

Treasure Hunt

- In the full Olivet Discourse as we have reconstructed it, the Lord describes both events in the near future (the Days of Vengeance, in Luke 21) and at the end (Great Tribulation, in Matt 24 and Mark 13). Which of these periods does he describe in Luke 17?
- How does Luke 17 help us understand the focus of Matt 24:15-28?
- How does Luke 17 amplify Matt 24:17-18?
- How does the Lord draw on Daniel 12 in this discourse?
- In what sense are “those days ... shortened”?
- How should believers respond to persecution, and why?

Overview of the Olivet Discourse

| Period | Mt 24,25 | Mk 13 | Lk 21 | Description |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| 1. Beginning of Sorrows (Mt 24:8) | 3-13 | 5-13 | 8-19 | The NT period, before the fall of Jerusalem. Corresponds to the first four seals of Rev 6. |
| 2. Days of Vengeance (Lk 21:22) | (Lacking) | | 20-24a | Desolation of Jerusalem under Titus, AD 70. |
| 3. Times of the Gentiles (Lk 21:24) | 14 | 10 | 24b | Jerusalem is subdued by the Gentiles (Luke) and the gospel goes forth throughout all the world (Matthew). |
| 4. Great Tribulation (Mt 24:21) | 15-28 | 14-23 | (Lacking) | “The abomination of desolation” (Dan 9:27), at the middle of Daniel’s seventieth week. |
| 5. Coming of Son of Man (Mt 24:30) | 29-31 | 24-27 | 25-28 | Cosmic signs, return of Christ in glory, gathering of his saints |
| (6. Interlude) | 24:32-25:30 | 28-37 | 29-36 | Parables about, and exhortations to, watchfulness |
| 7. Separation | 25:31-46 | (Lacking) | | Final Judgment |

Luke 17

and

Matthew 24

Luke 17:23 And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: **go not after them**, nor follow *them*. 24 For **as the lightning**, that lighteneth out of the one *part* under heaven, shineth unto the other *part* under heaven; **so shall also the Son of man be in his day.**

26 And as it was in **the days of Noe**, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and **the flood came**, and destroyed them all. ...

31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. 32 Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two *men* in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. 35 **Two women shall be grinding together**; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 36 Two *men* shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

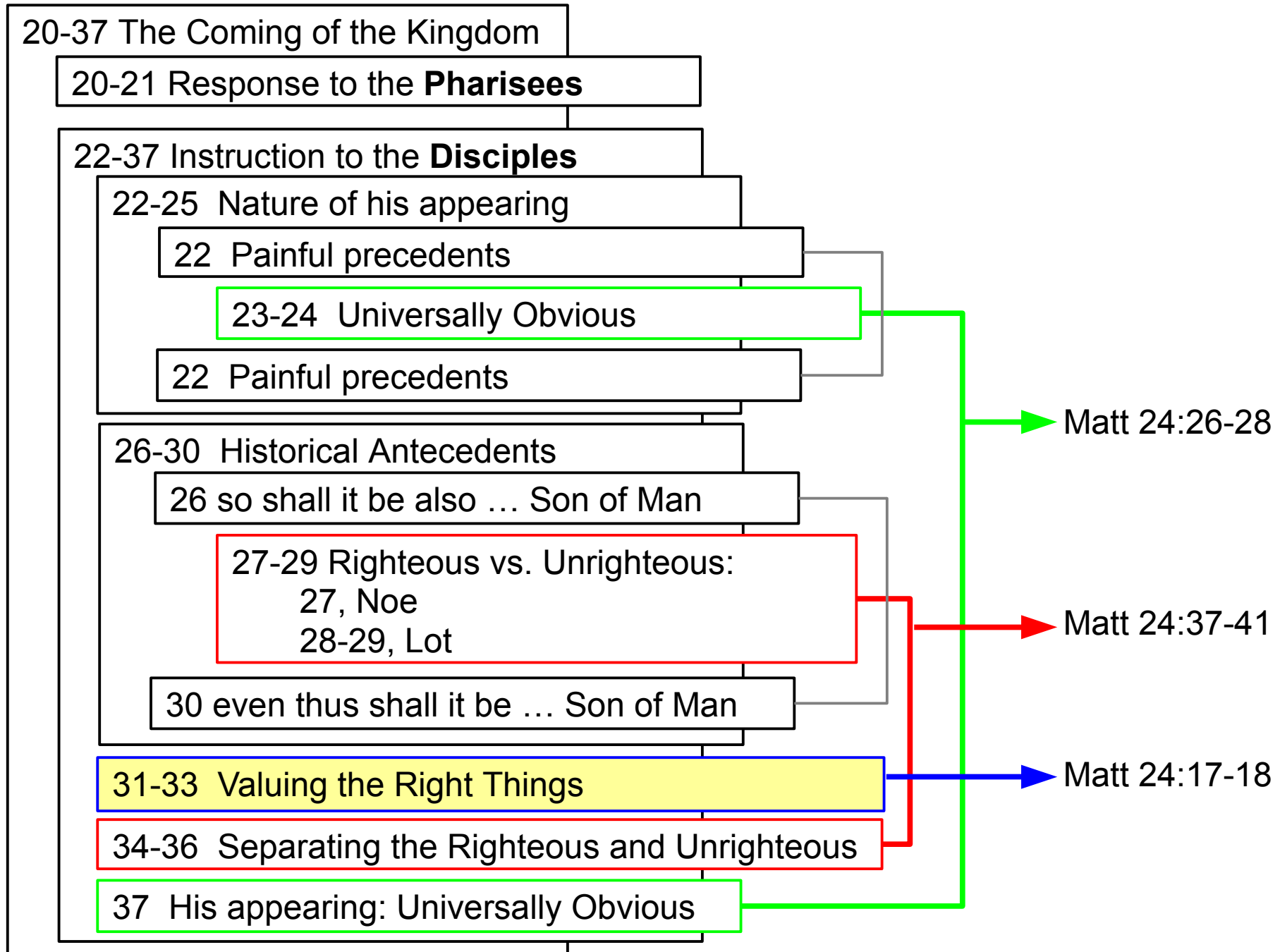
37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the **body is**, thither will the **eagles** be gathered together.

Matt 24:17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not. ... 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. 27 For **as the lightning** cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; **so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.** 28 For wheresoever the **carcase** is, there will the **eagles** be gathered together.

37 But as **the days of Noe** were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until **the flood came**, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 **Two women shall be grinding at the mill**; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Structure of Luke 17:20-37



How Luke 17:31-33 Amplifies Matt 24:17-18

| Genesis 19 | Matthew 24 | Luke 17 |
|---|---|--|
| | 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. | 31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. |
| 17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. ... 26 his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. | | 32 Remember Lot's wife . |
| | 10:39 (Missionary discourse) 16:25 (First passion announcement) | 33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. |

Unparalleled Tribulation

| Daniel 12 | Matthew 24-25 |
|--|--|
| <p>1 ... there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation <i>even</i> to that same time:</p> | <p>24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.</p> |
| <p>and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.</p> | <p>24: 29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days ... 31 ... he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect</p> |
| <p>2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.</p> | <p>25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth <i>his</i> sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. ... 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.</p> |

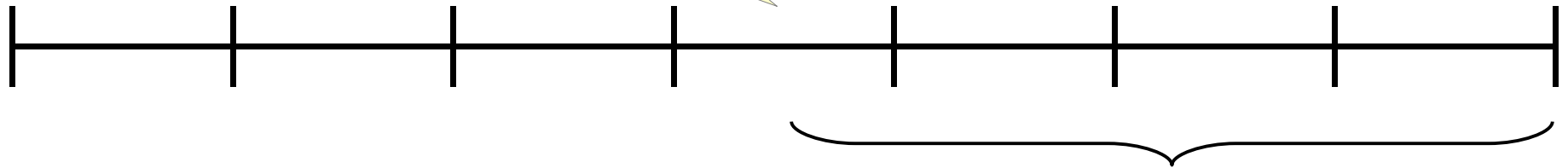
Shortening the Days

Dan 9:27 in the **midst of the week** he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease

Great
Tribulation

?

Shortening of
the Days



Rev 11:2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot **forty and two months**. 3 And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy **a thousand two hundred and threescore days**, clothed in sackcloth.

Rev 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for **a time, and times, and half a time**, from the face of the serpent. (cf. Dan 7:25; 12:7)

Daniel's 70th Seven (Sabbatical Period)

Motives for Rejoicing in Persecution

Brings a reward:

Mat 5:11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: [Luke 6:23 “leap for joy”] for **great is your reward** in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Develops spiritual character:

Rom 5:3 And not only so, but we **glory** in tribulations also: knowing that **tribulation worketh patience;**

Jam 1:2 My brethren, **count it all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh **patience**.

A sign of God's trust:

Act 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing** that **they were counted worthy** to suffer shame for his name.

Advances the work of the gospel:

2Co 12:10 Therefore I **take pleasure** in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses **for Christ's sake:** for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Col 1:24 Who now **rejoice** in my sufferings **for you**, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh **for his body's sake**, which is the church:

Summary:

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are **partakers of Christ's sufferings;** that, when **his glory shall be revealed**, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy are ye;** for **the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you:** on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but **let him glorify God** on this behalf.