

Pentwater Bible Church

Gospel of Mark

Message 52

April 26, 2015



The Judgment of Solomon by Giovan Battista Tiepolo Cir 1726-29

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

The Holy Bible

Pentwater Bible Church The Olivet Discourse



The Olivet Discourse

Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Mark
Message 52
The Olivet Discourse
April 26, 2015
Daniel E. Woodhead



Jewish Pilgrimage to Israel photo: Israel Bardugo

The Olivet Discourse is Christ's last great sermon and it touches on many key events during The Church Age and the ushering in of the Kingdom. It is important that we understand this discourse in order to fully be aware of the end times and experience the pressure that Christ wanted us to sense so that we would continue working (laboring) for The Kingdom.

The more literally we take the Bible our theology becomes more fundamental. The less literally we take the Bible the more liberal our theology becomes.

BROAD OUTLINE OF THE DISCOURSE

We will be studying The Olivet Discourse in 14 sections. The basic format is chronological. However Jesus will break the chronology periodically and when He does He will tell us.

1. ~~The Historical Setting~~
2. ~~The Three Questions~~
3. ~~The General Characteristics of The Church Age~~
4. ~~The Sign of The End of The Age~~
5. ~~Personal Experiences of the Apostles~~
6. ~~The Sign of the fall of Jerusalem~~
7. **The Great Tribulation**
8. **The Sign of the Second Coming of the Messiah**
9. **The Regathering of Israel**

The Great Tribulation (first Half)

- Persecution of The Saints by Ecclastical

Babylon

- Rise of False Prophets
- Tremendous Rise of Sin
- The Jews Who Survive Will be Saved
- The World Wide Preaching of The Gospel

10. The Exhortation
11. The Parable of the Fig Tree
12. The Rapture of the Church
13. Parables urging Watchfulness, Readiness and Laboring
14. The Judgment of the Gentiles

7. THE GREAT TRIBULATION

In preparation for answering the second question, the Messiah turned to the Great Tribulation itself. His words concerning this period are recorded in Matthew 24:9-26 and Mark 13:14-23. In this section, the Messiah spoke of the events of both the first half and the second half of the Tribulation.

The Events of the First Half of the Tribulation

The events concerning the first half of the Tribulation are recorded in Matthew 24:9-14:

Matthew 24:9-14

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come (KJV).

Although these verses are very similar to those recorded in Mark 13:9-13 and Luke 21:12-19, the differences show that Matthew is not dealing with the same thing. Similarity does not prove sameness. Luke clearly stated that the events he was describing came before the sign of the end of the age, when nation shall rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. However, in the Matthew account, the passage begins with the word, *then*, pointing out that the Messiah is now describing what will come after the event of nation rising up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. While the words tend to be similar, these similarities do not prove sameness. Mark and Luke described events that will happen to the apostles before the sign of the First World War, while Matthew dealt with events of the first half of the Tribulation that would come after the sign of the First World War.

Altogether, the Messiah pointed out five events that will occur during the first half of the Tribulation. First, in versed 9-10, there will be tremendous persecution of the saints, a fact also given in Revelation 6:9-11. The one-world religious system, known as Ecclesiastical Babylon, will be doing the persecuting and will be responsible for the death of the saints during the first half of the Tribulation. (Revelation 17:1-6)

Secondly, in verse 11, the first half of the Tribulation will be characterized by the rise of many false prophets. This point is also brought out in Zechariah 13:2-6.

Thirdly, in verse 12, there will be a tremendous rise of sin and iniquity, because evil will no longer be restrained (II Thessalonians, 2:6-7).

The Great Tribulation (second Half)

- The Abomination of Desolation Stage 1,
Anti-Christ Declares Himself God
- The Abomination of Desolation Stage 2,
False Prophet Makes Image of Anti-Christ in
Holy of Holies
- Jews Flee out of Jerusalem

Fourthly, in verse 13, those Jews who survive to the end of the Tribulation will be saved.

The fifth event of the first half of the Tribulation will be the world-wide preaching of the gospel in verse 14, which will be conducted by the 144,000 Jews of Revelation 7: 1-8. The results of the ministry of the 144,000 are recorded in Revelation 7:9-17, where it clearly states that a great multitude of Gentiles will come to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus the Messiah.

The Events of the Second Half of the Tribulation

Having given some events of the first half of the Tribulation, the Messiah next turned to the events of the second half, recorded in Matthew 24:15-28 and in Mark 13:14-23. Jesus said that this will be the most awful time in all of human history (a sobering statement), when God pours out His wrath on a God-rejecting-world.

More detail is given concerning the events of the second half of the Tribulation; altogether the Messiah said eight things in the Matthew account.

FIRST in verse 15, the Messiah dealt with the specific event that will mark the beginning of the second half of the Tribulation:

Matthew 24:15

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)(KJV).

When Jesus describes the abomination of desolation, there is the presupposition of an operating temple, and of the Jewish occupation of the land of Judea.

The mention of the abomination of desolation is taken from Daniel 11:31: They shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation; this describes a complete desecration of the temple, prefigured by Antiochus Epiphanes in the inter-testamental period. Paul elaborates on the future fulfillment of this in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 - That day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Daniel 12:11 gives additional insight - And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be 1,290 days (until the end); when this sign is set up, the end may be determined - almost three and one-half years to go.

This phrase is a superlative in the Hebrew, the ultimate that one can think of. It has happened once before in history. Antiochus Epiphanes wanted to offend the Jews. He slaughtered a sow on the altar in Jerusalem and sprinkled the blood in front of an idol of Zeus in the Holy Place. This started the Maccabean Revolt. The Temple was rededicated in 135 B.C. (now commemorated by Hanukkah). This was prior to Christ. Therefore when

The Great Tribulation (second Half)

- The Reason for the Flight is World-Wide

Anti-semitism

- Israel Will Survive in Reduced Numbers
- False Messiah's Peak in The Anti-Christ
- Many False Signs During World-Wide

Deception

Jesus says in Matthew 24:15, “when ye see.” is saying that it will happen again!

The abomination of desolation will involve two stages. The first stage will be when the Antichrist will take over the Jewish Temple, sit down in the Holy of Holies, and declare himself to be God (II Thessalonians 2:3-10). The second stage of the abomination of desolation will be when the False Prophet will make an image of the Antichrist and stand it up in the holy of Holies (Revelation 13: 11-15; Daniel 12:11). Satan will make this image come alive through the False Prophet (Revelation 13:15). This act of the abomination of desolation will signal that the second and worst half of the Tribulation has begun.

SECONDLY, the abomination of desolation will be the signal for the Jews to flee out of the Land in verses 16-20.

Matthew 24:16-20

Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day (KJV).

This flight is also recorded in Revelation 12:13-17. This passage reflects a sense of urgency in Israel’s flight. In fact, the whole emphasis is on speed and quickness. This emphasis is especially evident in the Messiah’s listing of the three difficulties that may be encountered in this flight. The first difficulty is for women who are pregnant or have nursing infants. In both cases, this makes quick flight difficult. The second difficulty is in relation to the Sabbath. And the third difficulty is in relation to the winter.

Why not in winter since it seldom snows in Israel? What could possible be the problem with winter? The reason for this prayer request lies in a situation, as things exist in Israel. There are several differences between the U.S. and Israel. One of these differences is the manner in which weather patterns occur. In the U.S., the land receives rain during all four seasons, but this is not the case with Israel, which has a specific rainy season. Between April and October, not one drop of rain will fall throughout the country. Israel receives all her rain between October and April. When it does rain during the winter months, it often comes down heavily, creating flood condition at times. Another difference between the U.S. and Israel is the manner in which highways are built. When American build highways and come to a dry water gully, although it is dry, they will build a bridge across it. This is not the case in Israel where the roads are paved into the water gullies and out again. Technically, these water gullies are known as *wadis*. *Wadis* are dry all summer and also most of the winter. However, during the winter rainy months when rain falls along the mountain ranges of Israel, water rushes down the wadis with tremendous speed and force, washing out the highways. From other passages we realize that when the Jews escape from Jerusalem they will have to go by means off these wadis. If this event takes place in winter it will make escape that much more difficult.

The second prayer request is that it should not happen on the Sabbath day either. Why not on the Sabbath day? On the Sabbath day in Israel, all public transportation closed down because the busses and the trains are all locked up. Unless one owns his own automobile,

The Great Tribulation (second Half)

- Jesus Warns Not to Believe Reports of His Arrival; All Men Will See the Actual Event
- The Exact Place Will be Bozrah (Hebrew) or Petra (Greek) (Mic 2:12-13)

it will be extremely difficult to make an escape from the country. Only one-third of the Israeli population owns their own cars; two thirds are without cars. The majority of the population is heavily dependent upon public transportation, which is non-existent on the Sabbath day. If this event happens on the Sabbath day, it will make escape that much more difficult.

For these two reasons, they are advised to pray that this abomination of desolation, which will indeed come to pass, will not come on the Sabbath day or during the winter months, during the rainy season.

THE THIRD thing mentioned is the reason for such as flight in verse 21:

Matthew 24:21

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be (KJV).

At this time anti-Semitism will break out in all its fierceness. Satan's attempt to annihilate the Jews once-and-for-all will have begun in earnest.

FOURTHLY, Israel will survive this terrible period, though greatly reduced in number according to verse 22:

Matthew 24:22

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened (KJV).

FIFTH, the second half of the Tribulation will be characterized by a false messiah as typified in the counterfeit son, the Antichrist in verse 23:

Matthew 24:23

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here [is] Christ, or there; believe [it] not (KJV).

SIXTH, the latter half of the Tribulation is described in verse 24:

Matthew 24:24

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect (KJV).

Many false signs, miracles, and wonders for the purpose of worldwide deception will characterize the latter half of the Tribulation. These signs will be performed by both the Antichrist (II Thessalonians 2:8-10) and by the False Prophet (Revelation 13:11-15).

SEVENTH the Messiah gives a warning in verses 25-27:

Matthew 24:25-27

Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, [he is] in the secret chambers; believe [it] not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be (KJV).

Jesus warned that there will be people saying that the Messiah has returned here or that the Messiah has returned there, and that the Second Coming has secretly occurred. The Messiah warned His disciples not to believe any such rumors or statement and come out of hiding because, unlike His First Coming, the Second Coming will not be in secret. When the Messiah returns the second time, all men will see it, for it will be like a flash off lightning surrounding the world.

EIGHTH, the Messiah gave a hint as to the place of His Second Coming in verse 28:

Matthew 24:28

For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together (KJV).

He said that where the body is there will be the eagles, actually vultures be gathered together. The body refers to Israel while the vultures refer to the Gentile nations coming against the body of Israel. The place of the Second Coming of the Messiah will be in that place where the body of Israel is located, and where the Gentile nations are gathered together. The exact place is known in Hebrew as Bozrah or as Petra in Greek. That is where the body will be (Micah 2:12-13); that is, where the vultures will be gathered to come against them (Isaiah 34:1-7; 63:1-6); and that will be the place of the Second Coming (Habakkuk 3:3)

To summarize this passage, the Messiah presented the events of the second half of the Tribulation, showing it to be an especially difficult period for Israel, which will culminate in the Second Coming of the Messiah. But, He has not yet answered the second question concerning the sign that will signal the Messiah's Second Coming.

8. THE SIGN OF THE SECOND COMING OF THE MESSIAH

The answer to the second question is recorded in Matthew 24:29-30; Mark 13:24-26 and Luke 21:25-27.

The Mark account reads:

Mark 13:24-26

²⁴But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, ²⁵and the stars shall be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens shall be shaken. ²⁶And then shall they see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory (ASV, 1901).

The Sign of the Second Coming

Total Blackness followed by The Glorious
Light of God Called The Shechinah Glory



The Matthew account reads:

Matthew 24:29-30

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory (KJV).

The Luke account reads:

Luke 21:25-27

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory (KJV).

In the Matthew account, Yeshua stated that just preceding the sign of the Second Coming of the Messiah, there will be a total blackout of the earth. No light will penetrate to the earth from the sun, the moon and the stars. (Matthew 24:29) Luke adds that there will be a great amount of perplexity on the earth as both physical and non-physical things are shaken in expectation (Luke 21:25-26)

At this point, Matthew states that the sign of the Son of man will appear in verse 30a. As this sign is coupled with God's glory, it is obviously the Shekinah Glory light that will signal the Second Coming of the Messiah. The answer to the second question, "What will be the sign of the Second Coming?" is: the Shekinah Glory. But, immediately after the tribulation of those days, there will be a total blackout with no light penetrating at all, followed by a sudden, glorious, tremendous light that will penetrate through the blackout. This Shekinah light will be the sign of the Second Coming of the Messiah. The light will be followed by the return of the Messiah himself in verse 30b.

The Messiah had now answered all three questions. The sign of the destruction of the Jewish Temple was to be the surrounding of Jerusalem by armies. The sign that the end of the age had begun was to be a world wide war. The sign of the Second Coming would be the Shekinah Glory light breaking through the worldwide blackout. The first sign was given in A.D. 66; the second sign was given in 1914-1918; and at the end of the Tribulation, the third sign will be given as well.

Although Jesus had answered all three questions, He still wished to give more information regarding the last days.

The Sign of the Second Coming



The Re-Gathering of Israel

- Jesus Sends His Angels to Re-Gather the Jews from the Uttermost Parts of the Earth & Heaven



9. THE RE-GATHERING OF ISRAEL

Since the Jewish prophets had predicted in great detail the worldwide regathering of Israel, Jesus did not spend much time with this, but only specified that it will occur after His Second Coming. This re-gathering is found in Matthew 24:31 and in Mark 13:27.

The Matthew account reads:

Matthew 24:31

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other (KJV).

The Mark Passage reads:

Mark 13:27

And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven (KJV).

Following the Second Coming, the Messiah will send His angels all over the world to re-gather every Jew and bring them back into their Land. The background to the Matthew passage is Isaiah 27:12-13, which prophesied that the final restoration of Israel will be signaled by the sound of a great trumpet.

Isaiah 27:12-13

¹²And it shall come to pass in that day, that Jehovah will beat off his fruit from the flood of the River unto the brook of Egypt; and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel. ¹³And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great trumpet shall be blown; and they shall come that were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and they that were outcasts in the land of Egypt; and they shall worship Jehovah in the holy mountain at Jerusalem (ASV, 1901).

The background to the Mark passage is Deuteronomy 30:4, which also emphasizes that the final restoration will come from two localities: earth and heaven. Those who are gathered from the uttermost parts of the earth will be living in Israel, the one-third Remnant that survives the Tribulation. Those who are gathered from the uttermost part of Heaven will be the resurrected Old Testament saints. This part of the Olivet Discourse summarizes many Old Testament prophecies, specifying that the final worldwide restoration will come only after the Second Coming, not before (Isaiah 11:11-12:6; 43:5-7; Jeremiah 23:5-8; 31:7-14; Ezekiel 11:16-21; 20:40-42; 36:22-31).

NEXT WEEK: MARK: JESUS TEACHES THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

E-mail info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com Toll Free 877-706-2479