

UNVEILING THE OLIVET DISCOURSE Matthew 24-25

The Olivet Discourse is the name given to the extended teaching given by Jesus on the Mount of Olives in **Matthew Chapters 24 and 25**. It is important to begin with the understanding that Jesus teaching in this section of the New Testament is in reference to Israel and not the Church.

The teaching is in reference to the two questions asked by the disciples, (**Mat. 24:3**), regarding “when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

It is critical in understanding these verses that we follow the set rules of biblical interpretation: we must first understand the context in which the statements are made. Context would include who is being addressed, when is the comments made, what is the subject matter, what is the historical and cultural situation at the time of the discussion, and most importantly, compare scripture with scripture.

Some of the important scripture we will look at are: **Dan.9:24-27, II Thess. 2:1-4, Rev. 6:1—19:21**.

CONTEXT OF TIME

Matthew 24:3 The disciples asked Jesus their questions. Lets interpret their words. The word “coming” is *parousia* which means “presence or arrival.” The word “world” is *aion* and means “age or period of time.” The age (or dispensation) that the Lord taught the Olivet Discourse was before His crucifixion and ascension so it must be noted that they were still in the Old Testament dispensation.

The period that Jesus was talking about, (the context), was the Old Testament dispensation and the question they asked Him was “when will these things you spoke about happen, what signs do we look for in order to know you have arrived to set up the Kingdom at the end of this age (O.T.). The disciples were confused and anxious for their Messiah to set up His Kingdom.

Daniel 9:24-27 The Old Testament period that was left for Israel is recorded in Daniel's prophecy to be 490 years according to the seventy weeks in the prophecy. At the time of Daniel's prophecy the Jews were in Babylon in captivity and were concerned that God had given up on them. This prophecy was God's promise to them that He was not finished with them and that He would keep all His promises that He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob regarding their land and the future Kingdom.

Ephesians 1:10; 3:1-6 It is clear that Christians are not present within the context of Matthew 24 and 25 nor in Revelation 4-19. There is no mention of the word Christian, body of Christ, in Christ, the Lambs wife, the bride of Christ, nor any other words used to describe believers saved by Grace.

Daniel 9:26 The context of Daniel's prophecy in this verse indicates that during the 483rd year of the 70 week prophecy “Messiah would be cut off”- (killed), so in (**Matthew 24 and 25**) Jesus ministry in the Gospels record is undeniably in O.T. times.

Daniel 9:27 As Daniel continues his prophecy in this verse it is obvious that the context now is both the last week of the seventy week prophecy and is also speaking about the tribulation period.

Revelation 3:10 In His letters to the churches Christ promises to keep the church from “the hour of temptation”, meaning the tribulation. This verse and others like; **I Thess. 4:16-17, Rev. 4:1, I Thess. 5:9, Titus 2:13, John 14:1-3, I Cor. 15:51-52** give believers hope and assurance of not going into the tribulation period when God will pour His wrath down upon an unbelieving world.

Jeremiah 30:3-7 Notice several important aspects within this passage: 1. Jacob is Israel 2. Gathering back in their land 3. Birth pangs 4. A great day unlike any other 5. Resulting in salvation.

Revelation 12:1-5 Scripture only records two scripture texts regarding two pregnancies relating to the Messiah, this one and Jeremiah 30:5-7. The first in Revelation is regarding the first coming of Messiah, the second in Jeremiah refers to the ushering in of the Millennial Kingdom.

Isaiah 40:1-2; Jeremiah 16:15-18 More proof that the tribulation period is for unbelieving Israel.

Jer. 30:7; Eze. 20:37; Dan. 12:1 Speaking of tribulation the bible talks of 'Daniel's people', 'false Messiah', 'gospel of the Kingdom', 'twelve tribes of Israel', the Temple, etc., all regarding Israel.