

24:1-2

Then ^aJesus went out after just pronouncing utter distress and “woe” upon those living in His day. **and departed from the temple**, This makes a lot of sense when we see 23:38 and the mentioning of “the house” (or, “you can have it!”) **and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings** that which John 2 tells us took 46 years to build. **of the temple**. So they are moving towards the “Mount of Olives” (23:3) after having pronounced an empty house (23:38). ² **And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, ^bnot one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”**

24:3

Now as **He sat on the Mount of Olives**, ^c**the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ^d“Tell us, when will these things be? The woes pronounced on these people in 23:35-36. And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”** If Jesus doesn’t fix their understanding, they are going to think these three things occur (at least in part) at the same time. The fact that we have talk concerning the end of the world (24:35) inhibits our adoption of what we might call the “full Preterist” view (the view that all things are to be fulfilled in only the first century around A.D.). Furthermore, 24:26-27 require such a public coming that shoving this into a private rapture—let alone a private coming in A.D. 70—borders on the weirdness of 2 Timothy 2:17. We have already talked about the reality “dual interpretation” and we see 24:15 was already fulfilled before Christ and yet Jesus says it will occur again. In other words, in Jesus’ time, Daniel 11:30 was history and prophecy.

If one is familiar with the 1st/2nd coming confusion of the Old Testament prophets (2 Peter 1:10-12), then assuming the New Testament apostles could have experienced the same between the A.D. 70 “coming” and the 2nd coming is also understandable.

24:4

And Jesus “started telling them about things—after an entire chapter of pronouncing distress and judgment on a people living in His time period (not on an ethnicity)—that they nor their children or grandchildren or great grandchildren or great great...etc., would not see”—or so the modern dispensational perspective on this chapter would lead us to believe. You mean Jesus has been spending two chapters promising judgment on those people in that time, and then He continues with information that will not affect them for 100 generations!?!? Come now. All of the “you” references in the verses to follow should alert us to the fact that Jesus has not changed His perspective. Bishop Ussher in his book “Annals of World History” says that 1.3 million Jews died around 70A.D. It seems like a person would call that “Great Tribulation” (24:21). Then, to top it off, Jesus said that all these things mentioned in these verses would indeed take place to those people living at that time giving us our second of two fantastic bookends (23:36; 24:34).

In a sermon that Luther preached on Matthew 24:15–28, first printed in 1525, the Reformer taught that the “abomination of desolation” (Matt. 24:15) had occurred when

^a Mark 13:1; Luke 21:5–36

^b 1 Kin. 9:7; Mic. 3:12; Luke 19:44

^c Mark 13:3

^d [Matt. 24:27, 37, 39; Luke 17:20–37; 1 Thess. 5:1–3]

“Emperor Cajus, as history tells, had put his image in the temple at Jerusalem as an idol, for the people to worship.”¹

24:5-8

For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’² and will deceive many. There is ample value in quoting commentaries of today and long ago to show that we are not crazy for believing this occurred on some level in A.D. 70, but we should probably discipline ourselves here to the simplicity of the passage.³ After all, 1 John 2:18 records an apostle saying it was occurring by the time he wrote that epistle—as does 2 Thessalonians 2:3-7. We could also talk a great deal about world religions and their “false christs,” but that is again outside the place of this text.⁴

6 And you will hear of^h wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for¹ all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ Forⁱ nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be^j famines, ² pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.

24:9-14

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then^l many false prophets will rise up and^m deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will growⁿ cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴ And this^p gospel of the kingdom^q will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

¹Martin Luther, Twenty-fifth Sunday After Trinity sermon. In Sermons of Martin Luther, Vol. 5 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995), 36378 at 3667.

²Believe it or not, there are people today who claim that they are the Messiah. Here’s an example: <https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=9412849160> [accessed 1/9/18].

³If one wishes to see some good sources saying “false Christs occurred in the first century”, they can review the falling sermon where I enclose many;

<https://www.sermonaudio.com/playpopupvideo.asp?SID=2171619485010> [accessed 1/9/18].

⁴Ibid.

^hRev. 6:2–4

¹ NU omits *all*

ⁱ 2 Chr. 15:6; Is. 19:2; Hag. 2:22; Zech. 14:13

^j Acts 11:28; Rev. 6:5, 6

² NU omits *pestilences*

^l Acts 20:29; 2 Pet. 2:1; Rev. 13:11; 19:20

^m [1 Tim. 4:1]

ⁿ [2 Thess. 2:3; 2 Tim. 3:1–3]

^o Matt. 10:22; Mark 13:13

^p Matt. 4:23

^q Rom. 10:18; Col. 1:6, 23

24:15-20

^r“Therefore when you see the ^s‘*abomination of desolation*,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” ^t(whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶ “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹ But ^uwoe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

24:21-22

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened. A lot of the Old Testament prophecies that speak of calamity, they are speaking of a time where it did happen and a time when it will happen.

for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened. I think that like we have a calendar that pulls out and you have all kinds of slots on it and you can see that the days rotate and so that even though there might 31 or 32 or even 40 slots—depending on who published the calendar—the might be designed for a certain amount of days, but not every month has 31 days. So what I am saying is that a calendar is designed for a certain amount of days, but that doesn’t mean it has that many days for that particular month. And so I would suggest, to keep everyone guessing, there is still this element of surprise when it comes to the coming of the Lord. Remember, there is no coming of Christ until verse 31 or verse 30, rather.

So I would suggest that Daniel’s 70th week is designed to be seven years long, lasting seven years. It says that they are 360 day years because that is how many days are in a Jewish year. So it has a place holder for seven 360 day years, but I would suggest that the great tribulation will be shy of that by a few days, maybe a few weeks, a few months. It is a guess.

A Comparative Analysis of the Christ’s Olivet Discourse to Paul’s Letters to the Church at Thessalonica			
Biblical Text	Matthew & Mark	1 Thessalonians	2 Thessalonians
1. Warning about Deception	24.4/13.5		2.3
2. Labor Pains/Pregnancy	24.8 (birth pains)13.17	5.3	
3. Tribulations/Persecutions	24.9/13		1.4
4. Abomination of Desolation	24.15/13.14		2.2-3
5. Coming (<i>Parousia G3952</i>)	24.3,27,37,39	2.19; 3.13; 4.15; 5.23	2.1; 2.8-9
6. Visible Descent from Heaven	24.30	4.16	1.7
7. Clouds	24.30/13.26	4.17	
8. Great Power/Day of the Lord	24.30/13.26	5.2	1.9-10; 2.2; 2.8-9
9. Archangel/ Angels	24.31/13.27	4.16	1.7
10. Sound/Shout	24.31	4.16	
11. Gathering/Caught Up	24.31	4.17	2.1
12. Souls from Heaven Coming	24.31/13.27	3.13; 4.14	1.10
13. People from Earth Gathered	13.27	4.17	2.1
14. Thief	24.43	5.2	
15. Watch	24.42/ 13.35-37	5.6	
16. Drunkards	24.49	5.7	
17. Destruction/Judgment	24.51	5.3	1.5-9

^r Mark 13:14; Luke 21:20; [John 11:48]; Acts 6:13; 21:28

^s Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11

^t Dan. 9:23

^u Luke 23:29

24:23

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

24:24

For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. So all over the place, even in the time of the antichrist you have many false Christs. Isn't that something? So when you read Revelation 13 and you get this picture in your mind that the antichrist is slaying the whole world and no one else has anything to do but walk around in a trance and worship the beast...But that is not the picture given to us from the Scripture. I would ask you to believe the Bible at face value. And when it says there are many false christs, know that the antichrist is probably the most influential one, but definitely not the only one.

24:25

Behold, I have told you before. Now remember verse 15 is midway through the tribulation. So we are in the last half of the tribulation. Verse number 21 says we are in the great tribulation. And so we have false christs, many of them trying to deceive the now saved Israel. Remember, where did they go midway through the week according to 24:16?

They fled. So you have the Jews who by and large made an exodus—whatever that means, they all moved into Israel and so you have most of the nation of Israel now believing on Messiah whom they have pierced and because they see this false Christ. And now they are believing on the Christ that they have crucified and so many of them now, knowing what is going on, escape.

24:26

Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. “These false christs are going to be saying there is a secret showing of Christ over here. Come on over to our building, come over to our cave, come over to his field and you will see Christ. He is coming again.” Now does Christ come again? 24:30, right? And before he comes again publicly you have people lying about secret comings of Christ. It is interesting that the chiefest sin that brings on mass death and birds of prey are those who seek to unseat the Christ—or even misrepresent Him.