

THE HARMONY OF THE OLIVET

DISCOURSE – PART 2

By Kevin Lea
Pastor, Calvary Church of Port Orchard, WA.
www.calvarypo.org

As used for the MP3 Study Posted Under Sermon Archives, New Testament,
Matthew, [Matthew 24:9-22](#), and Titled: *Olivet Discourse – Part 2*
October 28, 2009

Review of last week

Matthew 24:1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." 3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" 4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 "All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Verses being covered this week:

Matthew 24:9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 "But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. 15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

THE ABOVE VERSES WERE TAUGHT USING THE FOLLOWING TABLE

THE HARMONY OF THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

By Kevin Lea
Pastor, Calvary Church of Port Orchard, WA.
www.calvarypo.org
Original - Dec 5, 2003
Updated and used for study on October 28, 2009

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 1 left off.

Matthew	Mark	Luke
		20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 "Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 "For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."

Only Luke records this portion of Jesus' answer. Jesus further explained to the four Apostles that the Roman army would surround Jerusalem, and when it did, those who were in the city should flee. Those who listened to Jesus would have been spared the death that awaited all those who stayed.

The "Time of the Gentiles" that Luke refers to actually started in 586 BC when Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroyed Solomon's temple and Jerusalem. Since then, the Jews have never again been in sovereign control of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. When King Cyrus of Persia allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple in 539 BC, the Jews did so, but were still under the sovereignty of Persia. Then Greeks then took control of Jerusalem and finally the Romans until Jerusalem was again destroyed in 70 AD (because the Jews kept trying to fight to regain their own sovereignty).

The Gentiles have continued to "trample" Jerusalem to this day. In 1967, the Jews took Jerusalem and the Temple Mount back from the Gentiles for the first time since 586 BC. However, the next day, their famous general, Moshe Dayan, foolishly gave control of the Temple Mount back to Jordan as a gesture of peace. This act actually fulfilled prophecy and kept a portion of Jerusalem under the foot of the gentiles, where it will remain (according to Revelation 11:2) until Jesus returns.

As a side note, Moshe Dayan was quoted as saying the following about the orthodox Jews rejoicing that they had sovereignty over the Temple Mount for the first time in 2,500 years:

Wikipedia - Dayan in one recollection, having seen rabbis flocking on the Temple Mount shortly after Jerusalem was captured in 1967, he asked "what is this? Vatican?" Dayan later ordered the Israeli flag removed from the Dome of the Rock, and gave administrative control of the Temple Mount over to the Waqf, a Muslim council. Dayan believed that the Temple Mount was more important to Judaism as a historical rather than holy site.

9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.

10 "And then many will be offended [*literally – fall away, i.e., from the faith*], will betray one another, and will hate one another."

9 "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. 10 "And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. 11 But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. 12 "Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 13 "And you will be hated by all men for My name's

12 "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. 13 "But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. 14 "Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; 15 "for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. 16 "You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17 "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.

	sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”	18 "But not a hair of your head shall be lost. 19 "By your patience possess your souls.”
<p>In the world today, there are two groups of people who are hated for no other reason but because of who they are - the Christians and the Jews. Christians know that Jesus is the only truth whereby man can be saved (Acts 4:12). Therefore, Satan wants to kill all true Christians (Jew and Gentile) so this message will not spread, but he has failed to do so.</p>		
<p>The first Christians were Jews. The book of Acts records how Jesus’ predictions were literally fulfilled in the early church when Jews who believed in Jesus as their Messiah were brought before the leaders of the synagogues and were persecuted and sometimes killed. Jesus is also addressing the combined (Jew and Gentile) Christian church (then and now) which has also been persecuted and hated by all nations “for My name’s sake.”</p>		
<p>Although Jesus was clearly talking about those who would be persecuted in His name, this warning also seems to apply to the Jews who believe in the name of God (YHWH) and the promise of the Messiah (even though for a season the unbelieving Jew is blinded so as not to see Jesus as their Messiah). A poll taken in Europe in November of 2003 showed that 59 percent of the Europeans believe that Israel is the biggest global threat. There is no logical basis for this fear. This irrational belief can only be understood spiritually. God has called the Jews His chosen people, and Satan wants to destroy them and those who believe in the Jewish Messiah in his demented attempt to prove that God cannot keep His promise to His witness people.</p>		
<p>Jesus told His disciples that Christians and Jews would be hated until the end of time as a sign of His coming. He also said that people would betray each other, thus separating out the true believers from those who are false disciples (Matthew 13), and finally predicts that some will fall away from the truth as a result of that persecution. Certainly, this has been fulfilled in the centuries leading up to our day, and it will get worse in the future.</p>		
<p>11 "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 "But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”</p>		
<p>It appears that Matthew alone records this second warning of false prophets that will come after the time period of general persecution throughout history. Many New Testament prophecies talk about the false teachings that will come in the last days, and how people will turn their ears from the truth and believe a lie (2 Timothy 4:3-4); how people will go after doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1). It appears to me that we are entering into those days as the world becomes flooded with every wind of doctrine.</p>		
<p>Those who hold onto the gospel of Jesus Christ to the end shall be saved. Those who don’t, and are offended (fall away) by the Gospel of Jesus, will show that they never truly believed and, like Judas, had other motives for calling themselves Christians.</p>		
<p>14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”</p>	<p>10 "And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.”</p>	

According to Revelation 14, an angel will literally fulfill this during the tribulation period.

Rev 14:6-7 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth-- to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

God promises that the end will not come until He gives the inhabitants of the world one last chance to repent. Tragically, most will ignore this angelic warning.

Some Christians who are not aware of the prophecy of Revelation 14 think Jesus was saying that the church must fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28 in order for Jesus to return. Jesus did command us to go into all nations to spread the gospel, and the Holy Spirit has, for centuries, been leading those who are willing to heed the call. But the Church has not, and probably will not, succeed in taking the gospel to every tribe, tongue, and nation before the Tribulation. When the church is taken away at the Rapture, the Lord will continue spreading the message of the Gospel using an angel. And only after all nations have heard will the final wrath of God be poured out upon the unbelieving world.

15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),
16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.
18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.
19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!
20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.
21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.
22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.'

14 "So when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
15 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house.
16 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his garment.
17 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!
18 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter.
19 "For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.
20 "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.'

A background of the book of Daniel is critical to understanding the Olivet discourse. Jesus refers to the “abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel”; that is, Daniel Chapters 9 and 12. The following are the applicable verses from Daniel 9 and 12, with my interpretation/comments in bold brackets or indented. For a more detailed teaching on the reasoning behind this interpretation, the reader can go to our website (calvarypo.org) and listen to the complete teaching of Daniel, Chapters 9 and 12, in MP3 format.

Daniel 9:24 - "Seventy weeks [in Hebrew literally reads, “seventy sevens” interpreted to be 70 times 7 years, or 490 years] are determined for your people [the Jews] and for your holy city [Jerusalem], to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

In other words, there will be a total of 490 years of prophetic time dealing with the Jews and Jerusalem until the Jewish Messiah comes to rule on Earth. As we will see, this is not a continuous time. The 490 years are broken into a 483-year and a 7-year time block, separated by hundreds of years.

25 - "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

A total of 483 years out of the 490 years will be used up in the time between a commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah of Israel comes. Dr. David Reagan makes a strong case for how to calculate the starting and stopping point of this prophecy (<http://raptureready.com/featured/reagan/dr31.html>). He contends that the commandment (457 BC) to rebuild Jerusalem is recorded in Ezra 9:9:

Ezra 9:9 — "God has not forsaken us, but has extended loving kindness to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us reviving to raise up the house of our God, to restore its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem".

Then, exactly 483 years later, Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue of Nazareth declaring that He was fulfilling the prophecies of the Messiah.

Luke 4:17 And He [Jesus] was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written [Isaiah 61:1] : 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (NKJ)

The commandment to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem is the starting point and Daniel says the end point of the 483 years is defined as “until Messiah the Prince” meaning the beginning of Jesus’ three years of ministry before He was crucified and risen from the dead on our behalf. But Daniel continues with his prophecy.

Daniel 9:26 - "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off [killed], but not for Himself [Jesus did not die on His own account, but for the sins of the world]; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

Daniel clearly prophesied that the Jewish Messiah would be killed; then a people would destroy the city of Jerusalem and the temple of Jerusalem, which was fulfilled by the Romans in A.D. 70.

Daniel prophesied these events about 530 B.C., when the Medes and Persians were ruling the world. The Roman Empire did not exist and could not be named. Since "the people" who destroyed the city were the Romans, we can know "the prince who is to come," a reference to the future Antichrist, must come out of a revived Roman Empire.

9:26---The end of it [the city and sanctuary] shall be with a flood [literally = dispersion] and till the end of the war desolations are determined.

Again, this was literally fulfilled in A.D. 70 and continues to this day as the Jews continue to be in dispersion and wars.

In the next verse, the prophecy skips to the future. None of the Old Testament prophecies deal with the time of the Church; instead, they deal with the Jewish nation and people. During this period of time (since Jesus was crucified, risen, and ascended into heaven), the progression of the 490-year prophecy has been put on hold. Verse 27 records the event that starts the last seven-year period of history until the Messiah comes to rule and to be "anointed as the Most Holy" (verse 24), which means when Jesus returns in glory.

27 - Then he [The Prince who is to come, from verse 26 - the future Antichrist] shall confirm a covenant [peace treaty] with many [Nations?] for one week [literally one seven = one seven-year period of time, the last seven of the 70 sevens of verse 24]; but in the middle of the week [3.5 years into the peace treaty] he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate [the Antichrist will bring global destruction], even until the consummation [until the end – when Jesus returns], which is determined, is poured out on the desolate [Jesus brings wrath to those making desolation]."

There is one other place that Daniel speaks of a future abomination:

Dan 12:11 "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away [by the Antichrist, 3.5 years into a seven year peace treaty], and the abomination of desolation is set up [image of the Antichrist where he declares himself to be god], there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. [Until Jesus physically returns to rescue the remnant] 12 "Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days [those who survive the "sheep/goat" judgment of Matthew 25:32-46]. 13 "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days." (NKJ)

Going back to Matthew 24:15-22 - Jesus is warning the Jews who will be living in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas of Israel during the last days (during the tribulation period). According to Daniel 9, the Antichrist will break a seven-year peace treaty halfway through it. He will also commit an abomination in the rebuilt temple (currently not possible since the temple has not been built). Paul tells us in 2 Thessalonians, Chapter 2 that the Antichrist will go into the Holy Place of the future rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem and declare that he alone is god. It appears this is the abomination that Jesus was referring to. Some think the Antichrist will also sacrifice a pig, as Antiochus IV (the Seleucid ruler over Israel) did in 167 BC.

Whatever actually happens to fulfill the “abomination of desolation,” it is clear from the warnings of Jesus that those Jews living in Israel at the time will need to immediately leave Jerusalem and Judea in order to escape a slaughter. If they take the time to go to their houses, they will be killed. The urgency is such that they are to pray that the abomination does not occur on the Sabbath, since they will need to flee (which will not be allowed if they are in strict Sabbath observance) on the day it occurs or else suffer the coming persecution. This would mean the Jews will become increasingly observant of the Sabbath law as the last days approach.

For the sake of conjecture, assume the following has occurred to get to this point (as history unfolds, any errors in the following are the result of my lack of understanding of God’s word and not on the prophecies themselves):

(1) A future war in the Middle East results in the fulfillment of Psalm 83 and Isaiah 17. Psalm 83 talks about (using modern names) Lebanon, Jordan, Gaza and Saudi Arabia being burned as “the fire burns the woods, and as the flame sets the mountains on fire.” Isaiah 17 speaks of future war where Damascus is destroyed and ceases to be the capitol of Syria. At the same time, Israel’s northern military bases are destroyed, and Israel’s strength is greatly weakened. This results in all of Israel’s **immediate**, Arab, Muslim neighbors being destroyed (apparently as a result of Israel using nuclear weapons).

(2) Then (possibly soon after the Psalm 83 and Isaiah 17 wars), the Arab/Muslim nations that surround those nations destroyed by Israel, come to invade and destroy Israel with the leadership of Russia as prophesied in Ezekiel 38-39 (possibly as a result of Israel’s weakened military might after suffering the blows from Syria and because Israel has expended her weapons on the immediate neighbors). It is clear from Ezekiel 38 that the other nations of the world do not offer to come to Israel’s defense as the invading armies approach. This means something must happen to remove America’s pro-Israel influence in the Middle East. It might even mean that other nations have also been destroyed as a result of a larger scale nuclear exchange when the nuclear genie was let out of the Middle East bottle.

(3) As the invading armies approach the mountains of Israel, God intervenes on Israel’s behalf and destroys the armies, as described in Ezekiel 38 and 39. Ezekiel 39 prophesies that from that day forward, God will again pour His spirit on the house of Israel. The church will be Raptured by this time, since God will be again dealing specifically with Israel. Israel will have a revival back to God (but not toward their true Messiah, Jesus).

(4) As the world's survivors reel from the destruction caused by the fulfillment of Psalm 83, Isaiah 17 and Ezekiel 38-39, a man rises to power with a plan to put an end to the Middle East conflict. The peace process is accelerated and culminates in a seven-year peace treaty to end the Arab/Israeli hostilities between the survivors of these nations. The enforcement of this treaty will signal the beginning of the last seven-year portion of Daniel's 490-year prophecy, as discussed in the beginning of this booklet. The plan will include allowing the Jews to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem (Revelation 11:1-2), to reinstate animal sacrifice, to enforce Sabbath observance, and to recognize Israel land borders that are defensible. This plan will be so favorable to the Jews that they will be deceived into thinking that the man behind its inspiration is none other than the promised Messiah (but in fact, he will be the Antichrist whom Jesus warned them about). Jews from around the world will all flock to Israel to complete the fulfillment of the O.T. prophets about the re-gathering of Jews to the land, and the whole world will be saying "Finally! Peace and safety throughout the world!" But their joy and hopes will soon be dashed as the Antichrist brings death to the world. Then 1Thes 5:3 will be fulfilled: "For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."

(5) Three and a half years into the seven-year peace plan, the Antichrist will show his true colors and will commit the abomination of desolation. Some think it is at this time that someone attempts to assassinate him, but he recovers from a deadly wound.

Rev 13:3 - And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast [**Antichrist**]. 4 So they worshiped the dragon [**Satan**] who gave authority to the beast [**Antichrist at this time will be possessed by Satan**]; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months [**for another 3.5 years, which is when Jesus returns and judges the antichrist (Revelation 19:20)**]. (NKJ)

(6) When the Antichrist miraculously recovers from his deadly wound, he goes on a demonically possessed rampage against the Jews. Those Jews who heeded Jesus' warning are already taking their families to the wilderness. They realize they were deceived into thinking their Messiah was the Antichrist, and now, in repentance, they are following the teachings of their true Messiah, Jesus. The Antichrist will try to annihilate these fleeing Jews, but God miraculously defends them.

Rev 12:13 Now when the dragon [**Satan**] saw that he had been cast to the earth [**loosing the battle to have access to heaven**], he persecuted the woman [**Israel**] who gave birth to the male Child [**the Messiah, Jesus. Satan attempts this persecution by possessing the Antichrist and using him against the Jews**]. 14 But the woman [**Israel**] was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place [**believed to be the rock city of Petra, in Jordan**], where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time [**Three and a half years**], from the presence of the serpent [**Satan**]. 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman [**either literal flood of water or a flood of troops**], that he might cause her [**Israel**] to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring [**those who, during the tribulation period, believe in the Jewish Messiah, Jesus, but were not among those fleeing to the wilderness**], who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (NKJ)

As a side note, it is clear that the Church must be gone before the abomination of desolation. Jesus is warning the Jews living in Israel to flee to the wilderness. But in His entire Olivet Discourse, Jesus never tells the Church what they are to do. If the Christian Church were still on the earth, why does Jesus not warn them? If Christians are still on the earth, what are they supposed to do when they see the Antichrist commit the abomination? The answer must be that the church has been raptured. According to Revelation, many non-Jews will become believers during the tribulation period and will be killed for their faith, but they are never referred to as the church, and since they were not believers before the Rapture, they missed the opportunity to be spared the tribulation events.

In Revelation 3:10, Jesus promises the church of Philadelphia that He “will keep them from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” Although the church of Philadelphia was a literal church at the time John the Apostle was given the vision of Revelation, many believe this promise of Jesus had a broader meaning, since the literal church of Philadelphia in John’s day was never spared of a global time of testing. Therefore, it is believed that the church of Philadelphia actually symbolized the Christian church in the last days, the church that would be raptured before the tribulation period begins.