



THE ESCHATOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

The Greatest Prophet Speaks

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ESCHATOLOGY

- The study of future events
- Jesus – holder of three offices
 - **Prophet**
 - Priest
 - King
- Focus of Prophecy
 - The Literal, Physical, Future Kingdom of Jesus the Messiah!



THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- The Kingdom of God is, in a certain and important sense, the grand central theme of all Holy Scripture. In approving this affirmation we are not forgetting the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ... but as we contemplate Him and His manifold glories as revealed in the Word of God, we shall inescapably come sooner or later to the Kingdom of which He is the divine center. For it is in this Kingdom that the Father's eternal purpose in the incarnate Son shall be certainly and completely fulfilled." Alva J. McClain, *The Greatness of the Kingdom* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1968), 5.



OVERVIEW OF MATTHEW

○ Matthew's Focus

- The King and His kingdom – these are inseparable
- Summary Statement: Matt 21:5; Zech 9:9
- Matt 1:1: The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the **son of David**, the son of Abraham.



THE MESSAGE OF THE KING

- The kingdom is at hand (or near) 3:2; 4:17
- Message was primarily for Israel – God's first born son (Ex 3:22; Hos 11:1) among the nations. (3:2; 4:17; 10:5-6)
- Israel was under the curse of God (Isa 1:4-6; Deut 28:15ff)
- The kingdom would come if Israel repented – they must worship and love the Lord instead of traditions. 

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KING

- The Sermon on the Mount Matt 5-7
 - A King is the regal law giver
 - King Jesus law is characterized in 1 word: LOVE (7:12; 22:37-40; John 13:34-35; Gal 5:14; 6:2)
 - The Sermon on the mount is for believers who are disciples; it instructs us in how to live righteous lives pleasing and worthy of reward from the King.



THE CREDENTIALS OF THE KING

- Signs and miracles attested to His Person (4:23-25)
- 10 miracles recorded in Matt 8-9
- A triplet of miracles in 8:23-9:8 giving a fore view of the King's kingdom
 - Power over Nature – a calmed sea (Isa 55:13)
 - Power over Satan – a calmed man (Dan 8:23-25)
 - Power over Sin – a cleaned man (Isa 33:24)
- No one in Israel had done this before! (9:33) ●
- Doubt still prevailed (11:1-6)

THE REJECTION OF THE KING

- National Israel in rebellion and disobedience
 - Good news, but one requirement – national repentance
 - Matt 11-13: pivotal chapters showing the rejection of the Messiah
 - Chastisement for rejection: 11:20-24
 - Climax of rejection: 12:24-32
 - Kingdom now far not near: Parables spoken, but not to Israel (13:10-17, 35)
 - Kingdom shut up (23:13) and taken away (23:34-39)



THE NEW SUBJECTS OF THE KING:

○ Gentiles

- Israel set aside and Gentiles in view: 13:1
- Gentiles mentioned in 12:18-21
- Parables speak of fruit bearing which will result in reward in the coming kingdom
- Church formally mentioned: 16:18; 18:17
- Many parables have direct application for the church 28:19-20
- The church will have the ability for reward in the kingdom 19:27-30



THE SECOND COMING OF THE KING

- Cross but most assuredly the Crown!
 - Jesus coming in glory must be a second coming: 16:27-28; 19:28
 - The kingdom of the heavens—currently ruled by Satan—will be taken over by the Messiah!
 - The church will realize a heavenly position in the coming kingdom (21:43; Eph 3:3; Phil 3:10-15; 2 Thes 1:5; 2 Tim 4:18).
 - Parables are applicable to the church: 28:19-20; Eph 2:20



THE OLIVET DISCOURSE MATT 24 & 25

- Synoptics: Mark 13:1-37; Luke 21:5-36
 - Significance: The most important eschatological passage in the NT. It is “*The Prophetic Discourse*” from our Lord – **the Greatest Prophet (Acts 3:22-24)!**
 1. Most comprehensive eschatological (prophetic) passage in the NT.
 2. Greatly aides the systematization of eschatology.
 3. Provides a chronological unity to end time events.
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THE QUESTION'S FROM THE DISCIPLES

- v. 1-2 connected with the prior chapter....destruction of the temple foretold.
- v. 3 Essentially 2 questions:
 1. When will these things be?
 2. What will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?
- “These things”: the fall of Jerusalem, destruction of the temple, coming of the Messianic era. Cf. 23:38-39; Zech 14:1-11



STRUCTURE IN MATTHEW 24:3-44: CHIASM

A Question: When will these things happen? (v. 3a)

B Question: What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age? (v.3b)

B` Answer: What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age? (v. 4-35)

A` Answer: When will these things happen? (v. 36-44)



THE IMMINENCE OF HIS COMING!

- When? Matt 24:36-44
- Answer: No one knows when....the coming of the Lord begins without signs. It is imminent!
- Coming (*parousia*) covers a span of time, not simply an arrival. The second advent **begins** (the rapture) unexpectedly and is disclosed by the sign of the Son of Man (v. 29-31).
- A new revelation by God's Great Prophet – His arrival is **totally unexpected** as life goes on as always. (cf. 2 Pet 3:4-6, 10; 1 Thes 5:2-8)
- v. 39 took (*airo*) them all away.... to judgment
- v. 40-41 taken (*paralambano*) means taken along....along with Him



THE IMMINENCE OF HIS COMING!

- Imminent: ready to take place
 - For believers of the current dispensation (the body of Christ), the Lord's coming is imminent...nothing must happen in order for Him to return for us.
 - The rapture triggers a nexus of events
 - End of mans day; The Lord's day; Daniel's 70th week; The tribulation; The Second Coming.
 - Timing of the rapture is not known – 24:36-42
The timing is a **surprise** only known by the Father.
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BE READY – THE THIEF IS COMING

- V. 42 Watch (*gregoreo*) – be ready!
- V. 43 The Thief is coming! Rev 3:3
- V. 44 You don't know when! James 5:7-9
- The Thief is coming to judge the church (24:42-51; 25:14-30)
- The Thief is also coming to judge the Jews and Gentiles! (Matt 25:1-13; 25:31-46)



THE SIGNS OF HIS COMING MATTHEW 24:4-35

- Christ's followers after the rapture **can know** He is near (24:32-35)
- v. 34 “all these things” – the generation that sees any of the tribulation will see the end of it.
- v. 24:4-14 summarizes events that follow the rapture. The rapture is the event that begins the Lord's intervention and judgment. (1 Thes 5:2-3; Joel 2; Zech 14)
- 24:15-31 expound upon events during this period.



“BEGINNING OF SORROWS” SIGNS

(MATT 24:4-14; MK 13:5-13; LUKE 21:8-19)

- *Many coming in Christ's name* (Matt 24:5; Mk 13:6; Luke 21:9)
- *Wars and rumors of wars* (Matt 24:6; Mk 13:7; Luke 21:9)
- *Nation against nation* (Matt 24:7a; Mark 13:8a; Luke 21:10)
- *Famines and earthquakes* (Matt 24:7b; Mark 13:8b; Luke 21:11a)
- *Persecution and martyrdom* (Matt 24:9; Mark 13:9; Luke 21:12)
- *Apostasy and dissension* (Matt 24:10; Mark 13:12)
- *False prophets* (Matt 24:11)
- *Increase of lawlessness* (Matt 24:12)



“GREAT TRIBULATION” SIGNS (MATT 24:15-28; MARK 13:14-23)

- *Abomination of desolation* (Matt 24:15; Mark 13:14)
- *Flight to the mountains* (Matt 24:16-18; Mark 13:14b-16)
- *Great tribulation* (Matt 24:21; Mark 13:19)
- *False christs and false prophets* (Matt 24:24; Mark 13:22)



THE MID-POINT SIGN 24:15

- Daniels 70th week: The chronological key!
- The middle of the week: 24:15
- Beginning of the week: ratification of the peace treaty Dan 9:27
- 24:8 “beginning of sorrows” – birth pains. This describes the calamities which inaugurate the Day of the Lord. 1 Thes 5:2-3.
- The end times contain the birth pains of the new age – the kingdom. As the birth of a child (John 16:21) the new age will produce overflowing joy (Rev 19:6-7).



THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN

- 24:29-31
- The end of the 70th week culminates with the arrival of the Son of Man!
- His 2nd coming is one of great power and glory! Matt 19:28
- The long awaited kingdom will come, the prayer of 6:10 will be answered!



PROPHETIC IMPLICATIONS

- The Lord is Coming!
- His Kingdom is Coming!
- His Coming begins without warning!
- His Coming is for Judgment!
- His arrival will be known by all!
- Everyone better be ready!

