



What **JESUS**
Has To Say About End Times

HOW WILL THE WORLD END?

PORTICO
LEARNING HUB



FOUNDATIONS - MODULE 14C



"The Book of Matthew focuses on five discourses that Jesus shared with His disciples during His years of ministry. One of the most famous discourses was the Sermon On The Mount - also known as the Beatitudes - when Jesus taught us eight character traits that identify true servanthood.

In this module, we'll be focusing on the Olivet Discourse - also know as the Sermon on the Mount of Olives (which took place during the week leading up to His crucifixion and resurrection), when Jesus prophesied the destruction of the Temple, and used parables as forewarnings to prepare for His return.

It's important to understand that when Jesus spoke of the end times he referred to God moments (Kairos time) rather than the chronological order of events (Chronos time, which is measured in hours, days, years).

Although there are parallel passages in Mark 13:1-37 and Luke 21:5-36, since the record in Matthew 24:1-2:46 is the most extensive, for the purpose of this module, we will be referring primarily to Matthew's Gospel."

Rick Carroll

Key Topics



01
THE CONTEXT FOR
THE OLIVET DISCOURSE



02
THE PROPHECY OF
THE OLIVET DISCOURSE



03
THE PARABLES OF
THE OLIVET DISCOURSE



04
THE MAJOR LESSONS OF
THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

“Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!” Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?”



MATTHEW 24:2-3 (NLT)

01

The Context for The Olivet Discourse

- The Olivet Discourse is a Biblical passage found in Matthew 24 & 25, Mark 13 & Luke 21 where Jesus talks with His disciples about the **future of the Church**, during “Passion Week.”
- The teaching on the Mount of Olives distinguishes the Church from the nation of Israel at the time of Tribulation.
- It’s an alarming prophecy of the destruction of the Temple (which occurred in 70 AD).

PASSION WEEK	
SUNDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem• It’s the first time Jesus publicly accepts His role as the Messiah• The crowd shouts “Hosannah” which means “save us”• Jews were expecting a king to lead a revolution and save them from the Romans
MONDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus clears the temple by overturning the tables of merchants selling sacrificial animals of poor quality at high prices• He heals people and performs miracles in the Temple• People praise Him as the Son of David• Jesus weeps over Jerusalem, mourning the fact that Israel will soon reject Him
TUESDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus challenges the Pharisees about the identify of the Messiah from Scripture• He answers questions of the Pharisees and Sadducees about heaven and resurrection• He curses the fig tree• He discusses the destruction of the Temple with His disciples
WEDNESDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Silence
THURSDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passover Meal and Arrest
FRIDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crucifixion

The Olivet Discourse

- A warning of the threat of deception

“for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many.”
Matthew 24:5

- Wars like we’ve never known globally

“don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately.” Matthew 24:6

- Earthquakes and famines

“There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.” Matthew 24:7–8

- Great persecution

“But before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution. You will be dragged into synagogues and prisons, and you will stand trial before kings and governors because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me.” Luke 21:12–13

We have a responsibility to understand the Scriptures, so we can recognize what’s going on around us.

“Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When it’s branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know His return is very near, right at the door.” Matthew 24:32



Reflection #1

Do you understand the Scriptures enough to recognize the signs of the times?

Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven."

MATTHEW 24:5 (NLT)

The Prophecy of The Olivet Discourse

When we examine Jesus' teaching as well as Daniel's prophecies, we get more of a picture of the church enduring through a period of Tribulation, rather than what dispensationalists refer to as "rescue" theology - where the Church is raptured before the tribulation.

- The term "rapture" was popularized in North America about 100 years ago, but it was not the accepted teaching for the first 1900 years since Jesus was resurrected.
- Rescue theology breaks Christ's return into 2 parts:
 - The Rapture of believers (the Church)
 - Jesus' reigns on earth for the Millennium (before the The Final Judgment)
- When Jesus speaks of the **Abomination of Desolation** (prophesied in Daniel 9:27), he refers to the "chosen ones" (His Church) being present during the Tribulation.

"The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place." (Reader, pay attention!) "Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen ones." Matthew 24:15-22

The History of the Temple

- Solomon built the **first temple** on the Temple Mount (on Mount Moriah where Abraham was told to go sacrifice his son Isaac) that was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC.
- After 70 years in captivity in Babylon, King Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and begin rebuilding the Temple, which was completed around 515 BC (and was still standing when Jesus was on earth).
- Almost 600 years later, after renovations by King Herod, the **second temple** was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD - this destruction is what some Biblical scholars believe Daniel prophesied as the Abomination of Desolation (although Jesus referred to this event as yet to come).
- Today, many are waiting for Israel to regain control of the Temple Mount, which will signal the end of the world, and the construction of another **symbolic temple** that will exist during the Millennium.


Jesus spoke of the Tribulation

"And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come. Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come." Matthew 24:6-8

Daniel prophesied the Tribulation

"Many will be purified, cleansed, and refined by these trials. But the wicked will continue in their wickedness, and none of them will understand. Only those who are wise will know what it means. From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days!" Daniel 12:9-12

<p>First Half of the 70th Week <i>The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. (Daniel 9:27a)</i></p>	<p>Desecration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The seal judgments (Revelation 4:1-6:1) • The preliminary signs (Matthew 24:4-14; Mark 13:4-13; Luke 21:8-19)
<p>Second Half of the 70th Week <i>And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration... (Daniel 9:27b)</i></p>	<p>Pivotal Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trumpet judgments (Revelation 7:1-13:18) • The abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15-28; Mark 13:14-23; Luke 21:20-24)
<p>Final Days <i>...until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him. (Daniel 9:27c)</i></p>	<p>Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bowl judgments (Revelation 14:1-19:21) • The eschatological fulfillment with the coming of the Son of Man (Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28)

A panoramic view of Jerusalem at dusk. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with a warm orange and yellow glow from the setting sun. The city is illuminated by streetlights and building lights, creating a vibrant contrast against the darkening sky. The Dome of the Rock, with its golden dome, is a prominent feature in the foreground. The Old City walls are visible, and the city extends into the distance with various buildings and structures.

*...no one knows the day or hour when
these things will happen, not even the
angels in heaven or the Son himself.
Only the Father knows.*

MATTHEW 24:36 (NLT)

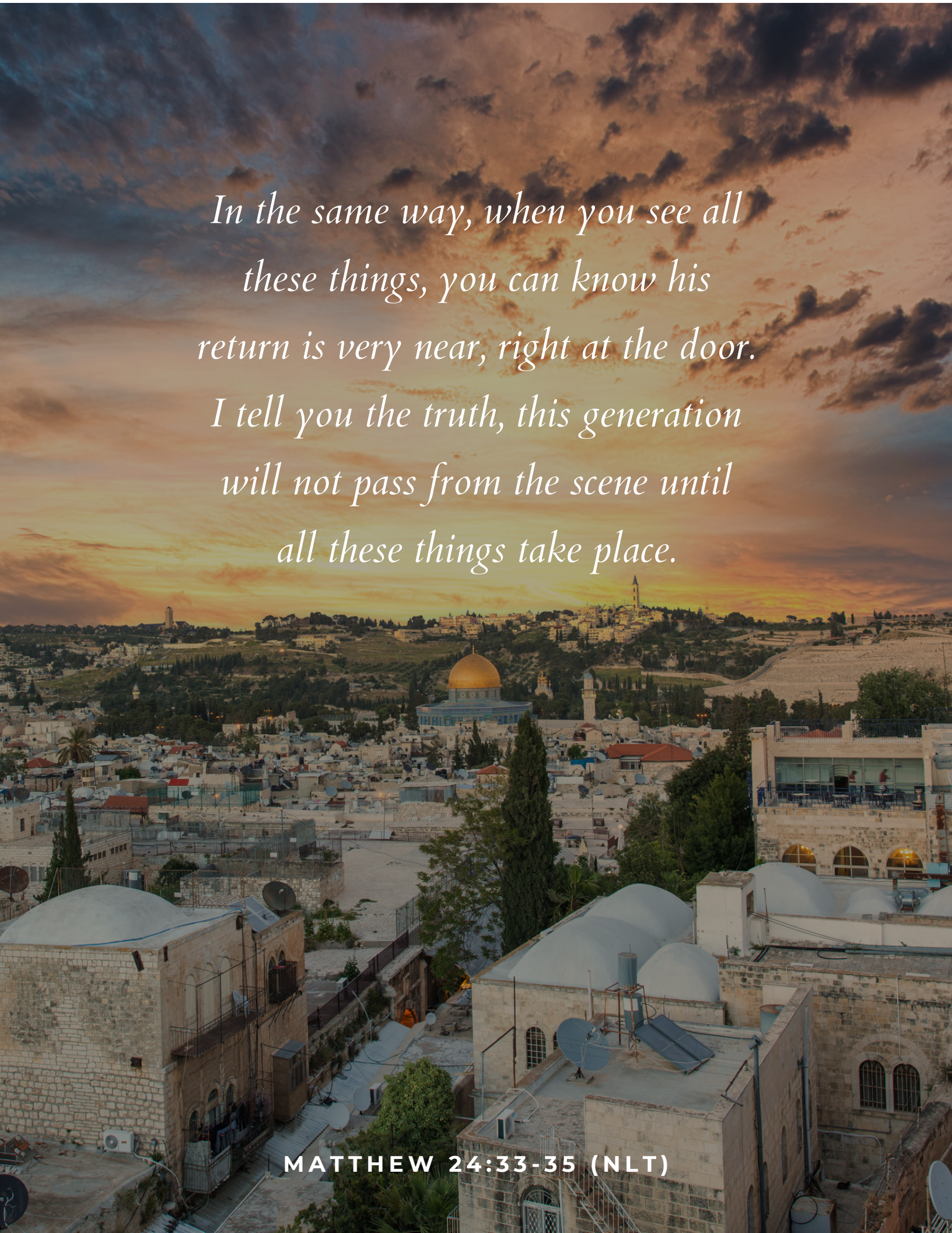
Parallels between the book of Matthew and Revelation

Prophesied Events	Matthew	Revelation
First Half Of Tribulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antichrist • Wars, terror • Famines • Pestilence, earthquakes • Saints killed 	24:5 24:6-7 24:7 24:7-8 24:9	6:2 6:3-4 6:5-6 6:7-8 6:9-11
Second Half Of Tribulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antichrist persecution • Many are deceived • Many will believe • Antichrist in temple • Israel to flee • Tribulation's length • Signs and wonders 	24:9 24:10-12 24:13-14 24:15 24:16-20 24:21-22 24:23-26	12:12-17 13:11-18 7:1-17 13:4-5 12:12-17 11:3; 12:6; 14; 13:5 13:13-14
Second Coming Of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations • Supernatural signs • Battle of Armageddon • Visible to all • Regathering of Israel 	24:27-28 24:29 24:30 24:30 24:31	19:1-8 16:8-11 19:19 19:11-16 (Romans 9:11)
Practical Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various parables • Judgment of Gentiles 	24:32-25:30 25:31-46	2:10, 25; 3:3, 10-12, 21 11:18; 19:15; 14:19



Reflection #2

Can I trust God that only He truly knows the day of the Second Coming?

An aerial photograph of Jerusalem, Israel, taken during sunset. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds illuminated from below by the setting sun, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. In the foreground, the rooftops of stone buildings are visible, many with satellite dishes and water tanks. In the middle ground, a prominent mosque with a large golden dome is the central focus. The city extends into the distance, with more buildings and a minaret visible against the horizon. The overall atmosphere is one of historical significance and a sense of time passing.

*In the same way, when you see all
these things, you can know his
return is very near, right at the door.
I tell you the truth, this generation
will not pass from the scene until
all these things take place.*

MATTHEW 24:33-35 (NLT)

03

The Parables of The Olivet Discourse

The 4 parables that Jesus teaches the disciples on the Mount of Olives serve as warnings to be prepared for His return:

Matthew 24:45-51 - The Master Who Returns to the Servants

- The faithful servants who work diligently while the master is away receive the privilege of being in charge of all the master owns
- The unfaithful servants are destroyed

Matthew 25:1-13 - The Parable of the 10 Virgins

- Ten virgins take their lamps out to wait for the bridegroom.
- The five wise girls are ready for the master's return, taking oil for their lamps.
- The foolish girls were not prepared, and by the time they returned with oil for their lamps, the doors to the wedding banquet were shut.

Matthew 25:14-30 - The Parable of the Talents

- A master entrusts his property to servants while he's away on a journey, according to the abilities of each man:
 - One man received 5 talents
 - The second man received 2 talents
 - The third man received only 1 talent
- When he returns, the servant who only had 1 talent hid it for fear of losing his talent; whereas the other two servants invested their shares and doubled the value of their talents.
- The servants who had been faithful with a few things were entrusted with more.

Matthew 25:31-46 - The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

- When the Son of Man sits on his throne in the end times, He will separate people from one another like a Shepherd separates sheep from the goats.
- Those who fed the hungry and showed hospitality to those in need will be blessed by the Father, and will receive their inheritance prepared since the creation of the world.
- Those who ignored the needs of others will be cursed and thrown into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Themes of the 4 Parables:

- **The Master is away but is returning**
 - This identifies the Church age as a specific time period, between the incarnation/resurrection, and the return of Christ & eternity.
 - There is a Kairos time (God moment) when this will be fulfilled.
 - Not even the Son of Man knows the day or hour when this will happen.
- **There is work to be done while the Master is away**
 - Each of the parables demonstrates that it's *HOW* we live and what we *BELIEVE* in these days that matters.
 - We are to use what God has invested in us wisely.
- **Some people will not be prepared when the Master returns**
 - Some were caught off guard, while others thought they had more time to get ready.
 - Some were misinformed about the harshness of the master
 - Some didn't care enough for others
- **Those who are not prepared for the Master's return will be excluded or punished**
 - We serve a loving God, but there will come a day when enough is enough!
 - No-one will be able to escape the Day of Judgment.

The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 24:50

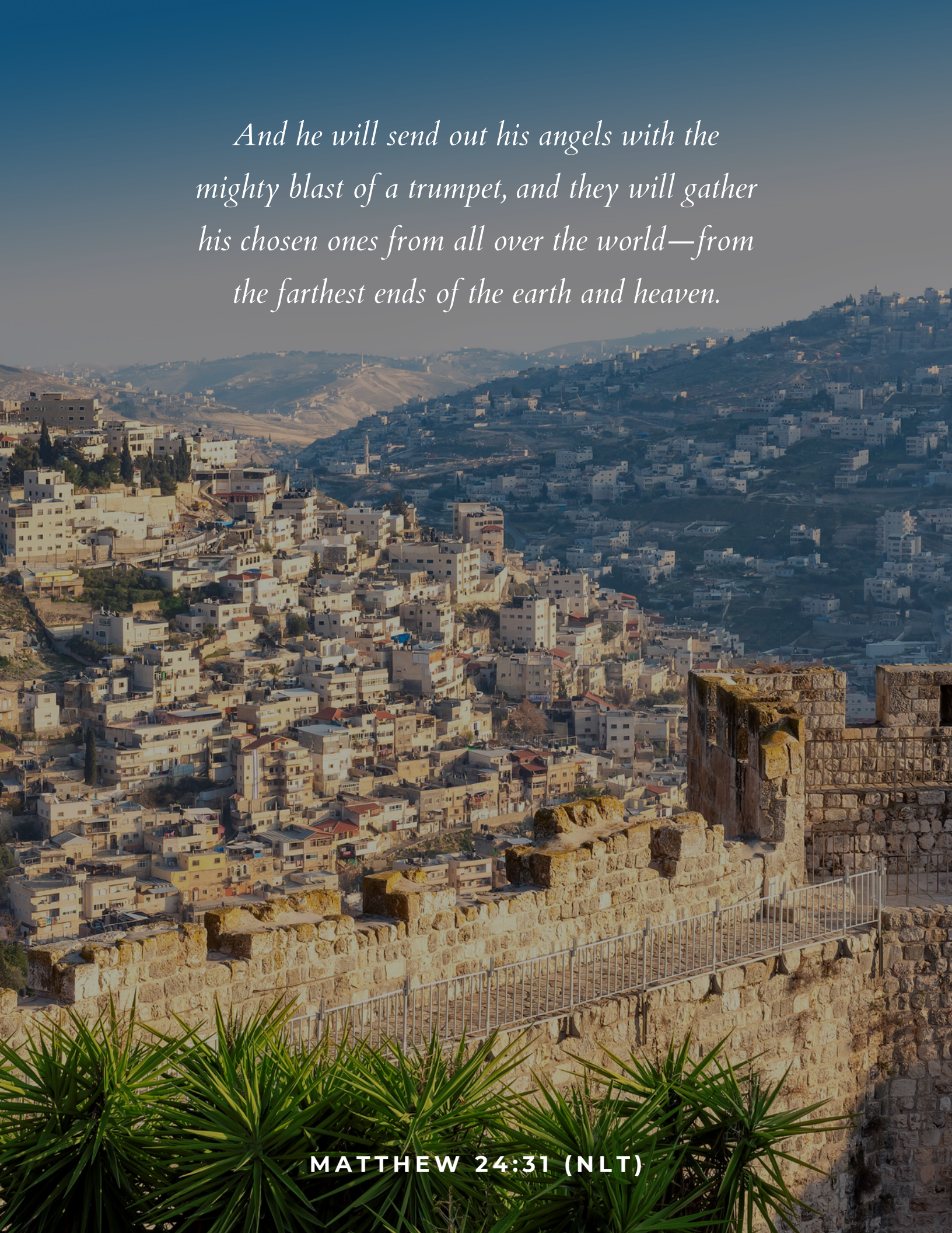
"You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected." Matthew 24:44 (NLT).

There may be different levels of reward and punishment in the afterlife.



Reflection #3

Are you prepared as if the Lord will return tomorrow?



And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

MATTHEW 24:31 (NLT)

04

The Major Lessons of The Olivet Discourse

- **Read the Scriptures so you can recognize the signs of the end times**

Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door. Matthew 24:32-33

- **Be prepared as if the Lord will return tomorrow**

- Nearness vs Imminence
 - The Kingdom of Heaven is NEAR
 - Christ will return SOON

When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left. So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. Matthew 24:37-43

- **Acknowledge that we can never really know the day of Christ's Second Coming**

"Then if anyone tells you, 'Look, here is the Messiah,' or 'There he is,' don't believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones. See, I have warned you about this ahead of time."
Matthew 24:23-25

- **Learn to see the larger plan in place**

- God longs to restore His broken relationship with His chosen people – Israel



Reflection #4

What part of Jesus' Olivet Discourse do you need to read again to help you gain more understanding?



Have You Said YES to Jesus?

If you've recently accepted Jesus as your Saviour,
we'd love to connect with you!

Let us know by visiting:

[PORTICO.CC/YES](https://portico.cc/yes)



And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

MATTHEW 24:14 (NLT)

The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.

MATTHEW 24:15 (NLT)

And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

MATTHEW 24:30 (NLT)

All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.

MATTHEW 25:32-34 (NLT)

Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

MATTHEW 24:35 (NLT)