

Olivet Discourse

Part 1 of 5

The topic for today's program is the Olivet Discourse, that is Saint Matthew, chapters 24 and 25, which have to do with the End Times, where the apostles ask Jesus "what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the world?" It's important to note that these two questions are not included in St. Luke's or St. Mark's version of the Olivet Discourse. That's because, the Olivet Discourse in Saint Luke and Saint Mark refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD by the Roman general Titus. The Olivet Discourse in Saint Matthew, however refers to the End Times and the second and third comings of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, let's briefly review, the basic rules of End Times hermeneutics, that is, the interpretation of apocalyptic literature. In interpreting apocalyptic literature you must remember that, number one, the symbolic interpretation takes precedence over the literal meaning of the passage. Number two, numerology is extremely important. And, number three, you need a "Co-Prophet" to understand the interpretation of the future. Now, other Bible scholars have no difficulty in understanding Mark and Luke's version of the Olivet Discourse because those prophecies have already occurred.

The difficulty comes, when they try to interpret the future as described in St. Matthew's version of the Olivet Discourse. Now, we should realize, that two different interpretations for the same prophecy is not unusual in the Bible. For example, in Daniel, when the four beasts come up out of the sea, in Daniel's own time, those beasts symbolized Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. And the last beast which was Rome, overtook the first three beasts. In the end times, however, those first three beasts, the Lion symbolizes England; the Bear symbolizes Russia; and the Leopard symbolizes the United States. The fourth beast, which overcomes the first three, is the "One World Communist" tyranny, the New World Order. Another example can be found in Daniel's vision of the ram and the goat. In Daniel's time, the two horns on the ram symbolized the Medes and the Persians; and the goat which defeated them, symbolized Greece and Alexander the Great. In our own times however, the two horns on the ram, symbolize England and America; and the single horn on the goat symbolizes

the Soviet Union, which will crush the two horns on the ram. Now, let's take a look at verse 3 from Saint Matthew's Olivet Discourse.

The apostles ask Jesus "what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the world?" As I said, those questions are not included in Luke or Mark. Now, let's read verses 4 and 5 "and Jesus answered them, take heed that no man deceives you, for many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ, and they shall deceive many." Now, this deception which Jesus is talking about, coincides exactly with the first horse in the book of Revelation, and that is the white horse of Apostasy. In fact, we will see, that the Olivet Discourse follows exactly all horses in the book of Revelation. Now, this Great Apostasy which Jesus is talking about began with the break-up of Christianity and the fall of the "great star" in the book of Revelation also known as Martin Luther. Martin Luther is a precursor of the False Prophet, just as Henry VIII is a precursor of the Antichrist.

The next two verses, reflect the red horse of war. "And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you be not troubled, for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." The culmination of all these wars will be World War 3. And Jesus continues, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." Now, the second half of verse 7 reflects the ride of the third horse, which is the black horse of famine. "And there shall be famines, and pestilences and earthquakes in diverse places." And then Jesus adds "Now all these things are the beginning of sorrows." The word "sorrows", here, refers to the tribulation. Don't listen to the false prophets who say that the "beginning of sorrows", (that is the beginning of the Tribulation), is somehow triggered by a supposed confirmation of a "covenant" with the Antichrist. Jesus makes it very clear here, that the beginning of sorrows, that is, the beginning of the tribulation, is triggered by World War 3, and not by any covenant between the Jews, and the Antichrist. Now let's look at the 18 verses in Saint Matthew's Olivet Discourse, which are divided up, very significantly into a 6 6 6 pattern.

Now, the first of these verses, that is 9 through 14, describes the first half of the great tribulation; that is the first three and one half years before the reign of the antichrist. "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you, and you shall be hated by all nations for my name's sake." What will it be like, for Christians

to live during the Tribulation? Remember, Henry VIII is a precursor of the antichrist; and under the reign of Henry VIII, Catholic priests, for example, were hunted down and executed for their religious faith. With Adolph Hitler, Jews were executed for their religious faith. It will be the same for Christians living in the tribulation. If you want to know what will it be like, pretend that you are a Jew, living under Adolph Hitler, or, pretend that you are a Catholic priest living under Henry VIII. Your lives will be worthless. Verse number 10; "And then shall many be scandalized and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another". Living during the tribulation, will also be the same as living under communism. After the Bolshevik revolution, the Russian people were afflicted, by communist tyranny, the same as Christians will be under the one world communist tyranny.

And Jesus continues "And many false prophets shall arise and deceive many, and because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall grow cold". Even your friends and relatives will turn you in to the one world communist authorities. And the next verse, "But he that shall persevere to the end shall be saved. And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations, and then shall come the end." And "the end" in this passage refers to the end of the first half of the great tribulation. And in the next 12 verses of this 6 6 6 sequence we will see the beginning of the second half of the great tribulation.

Now, the next six verses of this 6 6 6 sequence describes the beginning of the second half of the great tribulation, which is marked by the appearance of the "abomination of desolation". "When therefore you shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place, let him who reads understand". The "abomination of desolation" will be the prohibition of the Lord's Supper by the antichrist, from all the Christian churches throughout the world. Now, that's all we have time for, on part one. On part two, we will continue looking at the 18 tribulation verses, which are divided into a 6 6 6 pattern, and the 15 victory verses which immediately follow, and are divided into a 5 5 5 pattern. Remember 5 5 5 is the number which defeats the evil number 6 6 6. That is because 5 5 5 symbolizes Mary's Rosary.