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Welcome to our 2018 National Prophecy Conference! We are excited about opening God's Word with you as we study the Olivet Discourse and *The Sign of His Coming*.

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# schedule

## SUNDAY, JULY 16

- 6:30 pm **Jim Showers**  
The Sign of His Coming: Introduction
- 7:30 pm **Steve Herzig**  
Lament Over Jerusalem (Mt. 23:37-39)

## MONDAY, JULY 17

- 9:00 am **Clarence Johnson**  
Troubled Disciples (Mt. 24:1-3)
- 10:00 am **Pat Neff**  
Dangerous Times (Mt. 24:4-5, 11)
- 11:00 am **Mike Stallard**  
Day of Tribulation (Mt. 24:6-14)
- 6:30 pm **Bruce Scott**  
The Abomination of Desolation (Mt. 24:15-20)
- 7:30 pm **Chris Katulka**  
The Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:21-28)

## TUESDAY, JULY 18

- 9:00 am **Pat Neff**  
Christ's Second Coming (Mt. 24:29-31)
- 10:00 am **Mike Stallard/Les Crawford**  
International Ministry Report
- 11:00 am **Steve Herzig**  
Discerning the Times (Mt. 24:32-26)
- 6:30 pm **Focus on Israel Night**  
**Guest Speaker: Major Elliot Chodoff**  
*Political and Military Analyst*



# schedule

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

- 9:00 am **Clarence Johnson**  
The World at Christ's Second Coming (Mt. 24:37-41)
- 10:00 am **Tom Geoghan**  
Blessing Israel: The Friends of Israel Ministry Report
- 11:00 am **Bruce Scott**  
Dedication to the Lord (Mt. 24:42-51)
- 6:30 pm **Mike Stallard**  
The Wise & Foolish Virgins (Mt. 25:1-13)
- 7:30 pm **Ask FOI Q&A**  
Panel of Speakers

## THURSDAY, JULY 20

- 9:00 am **Richard Schmidt**  
The Talents Distributed (Mt. 25:14-30)
- 10:00 am **Chris Katulka**  
Christ's Judgment of the Nations (Mt. 25:31-46)
- 11:00 am **Jim Showers**  
The Sign of His Coming: Concluding Thoughts

### Marketplace Hours

Sunday 6:00-8:15 pm  
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-12:00 pm  
Monday-Wednesday 6:30-8:15 pm

### Shepherds' Gathering (Pastors' Luncheon)

A luncheon for active pastors, assistant pastors, and youth pastors will be held **Wednesday at 12:00 pm**. Wives are invited. Registration required!

# The Sign of His Coming

- I. **This year's conference will consider a very important question**
  - A. "What is the sign of His coming & the end of the age?" Mt. 24:3
    1. 2016 – Dr. Renald Showers wrote, *The Sign of His Coming*
      - a. Understanding the Olivet Discourse
  - B. Mt. 24–25: Jesus gives signs that indicate His return & Kingdom of God are close
    1. Parallel passages – Mark 13; Luke 21
- II. **The Audience, the Setting, and the Subject**
  - A. His Audience – He was speaking to His Jewish disciples
    1. Best to see Matthew 24–25 through their eyes
    2. They were all Jewish & concerned about the future of Israel
      - a. They were ready for Jesus to restore the Kingdom, Acts 1:6
      - b. Jesus' words of destruction complicated everything
  - B. The Setting – Mt. of Olives, Jerusalem
    1. Olivet Discourse named after the setting
    2. Jesus was on His way from the Temple to Bethany
      - a. He had contended with the religious leaders
      - b. Foresaw the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple
        - i. Seemed impossible to the disciples
        - ii. Temple – one of the wonders of the ancient world
          - aa. Largest structure in the Roman Empire
    3. Four disciples – Peter, James, John & Andrew (Mk. 13:3), approached Him with two burning questions
      - a. Their concern – with Jerusalem and the Temple destroyed, how could Messiah rule over Israel?
    4. Two questions
      - a. When will Jerusalem and the Temple be destroyed?
      - b. What will be the sign of Your return and the end of the age?
    5. Jesus sat down on the Mt. of Olives and spoke to them
      - a. Overlooking Jerusalem and the Temple
  - C. The Subject – Jesus' Second Coming & end of this age
    1. Over the years, ongoing debate over Jesus teaching
      - a. Does it include the Rapture of the church?




## JIM SHOWERS

- b. Or just Christ's Second Coming?
- 2. Those who see the Rapture
  - a. Point to "But of that day and hour no one knows" (Mt. 24:36)
    - i. But Christ's return can be marked 1,260 days from abomination of Temple (Dan. 12:7; Rev. 12:6)
  - b. One Second Coming in two phases – Rapture & Return
- 3. Why the Rapture is not in the Olivet Discourse
  - a. Rapture is not a Second Coming
    - i. We will meet Christ in the air, 1 Th. 4:17
  - b. Evidence for return of Christ only
    - i. Christ is speaking to the Jewish people
    - ii. Church is not in view here, nor has it begun yet
    - iii. Focus is on Christ's return & the Kingdom of God
      - aa. Jesus is addressing the disciples' concern
        - » With the Temple destroyed, when will Jesus come to establish God's Kingdom?
  - c. At His First Advent, Jesus offered the Kingdom to Israel
    - i. They rejected Him and His offer
      - aa. The Kingdom won't come until Israel repents and accepts Him
    - ii. Jesus is warning about the Tribulation that will come before Israel accepts Him
  - d. No one can be certain of the day or hour of Christ's return to Earth
    - i. Signing of covenant (Dan. 9:27) and abomination of desolation (Mt. 24:15) are both a series of events
      - aa. They take place over days, weeks, or months
      - bb. No one can say when God begins counting
        - » Not even the angels, who revealed the 1,260 days to Daniel, know the exact time (Mt. 24:36; Acts 1:6-7)
  - e. Dr. Renald Showers presents a helpful chart of the differences between the Rapture & Second Coming

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING

The Rapture of the Church	The Second Coming of Jesus
It is not mentioned in the Old Testament, only in the New.	It is mentioned in both Testaments (Jude 14).
It is a mystery (1 Cor. 15:51).	It is not a mystery.
It is pretribulation (occurs prior to the Tribulation).	It is posttribulation (occurs after the Tribulation, Rev. 19:11-16).
No prophecies or signs must be fulfilled prior to the event (1 Cor. 15:50-53; 1 Th. 4:16).	Many signs must be fulfilled prior to the event (Mt. 24:29-31; Rev. 6-19).
It is imminent (1 Cor. 1:7; Jas. 5:8).	It is not imminent; it takes place after the seven-year Tribulation (Mt. 24:29-31).
The archangel heralds the event (1 Th. 4:16).	Multitudes of angels return with Christ (Mt. 25:31).
Christ does not come to Earth; He comes "in the air" (1 Th. 4:16-17).	Christ returns to Earth (Zech. 14:4; Mt. 25:31).
Christ's appearance is not visible to people on Earth (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Th. 4:16-17).	His appearance is dramatically visible to the entire world (Mt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7).
Christ comes for His church (Jn. 14:1-2; 1 Th. 4:16-17).	Christ comes with His church (Rev. 19:14).
Christ takes believers to heaven (Jn. 14:2-3; 1 Th. 4:17).	Believers remain on Earth to enter the Messianic Kingdom with Christ (Mt. 25:34).
The Rapture removes believers from Earth.	The Second Coming removes unbelievers from Earth.
Christians receive a glorified body, preparing them for eternity (1 Cor. 15:50-53).	All survivors of the Tribulation remain in their natural bodies (Isa. 65:20; Mt. 25:31-34).
It is a message of comfort and hope (1 Th. 4:18; Ti. 2:13).	It is a message of judgment (Rev. 19:11).
No divine judgments affect the earth.	Severe judgments afflict the earth (Rev. 6-19).
Believers are evaluated, rewarded, and married to Christ following the Rapture (1 Cor. 3:11-15; Rev. 19:7-9).	The nations are judged following the Tribulation (Ezek. 20:34; Mt. 25:32).
There is no mention of Satan in connection with the Rapture.	Satan is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-3).
The Tribulation begins after the Rapture, when the Antichrist makes a covenant with the nation of Israel (Dan. 9:27).	The Millennial Kingdom begins after Christ's Second Coming (Lk. 1:32-33).

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- f. The disciples understood there would be an end to this Age
    - i. Present sin-cursed period of human history
      - aa. Began when Adam joined Satan's rebellion (Gen. 3)
      - bb. Satan became the ruler of the powers of the air (Eph. 2:2) and earth
        - » Adam handed over dominion of the Earth to Satan when he sinned (Lk. 4:6)
    - ii. Disciples also believed in a restored theocratic Kingdom of God on Earth
      - aa. It would be restored to Israel (Acts 1:6)
      - bb. With God's representative, Messiah, as ruler
        - » Paul calls Jesus the last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45)
    - iii. Israel is key to end of this age and the coming of Messiah
      - aa. This is why Israel remains vitally important today
    - iv. One reason God raised up The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry
      - aa. Teach biblical truth about Israel and the Messiah
    - v. The Disciples believed Jesus was the One who would end this Pre-Messianic Age
      - aa. They were curious to know when & how they would recognize the end

### **III. Importance of the Olivet Discourse**

- A. In 21st century North America, why should we care?
  - 1. There are many needs in this world today
    - a. What good does it do to study future prophecy?
- B. Prophecy is not the light at the end of the tunnel
  - 1. Prophecy is the light through the tunnel!
    - a. It helps us see what God is doing
    - b. It shows us where God is taking us
    - c. It directs our priorities and efforts
    - d. It keeps us on the right track
- C. Jesus thought the disciples' question important enough to sit down and answer it



1. We should likewise give it serious attention
- D. Through our study of the Olivet Discourse we will discover
  1. Satan will not prevail on Earth forever
    - a. Certain that his rule over the world will come to an end
  2. Israel will one day accept the Messiah God sent to her
    - a. But only after Israel repents & reconciles to Messiah
      - i. Before then will come great Tribulation
        - aa. Were God not to shorten it, no one would survive
  3. All the world will be afflicted by tribulation
    - a. When Jesus returns, He will judge and remove the rebellious ones on Earth
      - i. That includes Satan & his fallen angels
  4. After which, Christ will restore God's theocratic Kingdom
    - a. Long sought-after peace & righteousness will come







# Lament Over Jerusalem

## **I. Introduction: Jewish text**

A. Example of ignorance

B. Exploring Matthew's theme

## **II. Jewish Leadership**

A. Who are they?

B. What is their problem?

C. What was their strength?

D. How do individuals respond?



**MATTHEW 23:37-39**  
**STEVE HERZIG**

**III. Jewish lament**

A. The right of the Jewish King

B. The Judgment of the Jewish King

**IV. Jewish Love**

A. Is promised by Jesus

B. Is proclaimed on His return

C. Is preserved forever



# Troubled Disciples

## **I. Prophetic Procession (Mt. 24:1)**

A. Rejected - "came out" (compare Mt. 23:38)

B. Removal - "going away" (compare Mt. 23:39)

## **II. Prophetic Perception (Mt. 24:1)**

A. Prominent and Permanent (Mk. 13:1-2)

B. Picturesque and Powerful (Lk. 21:5)

## **III. Prophetic Pronouncement (Mt. 24:2)**

A. Limited Understanding

B. Limitless Destruction



**MATTHEW 24:1-3**  
**CLARENCE JOHNSON**

**IV. Prophetic Pondering (Mt. 24:3)**

**V. Prophetic Probing (Mt. 24:3)**

A. When will these things happen?

B. What will be the sign?

1. Entrance of the Messiah

2. End of the Age



# Dangerous Times

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Tim. 4:1).

As we approach the end of the age we can expect to see...

1. A Falling Away
2. Demonic Deception
3. A Lack of Discernment

## **I. The Portrait of Deception (24:4-5, 11)**

A. Pseudo Deceivers (v. 4)

B. Plenty of Deceivers (v. 5)

C. Powerful Deceivers (v. 5)

## **II. The Present Deception**



MATTHEW 24:4-5,11  
PAT NEFF

**III. The Prophetic Deception**

A. The Falling Away (2 Thes. 2:3, 7-8, 9-12)

1. The Departure of the Faithful or From the Faith (v. 3)

2. The Departure of the Holy Spirit (vv. 7-8)

3. The Deception by Strong Delusion (vv. 9-12)

a. The Deceiver (v. 9)

b. The Deception (v. 9)

c. The Deceived (v. 10)

d. The Delusion (v. 11)

e. The Damnation (v. 12)



- B. The False Ambassador (Rev. 13:11-15)
  - 1. His Person (v. 11)
  
  - 2. His Power (vv. 12-14)
    - a. As seen in his ministry (v. 12)
  
    - b. As seen in his miracles (vv. 13-14)
  
  - 3. His Program (vv. 15-18)
    - a. Murder (v. 15)
  
    - b. Monopoly (vv. 16-17)
  
    - c. Mark (v. 18)

#### **IV. Conclusion & Application**

- A. Danger
  - 1. Deception





2. Delusion

3. Damnation

B. Decision

1. Why?

2. Who?

3. When?

# Day of Tribulation

## I. Introduction

## II. Correlation of Matthew 24 to the Seal Judgments in Revelation 6

Matthew 24	Revelation 6
vv. 10-11 apostasy and false prophets (v. 24 false Christs and false prophets)	1st seal = Antichrist
vv. 6-7 wars and rumors of war	2nd seal = war
v. 7 famines	3rd seal = famine
vv. 6-7 war, famine, pestilences	4th seal = death by sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts
v. 9 martyrdom	5th seal = martyrs
v. 7 earthquakes	6th seal = earthquake, cosmic signs

## III. Importance of the Word *Tribulation* (Mt. 24:9)

## IV. Lawlessness (Mt. 24:12)

## V. Enduring to the End (Mt. 24:13)

A. Is this a statement teaching salvation by good works?



**MATTHEW 24:6-14**  
**MIKE STALLARD**

B. In this passage, what does it mean to endure?

C. In this passage, what does it mean to be saved?

**VI. The Gospel of the Kingdom (Mt. 24:14)**

A. What is the content of the gospel of the Kingdom?

B. How does the gospel of the Kingdom differ from the gospel of eternal life (1 Cor. 15:1-4)?

C. To whom is this gospel of the Kingdom preached?

D. Is this preaching talking about the Church Age or the Tribulation period?

E. To what does the "end" refer?

F. Can someone enter the Kingdom without believing in Jesus (that is, accepting Him as Savior trusting in His death, burial, and resurrection as payment for sin)?

G. What about YOU? What does all of this mean for you?



# The Abomination of Desolation

## I. Introduction, Background, and Context

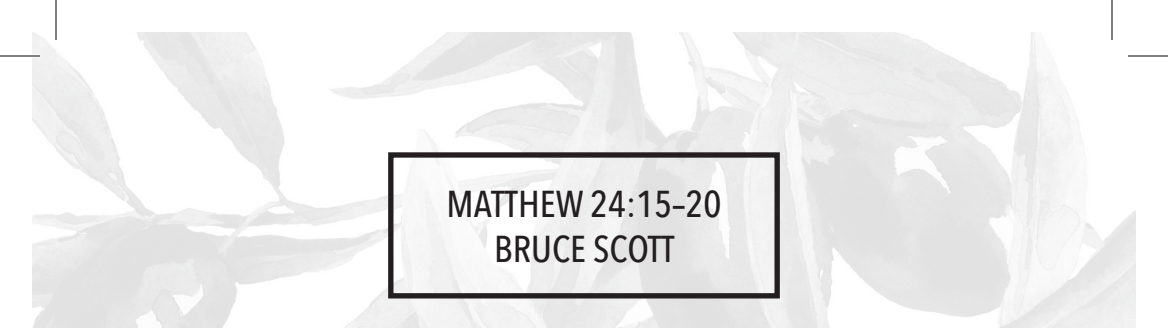
## II. The Revelation of the Abomination of Desolation (v. 15)

### A. What is the Abomination?

1. Prefigured by Antiochus IV
2. Predicted by Daniel
3. Produces desolation

### B. Where is the Abomination?

### C. When is the Abomination?



**MATTHEW 24:15-20**  
**BRUCE SCOTT**

**III. The Response to the Abomination of Desolation - Flee for your life! (vv. 16-20)**

- A. The displaced of the flight (v. 16)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. The destination of the flight (v. 16)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. The desperation of the flight (vv. 17-18)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- D. The difficulty of the flight (vv. 19-20)

**IV. Application - "From Whence Comes My Help?" (Ps. 121)**



# The Great Tribulation

The Great Tribulation will be an event unlike any other in human history. As the prophet Malachi says it, God's wrath will be as a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap, cleansing the earth from the stain of sin that's plagued it since the fall. During this time of judgment many in Israel will search for a deliverer to save them from torment and in total desperation they will eagerly follow any false prophet or messiah who promises to protect them, yet in reality will only lead them away from the truth. Jesus makes the most of this opportunity from the Mount of Olives to encourage the disciples to stay focused on Him, and to know that His Second Coming won't be typical; it will be one you won't miss.

## I. A Time of Great Suffering (Mt. 24:21-22)



**MATTHEW 24:21-28**  
**CHRIS KATULKA**

**II. False Messiahs/False Prophets (Mt. 24:23-26)**

**III. The Revelation of the True Messiah and His Judgment (Mt. 24:27-28)**



# Christ's Second Coming

The most significant event of biblical prophecy is without question the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The sequence of events that take place at His Second Coming are nothing less than spectacular, but before looking at them, we need to understand two important truths about the Olivet Discourse.

1. Matthew 24 and 25 are about Israel, not the church.
2. Matthew 24 and 25 are not about the Rapture, but about the return, i.e., the Second Coming to rescue Israel and establish the Messianic Kingdom.

In our text the Lord Jesus Christ mentions three remarkable events or signs that will accompany His Second Coming.

## I. **The Solar System (v. 29)**

"Coming apart at the seams...."

A. Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15-16

B. Isa. 13:10; 24:23

C. Luke 21:25-26

D. Haggai 2:6-7





**MATTHEW 24:29-31**  
**PAT NEFF**

**II. The Son of Man (v. 30)**

A. The Second Coming

B. The Sorrowing Crowd

**III. The Sound of the Trumpet (v. 31)**

These angelic servants are God's gatherers. In Matthew 13:41, 49, they are involved in a gathering of unbelievers, but here in a gathering of Tribulation believers.

**IV. Conclusion & Application**

Psalm 2

# Olivet Discou

## WHAT WILL BE THE SIGN OF YOUR COMING

### MATTHEW 24

#### Tribulation Period

**Warning: Not to be deceived that messiah has come & this age is ended! v. 4**

#### **Beginning Birth Pangs, v. 8**

Certain things come first:

- Many false messiahs, v. 5
- Deception, v. 5
- Wars/rumors of wars, vv. 6–7
- Famines, pestilences & earthquakes, v. 7

#### **Hard Labor Birth Pangs, v. 9**

Then must come:

- Persecution of saints, v. 9
- Loss of civility & affection, v. 10
- Many false prophets, v. 11
- Worldwide lawlessness, v. 12
- He who suffers to end will be saved, v. 13
- Gospel of the Kingdom preached to all nations, v. 14
- Then the end of this Pre-Messianic Age will come, v. 14

#### **Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jer. 30:7)**

When "abomination of desolation" is seen standing in the Temple, v. 15, (Dan. 9:27)

- Flee in all haste to the mountains, vv. 16–20
  - » Don't return home or retrieve anything
  - » Woe to women with child
  - » Pray it is not in winter or Sabbath
- The Great Tribulation is unlike any ever seen, vv. 21–22
  - » No one would survive unless God shortens those days
- Warning: Do not go looking for false messiahs & false prophets, vv. 23–27
  - » Look for the glorious appearing of Messiah in the sky



**THE Friends of Israel**  
GOSPEL MINISTRY

*Building bridges. Bringing hope.*

# Course Timeline

## THE KINGDOM AND OF THE END OF THE AGE? MT. 24:3

MATTHEW 25	
When Christ Comes	Kingdom Preparations
<p><b>Coming Son of Man</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preceded by cosmic signs, v. 29</li><li>• Sign of the Son of Man appears in heaven, v. 30<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» All people will see it &amp; mourn</li></ul></li><li>• Son of Man comes, v. 30</li><li>• He will send angels to gather Israel from all over the world, v. 31</li></ul> <p><b>Parables About Christ's Return</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Fig Tree</b> - Imminent return, no one knows the day or hour, vv. 32-37</li><li>• <b>Days of Noah</b> - God removes the unbelievers at His return, vv.38-42</li><li>• <b>Watchful Homeowner</b> -be ready for Christ's return, vv. 43-44</li><li>• <b>Faithful/Evil Servants</b> -always be prepared for master's return, vv. 45-51</li></ul>	<p><b>Kingdom Entrance Parables</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ten wise/foolish virgins</b>-Only those fully prepared will enter the Kingdom, vv. 1-13<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Unprepared go looking</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Talents</b>-Urgency to trust Christ before He returns, vv.14-30<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Judgment comes from Christ</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Judgment of the Nations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Separation of the Sheep &amp; Goats, vv. 31-46<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» Son of Man will judge the nations<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Sheep - blessed to enter the restored Kingdom of God</li><li>▪ Goats - cursed to everlasting punishment</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>

Compiled by: Dr. Jim Showers  
[foi.org](http://foi.org)



# Discerning the Times

## I. **The fig tree (Mt. 24:32-33)**

A. Its biology

B. Its usage in Scripture

C. Its sign

## II. **The word *generation* (v. 34)**

A. Its normal use



**MATTHEW 24:32-36**  
**STEVE HERZIG**

B. Its possible meaning

**III. The Timing of the Return (vv. 35-36)**

A. It's all going to happen

B. Its unknown when



# The World at Christ's Second Coming

## I. The Prevailing Context (Mt. 24:3)

## II. The Messiah's Coming (Mt. 24:37, 39)

## III. The Historical Correlation

A. Compared to the Days of Noah (Mt. 24:37-39; Lk. 17:26-27)

B. Compared to the Days of Lot (Lk. 17:28-33)

## IV. The Human Crisis

A. Lack of Concern (Mt. 24:38)



**MATTHEW 24:37-41**  
**CLARENCE JOHNSON**

B. Failure to Comprehend (Mt. 24:39)

C. Precipitous Catastrophe (Mt. 24:39)

**V. The Corresponding Consequences (Mt. 24:39; Lk. 17:30)**

A. Convergent Judgment (Mt. 24:40-41; Lk. 17:34-37)

B. Consummate Blessing (Mt. 24:40-41)



# Dedication to the Lord

## I. Introduction, Background, and Context

## II. Be Watching for the Coming of the Son of Man (vv. 42-43)

A. Meaning and usage of the word *watch*

B. Reason: Because you do not know the day

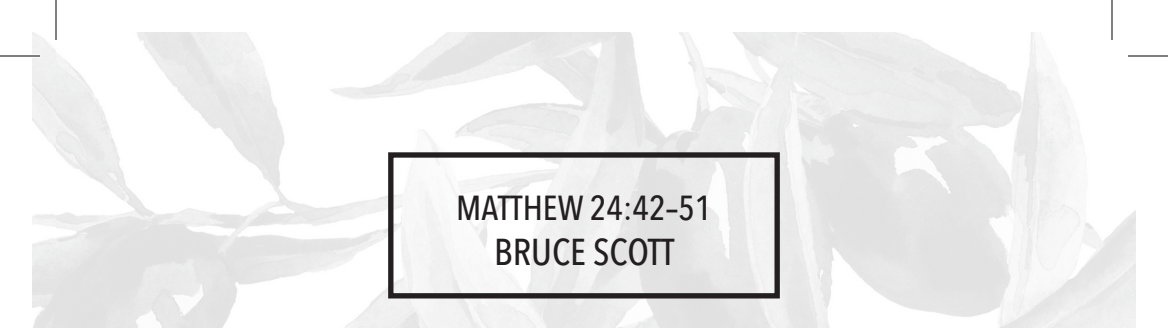
C. Contrasting illustration: But you should know to watch

## III. Be Ready for the Coming of the Son of Man (v. 44)

A. Meaning and usage of the word "ready"

B. Reason: Because you do not expect the hour





**MATTHEW 24:42-51**  
**BRUCE SCOTT**

**IV. Blessing and Reward for Those in a State of Watchfulness and Readiness  
(vv. 45-47)**

**V. Anguish and Retribution for Those Not in a State of Watchfulness and  
Readiness (vv. 48-51)**

**VI. Application**

A. Is your heart watching?

B. Is your heart ready?



# The Wise and Foolish Virgins

## I. Introduction

- A. Primary Jewish context
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. Application for all nations (see 24:14)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. Tribulation and end-time context of the entire Olivet Discourse
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- D. Why does Jesus use “virgins” as the image for this passage?

## II. Kingdom of heaven

- A. Is there a difference between the Kingdom of heaven and the Kingdom of God? (Mt. 19:23-24)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. What is the meaning of the phrase “the kingdom of heaven is likened to...?”

## III. Differences between the wise and foolish virgins



**MATTHEW 25:1-13**  
**MIKE STALLARD**

<b>Wise Virgins</b>	<b>Foolish Virgins</b>
Possessed oil for their lamps	Did not possess oil for their lamps
Went to the bridegroom when he came	Did not go to meet the bridegroom when he came
Not late	Late
Prepared and ready	Unprepared and not ready

**IV. To what does oil refer?**

- A. Does it refer to the Holy Spirit?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. Do we have to have the oil symbolize something in order to understand the passage?

**V. What is the wedding? (25:10-12)**

- A. Kingdom teaching (compare Mt. 22 - the parable of the wedding feast)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. The possible Jewish angle
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. Not everyone gets to go into God's coming kingdom

**VI. Be ready (25:13)**



- A. Compare Lk. 12:35-40 & Lk. 13:22-30
  
- B. The command to watch in Mt. 25:13? Why?
  
- C. Uncertainty about the time of the Second Coming of Christ
  
- D. Why is the timing of the Second Coming of Christ to the earth uncertain when after the signing of the treaty (Dan. 9:24) at the start of the seven-year Tribulation, those in the Tribulation could figure out when He would return seven years later?

Why is the parable of the wise and foolish virgins important to you?





# The Talents Distributed

## **I. The Distribution of the Talents (25:14-19)**

A. Responsibility of the Tribulation Servants (vv. 14-18)

B. Return of the Triumphant Savior (v. 19)

## **II. The Determined Reward for the Tribulation Faithful (Mt. 25:20-23)**

A. The Work of the Tribulation Watchful (Mt. 25:20, 22)

B. The Millennial Blessing for the Tribulation Watchful (Mt. 25:21, 23)



**MATTHEW 25:14-30**  
**RICHARD SCHMIDT**

**III. The Declaration of Punishment for the Tribulation Unfaithful (Mt. 25:24-30)**

A. The Excuses of the Tribulation Faithless (Mt. 25:24-25)

B. The Condemnation of the Tribulation Faithless (Mt. 25:26-27)

C. The Parenthetical Blessing on the Faithful (Mt. 25:27-29)

D. The Eternal Loss of the Faithless (Mt. 25:29-30)



# Christ's Judgment of the Nations

Old Testament prophets like Joel would often judge Israel for their sins against God, and then those same prophets would turn and judge the nations for their excessive abuse of Israel. Jesus—who is Prophet, Priest, and King—executes a similar prophetic structure in Matthew 25. First, Jesus judges Israel for their preparedness or lack there of concerning His Second Coming. Then, Jesus concludes the Olivet Discourse judging the nations for their treatment of “the least of these brothers of mine.”

## I. Christ Ruling on His Throne (Mt. 25:31)





**MATTHEW 25:31-46**  
**CHRIS KATULKA**

**II. Christ Judging the Nations (Mt. 25:32-46)**

A. The Shepherd (Mt. 25:32-33)

B. The Sheep (Mt. 25:34-40)

C. The Goats (Mt. 25:41-46)

# The Sign of His Coming

## I. Twelve Key Questions Answered by Jesus

- A. What questions did Jesus' disciples ask that prompted Jesus to deliver His Olivet Discourse?
  1. Tell us, when will these things be?
  2. And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?
    - a. They believed in two ages – present, sin-cursed age & restored Kingdom Age to come
    - b. Jesus, the Messiah, is the key to ending this age & restoring the world
- B. Since the Bible presents two different gospels, which one must be preached before the end of the Age?
  1. The Gospel of the Kingdom must be preached in all the world (Mt. 24:14)

### THE TWO GOSPELS IN SCRIPTURE

	Gospel of the Kingdom	The Gospel of Christ
<b>Who Preached it</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John the Baptist (Mt. 3:1-2)</li> <li>• Jesus (Mt. 4:17, 23)</li> <li>• 12 Apostles (Mt. 4:23; 10:1-7; Mk. 1:14)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul (1 Cor. 15:1-5)</li> <li>• Other Apostles after Christ's resurrection</li> <li>• Believers throughout the Church Age</li> </ul>
<b>Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand, (Mt. 3:1-2; 4:17; cf. 10:7)</li> <li>• No mention of Christ's death &amp; resurrection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christ's death, burial &amp; resurrection</li> <li>• No mention of the Kingdom</li> </ul>
<b>Commission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific – To be preached only to Jewish people (Mt. 10:5-7)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal – Go into all the world and preach the gospel (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15)</li> </ul>
<b>Provision for Ministry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrictive – Take no provisions (Mt. 10:9-10)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisional – Take extra provisions &amp; a sword (Lk. 22:35-36)</li> </ul>
<b>Purpose of the Gospel Offer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warning to reject the worldly kingdom &amp; accept God's Kingdom rule &amp; His ruler, the Messiah</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No one can be saved without hearing &amp; believe the Gospel of Christ</li> </ul>
<b>Who will Preach it in Tribulation?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 144,000 Jewish witnesses to all the nations (Rev. 7 &amp; 14)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believers in the Tribulation Period</li> </ul>

- C. What is the unparalleled time of trouble for the people of Israel?
  1. Called the Time of Jacob's Trouble, (Jer. 30:7)

# MATTHEW 24–25

## JIM SHOWERS

- a. Characterized as birth pangs

### TWO DIVISIONS OF BIRTH-PANGS


#### Seven Year Tribulation


Tribulation	Great Tribulation
Beginning of Birth Pangs	Time of Jacob's Trouble
First Half	Hard-Labor Birth Pangs
	Second Half


3 1/2 Years

3 1/2 Years

2. Jesus calls second half a time of "great tribulation" (Mt. 24:21)
  - a. Unprecedented time of trouble
  - b. Beginning is marked by the "abomination of desolation" (Mt. 24:15, Dan. 9:27)
    - i. Temple will be defiled with an image of Antichrist
3. This time is followed by birth of the Messianic Age
  - a. Final Jewish return to their homeland (Jer. 30:4-10)
    - i. Where Israel will live in peace under a Davidic King
- D. What will cause the Antichrist's radical change from being Israel's protector to being its chief enemy?
  1. Satan & demons are permanently cast down to Earth (Rev. 12)
    - a. At the mid-point of the seven years
    - b. Satan knows his time is growing short
      - i. He must annihilate Israel
        - aa. To retain control over the world system
  2. Satan will possess the Antichrist (Rev. 13)
    - a. Influence him to stop Jewish worship in the Temple
      - i. Seize the Temple
      - ii. Establish himself as God – erect an image of himself
      - iii. Demand all to worship him
    - b. Through Antichrist, Satan will seek to eliminate Israel
      - i. Jewish people will flee to wilderness for 1,260 days
- E. What is Israel's role in the restoration of God's theocratic Kingdom to the world?
  1. God's restoration goes through Israel
    - a. Israel is central to God's redemptive plans

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2. Before Messiah can come again, Israel must repent of her rebellion (Zech. 12–14; Acts 3:12–21)
    - a. And be reconciled to her Messiah
    - b. Only then will God
      - i. Crush Satan forever
      - ii. Rid the world system of Satan's rule
      - iii. Restore His theocratic-Kingdom rule on Earth
  3. Eliminating Israel is the only way for Satan to stop God's plan
    - a. Thereby avoiding his eternal judgment
    - b. He will use the armies of the world to eliminate Israel
      - i. Before she repents & receives her Messiah
- F. What will be God's purposes for bringing the nations of the world against Israel?
1. God's two-fold purposes
    - a. Bring Israel to the point of repentance & reconciliation with her Messiah/Savior (Zech. 13–15)
      - i. Restoration of God's Kingdom depends on it
    - b. Destroy the armies of the world & their leaders (Zech. 12–14; Rev. 19)
      - i. Antichrist & False Prophet are cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19)
      - ii. Satan is bound & imprisoned in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Rev. 20)
- G. What is involved in the Day of the Lord concept?
1. Outpouring of God's wrath upon the ungodly
    - a. Time when God intervenes & no one can escape
  2. Great Day of the Lord concept (Joel 2:30–31; Mal. 4:5)
    - a. Great – extremely terrible time, "Who can endure it?"
      - i. When God breaks into the normal course of history
    - b. Awesome – have a terrifying effect on people
      - i. God's enemies will tremble in panic & be shaken
  3. Jesus spoke of cosmic disturbances before the great Day of the Lord comes, (Mt. 24:29–30)
    - a. Cosmic darkening of the sun, moon, & falling stars

- 
- i. After the Tribulation ends & before Jesus comes
    - b. Messiah's sign will appear in heaven
      - i. All the tribes of the Earth will mourn
        - aa. Will see Him returning with great power & glory
- H. How did some of the holy angels become evil?
1. God created holy angels to serve in His universal Kingdom
    - a. Created with differing ranks or degrees of power
      - i. God is the Lord of hosts or armies
  2. Satan, one of God's most magnificent angels, chose to rebel against God (Isa. 14:12, Ezek. 28:12-17)
    - a. He desired usurp God & take His throne
      - i. God cast Satan to a lower realm (Earth)
  3. He succeeded in swaying many angels to join his rebellion
    - a. Bible says, Satan and his angels (Rev. 12:7-9; Mt. 25:41)
      - i. They obey Satan, "the ruler of the powers of the air" (Eph. 2:2)
    - b. Our greatest battles are with the principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this age (Eph. 6:11-12)
  4. Jesus said, the powers of heaven will be shaken (Mt. 24:29)
    - a. Immediately following the Tribulation
    - b. Evil angels will tremble knowing their time of rebellion is at its end
- I. What did the statement that Jesus was "like the Son of Man" imply concerning Him?
1. "Son of Man" is a title indicating Jesus is human
    - a. His humanity passed down through Adam (Lk 3:23-38)
    - b. Paul called Jesus, "the last Adam" (1 Cor. 15:45)
  2. Jesus claimed to be the "Son of Man" (Mt. 24:30; 26:64)
    - a. Who would come with the clouds of heaven
  3. Daniel saw "one like the Son of Man coming in the clouds" (Dan. 7:13-14)
    - a. "like" implies the Son of Man is more than human
      - i. Daniel saw God incarnate
  4. Daniel's vision foretold when the Son of Man comes

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- a. He comes with God's full authority to end Satan's rule
    - i. And restore God's theocratic Kingdom to Earth
  - b. He is God's final representative to administer His rule on Earth and bring blessing to the world
- J. Who is the only person who knows the day and hour of Jesus' Second Coming?
- 1. Nobody knows the day or hour (Mt. 24:36; Acts 1:6-7)
    - a. Not even the angels
  - 2. Only God the Father knows
- K. What will happen to unsaved people on Earth when Jesus returns at His Second Coming?
- 1. Not everyone will enter the restored theocratic Kingdom
    - a. After Christ will destroys the armies of the nations & their leaders
    - b. All unbelievers (goats) will be judged by Christ (Mt. 25:31-46)
      - i. They will depart from Christ's presence into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels
    - c. This puts an end to Satan's rule over the Earth
    - d. Only believers (sheep) will enter into God's eternal Kingdom
- L. What is the major thing Christ will do at His Second Coming after He rids the Earth of Satan and all the fallen angels?
- 1. Jesus Christ, the Messiah, will restore God's theocratic Kingdom to planet Earth
    - a. It will exist on Earth for 1,000 years (Rev. 20)





# notes



The top of the page features a decorative header with a light gray background. It contains a faint, artistic illustration of various leaves and branches. Centered over this illustration is the word "notes" in a bold, black, serif font.

# notes



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