

# The Olivet Discourse in Parallel Columns

arranged by Steve Gregg

## Luke 21

5 ¶ 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?"

8 And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am [He],' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.

9 "But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end [will not come] immediately."

10 Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

11 "And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

12 "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute [you], delivering [you] up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake.

13 "But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.

14 "Therefore settle [it] in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer;

15 "for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.

16 "You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put [some] of you to death.

17 "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.

19 "By your patience possess your souls.

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.

23 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people.

24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

*The setting*

*The prediction*

*The question*

*False Messiahs*

*Wars*

*Disasters*

*Persecution*

*Endurance*

*Abomination of Desolation*

*Flight*

*Tribulation*

## Mark 13

1 ¶ Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings [are here]!"

2 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not [one] stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately,

4 "Tell us, when will these things be? And what [will be] the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?"

5 ¶ And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

6 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am [He],' and will deceive many.

7 "But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for [such things] must happen, but the end [is] not yet.

8 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These [are] the beginnings of sorrows.

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.

10 "And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

11 "But when they arrest [you] and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

12 "Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father [his] child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

13 "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.

13b But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

14 ¶ "So when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand),

14b "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

15 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house.

16 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

17 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

18 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter.

19 "For [in] those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.

20 "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

*The setting*

*The prediction*

*The question*

*False Messiahs*

*Wars*

*Disasters*

*Persecution*

*Endurance*

*Abomination of Desolation*

*Flight*

*Tribulation*

## Matthew 24

1 ¶ 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?"

4 ¶ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

6 "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.

7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

8 "All these [are] the beginning of sorrows.

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.

10 "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

11 "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

12 "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

13 "But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

15 "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.

17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

21 "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.

22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

## General Observations

#1. Luke 21 (column 1) records a discourse uttered on the Mount of Olives (verses 5-7 with the parallels in Matthew & Mark (columns 2 & 3).

#2. Mark 13 (column 2) follows Luke 21 thought-for-thought with rare exceptions (e.g. Mark 13:21-23, which parallels Luke 17, and v.27, which has no parallel in Luke).

#3. Matthew 24 (column 3) follows Mark 13 thought-for-thought up through Matt.24:36, with rare exceptions (e.g. the reference to preaching the Gospel [Mk.13:10/Matt.24:14] is not quite in the same spot and Mk.13:11 has no parallel in Matt., though it does in Luke 21:14f)

#4. Luke 17 (column 4) gives a different discourse altogether, given in a different setting. This discourse provides parallels to some of the verses in Matthew 24 that have no parallels in Mark 13 or in Luke 21.

#5. Mark 13:21-23 & Matt.24:23-26 parallel each other, but have no parallel in Luke 21, where we would expect to find it. They do, however, have a parallel in Luke 17:22-24. Luke 21 does have essentially the same warning in v.8 and its parallels.

#6. It would appear that Matthew 24:1-42 has condensed two discourses of Jesus (that of Luke 21 and that of Luke 17) into one context. Mark 13 follows only Luke 21, except in verses 22-24.

#7. If Luke 17 speaks of the time of the Second Coming, then so does Matt.24:37-41. However, neither Luke 21 nor Mark 13 seem primarily concerned with this subject. Unlike Matthew, both Mark and Luke limit the disciples' question to that of the timing and the indicative signs relative to the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem of which event Jesus had just spoken (which was fulfilled in AD 70). Thus the fulfillment of Jesus' predictions in those chapters should be sought prior to and including AD 70.

#8. This conclusion seems confirmed by the statement, occurring in all three Gospels, that those things predicted would occur within the disciples' own generation (Luke 21:32/Mark 13:30/Matt.24:34)

#9. Further support for this conclusion is seen in the frequent use of the word "you" (referring to the disciples) in Matt.24:4, 9, 15, 20, 23—but not occurring in Matt.24:36-41.

#10. References to cosmic dissolution in Luke 21:25-26 (and parallels) need not be literally pressed any more than the same imagery is in Isa.13:10/34:3/Eze.32:7-8 or Rev.6:12-13.

#11. The references to the "coming" of the Son of Man do not necessarily refer to the Second Coming at the end of the age (compare identical language in Isa.19:1; Dan.7:13 or Matt.16:28).

#12. Where Matthew & Mark speak of "the Abomination of Desolation," Luke's parallel renders the same event "Jerusalem surrounded by armies" (Luke 21:20). This apparently refers to the coming of the Romans in AD 70.

#13. The alteration of the disciples' question in Matthew 24:3 from its form found in Mark and Luke may be Matthew's way of anticipating the material that he includes from the discourse in Luke 17, or may simply reflect the symbolic use of the word "coming" (as in Matt.16:28). It is hardly likely that the disciples, not yet aware that Jesus would be leaving them, would have a concept of what we know as the Second Coming.

## Luke 21 (cont.)

25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

26 "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.

27 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

29 ¶ Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.

30 "When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

31 "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.

33 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.34

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

35 "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

*True vs false appearing*

*After the tribulation*

*Son of Man Coming*

*Fig tree parable*

*This generation*

*Heaven & Earth to pass*

*No one knows the day*

*Watch!*

## Mark 13 (cont.)

21 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here [is] the Christ!' or, 'Look, [He is] there!' do not believe it.

22 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

23 "But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.

24 ¶ "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;

25 "the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

27 "And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

28 ¶ "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

29 "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near--at the doors!

30 "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

32 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

33 "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

*True vs false appearing*

*After the tribulation*

*Son of Man Coming*

*Fig tree parable*

*This generation*

*Heaven & Earth to pass*

*No one knows the day*

*Watch!*

## Matthew 24 (cont.)

23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here [is] the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe [it].

24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

25 "See, I have told you beforehand.

26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; [or] 'Look, [He is] in the inner rooms!' do not believe [it].

27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

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.

30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

32 ¶ "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer [is] near.

33 "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors!

34 "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

37 "But as the days of Noah [were], so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

38 "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

39 "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

40 "Then two [men] will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

41 "Two [women will be] grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

*True vs false appearing*

*After the tribulation*

*Days of Noah*

*One taken, one left*

## Luke 17

22 Then He said to the disciples, "The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see [it].

23 "And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after [them] or follow [them].

24 "For as the lightning that flashes out of one [part] under heaven shines to the other [part] under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

25 "But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

26 "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

27 "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

34 "I tell you, in that night there will be two [men] in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left.

35 "Two [women] will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left.

36 "Two [men] will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left."