

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH

IVv. Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (cont.)

Jesus Proclaims Truth (Part 21^b) First Watch c. 6:50 P.M.) Wednesday, 12th Nisán (April 1), A.D.33. Lesson: **When Fulfilled What Signs to look for?** Mt. 24:4-9; Mk. 13:1-8 Lk. 21:7-11

Introduction: Having examined the Lessons The Lord Jesus taught in The Temple to the multitude and His disciples during the day on Wednesday, we now consider His exit from The Temple and His teaching on the journey to and upon The Mount of Olives.

I. Exiting The Temple (Mt. 24:1,2; Mk. 13:1,2; Lk. 21:5,6)

When exiting and journeying away from The Temple, most likely through the East or Golden Gate, the disciples approached the face of Jesus to exhibit to Him, the buildings of The Temple.

A. The Buildings of The Temple

1. The Temple compound consisted of beautiful stones and the several great buildings with huge foundation stones, some as large as 15 feet long and 6 feet high including The Sanctuary, surrounded by the Northern Portico, the Western Portico, The Royal Portico on the south, and Solomon's Porch, The Beautiful Golden Gate, and The Sanhedrin (Mt. 24:1; Mk. 13:1)

B. The Lord Jesus' Prophecy Concerning 'all These Things' (Mt. 24:2; Mk. 13:2; Lk. 21:6).

The Lord Jesus' responded to their observation (Mt. 24:2).

“&You-see all these-things~, do-you& not? Amen I-am-saying to-you&, /A-stone+ shall-positively-not -be-permitted here upon a-stone, which+ shall-positively- not -be-dismantled” (Mt. 24:2 APT).

Mark substituted the term “these great buildings” for “all these-things~” (13:2 APT) and Luke inserted “with reference to these things which you are observing” (21:6 APT). Here The Lord Jesus referred His disciples to the inevitable destruction of The Temple along with the city of Jerusalem of which He spoke on Monday, the day of His Triumphant Entry, on His approach to the city. At that time, when approaching the city, He addressed the people as a nation in regard to the impending destruction of The city (Lk. 19:41-44 (APT).

“⁴⁴And they-shall-raze you^s to-the ground and the children of-yours^s in-you^s and they-shall- not-permit ^ostone upon ^ostone in-you^s, in-retribution^[instead of which things] for-which you-did- not -know^f the appointed-time-of-the visitation of-yours” (Lk. 19:44 APT).

But on Mount of Olives He addressed His disciples concerning the impending days that shall arrive upon them in the not-too-distant future, which was recorded by all three of the synoptic Gospels. Then there was a lull in their conversation while walking up The Mount as the disciples mulled over the desperate fulfillment of this prophecy and considered when this event shall take place.

After Jesus located a position on the Mount of Olives directly in the view opposite The Temple, Peter, James, and John approached Him (Mk. 13:3) privately (Mt. 24:3) and questioned Him concerning when these things shall come to pass and what signs for which to look. They asked three questions: When? and What is the miraculous-sign of your coming-presence? and what is the miraculous-sign of the consummation of the age (Mt. 24:3)? Matthew recorded more information with a fuller explanation than both Mark, a disciple of Peter (1 Pet. 5:13) and Luke, a companion of Paul.

II. Teaching on The Mount of Olives (Mk. 13:5-36; Mt. 24:4-41; Lk. 21:8-32)

A. Answering the First Question: When shall these things be? c. 6:40 P.M. (Mt. 24:4-8; Mk. 13:5-8; Lk. 21:8-11).

“Mt. 24:4 And /Jesus answered and said to them, Constantly-beware that not anyone mislead you&! 5For many shall come using My name, saying, I-am- myself -continually-being The Christ. “8 . . . And, ‘The appointed-time stands-drawn-near.’ Therefore &do- not -begin-journeying after them! 9But whenever &you-hear of-wars and seditions, do- not -begin-to-be-consternated!” “Mt. 24:6 . . . Be-vigilant! Stop being-alarmed! For it-is-absolutely-necessary for all-things-to-come-to-pass, but-on-the-contrary it-is not-yet the end. 10At-that-time He-was-repeatedly-saying to-them, Nation shall-be-raised-up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. 11And great earthquakes and famines and pestilences [and disturbances (Mk. 13:8)] shall-be everywhere [from place to place]. Both terrifying omens and great miraculous-signs shall-be from Heaven.” “Lk. 21:8 All these-things [are] 0beginning of birth-pangs [preliminary troubles to development of a catastrophe]. 9At-that-time they-shall-deliver you& into tribulation” (Mt. 24:4,5; Lk. 21:8,9a; Mt. 24:6; Lk. 21:9b-11 APT).

In order to clearly and accurately understand these Truths concerning the events that shall take place in the future and to differentiate between the events relating to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the air for His Church (the Rapture) and all the redeemed regenerated saints on the one hand, and on the other hand His Return back to Earth physically (The Revelation), referred to in Scripture as His Parousia or His coming-presence back to Earth to set up His longed for, and particularly by The Jewish nation, anticipated Kingdom, it is necessary to keep in mind constantly the progressive Revelation by The God through the centuries.

Isaiah the Prophet indicated that The God has revealed Himself in Scripture in minute segments throughout the centuries. For in order to teach knowledge and for humans to understand doctrine it must be taught “here a little and there a little” (Isa. 28:9,10) even as God our Father has revealed Himself in this way through Scripture written by God-breathed holy men of The God under The Holy Spirit’s control. Therefore Scripture must be learned according to The Revelation that The God has taught His people through the ages. We must keep constantly in mind whom The God is addressing and at what age or era of time The Truth applies particularly. We must ask ourselves, Is this Scripture to be applied after The Law was given and addressed or intended for Israel particularly to be obeyed in precept by Israelites? Or is the principal to be observed and practiced by all humans? Or is it addressed to the redeemed, regenerated, disciple-saints to be observed, understood, and applied by everyone who is claiming to belong to The Lord Jesus Christ and His Church?

As we proceed to examine the teaching by The Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples, keep in mind this: The gospel that John the Baptist and The Lord Jesus proclaimed, **until** The Lord Jesus was rejected by Israel and in turn He rejected Israel (Mt. 10:1-12:30), and **until** John was beheaded, was the Gospel of The Kingdom. But **after** The Lord Jesus introduced The Church that He was beginning to build (Mt. 16:18), He began to clarify the separation of The Church and Israel on The one hand and The Gospel of the Kingdom (Millennial) of the Heavens

distinct from The Gospel of The Kingdom of The God. Since He made this distinction, we are responsible to do the same! Here in Matthew 24:3-25:26, on the Mount of Olives The Lord Jesus made several distinctions which we do well to observe.

The Lord Jesus did not answer the disciples' question directly but rather He cited six occurrences or indications that must occur **before** His parousia (coming presence) to the Earth can take place thus it is not immediately the end. Some of these occurrences shall also take place before He comes in the air for His Church, also called The Rapture. Therefore His disciples **and** we are constantly to beware that **no one** mislead us! Satan is extremely active and becomes more so as the time draws near. He is masterful at misleading and deceiving humans as he did in the beginning (Gen. 3:1-6 cf. 1 Tim. 2:13,14). Therefore be vigilant!

1. Many false Christs or antichrists who mislead humans shall appear **before** He comes in the air for His disciples (Mt. 24:5; Mk. 13:6; Lk. 21:8).

Many will claim to be Christ while others, false prophets will deceive by setting dates for His appearance in the air. There is only One true Christ and **He** indicated what events must take place first. Remember that He was speaking directly to devoted Jewish disciples before His Crucifixion, Resurrection-ascension and His high priestly ministry in Heaven, and before The Church came into existence at Pentecost by the indwelling Holy Spirit, and before The Law was negated. Therefore at this time before the crucifixion there were no Christians. Even in John's Day he, John wrote, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (2 Jn. 7). Thus a deceiver is an antichrist. Do not be misled! Study The Scriptures carefully!

2. Wars, Reports (rumors) of wars, and seditions (insurrections against authority) shall take place **before** the consummation of the age and The tribulation begins (Lk. 21:9; Mt. 24:6, **8,9**; Mk. 13:7).

Most recently, especially during the last month there has been an increase of these signs as indications of the rapidity with which the time is approaching the fulfillment of This prophecy that The Lord Jesus gave to His disciples. But we must not be alarmed. The Lord Jesus alerted us (all His disciples) to this condition which must take place before the redemption of our bodies which occurs when He descends from Heaven with the most exhilarating trio ever to fall on human ears, the shouted-directive of the Lord Jesus, Come away!, the voice of the archangel, and The God's trumpet (1 Thes. 4:15-18) and all the saints' bodies shall be changed and rise up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Cor. 15:51). This event must take place before the seven year Tribulation of Israel begins (Mt. 24:8,9). It ends with the coming presence (The Parousia) with His great host of angels (Mt. 24:27,29,30; 25:31).

3. Nation shall-be-raised-up against nation and kingdom against kingdom (Mt. 24:7; Mk. 13:8; Lk. 21:10).

There are numerous uprisings around the world. Nationals are rebelling against political leaders. Nationals are fighting nationals. Intertribal revolts within nations as well as nations warring against and invading nations. No doubt more of this shall occur as we near the Tribulation period and then again will take place toward the end of the Great Tribulation in The Battle of Armageddon.

4. Great Earthquakes Everywhere [lit. from place to place] (Lk. 21:11; Mt. 24:7; Mk. 13:8).

During our years in Australia during the eighties and nineties, the news media there persistently published earthquakes of every size everywhere in the world daily. Earthquakes have been rapidly on the rise through the years. The American media only publicizes the large and damaging earthquakes, so there is less concern about this sign of impending danger in America. Yet earthquakes all over the globe are increasing every year. On Friday, January 23, 2009, the day the author obtained from the printer copies of the leaflet, **DISASTERS! Is There An Answer?**, The News Journal, Wilmington, Delaware published an article titled, **2008 disasters set a record for decade in deaths, costs.** “At least 235,816 people lost their lives in 321 disasters around the world last year, said the U.N. International Strategy for Destruction.” That calculates to be more than one disaster death in the world every 3.5 seconds. And there was an increase of disasters in the world during the succeeding years. This is another indication of the nearness of His coming in The air for His redeemed Church with every dead and alive regenerated disciple-saint. Are you looking up for his coming at any moment ?

5. Famines and Pestilences and Disturbances Everywhere (Lk. 21:10; Mt. 24:7; Lk. 21:11).

In this last year or so the United States has seen drought in several locations which has caused a scarcity of harvest and a shorter supply of water with lakes and ponds holding less water. In some areas there has been drought restrictions applied. As a result this has greatly affected harvests and has caused farmers to raise the cost of crops and subsequently food prices have been fluctuating as they increase and seldom return to much earlier pricing. This is an omen that famine may occur in the near future. Also there have been some plagues of insects affecting harvest as well. As to disturbances just watch the news channels on your TV and there is a frequency of disturbances: strikes for more wages and for government handouts, benefits, and employment and as well much displeasure with the way politicians have been governing. In addition uprisings and revolt about political decisions around the world, etc. have been increasing everywhere. Pestilences cause outbreaks of destructive plagues containing infectious and contagious diseases causing noxious, virulent devastation resulting in mass death over broad areas such as the HIV virus. We have only experienced a few brief samplings of such pestilences which medical science has been partially successful in curtailing the effects for awhile before taking its toll. But be assured so far these various incidents have given only minute samplings of the magnitude of The Lord Jesus Christ's vast prophecy!

6. Both Terrifying Omens (threats of doom) and great miraculous signs from Heaven (Lk. 21:11).

Could this be referring to the great storms of wind and rain and hail that have been increasing worldwide: tornadoes, tsunamis, and typhoons as wells stars falling and meteors colliding or crashing to Earth? Or could it be referring to the many disasters devised by deranged and angered humans to destroy human lives and costly buildings and property by various divisive explosives using hydrogen, uranium, sulfur, dynamite, TNT, and / or poisonous and destructive hazardous chemicals as anthrax, cyanide, etc. or both as well as the disastrous results of inclement weather?

After citing all these occurrences as signs of His coming, The Lord Jesus related that “All these-things [are] ⁰beginning of birth-pangs which are preliminary troubles to the development of a catastrophe.” These must take place before the Rapture (coming again in the air for His Church). It can be said that these troubles have been happening through the years and it is true. But it is obvious that there has been an increase in severity and frequency in recent years. However many of these occurrences are prophesied to occur both before The Lord Jesus Christ’s coming in the air for His Church when He redeems our bodies (Rom. 8:23) and some shall occur again after the Rapture but before His Parousia or Coming Presence (Mt. 24:29,30) back to Earth with His Church to set up His Millennial Kingdom.

B. Answering the Second Question: (c. What is the miraculous-sign of The Parousia i.e. Your Coming-Presence? c. 6:50 P.M. (Lk. 21:8,9)

These Scriptures explained the first two complicated questions that the disciples asked The Lord Jesus, which involved two events that covered more than seven years after the first event. In order to understand the reason why He grouped them together, we must realize that The Lord Jesus could not give a simple answer, but must cover the signs and occurrences before both events in order to get to the signs before The Parousia. The disciples were addressed as representatives of the Jewish nation. They were not yet ready or capable of being informed in detail, grasping, and fully understanding the distinctions between the two events, the Rapture and The Parousia. Keep in mind the time that they asked the questions and where they were in the course of The God’s progressive revelation. They were still living under The Law before The crucifixion-death, burial, resurrection-ascension and High-Priestly ministry of The Lord Jesus Christ, and Pentecost, the birth of His Church. It was not until Paul wrote his Epistles that the regenerated disciples in The Church were able to understand, grasp, and proclaim these Truths. Therefore once these distinctions between these coming events are clearly presented, the reason why The Lord Jesus answered this way, These Blessed Truths become understandable. The following is recorded chronologically.

“Mt. 24:4 And /Jesus answered and said to them, Constantly-beware that not anyone mislead you&! ⁵For many shall come using My name, saying, I-am- myself -continually-being The Christ. For it-is-absolutely-necessary for all-things- to-come-to-pass, but-on-the-contrary it-is not-yet the end.” “Lk. 21:8 . . . ‘The appointed-time stands-drawn-near.’ Therefore &do- not -begin- journeying after them! ⁹But whenever &you-hear of-wars and seditions, do- not -begin-to-be-consternated! For it-is-absolutely-necessary for all-things to-come-to-pass first, but-on-the-contrary it-is not immediately the end.” “Mt. 24:6 . . . Be-vigilant! Stop being-alarmed! For it-is-absolutely-necessary for all-things to-come-to-pass, but-on-the-contrary it-is not immediartly the end.” ¹⁰At-that-time He-was-repeatedly-saying to-them, Nation shall-be-raised-up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹And great earthquakes and famines and pestilences [and disturbances (Mk. 13:8)] shall-be everywhere [from place to place]. Both terrifying omens and great miraculous-signs shall-be from Heaven.” “Lk. 21:8 But all these-things [are] ⁰beginning of birth-pangs[preliminary troubles to development of a catastrophe]. ⁹At-that-time they-shall-deliver you& into tribulation” (Mt. 24:4,5; Lk. 21:8,9a; Mt. 24:6; Lk. 21:9b-11 APT).

In order to clarify the sequence of events that shall take place, it is

absolutely necessary to pay close attention to words referring to time, in this case: ‘whenever,’ ‘first,’ ‘the end,’ ‘come-to-pass,’ ‘beginning,’ ‘at-that-time,’ and ‘until.’ These are underlined in the reference above for convenience of location. ‘Until’ (Lk. 21:24) will be considered in a later lesson of our study when The Parousia (The Christ’s return to Earth) is considered.

The word *συντελείας* (suntehleh-éeahs) is properly translated ‘consummation’ instead of ‘end’ which is the translation of *τέλος* (téhlohs) used in some English translations. This was used in the disciples’ question, it bears mention here for use in this context. This word ‘end’ is used in relation to fourteen different ways; the end of: an age *αἰών* (aiōn), the physical life of Jesus Christ, the Sabbath, Tribulation, the heavens, the aim or purpose, the outcome, the Law, fate or being alive, time, strife, conduct of life, and conclusion.

The word *αἰών* (aiōn) has sometimes been mistranslated as ‘world’ instead of ‘age.’ This has led many people to believe that when Jesus returns to Earth that will be the end of the world rather than coming back to set up His kingdom to reign a thousand years. The phrase ‘til kingdom come’ back in the nineteen-thirties meant “the end of world.” Therefore ‘the end’ in this context, in which Jesus used it, refers to the end of the age. Jesus spoke of the tribulation for Israel as “appointed Times of ⁰Gentiles” and referred to by Daniel as “The Abomination of Desolation” (Dan. 8:13 cf. 12:7) lasting three and one-half years or as Daniel put it ‘time, times, and a half time,’ which Jesus called ‘The Great Tribulation’ (Mt. 24:21) Since Jesus spoke of the age in this context, the age must refer to the last seven years of Israel’s history as a nation before the Millennial reign of Christ and the people of Israel living during those seven years of Tribulation are considered by The Lord Jesus Christ to be my brothers (brethren) (Mt. 25:40).

But this occurrence is ‘not yet’ or ‘still future’ while some of these occurrences indicate that “the appointed time of His Coming in the air” ‘stands-drawn-near’ but The Tribulation for Israel followed by His Parousia (Revelation or Return to Earth) and ‘the end’ is ‘not yet’ ‘come-to-pass’ or ‘still future’. However, we are reminded that He warned His disciples, **us**, if indeed we are His disciples, ‘Be-vigilant!’ We will resume this study of The Lord Jesus’ Answer to the Disciples’ Questions next time, Lord Willing.

Conclusion: Today we considered The Lord Jesus Christ’s teaching and prophesy upon The Mount of Olives. We considered the necessity to clearly accurately understand the Truths concerning the events that shall take place in the future and to differentiate between the events relating to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the air for His Church or The Rapture and all the redeemed regenerated saints on the one hand, and on the other hand His Return back to Earth physically referred to in Scripture as His Parousia or The Revelation or His coming-presence back to Earth to set up His longed for, and particularly by the Jewish nation, His anticipated Kingdom, it is necessary to keep in mind constantly the progressive Revelation by The God through the centuries.

Then we considered His answer to the second part of the private question asked by Peter, James, and John concerning what signs for which to look when He is about to come. We reviewed the six occurrences or indications that He cited which must occur **before** His parousia (coming presence) to the Earth can take place thus it is not immediately the end.

The warning that Jesus gave to His disciples to which we need to give

earnest heed is, “Constantly-beware that not anyone mislead you&! Be-vigilant!” To do so requires discipleship and personal organized study of The God’s Word.

Application: Beginning today what steps will you and I take to be prepared to avoid being misled away from the God’s Truth?

For next week: **Read and meditate upon: Jesus’ Final Day of Public Teaching** (First Watch of Night c. 7:00 P.M.): **Answering The Third Question: Signs of the Consummation of the Age** (Mt. 24:9-31; Mk. 13:9-23; Lk. 21:10-19).