

# THE HARMONY OF THE OLIVET

## DISCOURSE – PART 4

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**As used for the MP3 Study posted under Sermon Archives, New Testament,  
 Matthew, [Matthew 24:23-35](#), and Titled: *Olivet Discourse – Part 4*  
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The Lord Jesus gave some of the most detailed prophecies of future events just a couple days before His crucifixion. This teaching by Jesus was recorded in Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21. Theologians refer to these sections of scripture as the *Olivet Discourse* because Jesus spoke these prophecies while on the Mount of Olives.

There has been much confusion and debate about this discourse over the centuries. Much of the mystery has been removed with the rebirth of the nation of Israel, but views about who is being addressed and the timing of the events are still debated by sincere Christians.

After 35 years of pondering the different views and arguments, I feel it is time to contribute some thoughts in the form of this commentary. I have put the three passages from the three Apostles' writings side by side (using the New King James) so the entire context of Jesus words can be more easily compared and discerned. This handout picks up where Part 3 left off.

MATTHEW 24	MARK 13	LUKE
23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. 24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 "See, I have told you beforehand. 26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. 27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."	21 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, He is there!' do not believe it. 22 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 "But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand."	<b>Luke 17:22</b> Then He said to the disciples, "The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. 23 "And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them. 24 "For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

Matthew and Mark record this second warning to the last-days Jews to not believe in false Messiahs. Luke recorded a similar teaching given to religious leaders who were questioning Him, as recorded in Luke 17:22-24 and included here for completeness. As stated earlier, this cannot apply to Christians, now or during the Tribulation, since Christians know that Jesus is the Messiah.

<p>Jesus is warning the tribulation period Jews not to accept a human Messiah who forces them to put his name in their hand or forehead. John 5 seems to teach that many Jews will not heed this warning from their true Messiah, Jesus.</p>		
<p>Jesus also makes it clear that His Second Coming will be like lightning in the sky. There will be no need for the Jew to wonder if their Messiah has come - it will be for the entire world to witness.</p>		
<p>28 "For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.</p>		<p>Luke 17:26 "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:  27 "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.  28 "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;  29 "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.  30 "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.  31 "In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back.  32 "Remember Lot's wife.  33 "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.  34 "I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left.  35 "Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left.  36 "Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."  37 And they answered and said to Him, "Where, Lord?" So He said to them, "Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together."</p>
<p>I have again included Jesus teaching in Jerusalem as recorded in Luke 17:26-37 since it helps to give the context of Matthew's record of the Olivet Discourse teaching. These verses are possibly referring to the fact that if the Jews do not listen to Jesus' warnings about the Antichrist, and thus fail to flee to the wilderness of Jordan when the abomination occurs, then they will be rounded up (one taken, one left – 50%) and killed in the following persecution of the Antichrist. Jesus teaches that their dead bodies will be left outside for the vultures and eagles. Matthew also records Jesus teaching about one being taken and one left in verses 37-42 (below). There are other theories about what this very difficult passage is trying to teach, but it is clear from the context that this cannot be talking about the rapture of the church, as some believe.</p>		
<p>29 "Immediately after the</p>	<p>24 "But in those days, after</p>	<p>Luke 21:25 "And there will be signs in the</p>

<p>tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.</p> <p>30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."</p>	<p>that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;</p> <p>25 "the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in heaven will be shaken.</p> <p>26 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory."</p>	<p>sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;</p> <p>26 "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.</p> <p>27 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.</p> <p>28 "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."</p>
<p>The end of the seven-year tribulation period will culminate in an outpouring of the wrath of God such as the world has never seen. Revelation, Chapter 6, ties the dimming of the sun and the blocking out of the moon to a great earthquake.</p> <p>Rev 6:12-14 - I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. (NKJ)</p>		
<p>Is it possible that the earthquake coincides with eruptions of volcanoes, or super volcanoes, which spew ash into the air, thus blocking the sun and moon? Scientists are speculating that the Super Volcano of Yellowstone Park would create such an event when it erupts again. Recent land surveys indicate that portions of Yellowstone have bulged and uplifted several inches since the turn of the century. Studies of earthquake seismic waves also reveal that about two thirds of Yellowstone National Park is sitting on top of a massive magma chamber about 10 miles below the surface. If the bulging continues, it is only a matter of time until the lid blows off, releasing the unimaginable forces of the magma chamber. The Earth would then be subjected to the effects of an eruption that is tens-of-thousands of times more powerful than the Mount Saint Helens eruption (perform a goggle search on "super volcanoes" for more information).</p>		
<p>These kinds of eruptions could also hurl rocks into space that would then return, due to gravity, and fall all over the earth. Could this be "the stars of heaven falling to the earth"? And could this be why people of the Earth will be hiding in caves?</p> <p>Rev 6:15-17 - And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (NKJ)</p>		
<p>Luke records Jesus' warning that men's hearts will fail them in the expectation of things that are coming on the earth. This could possibly refer to the knowledge of an asteroid or comet on a collision course with the earth and people dying of heart attacks and anxiety because of the things literally coming upon the earth.</p>		
<p>Others believe that Jesus' prophecy about the sun being darkened and the moon turning to blood will be fulfilled in a total solar and lunar eclipse occurring in the days immediately preceding Jesus' visible return to Earth (See <a href="http://www.calvarypo.org/HANDS/0574.pdf">www.calvarypo.org/HANDS/0574.pdf</a>).</p>		

<p>No matter how these warnings of Jesus' are actually fulfilled, Matthew, Mark, and Luke make it clear the global cataclysms will be unprecedented and will immediately precede the second coming of the Lord Jesus. They also make it clear that Jesus will come in a way that will be visible by all the inhabitants of the world (as He comes from the sky in power and great glory).</p>		
<p>31 "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."</p>	<p>27 "And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven."</p>	
<p>When Jesus returns, His angels will gather all those who have lived through the tribulation period and bring them to Israel for the judgment of Matthew 25:32-46 and Joel 3. The gathering together of "His elect," refers to those who are "sheep" as defined in Matthew 25. They will be allowed to enter the Kingdom of God on Earth, where they will live under the rule of Jesus for 1,000 years (Revelation 20). Those who fail the test of Matthew 25 are the goats (unelected), and they will be judged by God and sent to the Lake of Fire (See Matthew 25:32-46 teaching below).</p>		
<p>32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near-- at the doors! 34 "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. 35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."</p>	<p>28 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near-- at the doors! 30 "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. 31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."</p>	<p>Luke 21:29 Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 "When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. 33 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."</p>
<p>There has been much controversy about this prophecy. Some (Preterists) believe that Jesus was saying that the prophecies of the Olivet Discourse would be fulfilled during the lifetime (generation) of the Apostles. Thus, all these global cataclysms, the Antichrist committing an abomination in the temple, etc. were fulfilled prior to and during the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. However, the actual events of the Roman army's destruction of Jerusalem and the temple do not fit with the prophecies of Jesus. For example, the Romans did not cause an abomination in 70 AD. In fact, Josephus, the Jewish historian, records (War of the Jews, Book VI, Chapter IV, paragraphs 6-7) that the Roman General (Titus) ordered his soldiers to put out the fire in order to preserve the temple which Titus considered a wonder of the world. His orders could not be heard over the slaughter of the Jews that was taking place and the temple continued to burn (but was not defiled with an abomination). Therefore, those who hold the "Preterist" view have to twist the scriptures to try and make them fit. They also have to do the same to the book of Revelation which they also claim was fulfilled in 70 AD, even though the evidence is very strong that the Apostle John wrote Revelation 30 years <b>after</b> the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.</p>		

## Close call – Asteroid near miss for Earth yesterday

7 11 2009

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/11/07/close-call-asteroid-near-miss-for-earth-yesterday/>

From NASA's Spaceweather.com and NASA JPL Twitter feed. It only takes one missed space rock to ruin your day.



Potentially Hazardous Asteroid - 3D rendering by by Arlene Ducao

On Friday November 6th at 2132 UT (16:32/ 4:32PM EST) asteroid [2009 VA](#) barely missed Earth when it flew just 14,000 km above the planet's surface. For comparison, Earth's diameter is 12,756.1 km. That near miss was well inside the "[Clarke Belt](#)" of geosynchronous satellites.(35,786 km/22,236 mi)

Friday's (Nov 6) flyby of asteroid 2009 VA is the third closest on record. (That we know about.)

If it had hit, the ~6-meter wide space rock would have disintegrated in the atmosphere as a spectacular fireball, causing no significant damage to the ground. But the fact that there was so little warning is troubling.

2009 VA was discovered just 15 hours before closest approach by astronomers working at the [Catalina Sky Survey](#).

While millions worry about CO2, there seems to be little worry nor action about this list:



## Near-Earth Asteroids

Potentially Hazardous Asteroids ([PHAs](#)) are space rocks larger than approximately 100m that can come closer to Earth than 0.05 AU. None of the known PHAs is on a collision course with our planet, although astronomers are finding [new ones](#) all the time.

On November 7, 2009 there were **1077** potentially hazardous asteroids.

### Nov. 2009 Earth-asteroid encounters:

Asteroid	Date(UT)	Miss Distance	Mag.	Size
<a href="#">2009 UW87</a>	Oct. 31	1.6 LD	18	11 m
<a href="#">2009 UK14</a>	Nov. 1	9.1 LD	20	29 m
<a href="#">2006 JY26</a>	Nov. 2	6.7 LD	22	10 m
<a href="#">2000 XK44</a>	Nov. 4	28.8 LD	13	1.1 km
<a href="#">2000 UJ1</a>	Nov. 7	43.3 LD	15	1.2 km
<a href="#">2000 TO64</a>	Nov. 10	44.2 LD	14	1.9 km
<a href="#">2009 UK20</a>	Nov. 12	6.5 LD	20	20 m

**Notes:** LD means "Lunar Distance." 1 LD = 384,401 km, the distance between Earth and the Moon. 1 LD also equals 0.00256 AU. MAG is the visual magnitude of the asteroid on the date of closest approach.

It is a threat we can actually develop technology for to do something about.

# Asteroid explosion over Indonesia raises fears about Earth's defenses

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/space/6444895/Asteroid-explosion-over-Indonesia-raises-fears-about-Earths-defences.html>

**An asteroid that exploded in the Earth's atmosphere with the energy of three Hiroshima bombs this month has reignited fears about our planet's defenses against space impacts.**

By Tom Chivers

Published: 10:23AM GMT 27 Oct 2009



The asteroid was around 20 meters across and hit the Earth's atmosphere at 45,000mph Photo: GETTY IMAGES

On 8 October, the rock crashed into the atmosphere above South Sulawesi, [Indonesia](#). The blast was heard by monitoring stations 10,000 miles away, according to a report by scientists at the [University of Western Ontario](#).

Scientists are concerned that it was not spotted by any telescopes, and that had it been larger it could have caused a disaster.

The [asteroid](#), estimated to have been around 10 metres (30ft) across, hit the atmosphere at an estimated 45,000mph. The sudden deceleration caused it to heat up rapidly and explode with the force of 50,000 tons of TNT.

Luckily, due to the height of the explosion – estimated at between 15 and 20 km (nine to 12 miles) above sea level – no damage was caused on the ground.

However, if the object had been slightly larger – 20 to 30 metres (60 to 90ft) across – it could easily have caused extensive damage and loss of life, say researchers.

Very few objects smaller than 100 meters (300ft) across have been spotted and catalogued by astronomers.

Tim Spahr, director of the [Minor Planet Center](#) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, warned that it was inevitable that minor asteroids would go unnoticed. He said: "If you want to find the smallest objects you have to build more, larger telescopes.

"A survey that finds all of the 20-metre objects will cost probably multiple billions of dollars."

The fireball was spotted by locals in Indonesia, and a [YouTube video taken that day](#) "appears to show a large dust cloud consistent with a bright, daylight fireball", according to the Ontario researchers.

An asteroid or comet fragment around 60 meters across is believed to have been behind the [Tunguska Event](#), a powerful explosion that took place over Russia in 1908. The blast has been estimated at equivalent to 10-15 million tons of TNT – enough to destroy a large city.

The [White House](#) is to develop a policy on the space object impact threat by October next year.