

# WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 6]

## OLIVET'S PROPHECIES - FULFILLED OR FUTURE (3)

### ***Exposition Of Matthew 24: 21 - 28***

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#### **Introduction**

- The disciples asked Jesus 2 very important questions.
  - When will these things be? (The destruction and desolation of the temple.)
  - What will be the sign of Your coming (Parousia) and of the end of the age?
- Jesus sets about answering those questions in the remainder of the chapter (vs 4 - 51).
- There are 2 types of prophecies: those that have been fulfilled and those that are still to be fulfilled.
- Both types of prophecies are in this chapter.
- In [vs 4 - 21] Jesus answers the 1st question.
- [Vs 22] is the transition from the 1st to the 2nd question.
- [vs 22 ~ 26] cover the church age from AD70 until Christ's return.

#### **1 Read [Vs 21]**

- "For then there will be great tribulation..."
- The tribulation initially refers to the slaughter of the unbelieving Jews in AD70 by the Roman legions.
- This is confirmed by Dr Luke's parallel account in [Luke 21:24].

#### **2 The Times Of The Gentiles**

- A period of time when Gentile powers exercised rule over Jerusalem beginning with Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon followed by the Persians, the Greeks and then the Romans when the NT era commences.
- After the Romans it was the Arabs/Saracens/Muslims.
- For 400 years prior to 1917 it had been held by the Turkish Ottoman empire.

- The **'times of the Gentiles'** finished in 1917 when it was liberated by the British paving the way for the Jews to return.

### 3 What Do We Mean By 'Tribulation?'

- In the Olivet Discourse the word 'tribulation' is used 3 times. NKJV [vs 9], [vs 21] & [vs 29]
- It is used 26 times in Bible.
- Translated from the Greek word **'thlipsis.'**
- Futurists teach **'the tribulation'** is still in the future and the church will **NOT** experience it.
- They say that only those left behind when the **'Rapture'** happens will face it from a future **'antichrist'**.
- NB. The church will not miss the tribulation. Consider [John 16:33] & [Acts 14:22].
- The church has endured tribulation since its beginning.
- The Jews, the pagan Romans, papal Rome, Communist regimes and currently from Islam.
- The Futurist's denial that the church will go through the tribulation denies the teaching of Jesus and ignores the facts of history.
- [Vs 21 - 26] concern the church age from AD70 until Jesus returns.

### 4 Who Are The False Christ's

- Consider [vs 23/24].
- There is only one Christ. All others who claim to be a Christ are frauds and imposters.
- NB. The Papacy had consistently asserted that the popes of Rome are Christ under the veil of the flesh. Blasphemy!!!!
- A deception that has deceived untold millions.
- Don't be deceived by them and their superstitious beliefs.

### 5 Read [Vs28]

- This is a picture of divine judgement.
- Carrion birds circling dead or dying prey.
- It happened at AD70 and will happen again at Christ's return.

### Finally

- Judgement of Sodom/Gomorrah didn't happen until Lot and his family were safely away.
- The judgement in AD70 was held back until the Christians had fled the city.
- The final judgement will only take place once the elect have been taken out of the world at the Rapture.

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