

The Olivet Discourse—Part 4a
"Six Characteristics of the Tribulation"
Matthew 24:9-14; Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-17

I. **P** _____ (v. 9)

- a. Like the four Birth Pangs this has occurred throughout church history, but during the Tribulation it will reach a never seen before intensity and reach.
 - i. Pliny the Younger & Emperor Trajan (111-113 AD) (<https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/study/module/pliny/>)
 1. "I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed."
 - ii. Nigerian persecution today: 5 million Christians displaced, churches burned, 100,000 martyred
- b. **Then** = a marker of time, indicating God's Wrath is motivating or intensifying
- c. **deliver you to tribulation** = wide reaching persecution; Judicial, Religious, and Political (cf. Mark 13:9; Deut. 25:1-3; Dan. 12:1; 2 Cor. 11:24; Matt. 5:10-16; 1 Peter 4:12-16)
- d. **will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name** = the Fifth Seal Judgment (Rev. 6:9-11)
 - i. **slain because of the word of God** (cf. Matt. 10:38-39; 16:24; Rev. 2:10-13; 13:15; 18:24; 20:4)
 - ii. **cried out with a loud voice** = indicating "a great multitude" (cf. Rev. 7:9)
 - iii. **How long** = understanding the holiness & righteousness of God compared to the sin & rebellion of man
 - iv. **white robes** = "in the blood of the Lamb" (cf. Rev. 7:14)
 - v. **for a little while longer** = God's Grace, Mercy, & Love (cf. Rom. 11:12, 25)

II. **A** _____ (v. 10)

- a. **At that time** = another marker of time, indicating this may also be motivated or intensified by the previous persecution
- b. **many** = indicating this is not a small number of people or isolated incidents
- c. **fall away = skandalizō (σκανδαλίζω)** = "to cease believing (Matt. 13:21)...to fall into sin (2 Cor. 11:29)...to cause to sin (Matt. 5:29; Rom. 14:21)"
 - i. These are the "shallow" & "thorny" ground in the Parable of the Soils (cf. Matt. 13:3-9; 18-23)
 - ii. Not everyone who believes facts about God and Jesus are saved (cf. James 2:19)
- d. **and will betray one another and hate one another** (cf. Matt. 5:10-12; 10:17-18, 24-25; 16:24-25)
 - i. These are likely many of the same false converts who fell away and left the church
 - ii. History shows that those who leave the faith, have often become the church's biggest enemies (Pliny the Younger: <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/study/module/pliny/>)
 1. "informer"
 2. "cursed Christ--none of which those who are really Christians, it is said, can be forced to do"
 - iii. ³³ "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 10:32-33)
 - iv. ¹⁹ "...but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us." (1 John 2:19)
 - v. ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'" (Matt. 7:21-23; cf. Matt. 10:24-25; 38; Luke 9:57-62; John 8:31; 2 Tim. 2:11-12; Heb. 3:12)