIDE 7: What is the greatest famine?
Dufar Sudan; Calcutta India; South Beach Phase One

SLIDE 8: Which of the following is the Abomination of Desolation?
A pig barbequed by the False Prophet; the Romans entering the Temple in 70 ad; Britney Spears performance at the MTV awards

SLIDE 9: Who is responsible for Global Evangelization?
Wycliffe Bible Translators; Campus Crusade for Christ; Southern Baptist International Mission Board; we are

SLIDE 10: THE CONTEXT IS A BROKEN-HEARTED CHRIST (Matthew 23:37-39).

Monday before he is crucified on Friday. The last time he will ever be in the Temple.

Woes to Pharisees:

"Woe to you, you hypocrites! You blind guides! You who travel over land and sea to make one convert then make him twice the child of hell you are!"

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean."

"Woe to you, you snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"

Passion—breaks His heart!

SLIDE 11: MATTHEW 23:37-39: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. 38 Look, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

"Your house...": The Temple is no longer God's House.

"Desolate": The glory of God has departed from the Temple.

Jesus will not again be seen in Jerusalem until He returns at His Second Coming.

SLIDE 12: MATTHEW 24:1-2: Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

Sharp retort from Jesus stuns Disciples—speechless.

Walked in silence to Mt of Olives. Disciples regained their composure.

SLIDE 13: MATTHEW 24:3: As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

They asked three questions.

SLIDE 14: When will this (the destruction of the Temple) happen?

What will be the sign of your coming?

What will be the sign of the end of the age?

Disciples lumped all three events together (if temple is destroyed the end must be near!)

They are not at all simultaneous.

SLIDE 15: JESUS APPARENTLY ANSWERED WITH A "CHIASIM"—AN "X"

Jesus answered the second and third questions first—and the first question last.

SLIDE 16: When will this happen?

What are the signs?

X

Deceit, War, Famine,
Apostasy, Persecution
Gospel preached
The Abomination of Desolation

During your generation (Matthew 24:34-35.)

The When Question? The prophecy was fulfilled in 70 a.d. when the Temple was torn down. This was during their generation (40 year cycle: Dad 20—Son 40—Grandson)

The Sign Question

Deceit, wars, earthquakes, famines, persecution, apostasy, etc.....

SLIDE 17: Matthew 24:15: "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand—

SLIDE 18: THE "ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION" IS A KEY SIGN.

"Get out of town: pray you're not pregnant or nursing; pray it does not happen on the Sabbath. Don't take time to pack a suitcase...."

Titus and Romans came in 70 a.d.

Legions standards with image of emperor in the Temple.

Luke: Armies surrounding Jerusalem.

Rumor that Jews had put gold in the mortar of the walls. Tore down every block looking for it. Not one stone left upon another, just as Jesus predicted.

Failed to follow Jesus' advice and get out of town. Instead they crammed themselves into the city and took protection behind the walls—that folly multiplied the horror of famine and siege.

Josephus (*Wars of the Jews*, 5.12.3): "Famine devoured whole families. The streets were filled with the dead bodies of the aged. Children and young men wandered the streets like shadows, all swelled with famine. As for burying the dead, the sick were too weak and the stronger were so overwhelmed with the task that they didn't bother to try.

Nor was any mourning nor lamentations made. Those who were going to die looked upon the dead with dry eyes and open mouths. A deep silence seized the city ... and everyone died with their eyes fixed upon the Temple.

Josephus (*Wars of the Jews*, 6.3.4): tells the dreadful story of a woman during the siege who actually killed and roasted and ate her suckling child.

Josephus: 97,000 taken prisoner and enslaved; 1.1 Million died

As we read these verses it seems that when Jesus answered the sign questions He seems to jump from place to place and from time period to time period and from Signs of His coming to Signs of the end of the Age.

SLIDE 19: UNDERSTANDING JESUS MEANS CONSIDERING SEVERAL PROPHETICAL PRINCIPLES.

DRAW HUMILITY PRINCIPLE (*draw humbled heart*)

Any discussion of future events calls for humility and caution.

Jesus himself said that He didn't know the day or the hour of his return, a statement that brings into judgment all date-setters.

There was a time in college when I figured everything out—just ask me. Not any more! But we can still learn much from studying His teachings.

DRAW MOUNTAIN PEAK PRINCIPLE

Draw three Mountain peaks together and eye looking and show all questions lumped together.

Draw three separated mountain peaks with distance between and eye looking at the peaks.

Temple Destroyed-----Sign of your coming (lightning flash)-----End of the age

DRAW DOUBLE FULFILLMENT PRINCIPLE

Explain Isaiah 7:14.

The Abomination of Desolation is a triple fulfillment:

Daniel predicted the Abomination of Desolation.

SLIDE 20: Daniel 9:27: He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Triple fulfillment

- Antioches Epiphanes, the king of Syria, determined to wipe out the Jews and their religion in 168 b.c. erects an altar to Zeus and slaughters a pig in Holy of Holies, turned the treasury rooms into public brothels and great persecution begins.

It was Jesus' prophecy that the same thing would happen again.

- Titus desecrated the Holy of Holies—70 a.d.—and great persecution begins

- Future: The Book of Revelation and Paul suggests this future fulfillment (2 Thessalonians 2:2-4). The false prophet will erect an image of the Anti-Christ in the Holy of Holies: and the persecutions to end all persecutions begins—world-wide!

SLIDE 21: Picture from El Al flight magazine of rebuilt temple of Jerusalem

SLIDE 22: SIGNS NOT REALLY SIGNS (Matthew 24:4-14) (UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE)

Some Christians who make their living by specializing in reading of the “signs of the times” would sell tickets to the battle of Armageddon.

Jesus specifically warns us that we are not to imagine that events which seem to be cataclysmic such as wars, earthquakes, wide-spread famines are infallible signs that the end was near. They are the normal features of this age.

They will, however, have a double fulfillment.

Meet them again in Revelation after the sign of the Abomination of Desolation desecrates the Temple.

SLIDE 23: Deception by FALSE CHRISTS

Matthew 24:4: Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Not just religious fanatics.

Christs: Leaders who claim to fix everything if they just gain control.

Hitler's Germany.

Islamic Militants—get control and fix everything.

SLIDE 24: Disputes and WARFARE AMONG NATIONS

Matthew 24:6-7a: You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

Middle Eastern Conflicts; etc.....

Islamic Militants: War declared on our way of life.

Trip to Azerbaijan and Armenia

SLIDE 25: Some insights: Map with arrows of war movements of final invasions of Middle East]

SLIDE 26: DEVASTATIONS IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Matthew 24:7b-8: There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Tsunami

Katrina

Global Warming

SLIDE 27: HATRED AND PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

Matthew 24:9: "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

2M Sudan Christians murdered by Pro-Militant-Islamic Government

SLIDE 28: Turkey: CCC workers kidnapped from Bible Printing House and tortured

SLIDE 29: APOSTASY (Falling Away of False Believers)

Matthew 24:10-13: At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

The cost is too high.

The deception is too convincing.

The sin is too attractive.

A person who genuinely belongs to Christ continues to confess Him, to serve Him and to suffer for Him when necessary.

It is not a person's endurance that will produce salvation but that his endurance will be a Spirit-empowered product and proof of the reality that he is saved.

SLIDE 30: WORLD-WIDE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Matthew 24:14: And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Despite all the hatred, betrayal and persecution the Gospel will cover the earth.

144,000 Jews for Jesus

Just before the Bowl Judgments are poured out and the final holocaust begins God will supernaturally send an angel to preach an "eternal gospel to every nation and tribe and tongue of people (Revelation 14:6-7).

SLIDE 31: MATTHEW 24:15: "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand—

SLIDE 32: THESE SIGNS WILL BE DOUBLY FULFILLED AT THE END OF THE AGE.

Double Fulfillment and Mountain Peak from Revelation 6

SLIDE 33: *False Christs (Matthew 24:4-5)*

Wars (Matthew 24:6)

Famines (Matthew 24:7a)

Death (Matthew 24:7b-8)

Revelation 6:1-2 (Anti-Christ)

Revelation 6:3-4

Revelation 6:5-6

Revelation 6:7-8

SLIDE 34: *Martyrs (Matthew 24:9)*

Worldwide Chaos (Matthew 24:10-13)

Worldwide Preaching (Matthew 24:14)

Revelation 6:9-11

Revelation 6:12-17

Revelation 7 (144,000 Jews)

THE OLIVET DISCOURSE PROVIDES UNDERSTANDING AND GLORIOUS TRUTHS!

SLIDE 35: MATTHEW 24:29-31: "Immediately after the distress of those days ""the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' 30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and

all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

SLIDE 36: 1. God has not abandoned the world.

For all its wickedness, the world is still the scene in which God's purpose is being worked out. It is not abandonment God contemplates; it is salvation.

SLIDE 37: 2. Both judgment and a new creation are certain.

God sees the world in both justice and mercy. God's plan is not the obliteration of the world but a re-creation of a world that is nearer to His heart's desire.

SLIDE 38: 3. The focus is not on the Signs. The focus is on alertness, self control, faith and love (1 Thessalonians 5:1-8).

His return will be without warning. They were to be ready whenever it takes place.

SLIDE 39: 4. Our security is bound up in the Person of Jesus Christ.