

I. The Olivet Discourse, Eschatology, and the Last Days

A. Context

B. Content

1. Comparing and contrasting Synoptic accounts

Matthew 24:1-3	Mark 13:1-4	Luke 21:5-7
<p>Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came to Him to show Him the buildings of the temple.</p> <p>And Jesus said to them,</p> <p>“Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you,</p> <p>not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”</p> <p>Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives,</p> <p>the disciples came to Him privately, saying,</p> <p>“Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”</p>	<p>Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him,</p> <p>“Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!”</p> <p>And Jesus answered and said to him,</p> <p>“Do you see these great buildings?</p> <p>Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”</p> <p>Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple,</p> <p>Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately,</p> <p>“Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign</p> <p>when all these things</p> <p>will be fulfilled?</p>	<p>Then,</p> <p>as some</p> <p>spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones</p> <p>and donations, He</p> <p>said,</p> <p>“As for these things which you see,</p> <p>the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.”</p> <p>asked Him, saying,</p> <p>“Teacher,</p> <p>but when will these things be? And what sign</p> <p>will there be when these things are about to take place?”</p>

### C. Questions in and about the text

1. Three questions answered in the texts:
  - a. Question 1: When will these things be?
  - b. Question 2: What will be the sign of your coming?
  - c. Question 3: (What will be the sign) of the end of the age?  
(What is explicit in Matthew is implicit in Mark and Luke.)
2. Additional related questions to be answered:
  - a. Are all three of the above questions to happen at the same time?
  - b. What is meant by “the end”? Is “the end of the age” the same as “the end of the world”?
  - c. If Mark and Luke assume that this one event is at one time, is it possible to understand Matthew as assuming different events at different times?

### D. Possible fulfillment: the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70)

1. “The Siege of Jerusalem in the year 70 CE was the decisive event of the First Jewish–Roman War, in which the Roman army captured the city of Jerusalem and destroyed both the city and its Temple. The Roman army, led by the future Emperor Titus, with Tiberius Julius Alexander as his second-in-command, besieged and conquered the city of Jerusalem, which had been controlled by Judean rebel factions since 66 CE, following the Jerusalem riots of 66, when the Judean provisional government was formed in Jerusalem.  
“The siege of the city began on 14 April 70 CE, three days before the beginning of Passover that year. The siege lasted for about five months; it ended in August 70 CE on Tisha B’Av with the burning and destruction of the Second Temple.”<sup>1</sup>

### E. Warnings and tribulations (Mat 24:5-13, Mar 13:6-9, Luk 21:8-12)

1. false Christs
2. wars and rumors of wars
3. famines, pestilences, and earthquakes
4. persecution
5. etc.
6. Were these warnings fulfilled in the time between Pentecost and the destruction of Jerusalem?
  - a. “False Christs and false prophets began to make their appearance at a very early period of the Christian era, and continued to infest the land down to the very close of Jewish history. In the procuratorship of Pilate (AD 36), one such appeared in Samaria, and deluded great multitudes. There was another in the procuratorship of Cuspius Fadus (AD 45). During the government of Felix (AD 53-60), Josephus tells us ‘the country was full of robbers, magicians, false prophets, false Messiahs, and impostors, who deluded the people with promises of great events.’”<sup>2</sup>

### F. The abomination of desolation (Mat 24:15-22)

1. Particular nationality (Israel), location (Judea), and time are required.
2. Fulfillment of Daniel pre-shadowed in Antiochus IV Epiphanes (reign 175-164 BC) replaced twice-daily temple sacrifice by the sacrifice of a pig on an altar to Zeus.<sup>3</sup>

### G. The coming of the Son of Man (Mat 24:29-31)

1. “Immediately” (v. 29) links the warnings and tribulations (v. 5-28) to the “Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven” (v. 30)

### H. The parable of the fig tree (Mat 24:32-33)

### I. This generation (Mat 24:34)

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege\\_of\\_Jerusalem\\_\(70\\_CE\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_(70_CE)) (accessed Nov 12, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> J. Stuart Russell, *The Parousia: A Critical Inquiry into the New Testament Doctrine of Our Lord's Second Coming*, new ed. (1887; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983), 69.

<sup>3</sup> For more information, see Flavius Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, XII.5.4.