

JESUS' DISCOURSE ON THE END TIMES

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GREETING

You are very welcome to this brief video introduction to Jesus' discourse on the end times. You may download this script. See its link in the description below.

INTRODUCTION

These days, Jesus' followers in many countries are asking whether we have entered the biblical end times, and, if so, then how should we live while preparing for his coming.

Before trying to reply to those questions, we must first understand what Jesus foresaw to be the end-time events and conditions.

PLAN

Thus, in this video, I shall attempt to do the following:

1. First, compare Jesus' teaching from the Gospels of Matthew (chapters 10 and 24), of Mark (chapter 13) and of Luke (chapters 12 and 21).
2. Second, blend those accounts into a unified discourse, employing only the Gospel texts, without adding or omitting words or phrases.
3. Third, recognize and highlight words and phrases that Jesus employed, which might allow us to discern his intended progression of events.
4. And fourth, order those events in a tentative chronology, recognizing events already past from events yet to come to pass.

The question of how to live and to prepare for those events may be dealt with in a subsequent video.

ANALYSIS

We begin with the existing biblical texts translated from the oldest and best Greek manuscripts. We show here the relevant Gospel texts. In the description below this video, there is a link to a document containing these texts, extracted from Crossway Publishers' *Harmony of the Gospels: English Standard Version* (2016).

Next, we present the three Gospel accounts in a unified discourse. In this case, we employ the work of Johnston Cheney, who has meticulously blended the four canonical Gospels. In the description below

this video, there is a link to a document containing section 132 of the his book *Life of Christ in Stereo*, second edition, 1969.

Near the beginning of Jesus discourse, his disciples posed three queries:

1. When will these things be?
2. What will be the sign when all these things are going to come to pass?
3. And what is the sign of Your coming, and of the consummation (or end) of the age?

In the rest of his discourse, Jesus replies to these queries, in a manner that allows us to align his teaching with particular past, present and future events.

Reading through Jesus' discourse repeatedly, over several days, we highlight and underscore words and phrases that seem to indicate sequence of events, such as "then, before, next and after."

We take note of recurring phrases, such as "these things" which seems to refer to the Roman invasion of Jerusalem and destruction of its temple in 70 C.E.

We also observe that Jesus would sometimes refer to near future events and far future events in a same sentence, such as when he says, "Watch therefore unceasingly, praying that you be accounted worthy to escape all these things that are going to come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

SYNTHESIS

In an attempt to sort through the many details, labeling sections **A** through **H**, and numbering sub-sections, we compile a tentative sequence of the events to which Jesus referred in his reply to his disciples' three queries. These are as follow, sorted by date, events and epochs:

29–33 C.E.

A3 On the Mount of Olives, across from the temple

A3 When will these things be? What will be the sign when all these things? (i.e., temple destruction)

A3 What is the sign of Your coming and of the consummation of the age?

B1 Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah'

B2 You will hear of war and rumors of wars

B2 When you hear of wars and commotions ... the end is not to be at once, i.e., not yet

33–72 C.E.

C 1 Before all these things

C1 They will scourge you in their synagogues ... before governors and kings because of Me

C2 When they deliver you up and lead you away, and bring you before the synagogues.

Prediction in Luke 21:12–17	Fulfillment in Acts
Arrested (“lay their hands on you”)	4:3; 5:18; 12:1; 21:27
Persecuted	7:52; 8:3; 9:4–5; 12:4; 22:4, 7–8; 26:11, 14–15
Conflict in synagogues	6:9; 9:2; 13:44–51; 17:1–5; 19:8–10
Imprisoned	5:18; 12:3–5; 16:19–24; 21:27–36; 28:16
Brought before kings and governors	12:1; 13:6–12; 18:12–17; 23:24–33; 24:1, 10; 25:13–26; 26:2, 27, 30
Given words to speak (see also Luke 12:11–12)	18:9–10; 23:11
None can withstand or oppose	6:10; 13:8–12
Executed	7:59–60; 12:2

From Mikeal Parsons, *Paideia Commentary*, p 301.

E1 Jerusalem encircled by armies

E1 These are days of avenging, that all things that have been written may be fulfilled

E2 Distress upon the land and wrath upon this people

E2 They shall fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive to all the nations

F1 The abomination of desolation

F1 Spoken of by Daniel the prophet [See Daniel 9:26]

F1 Standing in the Holy Place where it ought not to be

A2 Days are coming when these stones will be thrown down

H1 When these things are beginning ... redemption is drawing nigh

H2 When these things ... the Kingdom of God is near

H2 before all these things ... this generation will by no means pass away

F2 In those days a great tribulation [described by Flavius Josephus in *The Jewish Wars*]

F2 Such as has not been ... till the present time ... nor ever shall be.

G1 At that time ... false Messiahs and false prophets

G1 Great signs and wonders, such as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

H4 Accounted worthy to escape all these things that are going to come to pass.

72 C.E.—The Present

C3 Christians hated by all the nations

E2 Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles till the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled

C3 Then ... you will be betrayed ... put to death
C3 You will be hated by all for My name's sake
D1 Many false prophets will arise and mislead many
D2 Before the Son of man comes

D3 The Glad News of the Kingdom first

D3 Proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all the nations
D3 then will the end come

The Present–The End

B3 The beginning of travail

G3 Immediately after the tribulation of those days [Immediately in sequence, not in time]
G3 Signs in the sun and the moon and the stars
G3 Distress of nations with perplexity
B3 Nation will rise up against nation
B3 Famines and pestilences, and earthquakes
B3 Fearful sights and great signs from heaven shall there be
G4 The powers which are in the heavens will be shaken

G4 The sign of the Son of man

G2 As the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west
G4 They will see the Son of man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory(4)
H1 When these things are beginning to come to pass ... your redemption is drawing nigh.
G4 His angels with a great trumpet call, and they will gather together his elect [Revelation 14:14-16]

G2 The coming of the Son of man

H3 Of that day and hour no one knows
H3 As the days of Noah ... till the flood came and took them all away
H4 You know not in what hour your Lord is coming
H4 That day come upon you suddenly
H4 Stand before the Son of man

SUMMARY

1. Jesus warned his generation about a coming destruction of Jerusalem and about persecution from Jewish authorities.
2. Jesus warned future generations about persecutions among the nations, explaining that the Good News must be announced to all nations before the end-times begin.
3. Jesus revealed that the Son of Man would appear in the sky, sometime before he would return to earth, exhorting Christians to remain alert.

CONCLUSION

1. According to Jesus, the Great Tribulation occurred nearly 40 years following his crucifixion and resurrection.
2. Jesus revealed nothing about a secret 'rapture' to remove Christians from the earth before he will return in glory and power.
3. According to Jesus, (1) early Christians were to pray to escape the tribulation, (2) all Christians are to endure persecution whilst avoiding false christs and false prophets, and (3) end-times Christians are to watch, praying that they may stand before the Son of Man.

ADDENDUM

Although there is much more revealed in Scripture about the end times, Christians are to keep Jesus' teaching as their priority, while studying the ancient prophets, the New Testament Acts and Epistles, and the Book of Revelation.