

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 4]

OLIVET'S PROPHECIES - FULFILLED OR FUTURE

Exposition Of Matthew 24: 1 - 14

Introduction

- [Matthew 24] has been called '**the backbone**' of Bible prophecy.
- The chapter records '**the Olivet Discourse**.'
- [Mark 13] and [Luke 21] are the parallel accounts of the discourse.
- In describing future events Jesus uses interesting words and terms e.g. '**tribulation...false Christ's....the end of the age....abomination of desolation...**'
- Have these prophecies been fulfilled or are they still to be fulfilled?

Read [vs 1]

- The temple dominated Jerusalem's skyline and occupied 15% of the ground.
- It was the centre of Jewish life.

Read [vs 2]

- Jesus makes a shocking statement: this iconic temple will be totally destroyed.
- The disciples struggled to process this information.

Read [vs 3]

- Jesus makes His way to the Mount of Olives.
- There the disciples ask Jesus 2 vitally important questions.
- The 1st is about the temple and the 2nd is about '**your coming and the end of the age**.'
- Did Jesus answer both questions or just one in the remainder of the chapter?

Read [vs 4/5]

- Jesus begins with a warning.
- There would be many who would claim to be a Christ/Messiah. [Luke 21:12].
- Consider [Acts 5:36/37], [Acts 8].

Read [vs 6/7a]

- Tacitus (Roman historian): 'disturbances in Germany, commotions in Africa, insurrections in Gaul and war in Britain and Armenia.'
- 4 emperors died in an 18 month period.
- **'But the end is not yet.'** What end? Answer: The end of temple!

Read [vs 7b]

- Famines, plagues and earthquakes.
- Consider [Acts 11:28].
- Tacitus writes about all these things prior to AD70.

Read [vs 8]

- This term carries the idea of the early stages of childbirth.

Read [vs 9]

- Note the word **'then.'** When all this other stuff is happening.
- Note the word **'you.'** He's addressing His own disciples in front of Him.
- He tells them that 3 things are going to happen to them:
- Tribulation (Greek **'thlipsis'**), Death: many of them were dead before the destruction of the temple and they'd be hated.
- NB. Everything Jesus said would happen, happened before the temple fell.

Read [vs 11]

- The early church was rife with false teachers and heresies.

Read [vs 12/13]

- Despite all these things taking place the true Christian had to and indeed would **'endure to the end.'**
- There is and always has to be a going on with God.

Read [vs 14]

- What **'end'** did Jesus have in mind? The end of the temple that the disciples had first asked about.
- The gospel would be preached **'in all the world.'**
- This is not the global world but the **'Roman world.'** (See Luke 2:1)
- Consider [Acts 2:9 - 11], [Acts 8:27], Paul's 3 missionary journeys, [Romans 1:8]
- It is believed the gospel came to Britain prior to AD70 (Eusebius).
- Everything Jesus said so far - fulfilled.
- In [Luke 21:7] the disciples asked what **'sign'** would signal the destruction of the temple.
- The sign Jesus gave them is in [vs 15] **'the abomination of desolation.'**
- What did He mean by that?
- Answer in next study.

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