

Treasure Hunt

- How should believers respond to persecution? What are some motives?
- Does an ability to do miracles prove that a prophet is from God? Give Scriptural evidence for your answer.
- Why does the Lord tell the disciples what is going to happen?
- Why didn't he do this earlier?
- Who in the OT also boasts about being able to predict the future?
- How will the Lord's second coming differ from his first?
- What is the significance of the darkening of the heavenly bodies in v. 29?

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

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.

24 False Christs ... shall shew great signs and wonders

Exo 7:22; 8:7, 18 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their **enchantments**

Deu 13:1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, **and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass**, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams:

2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all **power and signs and lying wonders**, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish;

Rev 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles which he had power to do** in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

25 Behold, I have told you before

Isa 41:22 Let them bring them forth, and **shew us what shall happen**: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. 23 **Shew the things that are to come hereafter**, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together.

Isa 42:9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: **before they spring forth I tell you of them**.

Isa 45:21 Tell ye, and bring *them* near; yea, let them take counsel together: **who hath declared this from ancient time?** *who* hath told it from that time? *have* not I the LORD? and *there is* no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; *there is* none beside me.

Joh 13:18 I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. 19 **Now I tell you before it come**, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

Joh 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come *again* unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. 29 And **now I have told you before it come to pass**, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

Joh 16:1 **These things have I spoken unto you**, that ye should not be offended. 2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4 But **these things have I told you**, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

26 Distinction from the First Advent

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the **desert ερημος**; go not forth:

Mat 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the **wilderness ερημος** of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the **wilderness ερημος**, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ... 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

behold, *he is* in the **secret chambers**; believe *it* not.

Mar 2:1 And again he entered into Capernaum after *some* days; and **it was noised that he was in the house**. 2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive *them*, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

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Cosmic Disturbances

Exo 10:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be **darkness** over the land of Egypt, even darkness *which* may be felt. 22 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a **thick darkness** in all the land of Egypt three days:

Isa 13:9 Behold, the **day of the LORD** cometh, ... 10 For **the stars of heaven** and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the **sun** shall be darkened in his going forth, and the **moon** shall not cause her light to shine.

Joel 2:10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: **the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:** ... 2:31 The sun **shall** be turned into darkness, and the **moon** into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. ... 3:15 The **sun** and the **moon** shall be darkened, and the **stars** shall withdraw their shining.

Isa 24:23 Then **the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed**, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

Luk 23:44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a **darkness** over all the earth until the ninth hour. 45 And **the sun was darkened**, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

Act 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; ... 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 **The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood**, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

Rev 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and **the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;** 13 **And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth**, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. ... 17 **For the great day of his wrath is come;** and who shall be able to stand?