

Treasure Hunt

- What three things about our Lord's return do the parables of Matt 24-25 teach us?
- What two points about the fig tree does the Lord emphasize, and what do they represent?
- What does the word "generation" mean in 24:34?
- What is a better translation of the word "fulfilled" in 24:34?
- Give some examples of how "these things" that the Lord is describing "happened" during the lives of his contemporaries.
- What claim is the Lord making in describing his words in v. 35?
- What is the relation between the Sermon on the Mount and the Olivet Discourse?

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

Six Parables about Preparedness

Parable	Theme	Time is unknown	Time may be long
24:32-36, The Fig Tree	It <i>will</i> happen	24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man,	
24:37-42, The Days of Noah	The <i>time</i> is unknown	24:39 they ... knew not; ... 42 ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.	
24:43-44, The Thief		24:43 ...if [he] had known ... 44 in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.	
24:45-51, Faithful vs. Evil Steward	It may be <i>delayed</i>	24:50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for <i>him</i> , and in an hour that he is not aware of,	24:48 My lord delayeth his coming;
25:1-13, Wise vs. Foolish Virgins	<i>Two kinds</i> of disciples	25:13 ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.	25:5 While the bridegroom tarried,
25:14-30, Industrious vs. Lazy Servants			25:19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh,

Be Ready for the Judge

Matt 24:33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that **it/he** is near, *even at the doors.*

Jam 5:9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, **the judge** standeth **before the door.**

1Jo 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Explanations of 24:34

34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

Approaches to this verse:

Jesus was wrong?	The last 3 parables show that the time may be long
AD 70 fulfilled the Abomination of Desolation & the Coming of the Son of Man?	Clear distinctions between <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A of D and Luke's Desolation of Jerusalem • Coming of the Son of Man and Daniel 7 Thessalonians and the Revelation
"Generation" = "race" or "kind of people," not time period?	Other uses in Matthew, in particular 1:17, "So all the generations from Abraham to David <i>are</i> fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon <i>are</i> fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ <i>are</i> fourteen generations."
"This generation" = generation of the restoration of Israel ("fig tree") or of the Antichrist?	"This generation" throughout Matthew refers to his contemporaries Expect "that generation"
Focus on "fulfilled," which is γινομαι (1096), not πληρωω 4137)	Γινομαι emphasizes <i>process</i> , not <i>result</i> ("happen, become") <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "All these things" are chains of manifold fulfillment • The disciples and their contemporaries will see links in all these chains

“All these things shall happen...”

Promised sign	First century evidence
3-13 Persecution of believers	Book of Acts
14 Preaching to the Gentiles	
15-28 Abomination of Desolation	Destruction of temple by Titus Corruption in churches (1 John)
29 Cosmic disturbances	Crucifixion, Lk 23:44-45
30a Worldwide authority Da 7	Matt 28:18 all authority is given unto me
30b Coming in power	Resurrection; miracles in Acts
31 Gathering of the elect	Acts 2:5-11 Day of Pentecost

v. 35 My words shall not pass away

What claim is our Lord making here?

Mat 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, **one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law**, till all be fulfilled.

Isa 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but **the word of our God shall stand for ever**.

Isa 54:10 For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, **neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed**, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

Psa 119:89 **For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled** in heaven.

Two Similar Promises

5:18 For verily I say unto you,	24:34 Verily I say unto you,	
Till heaven and earth pass,	This generation shall not pass,	35 Heaven and earth shall pass away,
one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law,		but my words shall not pass away.
till all be fulfilled [happen].	till all these things be fulfilled [happen].	