

The Olivet Discourse

"The Sign of the Destruction of Jerusalem"

General Signs of Jesus' Second Coming

<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>
<u>False Christs</u>		
(24:4-5) ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.	(13:5-6) ⁵ And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray.	(21:8) ⁸ And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them.
<u>Wars</u>		
(24:6-7a) ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom,	(13:7-8a) ⁷ And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.	(21:9-10) ⁹ And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
<u>Famines, Pestilences, Earthquakes</u>		
(24:7b-8) and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.	(13:8b) There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.	(21:11) ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.
<u>Martyrs</u>		
(24:9) ⁹ "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.	(13:9) ⁹ "But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them.	(21:12) ¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake.
<u>Increase in Wickedness, Love will Grow Cold, False Prophets</u>		
(24:10-13) ¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved.	(13:11-13) ¹¹ And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. ¹³ And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.	(21:16-19) ¹⁶ You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all for my name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives.
<u>Worldwide preaching of the Gospel</u>		
(24:14) ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.	(13:10) ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.	(21:13-15) ¹³ This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.

The Text (Luke 21:20-24): *20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, 22 for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. 23 Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

Compare How Matthew and Mark Continue with How Luke Continues:

Immediately following the General Signs of Jesus' 2nd Coming as recorded in each of the Synoptic Gospels, Luke takes a different approach than Matthew and Mark. Luke stated that the sign of Jerusalem being surrounded by armies should alert the Jews to the fact that its destruction is imminent. On the other hand, Matthew and Mark started their discussion regarding the Abomination of Desolation.

What is the Abomination of Desolation? This phrase originally referred to the desecration of the temple by Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria around 168 BC. He and his armies invaded Jerusalem and made an altar in the temple and sacrificed a pig to his own god on it. We see the term introduced in Daniel 9:27 where the one referred to makes a strong covenant with many for one week. We see the term prophetically used in Daniel 11:31, where we are able to see from history, that the king of the north, Antiochus Epiphanes fulfills the prophecy given to Daniel in part. In actuality he foreshadows a much more significant prophecy that Jesus sees in the future (Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14).

Luke 21:20-24: Luke stated that the sign of Jerusalem's being surrounded by armies should alert the Jews to the fact that its destruction is imminent. It will be a time of extreme difficulty and persecution for Israel. Jesus predicted that many in Israel will fall by the sword or be taken as prisoners and the city will continue to be "trampled under foot by the Gentiles" until the Times of the Gentiles is complete. Clearly, Luke recorded a prophecy that was fulfilled when Titus destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D. From his perspective it was prophecy. From our perspective it is history.

What is the "Times of the Gentiles?" The times of the Gentiles began in 605 BC when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem and took the first captives to Babylon. Since then, Israel has never really controlled the city. In Jesus' time, the city was controlled by Rome. Today, Israel has a degree of control because the United States of America stands ready to assure this. However, they have Palestinian Gentiles living among them who are also in control of certain aspects of the sacred shrines. The times of the Gentiles control of Jerusalem has not ended, and consequently is yet future. Luke has answered the "when," and he is the only author that does. He does this because the destruction of Jerusalem was a foreshadowing of what is to come which must ultimately finish the transgression, put an end to sin, atone for iniquity, bring in everlasting righteousness, seal both vision and prophet, and anoint a most holy place.

Next Week: "The Specific Signs of the End – The First"