

**FAST FORWARD PART ONE**  
**THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES**  
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**JESUS' OLIVET DISCOURSE #1**  
**MATTHEW 24:1-15**  
**S-1743**

Today we begin a four-Sunday emphasis on future events. In the Olivet Discourse Jesus discussed “the signs of His coming and the end of the “age.” The disciples were fascinated by His revelations. The truths He shared are designed to prepare us for future events.

We will call this series, “Fast Forward.” The events of Matthew 24-25 occurred on Tuesday before Christ was crucified on Friday. The teaching is referred to as the Olivet Discourse because Jesus and His disciples were seated on the Mount of Olives when He shared these, details of the future.

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

“Your house...”: The Temple is no longer God’s House.  
“Desolate”: The glory of God has departed from the Temple.  
Jesus will not be recognized by Israel until He returns at His Second Coming.  
*The rejection of love’s appeal is breaking His heart.*

THE STUNNED DISCIPLES ASKED THREE QUESTIONS.

*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?”*

When what? The tearing down of the Temple.

What signs? The second coming and end of the age.

JESUS APPARENTLY ANSWERED WITH A “CHIASIM”— AN “X”

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

When will this happen?	X	What are the signs?
Deceit, War, Famine, Apostasy, Persecution Gospel preached The Abomination of Desolation		During your generation (Matthew 24:34-35.)

THE “ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION” IS A KEY SIGN.

*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—*

UNDERSTANDING JESUS MEANS CONSIDERING SEVERAL PROPHETICAL PRINCIPLES.

As Jesus answered their 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.

The Humility Principle

The Mountain Peak Principle

The Double Fulfillment Principle

Isaiah 7:14-17 was fulfilled in 750 b.c. and in the birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:22-23).  
The Abomination of Desolation (Daniel 9:27) apparently has a triple fulfillment.

Past: Antioches Epiphanes (168 b.c.)

Past: The Roman desecration the Holy of Holies (70 a.d.)

Future: The false prophet will erect an image of the Anti-Christ in the Holy of Holies (Revelation 13:11-18). Paul foresaw this as well (2 Thessalonians 2:2-4).

THESE SIGNS REALLY AREN'T SIGNS (Matthew 24:4-14) (UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE)

Don't be alarmed when these signs occur (24:6) for these things will characterize the whole age prior to the end and are not countdown markers to enable us, if we decipher them correctly, to have clues to the timing of the coming of Christ.

Deception by False Christs (Matthew 24:4)

Disputes and Warfare Among Nations (Matthew 24:6-7a)

Cataclysmic Devastations in the Physical World (Matthew 24:7b-8)

Hatred and Persecution of Christians (Matthew 24:9)

Apostasy of False Believers (Matthew 24:10-13)

World-Wide Gospel Presentation (Matthew 24:14)

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

The Beginning of Sorrows

*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*

Events leading up to the End

*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!

1. God has not abandoned the world.
2. Both judgment and a new creation are certain.
3. The focus is not on the Signs. The focus is on alertness, self control, faith and love (1 Thessalonians 5:1-8).
4. Our security is bound up in the Person of Jesus Christ.