

July 29, 2018

Matthew 24:22-31

The Olivet Discourse Continued

- The length of this extended period of tribulation is determined by the Lord who will not allow all of his people to be martyred (v. 22).
- Now that Jesus has described or outlined the events of this inter-advent period (v. 21-22), He issues another warning (v. 5, 11)] against being deceived by false claims (v. 23-26).
- Let's remember that false teaching can produce deception if not corrected. **Gen. 3:1-6.**
- Our only protection from being deceived by false teachings and teachers is our knowledge and understanding of the living Word of God as applied to our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit. **Heb. 4:12-13.**
- The only True sign of Christ's return will be His return itself.
- Jesus has now answered the 1st question about the *when* of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. In these verses (v. 29ff), He addresses the 2nd question in v.3 about the *sign of Jesus' return* and the end of the age.

- Jesus describes His return with O.T. apocalyptic imagery:

Isaiah 9:9-13 Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light... 13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the Lord of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.

- His return will cause the overthrow of the old natural cosmos and demonic powers.

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places...

- Not only will the power of the heavens be shaken, but also all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming. Who are these tribes?

Zech. 12:10 I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on Me, on Him Whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for Him...

- They shall mourn over the fact that they had rejected their Messiah Who was crucified for their sin as prophesied in their Scriptures.

Dan 7:13-14 ...behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

- In the O.T., clouds were associated with the presence of YHWH among His people.

Ex 13:2 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud...19:9 And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud...40:34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle

- Jesus' return will also be accompanied by a loud trumpet call.

Ex 19:16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast...

Josh 6:5 And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat...

Isa 27:13 ...in that day a great trumpet will sound. Those who were perishing in Assyria and those who were exiled in Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain in Jerusalem...

Zech 9:14 Then the Lord will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord God will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south

1 Cor 15:51-52 ...we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed...

Rev 4:1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."