

- I) V1-4 INTRO: Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see
 - a) We are about to enter into a study of what has been called the Olivet discourse
 - 1) It deals with conditions prior to what is called the second coming of Jesus Christ

- II) THE BIBLE TEACHES: That Jesus will one day return to planet earth
 - a) We believe that the return of Jesus can occur in the very near future
 - 1) This belief actually changes the way that we live our lives from day to day

- III) WE NEED TO REMEMBER: When God's word is rightly divided, it produces a changed life
 - a) This would include properly approaching the subject of the return of Jesus
 - 1) Knowledge of the last days is intended to encourage us to be ready when He returns
 - 2) Ro 13:11-14 Do this knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

- IV) SETTING: Jesus has just finished teaching in the Temple (Mk 11:27-12:44)
 - a) He had drawn His disciples aside to teach them a lesson concerning faith filled giving
 - 1) After teaching them that lesson, they left the Temple and headed for the Mount of Olives

- V) V1 HIS DISCIPLES: Said to Him Teacher see what manner of stones and what buildings are here
 - a) The disciples were overwhelmed with the beauty of the Temple
 - 1) Lu 21:5 tells us that It was *adorned* with beautiful *stones* and *donations*

- VI) THEIR THOUGHT: *What magnificent buildings!*
 - a) IT *WAS* MAGNIFICENT: Jn 2:20 records that restoration had been occurring 46 years
 - 1) Some of the stones were 40' x 12' x 12', and weighed over 100 tons
 - 2) They were quarried as a single piece and transported many miles to the building site (to keep the sound of man's labor out of the area)

- VII) V2 AND JESUS: Answered and said to him *Do you see* these great buildings Not one stone will be
 - a) INTERESTINGLY: As is common, Jesus had already said this but they did not hear Him
 - 1) Lu 19:43-44 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.

- VIII) *ULTIMATELY*: These words were fulfilled in AD 70 under Titus of Rome
 - a) JOSEPHUS: Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the whole city and temple, except three towers and a part of the western wall, and these were spared; but, for all the rest of the wall was laid so completely even with the ground by those who dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came there believe it had ever been inhabited

- IX) V3 NOW: As He sat on the Mount of Olives Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately
 - a) THE QUESTION: Can be divided into at least two parts
 - 1) *FIRST*: WHEN WILL THESE THINGS BE? At this point, they do not see the Church age
 - 2) They believe He will establish His rule immediately, after His resurrection

- I) *SECOND*: What will be *the sign* when all these things will be fulfilled?

- II) TO UNDERSTAND THE DISCIPLE'S QUESTION: We need to understand their times
 - a) FACT: There was a great deal of interest in prophetic events during Jesus' day
 - 1) The Jewish people were longing for deliverance from Rome's oppression
- III) FOR MANY CENTURIES: Israel had been subjected to many foreign rulers
 - a) They were invaded by Assyrians, Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greeks, and now the Romans
 - 1) They longed to be free from the yoke of foreign Tyranny
- IV) OVER THE CENTURIES: God had made many promises to this beautiful nation
 - a) One of His most treasured promises was that they would one day have a deliverer
 - 1) Jer. 23:5-6 Behold, the days come, says the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.
 - 2) KEY: Israel was longing for the time of God's blessing, and deliverance from their enemies
- V) DURING THIS TIME: A basic set of expectations concerning the coming of Messiah had developed
 - a) FIRST: Before Messiah would arrive, there would be a time of terrible tribulation
 - b) SECOND: Before the Coming of Messiah, a forerunner would be sent, like Elijah
 - c) THIRD: After these two events, Messiah would appear, and establish His kingdom
 - d) FOURTH: The unbelieving nations would ally to fight against Messiah
 - e) FIFTH: The nations opposing Messiah would be destroyed for their opposition
 - f) SIXTH: Jerusalem would be restored and be the City of the great King
 - g) SEVENTH: The Jews scattered throughout the earth would be re gathered to Israel
 - h) EIGHTH: Israel would become the center of the World, all nations being subject to Messiah
 - i) NINTH: After Messiah began to rule, the world would enter into eternal peace and joy
- VI) THIS GIVES US INSIGHT INTO THE QUESTION OF THE DISCIPLES
 - a) They had been influenced by the teachings of their day
 - 1) The OT prophets saw the coming of Messiah as a single event
 - 2) They did not see *the Church* (Eph. 3:4-6)
- VII) IN THEIR MIND: The events of Jesus' ministry pretty much had followed the course they expected
 - a) Israel had been under severe tribulation and John the Baptist had presented Jesus
 - 1) Certainly He is now about to establish His Kingdom!
- VIII) V5-6 AND JESUS: Answering them began to say *Take heed* that no one deceives you
 - a) Jesus' answer is the longest answer given to any question in the NT
 - 1) IN IT: He indicates that there will be a period of time that will elapse before He returns
- IX) *FIRST*: Take heed that no one *deceives* you (this is repeated V21-23)
 - a) IN THE NT: Deception is universally prophesied (Preparing the way for the Antichrist)
 - 1) HERE: Are some verses that echo what Jesus is saying
 - 2) 1 Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times *some* shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
 - l) CONTINUED:

a) 2 Pe 2:1 There were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who secretly shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

b) 1 Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

c) Jude 3-4 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to *contend for the faith* that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

1) The seeds of deception sown in the time of the Apostles still bear fruit now

II) *V7 JESUS CONTINUES*: You will hear (constantly) of Wars and rumors of wars

a) *WAR*: BILLY GRAHAM POINTS OUT: Out of over 5,000 years of history, there has been 4,000 years of war: In the first portion of the 20th century alone, over 60 MILLION people died in two world wars.

b) Mankind has stockpiled enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world 17 times over in flames reaching 130 million degrees

III) *FACT*: Nations with aggressive international designs continue to increase

a) Several military dictators are ruling, some of whom would bomb Israel, if given a chance

1) China, Pakistan, North Korea all possess nuclear weapons, and Iran will soon have them

IV) *THIRD*: EARTHQUAKES, FAMINES AND TROUBLES: Mt 24:7 includes pestilence (plagues)

a) *EARTHQUAKES*: There will be an Increase in seismic upheavals

1) The US Geological Survey estimates several million earthquakes occur in the world each year

2) Many go undetected because they hit remote areas or have very small magnitudes.

V) *Earthquakes from 2004-2010*: Worldwide (magnitude of 4+ or above) numbered 86, 281

a) 84 were 7.0 - 7.9, and 11 were 8.0 - 9.9

1) United States: We had 23,725, of which 3 were 7.0 -7.9

2) Estimated deaths worldwide (all earthquakes included) – 639,430

VI) *HAITI*: Jan 12, 2010 Magnitude 7.0: 15 miles WSW of Port-au-Prince

a) By January 24th at least 52 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater were recorded.

1) 222,570 people were killed (this includes at least 4 people killed by a local tsunami

2) 300,000 people injured, 1.3 million people displaced, 97,294 houses destroyed and 188,383 damaged in the Port-au-Prince area,

3) In Jacmel, 70% of the buildings were destroyed and at least 5,000 were killed in the initial quake

VII) *CHILE*: Feb 27, 2010 Magnitude 8.8

a) 521 killed, 56 missing, 12,000 injured, 800,000 displaced, 370,000 houses, 4,013 schools, 79 hospitals and 4,2000 boats damaged or destroyed by earthquake and/or tsunami

1) At least 1.8 million people affected

I) *SECOND*: There will be famines

a) In Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Malawi, Angola, and Mozambique, over 26 million are at risk

- b) The Mennonite Central Committee reported an estimated 12 million newborns die of malnutrition every year in developing countries
- II) Breadfortheworld.org reports:
- a) In 2009 an estimated 1.02 billion people suffer from hunger
 - b) 2005 (latest year for which data is available) 1.4 billion people in developing countries lived in extreme poverty, or on less than \$1.25 a day
 - c) In 2008 nearly 9 million children died before age 5; 1/3 due directly to hunger and malnutrition
- III) SADLY: Millions in America presently live below the poverty line
- a) While millions are hungry: Americans are over a billion pounds overweight
 - 1) ANNUALLY: We spend over \$42 billion on diet formulas, and \$50 billion on cosmetics
- IV) MATTHEW ADDS PESTILENCE: (Plagues) The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization
- a) Malaria, tuberculosis, pneumonia all kill multitudes yearly, especially children
- V) HIV/AIDS: First cases appeared in 1981: In that year, a total of 189 cases were reported to the Centers for Disease Control from 15 states and the District of Columbia
- a) 76% of those reported were from New York and California
 - b) 97% were men, 79% being homosexual or bisexual men: There were no cases among children
- VI) BY 1990: There were some 43,000 cases reported to the CDC
- a) Over 66% reported were outside of New York and California
 - 1) 11% were women, and 800 cases of HIV/AIDS were children under 13 years of age
- VII) IN 1992: Washington received reports of more than 179,000 AIDS-infected persons
- a) Of these, 113,000 had already died
 - 1) AIDS is now the leading cause of death in both men and women under 45 and children between the ages of one and five in the United States
- VIII) FACT: Since 1981 an estimated 1,051,875 people in US have been diagnosed with AIDS
- a) Between 1981 – 2008 an estimated 583,298 have died from AIDS in US alone
 - 1) By the end of 2007 in the US: 468,578 people are living with AIDS, of which 3792 are children
- IX) Worldwide estimates (through end of 2008– including North America)
- a) 33.4 million people living with HIV
 - b) 2.1 million are children (under 15 yrs old)
 - c) 2.7 million newly infected people in 2008
 - d) 2.0 million AIDS deaths in 2008
 - 1) TRAGICALLY: More than 25 million people have died since 1981
- X) FINALLY: We also need to consider the effect of STD's
- a) ACCORDING TO THE CDC: In 2008 there were 104,000 reported cases of pelvic inflammatory disease, 336,000 cases of gonorrhea, 46,277 cases of syphilis, and 292,000 cases of herpes
 - 1) Approximately 63% of all STD'S are affecting people under the age of 25
- I) V8 YET JESUS SAYS: All these are the beginning of sorrows (birth pangs):
- a) This is only the beginning: It prepares you for what is to come later
 - 1) Our attitude: Anticipation

2) Is 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint

3) Jn 16:21-22 A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.