

The Olivet Discourse—Part 1
“Questions, Questions, Questions”
Matthew 24:1-3

I. **H** _____? (vs. 1-2)

- a. The disciples pointing out the temple and its buildings was a way of asking a question Jesus had planted in their minds just before leaving Jerusalem (cf. Mark 13:1; Luke 21:5):
 - i. “³⁸ **Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!**” (Matt. 23:37-38; cf. Matt. 27:40; Mark 14:58; 15:29; Luke 19:43-44; John 2:19; Acts 6:14)
- b. **Jesus came out from the temple and was going away** through the Eastern/Beautiful Gate (cf. Ezek. 10:18-19; 43:1-4; Acts 3:2, 10)
- c. The disciples were still looking for the same kind of Messiah that most of the Jews were; One who would defeat the Romans and setup His promised kingdom, right now! (cf. Acts 1:6)
- d. Jesus’ answer tried to set them straight; beginning with what might have been a question of righteous frustration (cf. Mark 9:19)
- e. Then He declared with 2 double negatives that everything would **be torn down!**

II. **W** _____ & **W** _____? (v. 3)

- a. When the shock wore off “**Peter and James and John and Andrew**” finally got up the courage to ask 2 more questions (cf. Mark 13:3)
 - i. **when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**
- b. **Four Views of Bible Prophecy:**
 - i. P _____ (Latin **praeter** = Past)
 1. Believes all or most biblical prophecy has already been fulfilled and likely by 70 AD

2. Started in the 16th century Catholicism
3. Today, mostly in Reformed circles (RC Sproul)
4. Israel has been judged and replaced permanently by the church as God’s people

ii. H _____ = Today

1. Sees biblical prophecy being fulfilled in the current events of the day; applying headlines & setting dates
2. Most 16th century Reformers
3. The Great Disappointment (October 22, 1844)
 - a. Millerites became 7th Day Adventists & Jehovah’s Witnesses
4. Today we see it in evangelicals who focus on headlines and setting dates (Blood Moon, Red Heifers, *Late Great Planet Earth*, etc.)

iii. I _____ = Timeless

1. Views biblical prophecies as symbolism of the battle between good and evil.
2. Does not look for actual events in the past, present, or future
3. First glimmers in Origen & Augustine’s allegorical interpretations, formalized by bad scholars like Karl Barth in the 19th century

iv. F _____ = Future

1. Sees most of the events of biblical prophecy as not yet fulfilled.
2. Started with the Bible’s human authors and continued with almost all of the earliest Church Fathers
3. millennium = **chilioi** (χίλιοι) = “one thousand”

c. **Three Views of the Millennium:**

i. P _____ = Now

1. Believes we are in a spiritualized non-literal millennium now and that Jesus will return after or post it

2. Sees us in a "golden age" of ever improving conditions and Christianizing the world
3. Started in 4th century AD with Emperor Constantine
4. Formalized in 17th century, and maybe perfected by B.B. Warfield in the 19th – 20th centuries
5. The horrors of WW I & II made it fade
6. Now in Christian Reconstructionism and the heresy of the New Apostolic Reformation's Dominionism

ii. A_____ = Never

1. The prefix a = "no", so no millennium
2. Holds that Jesus inaugurated a spiritual kingdom at Pentecost and will consummate it when He returns
3. We live in a spiritualized Tribulation now with no Rapture coming
4. Started with Augustine in the 4th century and was systemized by the Reformers in the 16th century
5. Today predominant among scholars and academia

iii. P_____ = Not yet

1. Chiliasm = **chilioi** (χιλιοι) = 1000 years
2. The earliest Church Fathers expected Jesus to return and setup some kind of 1000 year reign (Papias 60-130AD; Justin Martyr 100-165AD; Irenaeus 130-202AD; Tertullian 155-220AD)
3. Replaced by amillennialism and Catholicism
4. After Reformation and Renaissance focus returned to the meaning of the actual biblical text: Literal, Grammatical, Historical Hermeneutic

- d. **these things** = the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple
- e. **coming** = **parousia** (παρουσία) "presence, coming, advent, being in person" = Jesus coming very soon in full display of His power as the Messiah
- f. **the end of the age** = the Day of the Lord