

The Mt. Olivet Discourse: Part 3

Matthew 24:15 — “The Abomination of Desolation”

I. REVIEW:

A. (Vs. 3): The Apostles’ questions:

1. Not three different questions, speaking of three different events (destruction of Temple; signs of His Coming; and signs of the end of the world). Rather, one question
 - a) There are two interrogative pronouns: _____ & _____.
 - b) Refers to two related questions:
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - c) Assumption of the apostles: _____.
2. “The end of the age”:
 - a) Greek word is *aion*.
 - b) Matthew uses the word three ways: 1) _____; 2) _____; and 3) _____.
3. What is the “coming” of Christ mentioned in Matthew 24?
 - a) Greek word is *parousia*. It literally means _____.
 - b) It can refer to an _____ of someone. (See 1Corinthians 16:17; 2Corinthians 7:6)
 - c) It can refer to the _____ of someone who is near. (See 2Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:12).
 - d) It is used only 4 times in Matthew , all in chapter 24, at verses 3, 27, 37, & 39.

B. Jesus’ Answer:

1. (Vss. 4-8): The first four signs, “The beginning of sorrows” = 1) false messiahs; 2) war; 3) famine; 4) pestilences & earthquakes
2. (Vss. 9-14): Next signs: 5) martyrdom; 6) preaching to Gentiles
3. So that Jesus’ answer in Matthew 24 divides into three sections:
 - a) Verses 4-8 = Signs before the Temple’s destruction
 - b) Verses 15-28 = What happens during this time

c) Verses 29-31 = *What happens afterward*

4. ** For your consideration only:

	Matthew 24	Revelation 6 & 7: <i>The 7 seals</i>
"The Beginning of Sorrows"	• (24:4-5) — False Christs	• (6:1-2) — White horse
	• (24:6-7a) — War	• (6:3-4) — Red horse (war)
	• (24:7b) — Famine	• (6:5-6) — Black horse (famine)
	• (24:7c) — Pestilence	• (6:7-8) — Pale horse
	• (24:9-13) — Martyrdom; & Witness	• (6:9-11) — Martyrs in heaven
Afterward	• (24:29-30) — Sun, moon, & stars	• (6:12-14) — Sun, moon, & stars
	• (24:31) — Elect gathered	• (7:1 ff.) — Elect sealed

C. The *intent* of verses 1-15.

1. Negatively:

- a) It does not mean that we are to look for signs of Christ’s return.
- b) We should not be anxious or worried over headlines

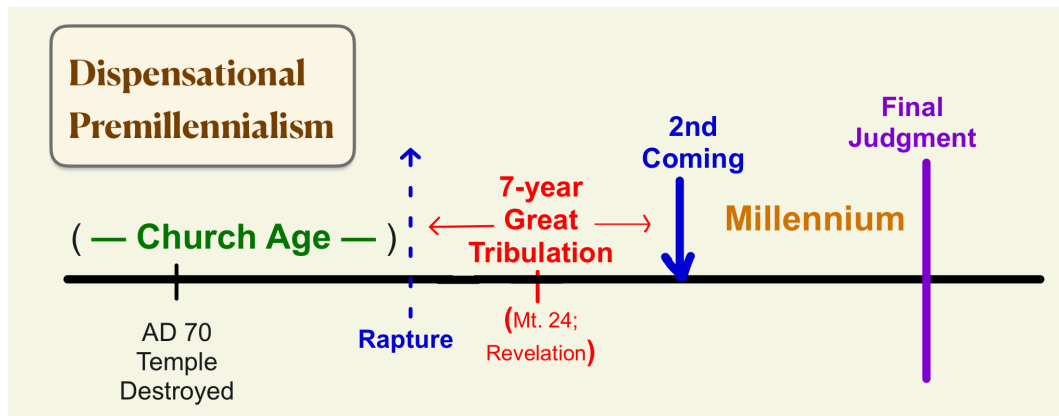
2. Positively: The persecution of believers by Israel; and the spread of the gospel to all the inhabited, Roman, Gentile world — these are the two signs of AD 70.

3. Application for us:

II. Possible approaches to understanding verses 1-14

A. Futurist view of 1-14

1. Dispensational Premillennialism: (most-common variation of the Futurist View) = “Matthew 24 is yet future.”

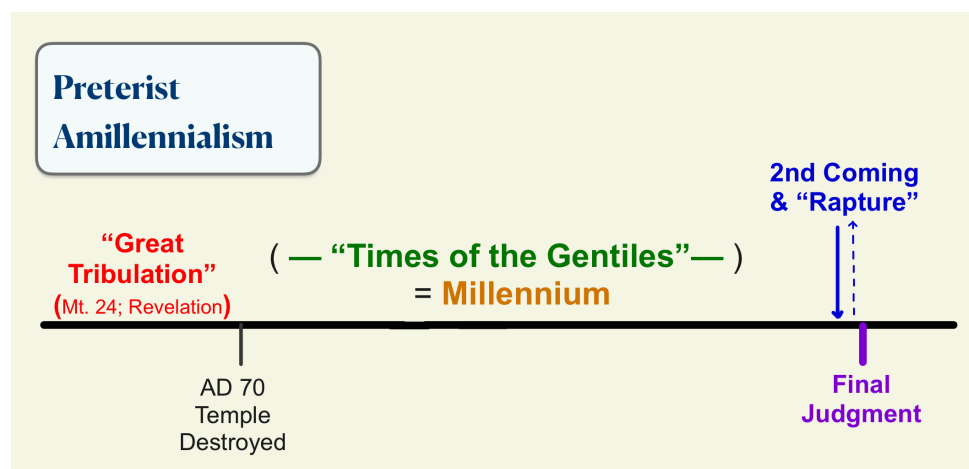


2. In this view of verses 1-14:
 - a) The disciples are asking about _____.
 - b) Verses 3-14 are the 7 years before the Second Coming, called _____.
 - c) Generally, futurists are also *pre-tribulationists*. This means they believe that Christians are removed from the world by a secret _____ before this 7-year period begins.
3. Three questions about the Futurist view:
 - a) *Context*: Why would Jesus tell the apostles about His Second Coming, at least 2000 years in the future?
 - b) *Relevance*: Why would Jesus give the signs that were to happen *after* Christians are raptured out of the world?
 - c) *Audience*: How do we understand Jesus' use of the word "you"?

B. Historical Overview of the entire age.

1. In verses 1-14, Jesus is telling all Christians not to be misled; not to be presumptive; and that "the wheat and the weeds grow together."
2. Jesus then returns in verse 15 to talk about the destruction of the Temple in AD 70.

C. Preterist View of verses 1-14



1. Matthew 24:1-14 is an overview of years leading to the end of the Jewish age in AD 70.
2. It answers issues of *Context*, *Relevance*, and *Audience*.

3.

III. Verse 15 - What is the Abomination of Desolation?

Matthew 24:15-22	Luke 21:20-24
<p>“Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.</p>	<p>“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart....”</p>

A. Background is the Book of Daniel.

1. Refers to Daniel 8:13 (connected with “trampled underfoot”); Daniel 9:26-27; 11:31 (referring to Antiochus IV Epiphanes, c. 168 BC); and Daniel 12:11. Idea is of an army which surrounds Jerusalem and makes it desolate, and the Temple area “abominable” through idols of pagan gods.
2. “Desolate” — see also Mt. 23:38, where also used by Christ to describe the Temple.

B. Parallel in Luke 21 shows the reference is to Roman armies.

C. Will history repeat?

1. Seeming absurdity of redundancy
2. Verse 21 - “no, nor ever will be”
3. “Desolate” - Will God re-inhabit another Temple, only to have it made desolate?
4. Old Covenant — again?

IV. Applications:

- A. God’s judgment is serious!
- B. God protects His people.
- C. Know God’s Word. All of it.