

The Olivet Discourse—Part 6
"Jesus' Victorious Return"
Matthew 24:23-31

I. Christ's Final W_____ (vs. 23-28)

- a. Verse 23's warning is probably targeting Tribulation saints who have avoided the Antichrist's genocide (cf. 2 Thess. 2:1-3)
 - i. The thrust is you will NOT be able to miss or mistake Jesus' Return; so, don't be deceived!
- b. Verse 24's **will show great signs and wonders** are Satan empowered and remind us we live in the midst of a spiritual realm (cf. 2 Kings 6:16-17ff)
 - i. It's why we must "**test the spirits to see whether they are from God**" (1 John 4:1ff; cf. Deut. 13:1-3; Ex. 7:22; 8:7; Matt. 7:21-23; 2 Thes. 2:8-10; Rev. 13:13-14; 16:14; 20:8)
 - ii. The **elect** CANNOT be permanently deceived (cf. John 10:27-28)
- c. Jesus emphatically doubles down in verses 25 & 26, to not be deceived!
- d. Verse 27's **For just as the lightning.**
 - i. I believe He's saying that His Return will be sudden & undeniably obvious to all, like lightening.
- e. Verse 28's **Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.**
 - i. Full Preterist sees the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD and the eagle being the Roman Standard that would be the Abomination of Desolation (cf. Dan. 9:24-27; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3-5)
 1. **aetos** (ἄετός) = "eagle or vulture"
 - ii. Some see Jesus referencing the aftermath of the battle at Armageddon (Rev. 19:17-18; cf. Ps. 2; Ezek. 39:17-20; Luke 17:37; Rev. 16:13-16)
 - iii. I believe it's just a simple idiom reiterating verse 27; that His Return will be unmistakable! (cf. Phil. 2:10-11)

II. Christ's Final H_____ (v. 29)

- a. This is likely the Sixth Seal Judgment (cf. Rev. 6:12-17)
- b. **immediately after the tribulation of those days** indicates this will occur after the Abomination of Desolation
- c. **the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken** interpretations:
 - i. Some see them as purely supernatural
 - ii. Others see God providentially sending meteorites or the great earthquake in Rev. 6 to eject rock, ash, and gas into the sky blocking out the sun, moon, and stars
- d. Regardless, the Jews would have recognized the language of the Old Testament's Day of the Lord (Isa. 13:9-13; cf. Isa. 24:1, 17-19; 34:1-2, 4, 8-10; Ezek. 32:7-8; Ps 18:7-15; Joel 2:10-11, 30-31; 3:15-16; Amos 8:9; Zech. 14:6-7; Jer. 30:7 Haggai 2:6; Matthew 16:27; 25:31; 2 Peter 3:7, 10-12; Rom. 8:18; 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:14-17; 2 Thess. 1:7; 2:1-8; 2 Peter 3:10-12; Rev. 1:7)

III. Christ's Final S_____ (vs. 30-31)

- a. **the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky** (cf. Dan. 7:13-14)
 - i. Some believe it will be a cross, the New Jerusalem, or the Shekinah Glory of God
 - ii. I think the Final Sign will be Jesus Christ Himself (cf. Acts 1:9-11; John 19:37; Rev. 1:7)
- b. **all the tribes of the earth will mourn**
 - i. Lost souls of the earth mourning their coming judgment
 - ii. Lost souls of the earth mourning to repentance and faith
 - iii. Tribes of Israel mourning to repentance & faith (cf. Zech. 12:10; Rom. 11:25-26; Isa. 59:20-21)
- c. **He will send forth His angels** (cf. Ex 19:13, 16, 19; Lev. 23:24; Ps. 81:3-5; Zech. 9:14; Deut. 30:4; Matt. 13:24-30, 41-43; 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16; Heb. 12:19; Rev. 8:2; 11:15)