

# The Mt. Olivet Discourse: Part 4

## Matthew 24:15-22 — “The Great Tribulation”

**INTRODUCTION:** Concept of “fleeing” in the Bible.

- Genesis 19:17 —
- Numbers 16:32-34 —
- Matthew 3:7 —
- Matthew 23:33 —

### I. REVIEW:

A. (Vs. 3): The Apostles’ questions:

1. *When?* and *What?*
2. The Coming of Christ is spoken of in 2 ways in the NT:

\_\_\_\_\_ ; and  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

EXAMPLES:

- a) Matthew 16:27-28. If the coming of vs. 27 is the same as vs. 28, Jesus was wrong.]
- b) Matthew 10:23.

B. Jesus’ Answer:

1. Verses 4-8 = *Signs before the Temple’s destruction*
2. Verses 15-28 = *What happens during this time*
3. Verses 29-31 = *What happens afterward*

### II. Meaning of verses 15-22

A. “The Abomination of Desolation”: an event predicted by the Prophet Daniel, concurrent with the desolation of Jerusalem, when abominable idols would be set up in Jerusalem. (Luke 21:20 says it is the surrounding of Jerusalem by armies).

B. When this happens, those in Judea are to \_\_\_\_\_ .

1. (Verses 17-18) — \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. (Verses 19-20) — \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. (Verse 22) — \_\_\_\_\_ .

C. (Verse 21) — This time is called the \_\_\_\_\_ .

1. Jesus refers to this as unique in history. Is this *hyperbolic* language?

2. See Daniel 9:12; 12:1; & Jeremiah 30:7.

Matthew 24:21	Luke 21:22-24
<p>“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”</p>	<p>“For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.... For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”</p>

3. What makes something “the worst”? What are the *criteria*?

D. (Verse 22) — “Shortened... for the elect’s sake....”

### III. The Flight To Pella (*about 20 miles south of Sea of Galilee, east of Jordan River*).

- A. AD 66 and General Cestius Gallus of Rome’s XII Legion.
- B. Eusebius (c. AD 312) — “The people of the church in Jerusalem were commanded by an oracle given by revelation before the war to those in the city who were worthy of it to depart and dwell in one of the cities of Perea which they called Pella. To it those who believed on Christ travelled from Jerusalem, so that when holy men had altogether deserted the royal capital of the Jews and the whole land of Judaea, the judgement of God might at last overtake them for all their crimes against the Christ and his Apostles, and all that generation of the wicked be utterly blotted out from among men. {*Ecclesiastical History*, 3.5.3}
- C. Epiphanius (c. AD 390) — “This heresy of the Nazoraeans exists in Berea in the neighborhood of Coele-Syria and the Decapolis.... From there it took its beginning after the exodus from Jerusalem when all the disciples went to live in Pella because Christ had told them to leave Jerusalem and to go away since it would undergo a siege.” {*Panarion*, 29.7.7}. “For when the city was about to be taken and destroyed by the Romans, it was revealed in advance to all the disciples by an angel of God that they should remove from the city, as it was going to be completely destroyed. They sojourned as emigrants in Pella, the city above mentioned in Transjordania. And this city is said to be of the Decapolis.” {*Weights And Measures*, 15}.
- D. Revelation 12