



# The Olivet Discourse

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*"when you see all these things, know that it is near-- at the doors!"*  
(Matthew 24:33)

Note: Scripture used in this Bible Study is from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.

1. What do we know about to whom the book of Matthew was written?
2. How should the intended audience of the Book of Matthew impact they way we study the Olivet Discourse?
3. What did Jesus prophesy about the temple in Jerusalem?  
Matthew 24:1-2 - Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." (NIV)
4. Did this prophecy of the temple come to pass?
5. What three questions did the disciples ask Jesus?  
Matthew 24:3 - As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" (NIV)
6. Matthew 24:3 - What assumption were the disciples making by the way they asked these questions?
7. Which questions did Jesus answer?  
Matthew 24:4-6 - <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup>For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup>You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. (NIV)
8. Matthew 24:4-5 - What did Jesus warn of?
9. Matthew 24:5 - What primary deception did Jesus warn us about?
10. Are there instances of people claiming to be Christ today? What are they?
11. We know what wars are, what is a rumor of war?
12. Matthew 24:6 - How should Christians react to "wars and rumors of wars"?
13. Why shouldn't Christians be troubled by "wars and rumors of wars"?
14. What will cause the world as we now know it to end?
15. What five parts are given to "the sign of Your coming"?  
Matthew 24:7 - Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. (NIV)
16. Haven't we always had these signs? What then makes them signs?
17. What time frame is given for the five signs Jesus gave?  
Matthew 24:8 - "All these are the beginning of birth pains." (NIV)
18. What is significant about the onset of birth pains?  
How would the timing of the contractions be characterized?
19. As birth pains become of greater intensity and frequency, what is the culmination of them?
20. What period is described by Matthew 24:9-14?  
Matthew 24:9-14 - <sup>9</sup>"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. <sup>10</sup>At that time many will

turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, <sup>11</sup>and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. <sup>12</sup>Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, <sup>13</sup>but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup>And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (NIV)

21. Matthew 24:9 - Who will be delivered into tribulation?

22. How do you reconcile the fact that Jesus came to save the lost sheep of the house of Israel with His dying so that all people, Jew and Gentile would be saved?

23. Matthew 24:9-14 - What things do these verses say will happen during the tribulation?

24. Matthew 24:9-14 - Have these things ever been fulfilled in history?

25. Matthew 24:13 - What will happen to those who endure to the end?

26. Does this enduring to the end mean that people will earn their salvation during this period?

27. What will those who endure be saved from & to?

28. What is the event described in Matthew 24:15?  
Matthew 24:15 - "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— (NIV)

29. What does the "abomination of desolation" mean?

30. What must be in place for the great tribulation to occur?

31. Can the tribulation begin without the temple in Jerusalem?

32. Does it seem likely today that there will be a Jewish temple in Jerusalem?

33. What does Jesus tell the Jews living at the time of the abomination of desolation to do?

Matthew 24:16-20 - <sup>16</sup>then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup>Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. <sup>18</sup>Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. <sup>19</sup>How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! <sup>20</sup>Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. (NIV)

34. How do we know Jesus is referring to Jews?

35. What does our Lord call this new phase of the tribulation?

Matthew 24:21 - 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.

36. Matthew 24:21 - What will make this period so terrible?

37. What will there be a lot of during the great tribulation?  
Matthew 24:22 - If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. (NIV)

38. When in history has it been possible for a war to kill all people on earth?

39. Matthew 24:22 - Why will the Lord intervene to end this terrible time?

Who are the elect that Jesus is referring to here?

40. What will deceive people during the tribulation?  
Matthew 24:23-25 - <sup>23</sup>At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup>For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. <sup>25</sup>See, I have told you ahead of time. (NIV)

41. How was Hitler a type of the Antichrist?

42. As a type of the Antichrist, what can we learn about the Antichrist from the way Hitler conducted his business?
43. What is the big lie that the world has accepted?
44. What evidence have you seen that the spirit of the antichrist is active in the world today?
45. How will the Lord return to the earth?  
Matthew 24:26-27 - <sup>26</sup>"So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. <sup>27</sup>For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (NIV)
46. It says in Acts 1:9-11 that Jesus will return the same way He left... What does this mean?  
Acts 1:9-11 - Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."
47. What will attract the birds when the Lord returns?  
Matthew 24:28 - Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. (NIV)
48. What five miracles will happen when the Lord returns?  
Matthew 24:29-30 - <sup>29</sup>"Immediately after the distress of those days " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' <sup>30</sup>"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. (NIV)
49. Is Matthew 24:29-30 describing a supernatural event or something that can be explained by natural phenomena?
50. What do you think the sign of the Son of Man is?
51. Matthew 24:30 - Why do the "tribes" mourn?
52. Who are "the elect" of Matthew 24:31?  
Matthew 24:31 - And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (NIV)
53. What does the fig tree & summer symbolize?  
Matthew 24:32-33 - <sup>32</sup>"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup>Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. (NIV)
54. What does "bearing fruit" in the Bible symbolize?
55. How long before the fig tree of Israel will bear fruit?
56. What generation is the Lord referring to?  
Matthew 24:34 - I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. (NIV)
57. Are we seeing Israel bud out leaves today?
58. What is temporary and what is permanent?  
Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (NIV)
59. What does it mean that God's Word will never pass away?
60. Who knows when Christ will return?  
Matthew 24:36 - No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (NIV)
61. If Jesus is God, why didn't He know when He was going to return?
62. As we study the end-times chronology, we will see that God will give those who become Christians during the tribulation sufficient information to know when Jesus will return... Why didn't God reveal this to us who are living in this current age of grace?

63. Why would God tell the tribulation saints when Jesus would return?

64. What will the days be like preceding Christ's return?  
Matthew 24:37-39 - <sup>37</sup>As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. (NIV)

65. What were the days of Noah like?  
Genesis 6:5 - Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

66. So, what does this tell us about the times preceding Christ's return?  
Matt 24:12 - And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

67. How is Genesis 6:13 characteristic of today?  
Genesis 6:13 - And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

68. Matthew 24:39 - What does it mean, "took them all away"?

69. Who will be "taken"?  
Matthew 24:40-41 - <sup>40</sup>Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. (NIV)

70. So who is taken away in Matthew 24:40-41?

71. Why should we be watching for the return of the Lord?  
Matthew 24:42 - "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. (NIV)

72. What is the coming of the Lord compared to? Why?  
Matthew 24:43-44 - <sup>43</sup>But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief

was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. (NIV)

73. How should the imminent return of Christ impact the way we live?

1Thessalonians 5:4-6 - But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.