

Analysis of Olivet Discourse in the Three Synoptic Gospels

by
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Occasion B at end of Jesus’ time among us	Occasion B at end of Jesus’ time among us	Occasion B at end of Jesus’ time among us	Occasion A in middle of Jesus’ time among us
		Luke 21:1-4 Poor widow’s gift	
		•And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. •And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. •And He said, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; •for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on.”	
Matthew 24:1–2 Predicts temple’s destruction	Mark 13:1–2 Predicts temple’s destruction	Luke 21:5–6 Predicts temple’s destruction	
•Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. •And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”	•As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” •And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”	•And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, •“As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down.”	
Matthew 24:3 Disciples ask when end will come	Mark 13:3-4 Disciples ask when end will come	Luke 21:7 Disciples ask when end will come	
•As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”	•As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately, •“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”	•They questioned Him, saying, “Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?”	
Matthew 24:4–5 Warning against false claims of Jesus’ return	Mark 13:5–6 Warning against false claims of Jesus’ return	Luke 21:8 Warning against false claims of Jesus’ return	

<p>•And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. •"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.</p>	<p>•And Jesus began to say to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. •Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and will mislead many."</p>	<p>•And He said, "See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them.</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:6–8 End is long way off</p>	<p>Mark 13:7–8 End is long way off</p>	<p>Luke 21:9–11 End is long way off</p>	
<p>•"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. •"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. •"But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.</p>	<p>•"When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; those things must take place; but that is not yet the end. •For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of birth pangs."</p>	<p>•"When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately." •Then He continued by saying to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, •and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:9–14 Long period before end will be time of persecution</p>	<p>Mark 13:9–13 Long period before end will be time of persecution</p>	<p>Luke 21:12–19 Long period before end will be time of persecution</p>	
<p>•"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. •"At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. •"Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. •"Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. •"But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. •"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.</p>	<p>•"But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them. •The gospel must first be preached to all the nations. •When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit. •Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. •"you will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."</p>	<p>•"But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. •"It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. •"So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; •for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. •"But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, •and you will be hated by all because of My name. •"Yet not a hair of your head will perish. •"By your endurance you will gain your lives.</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:15–20 Offers sign of destruction of temple</p>	<p>Mark 13:14–18 Offers sign of destruction of temple</p>	<p>Luke 21:20–24 Offers sign of destruction of temple</p>	

<p>•“Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), •then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. •“Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. •“Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. •“But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! •“But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.</p>	<p>•“But when you see the abomination OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. •The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house; •and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat. •But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! •But pray that it may not happen in the winter.”</p>	<p>•“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. •“Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; •because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. •“Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; •and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:21–22 Period of great tribulation will follow destruction of temple</p>	<p>Mark 13:19–20 Period of great tribulation will follow destruction of temple</p>	<p>[Luke 21:24] [Period of great tribulation will follow destruction of temple]</p>	
<p>•“For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. •“Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.</p>	<p>•“For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will. •Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days.”</p>	<p>[...and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.]</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:23–24 Warning about false Messiahs</p>	<p>Mark 13:21–22 Warning about false Messiahs</p>		
<p>•“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. •“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.</p>	<p>•“And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, He is there’; do not believe him; •for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect.”</p>		
<p>Matthew 24:25–28 You have been warned; return of Jesus will be obvious</p>	<p>Mark 13:23 You have been warned</p>		<p>17:22–25 Warning against false claims of Jesus’ return; return of Jesus will be obvious</p>

<p>•“Behold, I have told you in advance. •“So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them. •“For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the son of Man be. •“Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.</p>	<p>•“But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.”</p>	<p><i>(Obviousness of Jesus’ return is implied in Luke 21:25–28 [below]; the warning contained in Matthew and Mark is missing, but its omission does not destroy the coherence of the teaching.)</i></p>	<p>•And He said to the disciples, “The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. •“They will say to you, ‘Look there! Look here!’ Do not go away, and do not run after them. •“For just like the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in His day. •“But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.</p>
<p>Matthew 24:29–31 Sign of the end of the present time</p>	<p>Mark 13:24–27 Sign of the end of the present time</p>	<p>Luke 21:25–28 Sign of the end of the present time</p>	
<p>•“But immediately after the tribulation of those days the SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. •“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. •“And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.</p>	<p>•“But in those days, after that tribulation, the SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, •and THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. •Then they will see the SON OF MAN coming IN CLOUDS with great power and glory. •And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.”</p>	<p>•“There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, •men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. •“Then they will see the SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory. •“But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:32–33 Parable of fig tree</p>	<p>Mark 13:28–29 Parable of fig tree</p>	<p>Luke 21:29–31 Parable of fig tree</p>	
<p>•“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; •so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.</p>	<p>•“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. •Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.”</p>	<p>•Then He told them a parable: “Behold the fig tree and all the trees; •as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. •“So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:34–35 Certainty of Jesus’ prediction</p>	<p>Mark 13:30–31 Certainty of Jesus’ prediction</p>	<p>Luke 21:32–33 Certainty of Jesus’ prediction</p>	

<p>•“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. •“ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.</p>	<p>•“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. •Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”</p>	<p>•“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. •“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:36–41 Day of judgment, a surprise</p>	<p>Mark 13:32 Day of judgment, a surprise</p>		<p>Luke 17:26–37 Day of judgment, a surprise</p>
<p>•“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. •“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. •“For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, •and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. •“Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. •“Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.</p>	<p>•“But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”</p>	<p><i>(Same point as found in Matthew and Mark is implied in what follows in Luke 21: 34–36.)</i></p>	<p>•“And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: •they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. •“It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; •but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. •“It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. •“On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back. •“Remember Lot’s wife. •“Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. •“I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left. •“There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left. • [“Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.”] •And answering they said to Him, “Where, Lord?” And He said to them, “Where the body is, there also the vultures will be gathered.”</p>
<p>Matthew 24:42–44 Be alert, therefore</p>	<p>Mark 13:33 Be alert, therefore</p>	<p>Luke 21:34–36 Be alert, therefore</p>	

<p>•“Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. •“But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. •“For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.</p>	<p>•“Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.”</p>	<p>•“Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; •for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. •“But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:45–51 Parable of servants while master is away</p>	<p>Mark 13:34–37 Parable of servants while master is away</p>		
<p>•“Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? •“Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. •“Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. •“But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’ • and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; •the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, •and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.</p>	<p>•“It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. •Therefore, be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — •in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. •What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’”</p>		
<p>Matthew 25:1–13 Parable of wise and foolish virgins awaiting the bridegroom</p>			
<p>•“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. •Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. •For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, •but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. •Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. •But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ •Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. •The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ •But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ •And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. •Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ •But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’ •Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.”</p>			

Matthew 25:14–30

Parable of slaves entrusted with master's money to do business

•“For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. •To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. •Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. •In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. •But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. •Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. •The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ •His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ •Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’ •His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ •And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. •And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ •But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. •Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. •Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’ •For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. •Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 25:31–46

Description of the judgment of the nations by the Son of Man

•“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. •All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; •and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. •Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. •For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; •naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ •Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? •And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? •When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ •The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’ •Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; •for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; •I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’ •Then they themselves also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’ •Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ •These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”