

**Matthew 24:14 – 32**

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~ We're intentionally slowing down and moving rather slowly through the Olivet Discourse in the Gospel of Matthew and our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. We won't get out of this chapter in this report, either. I hope you're reading along very carefully because this is a thrilling and sensational section of Scripture, to be sure. If you have not read our last report and, indeed, all thirty-three reports from this book of the Bible, then I suggest you go back and do so now. We're not talking about the church here – we are talking about the end of the age – after the church has been raptured and taken to be with Christ in the air - and what is going to happen on earth IN THAT DAY; which means we are talking about the Great Tribulation period. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is going to label it that for us in this report....

***14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.***

~ John the Baptist had brought the message "....repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" The message has changed here as Jesus says, "come unto me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest." The Son of Man "came not to be ministered unto but to minister and give His life a ransom for many." This is not the verse to use to try to get others to help you get the Gospel out, though. I think it's noble and honorable to want to get the Gospel out but it is critical to interpret the Bible correctly with the complete Gospel and to get it all out in its proper form. Remember, the Lord Jesus is answering a specific question from the apostles: what is the sign of the end of the age?

This Gospel that will be preached in the Great Tribulation period is not the message for us today. We teach the Gospel of the Grace of God. So, the logical question is: is this another Gospel? The answer is: no, it's still the same Gospel! The emphasis is what has changed. We have no right to say the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand today because we don't know. God gives

us no dates at all. Those people in the Great Tribulation will know they are in it but they won't know the date or the hour of His return. IN THAT DAY, they will be able to say, "...repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand" - because the presence of the Lord will be upon them. Today, we do not place the emphasis there. We place the emphasis on resting in Christ; because that's what He said for us to do in the epistle to the Hebrews.

This misunderstanding is what has led to a philosophy that says there are four or five different ways of being saved. Most qualify and predicate that upon their belief in dispensation. Well, the Bible only teaches one way to be saved throughout the ages - and that is by the cross of Christ. The entire Old Testament looked forward to the coming of Christ and everything after the cross looks back to it. If you had asked Abel if he thought that little lamb would take away his sins he would have answered, "...no." Abel would tell you he brought that lamb because he was told to do so by God. Abel brought the lamb by faith; but if the lamb didn't take away his sins, then why would God require it? - Because that lamb pointed forward to the cross of Christ; and that's what Abel had been told to do.

Abel recognized that God was correct in saying that Abel was a sinner who needed a substitute to die in his place. John the Baptist said, 'repent,' sure, he also said, "...behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world!" Everyone that was ever saved before the cross was saved on credit; that debt was paid at the cross. Everyone that had come to God HIS way was saved and forgiven; all on the basis of Christ's death. At the heart of the Mosaic system was a sacrifice that everyone was required to bring. The law was given to reveal they could not keep the law - not to save them. No one was ever saved by keeping the law because no one ever kept it. Well, God doesn't forgive sins unless the penalty has been paid. The purpose of the law is the same as it ever was: it demonstrates to us we cannot keep it. You are a sinner that needs a Savior and until you come to Him as our Blessed Hope then you just aren't saved. What is stopping you from accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as the Sovereign Ruler of this universe and as your Savior from the wrath of God? To reject this will make the Lord Jesus your Judge....

***15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand)***

~ Verse fifteen is the answer we were looking for to the question “what is the end and what is the sign of the end?” The Lord Jesus says it is the abomination of desolation. What is the abomination of desolation? – Two abominations are revealed in the Book of Daniel, and we’ll hear from Daniel later in our Spiritual Safari; not in this report, except to say the Syrian Titus Epiphanes was one; and he came down into the temple, boiled a sow and poured the water all over the holy vessels in the temple and in the Holy Place. That was – at that time – an abomination of desolation! John talks about this also, of course, in Revelation but we aren’t looking for an abomination of desolation – we are told, very specifically, to ONLY be looking for our Blessed Hope, the Lord Jesus Christ! IN THAT DAY that will be the sign and it is what people IN THAT DAY will be looking for. We are looking for that glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior. That’s all I am looking for because I don’t really know what an abomination of desolation is – outside of what the Word of God tells me – which isn’t much! What I do know for sure is that church doesn’t have a “Holy place” – so, we can know very definitely this is not for today. Honestly, I think I see abominations all over this desolate earth. So, I quickly look away because I don’t think they are what I think they are. Jesus says, “when you see that in the Holy Place...” – but, again, and it is critical to understand, the church doesn’t have a holy place today - and if you read - you will understand!

The people who are there IN THAT DAY will understand. I don’t expect to be there if I understand my Bible correctly. There are too many details God hasn’t seemed fit to tell us about, so I stick to the ones He has revealed. Okay, next we have another time word, “then!” When? - When the abominations of desolations appears. That is when people will flee into the mountains. I have no plans to flee into the mountains of Judaea; how about you? I see many people around this forum on which I teach preparing for doomsday and they seem to plan to flee to the mountains; but they do not seem to realize fleeing to the mountains has nothing in the world to do with what we are studying! The Lord Jesus is talking about THESE people – in Judaea – IN THAT DAY! ~

**16 THEN let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:**

**17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:**

~ The rooftop of a contemporary house is not a safe place to hang out, friends; but in Israel the standard of construction is to have a patio located on the roof. Let's keep this passage of Matthew in context regarding those it is applicable to, okay? It's really the best idea because these people someday are going to leave their house and just keep on going. Also, there will be a tremendous population explosion at the beginning of the Great Tribulation period. We have some pretty big crowds today; but this world is going to be overweighed with masses very quickly....

**18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.**

**19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!**

**20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day:**

~ We are to rest in the Sabbath rest Christ Jesus offers us every second of every minute of every hour of every day of every week of every month of every year of every decade of our lives. We go to church on Sunday because that's the day our Lord was raised from the dead. Frankly, it is ONLY the law breakers floating around this forum on which I teach who are the ones who insist on a Saturday Sabbath – because Jesus says we are to rest in His Sabbath rest continually; being anxious for nothing, presenting every thought and deed in prayer....

**21 For then shall be THE tribulation – the GREAT ONE, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

~ The end of this age is called the Great Tribulation period by Jesus Himself. If you want to call today or this period in the future other things –

you will need to appeal to God because our safari teaches this correctly; and our track isn't going to be changing, either. If you think we are going through the Great Tribulation period then you simply don't realize how severe it will be at that time. We can match the problems in the world today with many other periods in history. I have used the specific and direct Greek translation for verse twenty-one. Even our best manuscripts of the Bible today need some changes. I am not talking about significant changes but certain words for clarity. I would also estimate the total number of clarifications to be insignificant – but useful, nonetheless. There are no changes needed which would bear down on any doctrine we already have – the changes needed would only enhance and make more real the existing truth of the apostles sound doctrine....

***22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.***

~ We are going to read in Revelation that during the Great Tribulation period a full third of the world population is destroyed with one swoop; and at ANOTHER time in Revelation during the Great Tribulation period, a FOURTH of the remaining population are also immediately wiped out. The red horse is war and the black horse is famine; the pale horse is death – the population will be literally decimated. There was a period in my own short history on this earth that this seemed to be an exaggeration and I know of some commentators who made that exact statement. Today, right now – as you read and as I type – it's VERY possible and it seems VERY likely to me. The world's governments have enough weaponry to carry this out in one single day, my friends. This isn't funny business – maybe we should keep moving on? Maybe we haven't spent enough time here? Let's accept the little comfort we have as Jesus says those days will be shortened. God does not let mankind commit suicide....

***23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.***

***24 For there shall arise false Christ's, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.***

~ **IN THAT DAY** they will not believe or trust what they have been taught concerning the sign of His coming because there will be false Christ's running around all over the place teaching the craziest of things – which man will buy wholesale. Don't miss this, friends. The ability to work miracles is a dangerous thing because the next great miracle worker isn't Christ – it's antichrist – and he will have his own forerunner; that is – the devil has his own false prophet and Satan's false prophet will be able to perform mighty miracles. The very elect is not confined to the church. The elect, in this section of Scripture, refers only to the nation Israel. We have been talking about the nation Israel in Matthew - and the church has not even started when Jesus said this – so, we're talking about Israel, the elect nation. Misunderstanding this fundamental tenet of Scriptural truth has led to more problems amongst Christians than any other theological divergence....

***25 Behold, I have told you before.***

***26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.***

***27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.***

~ When Christ returns to establish His Millennial Kingdom there won't be any John the Baptist to announce it. No, the Second Advent of Christ happens as a thief in the night. Everything goes from peaceful rest to immediate chaos; and that chaos will be as public as it can get, too. Lightening is a very public event. When it's happening, it can strike anywhere at any time. The electrical storm in Florida can be a frightful experience. The return of Christ to this earth will be just like that. Nobody knows when and, of course, we are not talking about the rapture....

***28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.***

~ Our title verse for this report may be the most difficult verse in the entire Olivet Discourse to understand. We just spoke of His return in lightening and now this eagle verse immediately comes along with it. Well, it speaks of His return in judgment, and we find it in the nineteenth chapter of Revelation, also. Remember, the invitation went out to the bird family to come together and have a banquet of the flesh of kings and captains and the great men of the earth – well, this is judgment, friends; and all of these events take place when He returns to this earth....

***29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:***

***30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.***

~ What is the sign IN THAT DAY? – Well, in the Old Testament the Shekinah Glory of the True and Living God inhabited the tabernacle and temple. No nation except Israel has ever had the Shekinah Glory; the presence and direct, physical leading of God. The church has nothing like it. The church has never been led by fire at night and smoke in the day. Not only can the church not recognize an abomination of desolation – they can't even find a Holy Place. Why can't we stop playing around with the Word of God and learn it properly, correctly and completely? The Shekinah Glory of God departed and left the nation Israel probably during the reign of King Manasseh of Judah. When Christ came to this earth the first time He laid aside His Glory! Christ brought His deity but He laid aside His prerogative of glory; even though John says they beheld that glory. The glory of the Lord Jesus couldn't help but break through inadvertently while He was on earth. When Christ returns the second time I believe the sign will be the Shekinah Glory. It will appear again and fill the temple; and it will also lead the nation Israel in a pillar of fire by night and a cloud of smoke during the day....

***31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.***

~ This is unquestionably speaking of the nation Israel and how the nation will be miraculously brought back into that land. Presently, Israel is scattered across the globe. There are more Jews in Hollywood, New York and Florida than there are in Israel; and there are more Jews in Russia than there are in America! They're not clamoring to get back to that place today, either, friends. You can forget that mass return to Israel nonsense. There might be a leaf or two today on the fig tree that is the nation Israel - but there is no spiritual fruit whatsoever; and they are a long way from producing any, that's for sure! We know this isn't speaking of the church because the church has been called up and out of this world to meet the Lord in the air – in the rapture – IN THAT DAY. Angels aren't even connected with the rapture at all! The sound is LIKE a trumpet and LIKE an archangel – the voice is the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ won't need angels to bring the church to Him. Christ died for the church, and He owns the church; the angels gathering together just so happen to speak of the nation Israel....

***32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh ~***

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