

- I) V1-2 INTRO: Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple to the Mt of Olives
- II) WE ARE: About to enter into a study of what has been called the Olivet discourse
 - a) This teaching speaks of conditions existing prior the *2nd coming* of Jesus Christ
- III) THIS TOPIC: Is of great interest to many, with many books written on the subject
- IV) IT IS ESTIMATED: That in the 260 chapters of the NT, His return is mentioned 318 times
 - a) This means that 1 verse in every 25 specifically mentions the Lord's return
- V) OUT OF: The 27 books of the NT, only Galatians and 2nd and 3rd John do not mention it
- VI) AS CHRISTIANS: The anticipation of *being with Jesus* fuels our lives, motivating us
- VII) KEY: This hope provokes us to be open and unashamedly followers of Jesus
- VIII) JESUS SAID: That He would return for us, and as those who love Him we await Him
 - a) Jn 14:2-3 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again* and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- IX) THE QUESTION IS: If He really is returning, then are we ready for His return?
 - a) QUOTE: The soon return of Jesus is the great Bible argument for a pure, unselfish, devoted, unworldly, and active life of service to Him
 - 1) We need to live as if we are expecting Him to come *at any time*
- X) KEY: Our lives are to be obviously different than those who do not believe He is returning
 - a) 1 Jn 3:2-3 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what *we shall be*, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, *just as He is pure*.

XI) **IF IT IS TRUE:** That He is returning soon, then the question of the hour is a simple one

a) How then should we live? What kind of life are we to be living?

XII) **WE ARE TO LIVE:** A life of faith, expecting to be with Jesus at any time

a) Lu 12:39-40 But *understand this*: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also *must be ready*, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

XIII) **HERE:** Jesus is speaking about what has been called the Second Coming

I) **QUOTE:** The second coming of Christ is preceded by a number of world shaking events that must occur before Jesus returns. This is in contrast to the rapture of the church, which is always presented as an imminent event. The second coming is *the closing* of what God is doing with the world in order to prepare it for Jesus' millennial kingdom

II) **THIS TEACHING:** Is in response to a question that He was asked by His disciples

a) Jesus' answer is the longest answer given in the NT to any question

III) **TO UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION:** We need to understand their expectations

IV) **FIRST:** During Jesus' day, there was a great deal of interest in prophetic events

a) The Jews were longing for deliverance from their enemies and for Messiah to rule

V) **FOR MANY CENTURIES:** Israel had be subjected to many foreign rulers

a) Assyrians, Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greeks, and now Romans had invaded

1) They longed to be free from the yoke of foreign tyranny

VI) **GOD HAD MADE MANY PROMISES TO THE NATION:** They were to be blessed by Him

a) God had made promises concerning a coming Prince who would rule righteously

1) Jer. 23:5-6 Behold, the days come, says the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

2) Israel was longing for the time of God's deliverance from their enemies

VII) AT THIS TIME: A set of expectations concerning the coming of Messiah had developed

- a) FIRST: Before Messiah would arrive, there would be a time of terrible tribulation
- b) SECOND: Before the Coming of Messiah, a forerunner would be sent, like Elijah
- c) THIRD: After these two events, Messiah would appear, and establish His kingdom
- d) FOURTH: The unbelieving nations would ally to fight against Messiah
- e) FIFTH: The nations opposing Messiah would be destroyed for their opposition
- f) SIXTH: Jerusalem would be restored, and be the City of the great King
- g) SEVENTH: The Jews scattered throughout the earth would be re gathered to Israel
- h) EIGHTH: Israel would be the center of the World, all nations being subject to Messiah
- i) NINTH: After Messiah began ruling, the earth would enter into eternal peace and joy

VIII) THIS GIVES US INSIGHT INTO THE QUESTION OF THE DISCIPLES

IX) THEY TOO WERE INFLUENCED BY THE TEACHINGS OF THEIR DAY

- a) The OT prophets saw the coming of Messiah as a single event
 - 1) They did not see the creation of the Church
- l) JESUS: Created the church, doing so when He purchased humankind at the cross
 - a) Eph. 3:4-6 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

II) IN THEIR MIND: The events of Jesus' ministry had followed the course they expected

- a) Israel had been under severe tribulation and John the Baptist had presented Jesus
 - 1) Certainly He is now about to establish His Kingdom!

III) V1-2 THE SCENE: Jesus went out and departed from the Temple, to the Mt of Olives

a) As Jesus was leaving the temple His disciples drew His attention to the buildings

1) Mk 13:1 As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! *What magnificent buildings!*"

IV) IT WAS MAGNIFICENT: Jn 2:20 records that restoration had been occurring 46 years

a) Some of the stones were 40' x 12' x 12', and weighed over a hundred tons

1) They were quarried as a single piece and transported many miles to the building site (to keep the sound of man's labor out of the area)

V) V2 THE DISCIPLES WERE OVERWHELMED WITH ITS BEAUTY: But Jesus wasn't

VI) V2 HE SAYS: Not one stone will be left here upon another

a) Jesus had *just prophesied* that desolation would occur (37-39)

1) Apparently the disciples had not understood what He had just said

VII) V3 NOW: As He sat on the Mt of Olives His disciples came to Him privately

a) Mk 13:3 names them: *Peter, James, John* and *Andrew* asked him privately

VIII) V3 NOTICE: Their question is basically in two parts

a) When will these things be, and What will be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the age?

IX) QUESTION: When will this happen, and how will we know that You are returning

a) When will you manifest Yourself as our permanent Messiah King

X) REMEMBER: They did not expect Him to leave because they expected this immediately

a) Lu 19:11 people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.

1) They thought that He would establish His rule immediately, after His resurrection

I) SECOND: What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age

II) THE END OF THE AGE: Spoke of the end of the present world system

a) The era of man's constant rebellion and sin against God

1) When will you usher in Your Kingdom, and Your rule?

III) KEY: Ch 24 goes on to give a description of the events leading up to the return of Jesus

a) Wars, famines, disease, earthquakes, lawlessness, the abomination, and tribulation

1) All of these will be part of the events *leading up* to His return

IV) BUT NOTICE: They asked specifically What will be *the sign* of Your coming

V) V4-5 AND: Jesus answered and said *Take heed that no one deceives you* (personal)

VI) HE SAYS: For many will come in My name saying I am the Christ and will deceive many

a) Time will elapse, giving opportunity for many to arise claiming to be Messiah

VII) THIS REVEALS: The seeds of deception began being sown in their day

a) These same seeds continue bearing bad fruit until this day

VIII) NOTICE: *Take heed that no one deceives you* (seduces, leads you astray)

IX) QUESTION: What is the sign of His coming and of the end of the age

a) *Spiritual deception*, which is repeated in V11, 23, and 24

1) This deception will actually prepare the way for the reception of antichrist

X) IN THE NT: This is repeatedly prophecied, intending to warn and awaken believers

a) 2 Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who secretly shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

b) 1 Jn 4:1 Dear friends, *do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits* to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

c) Jude 3-4 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to *contend for the faith* that was *once for all* entrusted to the saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who

change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

d) Ro 16:17-18 I *urge you brethren note those* who cause divisions and offenses contrary to *the doctrine* whicy you learned, *and avoid them*. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ but their own belly and by smooth words and flattering speech *deceive the hearts* of the simple

I) **THE SIGN:** Of the last days is false teaching and spiritual deception

a) The church will no longer value scripture and bible teaching

II) **FACT:** This spiritual condition is not new, as it was present in the OT

a) Jer. 5:31 The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?

b) Jer 2:13 My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

III) **IN 1 TIMOTHY:** Paul gave insight into the conditions that Jesus was prophecying

a) 1 Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit *speaks expressly*, that in the *latter times* some shall *depart from the faith*, *giving heed* to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils

IV) **THOUGHT:** There will be a *deliberate rejection* of Biblical Truth (Christian doctrine)

a) People will follow lies invented by demons, the originators of *all* false religion

V) **AS THESE FALSE BELIEFS ARE EVANGELIZED:** Some depart from *the faith*

a) This speaks of a purposeful decision to leave, or a deliberate departure

1) They intentionally reject the message of the gospel

VI) **SADLY:** They come close to the truth, but are never committed to the true Jesus

VII) **THEY MAY BELIEVE IN A JESUS:** But not in the Jesus of the bible

a) They invent one that they want to believe in and reject the Jesus of the bible

VIII) **THE WILLINGLY:** Follow the false teachers because they seem genuine

a) In rejecting the bible, they are left with only trusting their feelings

1) 2 Co 11:13-15 (Speaks of) *false apostles*, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if *his ministers* also

transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

IX) **THEY ARE:** False ministers preaching a false gospel, promising a false salvation

X) **KEY:** The false message brings *false salvation*, and divine judgment

a) Gal 1:6-9 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

I) **SINCE FALSE TEACHERS:** Will multiply and teach error, how can we identify them

II) **WHAT:** Are their fruits

III) **FIRST:** They deny Jesus Christ, as God in the flesh, the savior of mankind

a) He becomes a teacher, a prophet, the first creation of God, or brother of Lucifer

IV) **THEY CHANGE:** Who Jesus is and create a different Jesus and a false gospel

a) 2 Co 11:3-4 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus *other than the Jesus we preached*, or if you receive a *different spirit* from the one you received, or a *different gospel* from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

V) **JESUS:** Is the only begotten Son of God, and is Himself God in human flesh

a) 1 Jn 4:3 Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

VI) **SECOND:** They transform the grace of God into license, producing ungodly disciples

a) By rejecting God's word, the ultimate fruit is ungodly followers

1) Eph 5:5-6 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. *Let no one deceive you with empty words*, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

VII) **THIRD:** They teach that the bible contains truth, but is not the only truth

a) This produces a denial of the need for healthy, solid doctrinal teaching

1) 2 Ti 4:3-4 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

2) Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

VIII) **FOURTH:** They peddle the gospel and enrich themselves off of innocent believers

a) 2 Pe 2:3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up

IX) **FIFTH:** The fruit of this is that they actually destroy homes

a) Titus 1:11 They must be silenced, because they are *ruining whole households* by teaching things they ought not to teach--and that for the sake of dishonest gain.

I) **SIXTH:** They draw away believers and encourage them to follow after them

a) Ac 20:29-30 I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them

1) This produces followers who share their values

II) **IT IS SAD:** When Christians are so deceived that they actually defend false teachers

III) **SEVENTH:** They do not love the people, and ultimately will injure the sheep

a) Jn 10:11-12 A hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep

IV) **WHAT CAN WE DO?** How can we combat this?

a) We must simply obey Jesus and follow His command

1) Mt 28:19-20 Therefore go and *make disciples* of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and *teaching them* to obey *everything* I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Amen.

2) Make disciples...teaching them to obey all things...

V) **GOD'S WORD GIVES US DISCERNMENT:** And safeguards us from deception

a) It is intended to equip the sheep and protect them

1) Eph 4:14 That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive".

VI) **SADLY:** Many pastors are afraid of offending sensitive hearers

a) We must preach and teach God's word, which is the truth: Gal 4:16, Eph 4:15

1) 1 Th 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which tries our hearts.

VII) **FINALLY:** God's people need to gather with the heart to receive what God's word says

a) Like the people in Ac 10, waiting to hear the Apostle Peter share with them

1) Ac 10:33 We are all present before God, to hear *all the things* commanded you by God

VIII) **OUR NEXT STUDY:** Begins to speak of the other signs of the times