

Lesson 46

Looking at The Future

Introduction:

Just prior to His crucifixion Jesus took the disciples aside and prophesied many things that would happen after His death. Bible theologians refer to this as the Olivet¹ Discourse. Along with the prophecies, Jesus issued several commands His disciples were to follow regarding the upcoming future events.

Before any of us, as Jesus' disciples, can obey Him we must have a basic understanding of what He is talking about concerning these events. Many Christians in today's world are confused when it comes to the future so we will use this lesson to clarify the contexts in which Jesus spoke and look closely at what He said. So let's begin.

Confusion about end time events begins when most popular Christian teachers and writers today declare that Jesus' Olivet Discourse was given in response to two questions that His disciples asked Him. But after careful study of the Scripture passages involved we can see that the disciples asked Him a total of **five** questions. Jesus responded to **two** questions asked by His disciples as they are leaving the Temple.² And after crossing the Kidron Valley Jesus responded to **three** more questions asked by Peter, James, John and Andrew when they came to Him privately while He was seated on the Mount of Olives.

Parts of the Olivet Discourse are contained in all three of the synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. When read individually the texts seem to be saying similar but different things so the reader can become confused. However, by studying the separate texts in side-by-side comparison a clear picture of future events unfolds.

Confusion surrounding future events also occurs when the reader fails to consider **personal** pronouns. Who is Jesus talking to or about? Is it: **1)** we, us, our and ours, **2)** you, your and yours or **3)** they, them, their and theirs. Adding to this confusion is the reader's lack of knowledge concerning historical references and Hebraic (Jewish) terms and concepts.

To make it easier for you the reader to understand what Jesus is saying I have taken the liberty of combining the three gospel accounts of the Olivet Discourse into one sequential reading. It is divided into two scenes: **1)** Leaving the Temple Mount and **2)** sitting on the Mount of Olives. The five questions that Jesus is asked by His disciples are addressed, personal pronouns within the text are in **bold** print and historical notes or points of clarification are footnoted. Following what Jesus has to say about future events, I've included the Apostle Paul's commentary on these same events. The last page of this study is a sequence of end time events comparing Jesus and Paul with the book of Revelation.

¹ The Mount of Olives.

² This conversation probably occurred in the open area between the Temple and the eastern (Golden) gate.

Scripture References:

Matthew 24:1-25:46, Mark 13:1-37, and Luke 21:5-36

Scene 1: The Temple Mount

Those Present

1. Jesus.
2. **All** of his disciples.

Location

Walking out of the Temple, after having observed the widow putting her two mites into the treasury.

The Widow's Offering **Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4**

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
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And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the multitude were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in **two small copper coins**³, which amount to a **cent**⁴. And calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."

The Disciple's Questions

1. **When** will the Temple be torn down?
2. **What** will be the **sign** when the Temple is about to be torn down?

The Temple In Jerusalem Will Be Torn Down: Matthew 24:1-2, Mark 13:1-2, and Luke 21:5-7

The Temple in Jerusalem Will Be Torn Down **Matthew 24:1-2, Mark 13:1-2, and Luke 21:5-7**

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31 AD, April 21, Monday Afternoon - Nisan 12

And as He was going out of the temple⁵, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!"⁶ And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another which will not be torn down."⁷ And they questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, when therefore will these things be?"⁸ And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?"⁹

³ Two small copper coins. Each of these was equivalent to about 3 1/2 minutes of labor.

⁴ A cent. Equivalent to 7 minutes of labor.

⁵ Jesus had left the Temple and was probably exiting through the eastern (Golden) gate headed for the Mount of Olives, which lies directly across the Kidron Valley.

⁶ The Temple will be torn down. This was fulfilled by Titus, the eldest son of the Roman emperor, Vespasian, on the ninth of Ab (late August) in 70 AD.

⁷ The Temple will be torn down. This was fulfilled by Titus, the eldest son of the Roman emperor, Vespasian, on the ninth of Ab (late August) in 70 AD.

⁸ Teacher, WHEN therefore will these things be? This is the disciple's first question.

⁹ What will be the SING when these things are about to take place? This is the disciple's second question.

Warnings: Luke 21:8-11

The Beginning of Birth Pangs

Matthew 24:4-8, Mark 13:5-8, and Luke 21:8-11

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And He said, "See to it that you be not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time is at hand'; do not go after them. And when **you** hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately." Then He continued by saying to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs."

Answer to Question #1

When? - The Apostolic Witness: Mark 13:9-11, and Luke 21:12-19

But Before All These Things **Mark 13:9-13 and Luke 21:12-19**

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But before all these things, **they** will lay their hands on **you** and will persecute **you**, delivering **you** to the synagogues and prisons, bringing **you** before kings and governors for My name's sake. It will lead to an opportunity for **your** testimony. And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. And when they arrest **you** and deliver **you** up, do not be anxious beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not **you** who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit. But **you** will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of **you** to death, and you will be hated by all on account of My name. "Yet not a hair of your head will perish. By **your** endurance **you** will gain **your** lives."

Answer to Question #2

What Will Be the Sign? – Desolation of Jerusalem: Luke 21:20-24

The Times of the Gentiles **Luke 21:20-24**

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"But when **you** see Jerusalem surrounded by armies¹⁰, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart¹¹, and let not those who are in the country enter the city; because these are days of vengeance, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled. Woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land, and **wrath to this people¹²**, and **they** will fall by the edge of the

¹⁰ Desolation of Jerusalem. Roman legions under Titus, the eldest son of the Roman emperor Vespasian, conquered the city of Jerusalem and tore the Temple down on the ninth of Ab (late August) in 70 AD.

¹¹ Titus and his Roman legions surrounded the city of Jerusalem in the spring of 70 AD. When they temporarily withdrew from their siege the Christians fled the city and went to Pella, a city on the eastern side of the Jordan River in current day Jordan.

¹² According to Josephus Flavius, the Jewish historian, 1,000,000 Jews were slain and 97,000 were carried away captive as slaves by the Romans in the war of 66-70 AD.

sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the **times of the Gentiles** be fulfilled."¹³

Matthew 24:3-28 and Mark 13:3-23

Scene 2: The Mount of Olives

Those Present

1. Jesus.
2. **Only** Peter, James, John and Andrew.

Location

Sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple.

Questions

1. **When** will this time of false prophets and birth pangs be?
2. **What** will be the **sign** of your coming?
3. **What** will be the sign of the end of the age?

The Olivet Discourse: Matthew 24:3 and Mark 13:3-4

The Olivet Discourse **Matthew 24:3 and Mark 13:3-4**

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And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives¹⁴ opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately,¹⁵ saying, "Tell us, when will these things¹⁶ be,¹⁷ and what will be the sign of Your coming,¹⁸ and of the end of the age?"¹⁹

The Beginning Of Birth Pangs: Matthew 24:4-8 and Mark 13:5-8

¹³ The times of the Gentiles. After the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD, Jews were allowed to remain there until the Bar Kokhba Revolt (131-135 AD). They were expelled from the city of Jerusalem in 134 AD and it was renamed Aelia Capitolina. The city remained under foreign (Gentile) control until June 8, 1967 when it was liberated from Jordan in the Six Day War. In 1980, a proclamation was issued that declared Jerusalem a united city under Israeli sovereignty.

¹⁴ Sitting on the Mount of Olives. This was probably the Garden of Gethsemane, which is located on the lower portion of the Mount of Olives directly across from the eastern (Golden) gate.

¹⁵ Questioning Him privately. When Jesus left the Temple all of His disciples were with Him and they asked Him the first two questions about the future. Here we see only Peter, James, John and Andrew continue privately questioning Jesus while He is sitting on the Mount of Olives. They asked Him three more questions about the future. Therefore the disciples actually asked Jesus a total of five questions.

¹⁶ These things refer to the other events (wars, plagues, famines, etc.) that Jesus described while answering their first questions about the Temple: when it would be torn down and the sign associated with it. Like us these four disciples were curious about these "other things" and came to Him privately asking more questions.

¹⁷ When will these things be? This is Peter, James, John and Andrew's first question to Jesus while He is seated on the Mount of Olives. It is also the third overall question disciples asked Jesus about the future that day.

¹⁸ What will be the sign of Your coming? This is Peter, James, John and Andrew's second question to Jesus while He is seated on the Mount of Olives. It is also the fourth overall question disciples asked Jesus about the future that day.

¹⁹ What will be the sign of the end of the age? This is Peter, James, John and Andrew's third question to Jesus while He is seated on the Mount of Olives. It is also the fifth overall question disciples asked Jesus about the future that day.

The Beginning of Birth Pangs Matthew 24:4-8, Mark 13:5-8, and Luke 21:8-11

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And He said, "See to it that you be not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,'²⁰ and, 'The time is at hand'; do not go after them. And when **you** hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately." Then He continued by saying to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs."

Answer to Question #3

When? - The Apostasy: Matthew 24:9-14, and Mark 13:12-13

Tribulation

Matthew 24:9-14 and Mark 13:12-13

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"Then they will deliver you to tribulation²¹, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. And at that time many false prophets²² will arise, and will mislead many²³. And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."

"MISLEAD": 4624. Skandalizó - to put a snare (in the way), hence to cause to stumble, to give offense; to entrap (**apostasy** (defection - revolt) – literally, "a leaving, from a previous standing" - (make to) offend).

Cognate (related definition): 4624 skandalizō – properly, *set a snare* ("stumbling-block"); (figuratively) "to hinder right conduct or thought; *to cause to stumble*" – *literally*, "to fall into a trap". See 4625 (skandalon - properly, the trigger of a trap (the mechanism closing a trap down on the unsuspecting victim); (figuratively) an *offense*, putting a *negative cause-and-effect relationship* into motion (ex. "the stick in the trap that springs and closes the trap when the animal touches it").

b. "to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey; to cause to fall away," and in the passive, to fall away (John 6:61; Matthew 13:21; MATTHEW 24:10; Matthew 26:33, Mark 4:17, Mark 14:29; John 16:1).

i.e. 2 Thessalonians 2 (*Paul re-enforces Jesus' Teaching on this same Event*)

The Man of Lawlessness

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one

²⁰ Some of those who claimed to be the Christ (messiah) after Jesus were: the Sicarii, Theudas (44-46 AD), Menahem ben Judah and Simon bar Kokhba (135 AD). In the five hundred year period from 1500 – 2000 AD there have been over forty individuals who claimed to be the Christ.

²¹ Many people confuse two Biblical concepts: tribulation and God's wrath. Tribulation is affliction or suffering endured by the saints in this world at the hands of men. (Ref: Jn 16:33) The wrath of God refers to the anger of God poured out on the ungodly. (Ref: 1 Th 5:9-10)

²² A prophet is one who is supposed to declare God's will to people. In the Old Testament a prophet was considered false when he came in the name of the Lord and 1) told people to serve other gods or 2) the sign (miracle, prophecy, etc.) he declared did not come to pass. Jesus added another test when He told his disciples to discern the prophet's fruit (character): was his behavior producing the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

²³ The word used here is apostasy, which means defection from truth, falling away, forsake. Some New Testament references to this concept can be found in: Ga 1:6-9, 1Ti 4:1-3, He 3:12, He 6:4-6, 2 Pt 2:1-3, 2Pt 3:17-18, 1Jn 2:18-19 and Jude 3-4.

deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion (apostasia (646) – apostasy, defection, revolt – literally, “a leaving, from a previous standing” or “a falling away”) comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the **mystery of lawlessness** is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹ **The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,** ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Stand Firm

¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers, **stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.**

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

i.e. **Mark 3:28-29, Matthew 12:31-32, Luke 12:10**

²⁸ “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever **blasphemes** against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—

Matthew 12:31-32

³¹ Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but **blasphemy** against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Luke 12:10

¹⁰ And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever **blasphemes** against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

“BLASPHEMES” (STRONG’S NO. 988 – blasphemía): “switches” right for wrong (wrong for right), i.e. calls what God *disapproves*, “right” which “exchanges the truth of God for a lie” (Ro 1:25 - “because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie”; Isa 5:20 - “you who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness,”). Literally, slow (sluggish) to call something *good* (that *really is good*) – and slow to identify what is truly bad (that *really is evil*). (THAYER’S GREEK LEXICON – βλασφημία, railing, reviling): *a.* universally, slander, detraction, speech injurious to another's good name.

The Abomination of Desolation and Great Tribulation: Matthew 24:15-22 and Mark 13:14-20

The Abomination of Desolation **Matthew 24:15-22 and Mark 13:14-20**

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"Therefore when **you** see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11) which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place²⁴ (**let the**

²⁴ Many Christians confuse the Desolation of Jerusalem (conquering and controlling the City of Jerusalem by the Gentiles) prophesied in Daniel 9:26 with the Abomination of Desolation (desecration of the Holy Place by Antichrist) in Daniel 9:27. Jesus even cautioned the readers to be discerning about this issue.

In order for the Abomination of Desolation to take place either a Tabernacle or Temple has to be in existence. The abomination occurs when something is placed, erected or established in the Holy Place portion of the Tabernacle or Temple. In the original Tabernacle only three furnishings were permitted to be in the Holy Place: The golden

reader understand), then let **those** who are in Judea²⁵ flee to the mountains; let **him** who is on the housetop not go down to get the things out that are in his house; and let **him** who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak. But woe to **those** who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days! But pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath²⁶, for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short."

The Coming of the Son of Man: Matthew 24:23-28 and Mark 13:21-23

False Christs and False Prophets **Matthew 24:23-28 and Mark 13:21-23**

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"Then if anyone says to **you**, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told **you** in advance. If therefore they say to **you**, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go forth, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them. For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be²⁷. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather."

Answer to Question #4

What Will Be The Sign of Christ's Coming? – The Cloud: Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27, and Luke 21:25-28

The Son of Man is Coming **Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27, and Luke 21:25-28**

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"But immediately after the tribulation of those days there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; **THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT²⁸, AND THE STARS WILL FALL** from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will

altar (altar of incense), the seven-branched golden lampstand and the table of showbread with its twelve loaves of bread. The prophecies also indicate that the regular sacrifices and offerings to God will be stopped.

A type of this abomination occurred once before but not for the full duration indicated in the prophecies of Daniel (8:9-14 and 12:11-12). In 167 BC, Antiochus IV - Epiphanes (God Manifest) set up a likeness of himself in the Temple, stopped the sacrifices and sacrificed a pig on the altar of burnt offerings. The Temple was cleansed and rededicated to God a little over three years later in 164 BC. The original story is found in the book of 1 Maccabees 4:36-61. The eight-day Jewish feast of Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the Temple.

The Apostle Paul also refers to this event in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. *"Let no one in any way deceive you, for it [The Day of the Lord] will not come unless the apostasy (falling away) comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God."*

²⁵ Judea. At the time of Jesus, Judea was an area falling within a thirty-five mile radius of its capitol, Jerusalem.

²⁶ Sabbath. This could indicate the weekly Sabbath (about 6 pm Friday evening until about 6 pm on Saturday evening or any one of the seven Sabbaths within the Feasts of the Lord (the Appointed Times of the Lord).

²⁷ The coming of the Jesus will not be in secret. However, his coming will occur suddenly, from the sky, transpire quickly and will be noticeable to all just like a lightning flash.

²⁸ **Isaiah 13:10, Joel 2:30-31.** "The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light."

be shaken, and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they** will see the **SON OF MAN²⁹ COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY³⁰** with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with **A GREAT TRUMPET³¹ and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER³²** His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Parable of the Fig Tree: Matthew 24:32-33, Mark 13:28-29, and Luke 21:29-31

The Parable of the Fig Tree

Matthew 24:32-33, Mark 13:28-29, and Luke 21:29-31

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³² "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, **you** know that summer is near; ³³ even so **you** too, when **you** see all these things³³, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I say to **you**, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place."

Answer to Question #5

What Will Be the Sign of the End of the Age? - When Heaven and Earth Pass Away:
Matthew 24:32-34, Mark 13:28-30, and Luke 21:29-32

When Heaven and Earth Pass Away

Matthew 24:34-36, Mark 13:30-32, and Luke 21:32-33

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³⁴ "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away³⁴ until all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away. ³⁶ But of that day³⁵ and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."

²⁹ The Son of Man is a reference Jesus used concerning himself and is found in **Daniel 7:13-14**, "Son of Man Coming on the clouds of the sky."

³⁰ The sign of Jesus' return is His appearance in the cloud. In Acts 1:9-11 two angels tell Jesus disciples that they will see Him return to the earth in the same manner in which He ascended into heaven. The specific cloud that is being talked about in Hebrew is called the Sh'khinah: the cloud of glory. It is the same cloud that led the Israelites in their wilderness wanderings, became a pillar of fire at night and filled the Temple of God. It always indicates the presence of God

³¹ The trumpet referred to is a Shofar: a ram's horn. The shofar is sounded at two Feasts (appointed times) of the Lord: The Day of Blowing (the horn) and The Day of Atonement. These feasts mark the beginning and end of a period of time in which people are called to repentance toward God. The "last or "great trump" is known by the note it sounds: a "Tekiah Gedola". The note begins at the end of the Day of Blowing and is completed during the "closing of the gate" ceremony at the end of the Day of Atonement. This trump is blown for an extended amount of time insuring that anyone desiring to repent of his sins will be given opportunity to do so.

³² **Isaiah 27:12-13**. "And He will send forth His angels with a Great Trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."

³³ "These things" refer to the previous passage of Scripture concerning "signs in the heavens" since Luke's account, after departing from Matthew and Mark's, picks up in harmony with them again at this point.

³⁴ The sign of the end of the age is when "heaven and earth pass away" at the great white throne judgment. According to the book of Revelation this does not occur until after the 1000-year reign of Christ on earth.

³⁵ "That day" is referring to the day heaven and earth pass away and is known only by the Father. Also on that day a new heaven and earth will be created. Some Christians believe that this statement references the Lord's coming. If so, the "not knowing the day and hour" remains true as well because technically it depends on where an individual is living on the earth at the time of Christ's return as to what day and hour it is. There are always two days and twenty-four hours coexisting on planet earth at any given moment.

Like the Days of Noah: Matthew 24:37-41

Like the Days of Noah and Lot
Matthew 24:37-41 and Luke 17:28-37

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"For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.³⁶ For as in those days before the flood **they** were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and **they** did not understand until the fold came and took **them** all away. It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, the one who is on the house top and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back. Remember Lot's wife.³⁷ Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left. There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.' And answering they said to Him, 'Where, Lord?' And He said to them, 'Where the body is, there also the vultures will be gathered.'"

Be Alert: Matthew 24:42-44

³⁶ To get an understanding for "the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah," there are two points to be considered in its interpretation. The first point is found right within the Matthew text, which states, "for as in those days which were before the flood they were (*"corrupt in God's eyes,"* Genesis 6:1 & Matthew 24:12) *eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,*" or simply stated, "the lawlessness of man will be as business as usual with no awareness of the importance of the times." The second point is not as obvious within the text of Matthew 24:37-41, but is better understood within the Genesis 5-7 account of "The Great Flood", in which we learn that Noah's grandfather, Methuselah's (meaning "*his death will send*") name was a prophecy that on the day of his death, "*his death will send*" the flood. And in fact, God tells Noah, "*In another seven days, I will make it rain upon the earth*" Genesis 6:6, of which the sages explain, that God was waiting for the end of the seven days of mourning for Noah's grandfather, whose death was the sign to Noah of "The Great Flood" coming. In context then, Jesus is teaching His disciples that the signs of His coming will be "*lawlessness increasing*" and "*business as usual*" amongst mankind on the earth, while for those who are children of light, He will not come like a "*Thief in the Night*" and "*On a Day and Hour Unknown*" 1 Thessalonians 5:2-6 & Matthew 24:44, 25:13, which prophetically is on "*The Feast of Trumpets*", which is the **only** feast that is known for the High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16) being called "*The Thief in the Night*" and "*Day and Hour Unknown*" (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 & Revelation 16:15, 3:14, 18), as it is celebrated over two days, and also known as "*One Long Day*". In addition to these two notable points, we cannot leave out two of the more obvious parallels to each account, "The Great Flood" and "The Second Coming", and that is, God's Wrath will be poured out upon the entire earth 1 Thessalonians 5:9 & 2 Peter 3:5-13), but like the Ark, we too, God's righteous, will be Raptured (Matthew 24:29-31) above the Wrath of God, to return to the Earth to be under His Millennial Reign as "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Zechariah 14 & Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6), before "The Great White Throne", "Final Judgment", and the "New Heaven and New Earth" (Revelation 20:7-21:8).

³⁷ When the Lord was about to destroy Sodom, Lot, his wife, Ado and their two virgin daughters escaped the devastation by leaving with the two angels the Lord had sent to them. However, Ado looked back to see the destruction of the cities, for her compassion was moved on account of her married daughters who remained in Sodom, for they did not go with her. And when she looked back she became a pillar of salt, and it is yet in that place unto this day. (Genesis 19 and the book of Jasher 19:51-52).

Be Alert
Matthew 24:42-44

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⁴² "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will."

Be on Guard: Luke 21:34-36

Luke 21:34-36

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31 AD, April 21, Monday Afternoon - Nisan 12 (2nd day of the week)

"And it came about that when Jesus had finished all these words, He said to His disciples, 'You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be delivered up for crucifixion.' Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas; and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth, and kill Him. But they were saying, 'Not during the festival, lest a riot occur among the people.'"

Keep on the Alert: Mark 13:33-37

Keep on the Alert
Mark 13:33-37

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"Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time is. It is like a man, away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert – for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cock-crowing³⁸, or in the morning – lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'"

Faithful or Unfaithful: Matthew 24:45-51

Be A Faithful Servant
Matthew 24:45-51

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"Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But if that evil slave says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,' and shall begin to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, and shall cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; weeping shall be there and the gnashing of teeth."

³⁸ The third of the Roman night watches known as "cock-crowing" ended at 3:00 AM.

Parable of the Ten Virgins: Matthew 25:1-13

Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

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"Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose, and **trimmed**³⁹ their lamps. And the foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the prudent answered, saying, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. And later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' Be on the alert then, for **you** do not know the day nor the hour."

Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25:14-30

Use Your Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

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"For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves, and entrusted his possessions to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. But he who received the one talent went away and dug in the ground, and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. And the one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me; see, I have gained five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.' The one also who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted to me two talents; see, I have gained two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed. 'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground; see, you have what is yours.' But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I scattered no seed. 'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. 'Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.' For to everyone who has shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. And cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

³⁹ **Trimmed.** Prepared for use.

The Son of Man in His Glory: Matthew 25:31-46

The Son of Man in His Glory
Matthew 25:31-46

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"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 'And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Be on Guard: Luke 21:34-36

Stand Before the Son of Man
Luke 21:34-36

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"Be on guard, that **you** hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation⁴⁰ and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day come on **you** suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that **you** may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

WRITINGS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL
The Day of the Lord⁴¹

⁴⁰ Excess

⁴¹ For many Christians the Day of the Lord is a confusing term and difficult to describe. The following observations should make understanding the term and end time events a little easier.

1. The Day of the Lord is 1000 years long. The Apostle Peter states, "*But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*"
2. The Day of the Lord is the seventh 1000-year day from creation. It is the Sabbath, a rest for the people of God because the Kingdom of God will be established in the earth.
 - 1st day – Adam to Noah
 - 2nd day – Noah to Abraham
 - 3rd day – Abraham to David
 - 4th day – David, the lesser light to Jesus Christ, the greater light

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, **you** have no need of anything to be written to **you**. For **you yourselves** know full well that the Day Of The Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While **they** are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon **them** suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and **they** shall not escape. But **you**, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; for **you** are all sons of light and sons of day. **We** are not of night nor of darkness; so then let **us** not sleep⁴² as others do, but let **us** be alert and sober. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But since **we** are of the day, let **us** be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined **us** for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for **us**, that whether **we** are awake or asleep, **we** may live together with Him.

The Day of the Lord: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10

- "The Day of the Lord": is 1000 years long (2 Peter 3:8). It is the seventh 1000-year day from creation. It is the Sabbath, a rest for the people of God because the Kingdom of God will be established in the earth, which begins with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to rule and reign and ends prior to the release of Satan to deceive the nations again. It is the 8th day, corresponding to the 8th day of the Feast of Tabernacles (October) that Heaven and earth pass away, the great white throne judgment takes place and God creates a new heaven and earth. The Day of the Lord is the primary subject of the Book of Revelation, as the Apostle John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. He is describing events that occur throughout the day: warnings, judgments, resurrection of the dead (Hosea 6:2), binding of Satan, marriage supper of the lamb, and the reign of Christ on earth. Jesus will fulfill the final three Feasts (appointed times) of the Lord: Day of Trumpets/Blowing (the shofar), The Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles.
- "let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober . . . For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ": There is only

5th day – One of the last days

6th day – One of the last days

7th day – The Day of the Lord, a Sabbath which begins with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to rule and reign and ends prior to the release of Satan to deceive the nations again.

8th day – Heaven and earth pass away, the great white throne judgment takes place and God creates a new heaven and earth.

3. The Day of the Lord is referred to throughout Scripture in different ways such as: the day, that day, the Lord's Day, and the 1000 year reign of Christ.
4. The Day of the Lord is the primary subject of the Book of Revelation, as the Apostle John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. He is describing events that occur throughout the day: warnings, judgments, resurrection of the dead, binding of Satan, marriage supper of the lamb, and the reign of Christ on earth.
5. Jesus will fulfill the final three Feasts (appointed times) of the Lord: Day of Blowing (the shofar), The Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles.
6. Note: Jesus has fulfilled the first four Feasts (appointed times) of the Lord: the Lord's Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Firstfruits and Feast of Seven Sevens (Weeks or Pentecost).
7. The Day of the Lord is also resurrection day for it is written in Hosea 6:2: *"He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him."* It is the third 1000-year day from the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the firstfruits.

⁴² There is only one day a year which God requires His people to fast and afflict their souls. That is the Day of Atonement, a Sabbath day. The day starts at about 6 pm when God's people gather together. Many stay awake throughout the night because they are to be alert. Studying the Scriptures, singing praises to God and prayer are the focus. Because God is drawing near to His people many refrain from speaking in secular tongues resorting instead to the Holy Tongue.

one day a year which God requires His people to fast and afflict their souls. That is the Day of Atonement (September/October), a Sabbath day. The day starts at about 6 pm when God's people gather together. Many stay awake throughout the night because they are to be alert. Studying the Scriptures, singing praises to God and prayer are the focus.

The Coming of the Lord

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

Now we request **you, brethren**, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and **our** gathering together to Him, that **you** may not be quickly shaken from **your** composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from **us**, to the effect that the Day Of The Lord has come.

The Apostasy

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Let no one in any way deceive **you**, for it⁴³ will not come unless the apostasy⁴⁴ comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed⁴⁵, the son of destruction,

The Abomination of Desolation

2 Thessalonians 2:4

who opposes and exalts **himself** above every so-called god or object of worship, so that **he** takes **his** seat in the temple of God,⁴⁶ displaying **himself** as being God.

The Mystery of Lawlessness

2 Thessalonians 2:5-12

Do **you** not remember that while I was still with **you**, I was telling **you** these things? And **you** know what restrains **him** now, so that in **his** time **he** may be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only **he** who now restrains will do so until **he** is taken out of the way. And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because **they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved**. And for this reason God will send upon **them** a deluding influence so that **they** might believe what is false, in order that **they** all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

Rapture

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

Behold, I tell **you** a mystery; **we** shall not all sleep,⁴⁷ but **we** shall all be changed,⁴⁸ in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the Last Trumpet;⁴⁹ for the trumpet will sound, and the

⁴³ "It" is referencing the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together with Him.

⁴⁴ The apostasy (falling away) comes before the Lord Jesus Christ returns and we are gathered together with Him.

⁴⁵ The Antichrist is revealed before the Lord Jesus Christ returns and we are gathered together with Him.

⁴⁶ The Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel comes before the Lord Jesus Christ returns and we are gathered together with Him.

⁴⁷ Not all will die in Christ. (i.e. Revelation 20:4-6, *"Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."* ⁵The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶*Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over*

dead will be raised imperishable, and **we** shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The Dead in Christ **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

But we do not want **you** to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep⁵⁰, that **you** may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if **we** believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep⁵¹ in Jesus. For this **we** say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we** who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the Trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then **we** who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with **them** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus **we** shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The point of the lesson is to keep alert, aware, and expectant of Jesus' future return.

Comparing the Sequence of End Time Events through the Words of Jesus, Paul, and the book of Revelation:

- Apostolic witness: **Jesus**
- Temple torn down: **Jesus**
- Birth pangs: **Jesus** – Paul – Revelation
- Apostasy: **Jesus** – Paul
- Abomination of Desolation: **Jesus** – Paul – Revelation
- Great tribulation/Time of false messiahs: **Jesus** – Paul – Revelation
- Signs in the heavens: **Jesus** – Paul – Revelation
- Wrath of God: **Jesus** – Paul – Revelation
- Coming of Jesus/Gathering together with Him: **Jesus** – Paul – Revelation
- Millennial reign of Christ: Revelation
- Heaven and earth pass away/Great white throne judgment: **Jesus** – Revelation
- End of the age/New heaven and earth: Revelation

such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.”)

⁴⁸ This is in reference to what Christians commonly refer to as the “Rapture”. Jesus made Martha aware of the concept in John 11:24-26. *Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

⁴⁹ The “last” or “great trump” is known by the note it sounds: a “Tekiah Gedola”. The note begins at the end of the Day of Blowing and is completed during the “closing of the gate” ceremony at the end of the Day of Atonement. This trump is blown for an extended amount of time insuring that anyone desiring to repent of his sins will be given opportunity to do so. It was also on the Day of Atonement every fifty years that the High Priest would shout out in proclamation that it was the year of Jubilee. (Leviticus 25:9)

⁵⁰ Dead in Christ

⁵¹ Died