

The Olivet Discourse

Between then and 70 AD

Luke 21:12-24

Between 70 AD and the Beginning of the End

Matthew 24:4-5

Mark 13:5-7

Luke 21:8-9

Beginning of the End

Matthew 24:7-8

Mark 13:8

Luke 21:11a

RAPTURE

John 14:1-4

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

7 Year Covenant with Israel

Daniel 9:27

1st 3.5 years of the Tribulation

Matthew 24:9-14

Mark 13:9-13

Luke 21:11b

Revelation 6

2nd 3.5 years of the Tribulation

Matthew 24:15-28

Mark 13:14-23

Luke 21:25-26

Revelation 13

JESUS' SECOND COMING

Matthew 24:29-31

Mark 13:24-27

Luke 21:27-28

Revelation 19

PART ONE: The Olivet Discourse

Mark 13:3-37

1. The study of end times (eschatology) is fascinating and strongly encouraged.
Read Luke 12:54-56. Summarize Jesus' statement to the multitude.

The goal of our study is to increase in the knowledge of God so we can walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him and being fruitful in every good work. As believers, we should have an understanding of what is to come. So, we will touch on the order of events, but our primary focus will be on what can be applied to our lives today in light of these coming events.

Read Mark 13:3-27.

This section of Scripture is referred to as “The Olivet Discourse,” and was named for the location where it took place, the Mount of Olives. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all include portions of the discourse in their gospel accounts. Matthew contains the most detailed account, while Luke’s is the most limited, and Mark’s falls somewhere in between.

The Olivet Discourse details end times with its focus on the nation of Israel, not the Church, so you will not see any mention of the Rapture in this timeline of events.

2. What three questions are asked by the disciples?

Reference	Question
Matthew 24:3c Mark 13:4a Luke 21:7bc	
Matthew 24:3d	
Matthew 24:3e	

3. To what does “these things” refer in Mark 13:4? (v. 2)

The disciples wanted to know when and what sign would precede the destruction of the Temple. Luke’s account answers this question. Read Luke 21:12-24.

4. Briefly describe what would happen to the disciples and other followers of Jesus leading up to this time. (Luke 21:12,16,17)

5. While this would be frightening for anyone, Jesus saw an upside. How does Jesus want believers to handle times of persecution, and what promise does He make? (Luke 21:13-15)

6. Can you think of a time when you suffered a level of persecution for Jesus' sake? Describe how you handled the situation and the outcome.

7. What would be the sign indicating that the destruction of the Temple would happen soon? (Luke 21:20)

8. What did Jesus instruct them to do at this time? (Luke 21:21)

9. What would be the outcome for those who did not flee from Jerusalem? (Luke 21:24)

66 AD marked the beginning of Rome's four-year campaign against Jewish rebels. Rome completely surrounded Jerusalem, but a breakdown in supplies allowed many Jews to escape the city in 68 AD before the ultimate destruction of Jerusalem and the second temple in 70 AD.

The disciples also wanted to know what signs would precede the end of this age and the coming of the next—Jesus reigning in Jerusalem.

10. First, Jesus shares some things that will happen that should not be considered signs of the end. What are those things? (Mark 13:5-7)

11. Next, Jesus outlines signs that should be considered the beginning of the end. Record the signs that point to the beginning of the end. (Mark 13:8 and Matthew 24:7-8)

12. It is during this time that the Rapture of the church will take place. Read the following verses and record what you learn about the Rapture of the church.

John 14:1-4

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 explains that the “Day of the Lord” (7-year Tribulation) will come as a thief in the night. Why, as believers, can we be assured that this day will not overtake us? (1 Thessalonians 5:4-5)

14. A follower of Jesus Christ has nothing to fear when it comes to the Day of the Lord. There is no need for worry or anxiety. What should the believer purpose to do instead? (1 Thessalonians 5:6-11)

At some point following the Rapture of the church, a seven-year covenant will be made with Israel (Daniel 9:27); this event will mark the start of the seven-year Tribulation. The Tribulation is a seven-year period of God's wrath and judgment used for the purpose of purifying the nation of Israel, bringing them to the point where they will finally recognize Jesus as their Messiah.

Jesus details the sign of the end of this age—the Tribulation, which contains two distinct 3.5-year periods of time.

Read Mark 13:9-11. These verses refer to the first 3.5-year period. Mark's account sounds very similar to the account in Luke 21 that describes the signs leading up to the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD. However, these two passages do not depict the same event but two separate time periods with similarities. While Luke addressed the plight and treatment of Jews during the Roman invasion, the Mark passage shows how those who choose to recognize Jesus as their Savior after the Rapture will be mistreated by the new and wicked world religion. (Revelation 17:1-6)

15. Mark 13:10 says, "The gospel must be preached to all nations." Read Revelation 7:1-8, Revelation 11:3, and Revelation 14:6 and describe how the gospel message will be preached to all nations during the first half of the Tribulation.

16. Jesus' last instruction to believers before returning to Heaven was to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." **THINK:** Why do you think Jesus was focused on sharing the Gospel both when He returned to Heaven and during the Tribulation?

17. Once the Gospel has again been preached to all nations, the end will come. Read Mark 13:14-22. What does God want the Jews to do when they see the “abomination of desolation” (the anti-Christ standing in the Temple of God declaring himself to be god)?

18. Finally, Jesus answers what will be the signs of His return. Read Mark 13:24-27. Briefly describe the events of His second coming.

Read Mark 13:28-31. At this point, Jesus uses a parable about a fig tree to illustrate signs and timing. When you see leaves budding on the tree, you can be assured that summer is near. So, it will be when you see the signs that precede the destruction of the Temple, the end of the age, and the second coming of Jesus Christ.

19. Read Mark 13:32-37. There are signs that point to the beginning of the end, the end, and the second coming of Christ, but there are no signs that precede the rapture of the church. This gathering in the clouds could take place at any time. In light of this, what does Jesus want us to do? (v. 33)

Take heed – to turn the thoughts or direct the mind to a thing, to consider, contemplate, look to; absolutely take heed

Watch – to be circumspect, attentive, ready

20. **THINK:** Why do you think Jesus wants us to be taking heed, watching, and praying during this time?

21. Read Luke 21:36 and record why we must pray.

Jesus never leaves us in the dark, not knowing what to do. Those who listened and fled to the mountains in 68 AD were spared the Roman invasion of Jerusalem; likewise, those who listen and pray to accept Jesus as their personal Savior will be spared from the Great Tribulation.

In these final verses, Jesus returns to the here and now. He uses the parable of a man going to a far country to teach His followers what they should do and how they should live until He returns.

22. What three things did the man leave to his servants?

v. 34b _____

v. 34b _____

v. 34c _____

23. We have been left to wait for Jesus' return. Read the following verses and record what we have been left to do.

Mark 16:15

Luke 12:37

Matthew 6:31-33

Romans 12:1

2 Peter 3:8-15

1 John 3:2-3

24. Seven times in this chapter of Mark, Jesus tells His followers to watch or take heed. If we fail to do this, what will happen? (v. 36)

25. "The branch is tender and beginning to put forth leaves." (v. 28) What can you do in your own life to make sure you are ready, watching, and awake?

PART TWO: A Closer Look at the Security of God's Word

Mark 13:31

26. Read and record Mark 13:31.

We are warned throughout Scripture that this world will not last forever.

Pass away – to disappear or be no more

27. Look up the following verses and describe what they say about the passing away of heaven and earth.

Isaiah 51:6

2 Peter 3:10

Revelation 21:1

28. Read 2 Peter 3:10-14. With the understanding that this world is temporary, what must we be doing?

Knowing this present world will pass away should motivate us to live holy lives. But even greater motivation is the One on Whom we can trust to never pass away and Who promises a new heaven and earth.

29. Look up the following verses and write down what they teach you about the new heaven and the new earth.

Isaiah 65:17

Revelation 21

30. Knowing that the earth as we know it will one day cease to exist can be a little disconcerting. What are your thoughts when you read Scripture that tells you the world will come to an end?

We have nothing to fear because of the words Jesus spoke in Mark 13:31. “Heaven and earth will pass away, **but** My words will by no means pass away.” Every word spoken will come to pass, and every word of Jesus is true. His Word is eternal, and we can put our trust in His perfect, never-failing Word.

31. Jesus is the Word. Look up John 1:1-5,14. Write down everything you find in these verses about the Word. Why is this important to know?

32. Look up the following verses. What do you learn about the guarantee of God's Word?

Psalm 19:7-10

Psalm 119:89

Psalm 119:160

Proverbs 30:5

33. 2 Peter 1:20-21. How did we get the Word of God?

34. His Word is true; therefore, He is true. Read John 14:6 and 8:31-32. Record the "I AM" statement, then record how we benefit when we abide in Jesus.

35. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about the futility of earth and man in contrast with the eternity of God's Word.

Psalm 103:15-17

Isaiah 40:8

1 Peter 1:24-25

When we read Scriptures about end times, it can be unsettling and sometimes complicated. The human mind could not process the idea of *heaven and earth passing away* without the assurance of Jesus' promise, "BUT MY WORD WILL BY NO MEANS PASS AWAY."

Knowing that heaven and earth will pass away gives us perspective in life. This world is not our home; our home is with Him. We can trust this because the words of Jesus are for all eternity.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

- Hebrews 13:8

36. Finish today's lesson by writing a response to verse 31. How are you going to live with the understanding of the reality that our earth will not last forever, but Jesus and His Word will? Give thanks to Him who is Eternal!!

"Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

- Psalm 90:2