

The Olivet Discourse

Mark 13:1-13

Jesus' instruction to His disciples from the Mount of Olives (Mount Olivet, giving it the name the Olivet Discourse) appears in Matthew 24—25; Mark 13; and Luke 17:20—37. It is one of the Bible's most important texts because it not only provides the Lord's final discourse but also His most extensive prophetic teaching. It reveals His interpretation of crucial Old Testament prophetic passages concerning Israel and the nations and serves as an inspired master outline of end-times events. Furthermore, it explains God's judgment on Israel, especially His promised restoration of it at the advent of King Messiah and the establishment of His Messianic rule. If properly interpreted, the Olivet Discourse enables the church in this age to distinguish itself from national Israel in the Tribulation—the future "time of Jacob's trouble"—and from the events that will characterize that time immediately preceding Christ's return to Earth. Much prophetic confusion has resulted from a failure to understand that the Olivet Discourse involves Israel, not the church, and refers to a future (eschatological) age, not the past or present one.

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- I. the gospel is the most important truth we've been entrusted with as **followers** of Jesus Christ. It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (**Rom. 1:16**). Preaching the gospel by how we live and by what we say is one of the primary responsibilities we've been given. Living the gospel means conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel (**Phil. 1:27**). Speaking the gospel means not only telling others about their need for a Savior, but also making sure that what we say reflects Christ's truth, love, grace, and mercy (**1 Peter 3:15**). We need to be aware of opportunities the Lord puts before us to speak about the hope we have within, especially in the days we are living in. I believe how we treat the gospel is one the things we will be judged on when we stand before him at the Bema Seat Judgment (**Rom. 14:10**).

Rom. 3:23

Rom. 6:23

Rom. 5:8

Jn. 14:6

Rom. 10:9-10

Eph. 2:8-9

Romans 1:16-17 *16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

- II. Being watchful for the Lord's return means taking to heart Jesus' exhortation to **stay focused** on him and the truth of his Word as we wait to be raptured (**1 Thess. 4:16-18**). He will spare his church, the bride of Christ, from going through the tribulation period because we believed the gospel. Therefore, out of gratitude and thanksgiving, we must **stay grounded** in the faith, **stay calm** and composed throughout the trials we will surely face, and be ready to bear witness of the hope we have within by making sure we stay rooted in his love as we wait to for the trumpet call of God.

2 Peter 3:10-13

ἄρπάζω *harpázō* to snatch out or away

1 Thessalonians 5:9 *For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Revelation 3:10 *Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.*

- III. God will turn his attention back to Israel when the full number of gentiles comes in and the church is raptured (**Rom. 11:25**). Israel must go through the tribulation for all of Israel to be saved. What Jesus tells his disciples to expect from the religious leaders in Israel is the reason God turned his back on Israel. They rejected Christ and became enemies of the gospel. Enemies of the gospel will use deception, persecution and anyone who is willing to rat someone out for their faith, to keep the gospel from spreading. Jesus warned his disciples to watch out, be on guard, keep watch and stand firm. They are warnings we must heed also. We won't go through the tribulation, but we are in a battle, and Satan is doing everything in his power to weaken the church and render it ineffective for the gospel.

Mark 13:5-13

Psalm 16:8 *I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.*