



Olivet Discourse

Outline

1. **So What? Why Does it Matter Anyway?**
2. **Postmillennialism**
3. **Amillennialism**
4. **Premillennialism**
5. **What's Daniel Talking About?**
6. **When Are, or Rather Were, the 'Last Days'?**
7. **Israel?**
8. **Coming(s) of Christ / Which Generation?**
9. **Olivet Discourse**
10. **So What is Going to Happen?**



Introduction

- **Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21) source of much you will see regarding expectations surrounding Second Coming and end of the world**
- **Lays out what is about to occur up to and including the destruction of Temple and horrific judgement on apostate Israel**
- **Prior to 1850s, even Historic Premillennialists viewed Olivet Discourse as describing coming destruction of Jerusalem and Temple in 70 A.D., not Final Coming**
- **Full of Old Testament prophetic imagery – ignorance of and/or failure to understand this terminology in that context results in errant interpretations**
 - **Insistence on literal interpretation of prophetic imagery fallacious**

Time clues are too obvious to be missed

Questions Being Answered

Matt 24:1-3 - Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." ³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, *when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?*"

Questions Being Answered

Matt 24:1-3 - Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." ³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, *when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?*"

Luke 21:5-7 - Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, ⁶ "These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down." ⁷ So they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, but *when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?*"

Mark 13:1-4 - And as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, Master, see! What stones and what buildings! ² And answering Jesus said to him, Do you see these great buildings? There shall not be one stone left on another that shall not be thrown down. ³ And as He sat on the Mount of Olives, across from the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked Him privately, ⁴ Tell us, *When shall all these things be? And what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?*

Questions Being Answered

- **Jesus answering questions asked by disciples relating to destruction of Temple**
 - **“When will this happen and what will be the sign it is about to take place?”**
- **End of age, aeon, not kosmos or oikumene**
 - **KJV confuses translating ‘world’ instead of ‘age’**
 - **Jews thought in terms of two ages – the one in which they lived under the law, and the future age of the Messiah**
- **Disciples understood destruction of the Temple, His “coming” (parousia) , and “end of the age” to be identified with the time “when all these things shall be fulfilled”**

Destruction of Temple would have been the end of the universe as disciples knew it

Birth Pangs, not Signs

Matt 24:6-8 - "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, *but the end is not yet.*" "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. "*All these are the beginning of sorrows.*"

- Wars and rumors of wars, famines and earthquakes, etc. Ordinary course of events, not sign of the end. They are inevitable, but “the end is not yet.”
- Beginning of sorrows, like birth pangs. But not sign of the end (then or now)

Tribulation and Persecution

Matt 24:9 - "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.

Mark 13:9 - "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them.

- Jesus speaking in second person to those He was addressing – “You”
- Acts 4, 6, 16, 18, 24, 25 (Jewish and Roman rulers)
- Acts 7 – Stephen first martyr
- Acts 8 – Great persecution
- Many NT epistles written to comfort and encourage those under great persecution
- Nero 54-68 A.D. – Last three years horrific persecution of Christians (crucified, sewn in animal skins and attacked by wild beasts, burned as torches)

Gospel Preached in all the World

Matt 24:14 - "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached *in all the world* as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Luke 2:1 - And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus *that all the world* should be registered.

Acts 11:28 - Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout *all the world*, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.

- World here is Greek word 'oikoumene' – known world, Roman Empire

Gospel Preached in all the World

- **Rom 10:18** - But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: “Their sound has gone out *to all the earth*, And their words to *the ends of the world*.”
- **Rom 16:25-26** - Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began ²⁶ but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures *has been made known to all nations*, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—
- **Col 1:6** - which has come to you, as it has also *in all the world*, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;
- **Col 1:23** - if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, *which was preached to every creature under heaven*, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

*World in Col 1:6 is actually ‘kosmos’, not ‘oikoumene’

Abomination of Desolation

Matt 24:15-16 - "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶ "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Luke 21:20-21 - "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.

- Roman armies surrounded Jerusalem with ensigns of their gods
- Atrocities inside of Temple – Priests killed, drunkenness, Jews killing Jews
- Temple destroyed, images of Caesar on eastern wall

Sign That End is Near

- **When armies surround Jerusalem time to flee. Not wars, rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes, etc. But now this is the sign that the end is near**
- **Those in Jerusalem and Judea are to flee immediately**
- **Romans surrounded Jerusalem, and then inexplicably retreated for a short time. Christians remembering words of Jesus fled to Pella in Perea.**

Great Tribulation

Matt 24:21 -22- - *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

Luke 21:20 - "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² *"For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.*

- Great tribulation happened in middle, not end of history
- Over 3 million Jews killed in Jerusalem during time of Passover

Great Tribulation

Psa 69:20-28 - Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none. ²¹ They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. ²² *Let their table become a snare before them, And their well-being a trap.* ²³ Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; And make their loins shake continually. ²⁴ Pour out Your indignation upon them, And let Your wrathful anger take hold of them. ²⁵ Let their dwelling place be desolate; Let no one live in their tents. ²⁶ For they persecute the ones You have struck, And talk of the grief of those You have wounded. ²⁷ Add iniquity to their iniquity, And let them not come into Your righteousness. ²⁸ Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous.

- **Rejection of Messiah**
 - **Crucifixion and continuing sacrificial system resulted in total blindness and their table becoming a trap**

Lights Out

Matt 24:29 - "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Gen 1:14 - Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;

Gen 37:9,10 - Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." 10 So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

- **Sun, moon, and stars symbolic of signs, seasons, days, and years; and of governing entities – symbolic prophetic language means your days are up**

Lights Out

- **Isa 34:4** - *All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down As the leaf falls from the vine, And as fruit falling from a fig tree.* (Destruction of Edom)
- **Isa 13:9, 10** - *Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine.* (Destruction of Babylon)
- **Ezek 32:7,8** - *When I put out your light, I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, And the moon shall not give her light. 8 All the bright lights of the heavens I will make dark over you, And bring darkness upon your land,' Says the Lord GOD.* (Destruction of Egypt)
- **Joel 2:30-31** - *"And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.* (Destruction of Israel)

Revelation

Rev 1:1 - The *Revelation* of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

602. apokalupsis

disclosure:--appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation – literally, ‘to take off the veil’

- Genre of writings, as well as specific book within that genre
- Written to first century Christians suffering extreme persecution
 - Written in symbol, which receivers understood but persecutors would not
 - Written to them, but for us (One reason it is so hard to understand)

Apocalypse is a revelation, not a mystery

Revelation Time Clues

Rev 1:1-5 - A Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him to declare to His servants things which *must shortly come to pass*. And He signified it by sending His angel to His servant John, ² who bore record of the Word of God and of the testimony of Jesus Christ and of all the things that he saw. ³ Blessed is the one who reads and hears the words of this prophecy, and the ones keeping the things written in it, *for the time is near*.

- “For the time is near”
 - Translated both “time is near” and “time is at hand”
 - Similar to Jesus’ proclamation in Mark 1 that “the Kingdom of God is at hand”
- Means that the event referred to is imminent, so close you can reach out and touch it

Revelation Time Clues

Rev 22:6 - Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must ***shortly take place***.

Rev 22:9 - And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, ***for the time is at hand***."

Dan 12:4 - "But you, Daniel, ***shut up the words, and seal the book*** until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

- Daniel was commanded to seal up the prophecy – events he prophesied were five hundred years in the future
- John now told to not seal up the words of the prophecy – their fulfillment was at hand

Revelation at a Glance

- **Symbolic imagery of Old Covenant passing away and being replaced with New**
 - Creation ruled by angels now being replaced by creation ruled by men
 - Fallen Babylon being overcome by New Jerusalem
 - He who has conquered/those who are conquering
- **Events occurring in first century, but putting in place new order until the end**
 - Citizens of New Jerusalem battling and ultimately defeating fallen Babylon
 - Defeating many times by suffering, even unto death
- **Symbolic beasts speak to first century power structures**
 - Representative of corrupt power structures throughout time (Political/Economic/Religious)
 - Who use/abuse Power/Sex/Money to seize and maintain power
 - Who the New Jerusalem defeats through the Word and Testimony of Jesus

Summary

- **Olivet Discourse and Revelation speak to events occurring in the first century, albeit with implications to the end of time**
- **They both speak to the extremely traumatic events occurring around the old age being replaced with the new**
- **Much confusion created around them by**
 - **Failing to interpret in the context of the Old Testament prophetic imagery employed**
 - **Overlaying a presupposed construct over them (eisegesis vs. exegesis)**
 - **Including insisting on literal interpretation of prophetic imagery**
 - **Ignoring very obvious time clues**