

FF Notes for Episode 17 - OLIVET DISCOURSE PART 2

Matt 24:1-31 was covered in Episode 11 – Olivet Discourse Part 1. Episodes 9 and 10 covered the error in Dispensationalism that God must conclude His dealings with the church before he resumes his dealings with Israel during the 70th Week of Daniel. God’s end-times dealings with the Church and with Israel are interwoven—not separate. In his teaching here, Jesus is talking to the same group of disciples as he spoke to at the Last Supper in John 13-17. We certainly view those chapters in John as instructing the Church about the coming of the comforter and their oneness in Christ after he is gone from the earth. Why should we think that the Olivet Discourse, which he spoke to the same people in the same week, is not applicable for the Church?

The Olivet Discourse should be understood as addressing both Israel and the Church. FF believes that the gathering in Matt 24:31 is the same event as the rapture described in 1 Thess 4:16-17. Therefore, the Church will still be on earth during the first 6 seals. In the parables and examples of Matt 24:32 through all of chapter 25, he is teaching disciples who will be born-again on the day of Pentecost, how to live watchfully looking for his coming. Certainly, we need to do this today.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. The Lord in these examples who judges and punishes is the same Jesus who is our loving savior. These are his standards for all his followers. Even if you believe this is to “tribulation saints” who are “left behind” after the rapture, it is wrong to think these standards do not apply to us. It is hard for us to know exactly who will receive the punishments he mentions. Paul, later reveals to the church that their salvation means they are sealed unto the day of redemption. A born-again believer in the Church should be focused on being obedient to the Lord’s standards here, not on who receives the punishment.

In Daniel 9, Daniel’s total priority was for God’s plan for His people to come to pass. It is not about Daniel. We should think like that when we read the Olivet Discourse. If live through those times, it will be a hard time of testing for us. Still, our rejoicing should be that we are involved in the times that usher in our Lord’s return and kingdom.

First 3 ½ years of the 70th Week – beginning of birth pangs

- See that no one leads you astray.
- Wars, famines, pestilence, earthquakes (1st Four Seals)
- Tribulation, martyrdom (5th Seal)
- Deception, falling away and betrayal – Apostasy
- Gospel of the kingdom proclaimed to all nations

Second 3 ½ years of the 70th Week

- Great tribulation like never before or after 24:21, as antichrist attacks Jews and Christians (Also 5th Seal)
- Will be cut short for the elect 24:22

- Lying signs and wonders
- Cosmic disturbances of sun, moon and stars (6th Seal)
- Messiah, clouds, angels to gather his elect - the Rapture

The last days are a time of testing for the whole world, for Israel, for the world, for the church. Trials are an important part of life. They qualify us to graduate from our schools and for our job responsibilities in this life. Our faithfulness and obedience through the trials God allows qualify and prepare us for our position in the kingdom of God. Luke 19:15-20, 1 Peter 1:3-7, 4:12-17, James 1:2-4, 12, 1 Cor 3:11-15. We are being refined and purified for the life to come.

“Character is both developed and revealed by tests, and all of life is a test” - Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Life.

The big message of this section of Matt 24 is to watch, live holy, stay faithful and don't apostatize. Apostasy (falling away) would be flunking the test. Matt 24:4, 5, 10, 12.

This agrees with what Paul says to the Church in the epistles. 1 Tim 4:1, 2 Thess 2:3.

The antidote to apostasy is to watch. Mark 13:32-37.

Problems with the doctrine of “Imminence” – that the rapture could occur at any time with no prior signs. The pre-trib theologians, including, Thomas Ice, consider this a very important part of the pre-trib teaching. If you already **assume** that the rapture is pre-trib, then you **think** these scriptures “prove” that the rapture is imminent – that it could happen at any time with no prior signs. Look at Ice's list of scriptures 1 Cor. 1:7; 16:22; Phil. 3:20; 4:5; 1 Thess. 1:10; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; Jam. 5:7–9; 1 Pet. 1:13; Jude 21; Rev. 3:11; 22:7, 12, 17, 20. Saying we eagerly await the rapture does not prove there are not prior signs. The same is true of all these scripture “proofs”. FF believes all those scriptures and also believes there will be all these prior signs.

Matt 24:32-35. Like a fig tree. When you see **all these things**... That clearly means all the signs he has listed so far—so there are prior signs. Anyone can see when a tree in your yard is budding and knows summer is near. The generation that sees **all these things** will be the generation that sees the coming of Jesus Christ and the gathering of the elect in 24:31.

The episode closes with a review of this chart.

The Day of the Lord in the Book of Revelation

