

# WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 5]

## OLIVET'S PROPHECIES - FULFILLED OR FUTURE (2)

### **Exposition Of Matthew 24: 15 - 20**

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#### **Introduction**

- [Matthew 24] and the parallel accounts in [Mark 13] & [Luke 21] record Christ's '**Olivet Discourse**.'
- In it, Jesus answers His disciples 2 questions prompted by His announcement that the temple is going to be destroyed.
- In the discourse, Jesus talks about the end of 2 things: the temple and then His return and the end of the age.
- **Question:** Are those 2 events fulfilled or future?  
Jesus begins to answer their 1st question re: the end of the temple.

#### **Read [Vs 15]**

- This is the answer to their 1st question.
- What does Jesus mean by '**the abomination of desolation?**'
- Is He referring to a still future to emerge antichrist who will sit in the holy of holies in some new future rebuilt temple in Jerusalem?
- Although that idea is very popular it is a wrong and flawed idea.
- **Consider:** the disciples were asking about the temple in their day. Not some other temple.
- If it was some other future temple Jesus was referring too then He didn't answer their 1st question.
- This verse is still not awaiting its fulfilment - it was fulfilled in AD70.
- The parallel account in [Luke 21:20] tells us what the '**abomination of desolation**' is.
- It is Jerusalem (the holy place) surrounded by armies. (The Roman armies).
- He wanted His '**elect**' at that time to be safe and to escape the desolation.

### Read [vs 16]

- So he warns them to flee to the mountains when they would see Jerusalem being surrounded.

### Read [vs 17/18]

- There would not even be time to go home and pack for the trip.

### Read [vs 19/20]

- Speed would be essential. Being pregnant would slow their escape. Winter could make the escape difficult too.

### The Events Of AD70

- The Jews were rebelling against their Roman masters.
- Governor Cestius Gallus marched the Roman armies towards Jerusalem.
- Jews and Christians alike swarmed into the city for safety.
- How were the Christians going to escape with the city surrounded?
- Josephus: **'without any reason in the world'** Cestius withdrew his armies and the Jews celebrated.
- The emperor was furious and replaced him with Vespasian who had his son Titus bring up the 5th/10th legions from Egypt.
- In the meantime the Christians remembering Jesus words fled for safety.
- Bible prophecy saved their lives.
- Adam Clark: **'not a single Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem.'**
- The Romans returned and surrounded the city.
- Upon breaking through the walls they slaughtered 1,100,000 Jews and took 1000's more away as slaves.
- The temple was burned with fire and the gold melted and ran into the crevices between the great stone building blocks.
- Later, when it solidified, the soldiers literally pulled the stones apart to retrieve the gold thus fulfilling Jesus words 40 years earlier.

### The Accuracy Of Jesus

- Everything Jesus said from that day in [Matthew 24] up until the Roman armies came against Jerusalem, history confirms.
- How Jesus said the temple would be made desolate, again history confirms.
- Jesus answered their 1st question and what He said happened.
- In the next verses He will answer their 2nd question and we have every reason to believe what He said about that will also happen.
- Just as the elect were safe at the end of the temple they will be safe at the end of age.

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