

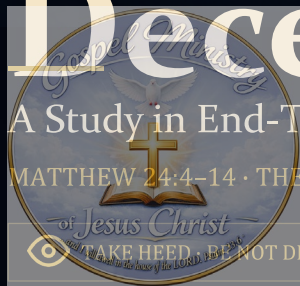


— THE OLIVET DISCOURSE —

Watch That No One Deceives You

A Study in End-Times Discernment

MATTHEW 24:4-14 · THE OLIVET DISCOURSE



MATTHEW 24 SERIES

Cross-Ref: Mark 13:5-6 · 2 Thess. 2:3 · Rev. 13:11 · Luke 21:8

Gospel Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Olivet Discourse



Jesus Sat on the Mount of Olives

Having departed the Temple, He withdrew to this hillside overlooking Jerusalem — a place of prayer, prophecy, and revelation. The disciples marveled at the Temple's grandeur, prompting Jesus to declare: "There shall not be left here one stone upon another." (Matt. 24:2, KJV)



The Disciples' Three Questions (Matt. 24:3)

(1) "When shall these things be?" (2) "What shall be the sign of thy coming?" (3) "and of the end of the world?" — The parallel account in Mark 13:3 identifies the four disciples: Peter, James, John, and Andrew.



Jesus' Response Spans Matthew 24–25

The longest prophetic discourse in the Gospels — covering the signs of the end, parables of readiness (the ten virgins, the talents), and the final judgment of the nations (Matt. 25:31–46).

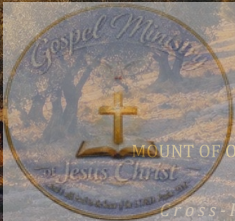


Matthew 24:4–14 — The Opening Warnings

Jesus' opening words establish the bedrock of the discourse: beware deception, expect tribulation, endure faithfully — "he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." (Matt. 24:13, KJV)

MATTHEW 24:1–14 · KING JAMES VERSION · CF. MARK 13:1–4 · LUKE 21:5–7

Cross-Ref. Mark 13:1–4 (names Peter, James, John & Andrew) · Luke 21:5–7 · Matt. 24:1–3 · Dan. 9:27 · Temple destroyed AD 70 (Titus)



THE FIRST WARNING



*“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man **deceive** you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall **deceive** many.”*

— MATTHEW 24:4-5 (KJV)



JESUS' FIRST WORD WAS A SOLEMN WARNING — TAKE HEED



Cross-References: 1 John 4:1 · 2 Timothy 4:3-4 · Galatians 1:6-9 · Jeremiah 14:14

Marks of a False Prophet



FALSE AUTHORITY

Claims to speak for Christ, invoking His name and office — yet leads hearers away from truth. He wears the mantle of a messenger while serving a different master.



COUNTERFEIT POWER

Performs signs and wonders to impress and astonish — miracles weaponised as spectacle. The crowd is dazzled, but the display points to the performer, not to God.



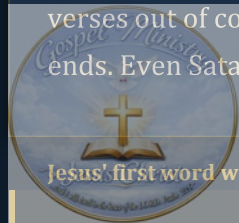
TWISTED SCRIPTURE

Uses the Word of God as a tool of manipulation — lifting verses out of context, reframing truth to serve personal ends. Even Satan quoted scripture to tempt Christ.



SELF-GLORIFICATION

Seeks personal acclaim, platforms, and adoration — the ministry exists to magnify the minister, not God. Where true prophets decrease, the false prophet must increase. “He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory.” John 7:18



Jesus' first word was a warning — the end-times church will be a prime target of spiritual deception. · “Take heed that no man deceive you.” — Matthew 24:4

Cross-Ref: Matt. 7:15–20 · 2 Pet. 2:1 · Deut. 18:20–22 · Ezek. 13:3

Birth Pains Begin — Wars, Famines & Earthquakes



“Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled.”

V. 6



“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.”

V. 7A



“...and there shall be famines, and pestilences.”

V. 7B



“...and earthquakes, in divers places.”

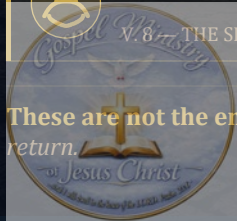
V. 7C



“All these are the beginning of sorrows [birth pains].”

V. 8 — THE SIGN OF LABOR, NOT THE END

These are not the end — they are labor pains announcing that the end is approaching. The world's upheaval is not chaos without purpose; it is the herald of Christ's return.



Cross-Ref: Luke 21:9-11 · Rev. 6:1-8 · Rom. 8:22 · Dan. 7:23

Persecution & Betrayal — The Cost of Discipleship



EXTERNAL OPPOSITION

Hated of All Nations

*"Then shall they **deliver you up** to be **afflicted**, and shall **kill you**: and ye shall be **hated of all nations** for my name's sake."*

Matthew 24:9 (KJV)

The world's hostility toward Christ is redirected at His followers — not because of who they are, but because of whose name they bear.



INTERNAL FRACTURE

Betrayal from Within

*"And then shall many be **offended**, and shall **betray one another**, and shall **hate one another**."*

Matthew 24:10 (KJV)

More devastating than outward persecution: the collapse of trust, love, and loyalty from within — among those who once called each other brothers and sisters.

*Faithfulness to Christ will bring opposition — from **the world** AND from **within the church**.*



Cross-Ref: John 15:18-20 · Acts 14:22 · 2 Tim. 3:12 · Rev. 6:9-11

MATTHEW 24 · THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

“

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

MATTHEW 24:11-12 · KJV

Greek: ἀνομία (anomia) - Strong's G458 - Lawlessness - Systemic culture collapse of God's divine order — not mere individual sin

Greek: ἀγάπη (agape) unconditional, covenant love — not φιλία (friendship) nor ἔρως (romance).
When anomia abounds, even agapē waxes cold.
The love that holds the church together becomes the casualty of a lawless age.

Greek: ψυγήσεται (psygēsetai) — Strong's G5594 — Future Passive: “shall be made cold.” Coldness is not chosen — it overtakes the believer who stops actively resisting the spiritual chill of a lawless world.

Mark 13:22 KJV — “to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.” The most spiritually mature believers are the primary targets of end-times deception.



Jesus' second warning: deception and lovelessness are the twin marks of the last days — and they grow together.

Cross-Ref: 2 Thess. 2:3 · 1 Tim. 4:1 · Rev. 13:11-14 · 1 John 2:18

Gospel Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Downward Spiral: Iniquity, Cold Love & Shipwrecked Faith

1



STEP 1 — TRIGGER

Iniquity Abounds

Sin is normalized, moral absolutes erode, and lawlessness becomes the cultural standard—exactly as Paul described in 2 Timothy 3:1–5

- Moral absolutes are eroded & mocked
- Lawlessness becomes mainstream
- Conscience is seared (1 Tim. 4:2)

2



STEP 2 — EFFECT

Love Grows Cold

When truth is abandoned, genuine love cannot survive — Community fractures, compassion fades, warmth of the Spirit replaced by coldness

- Selfishness & division rises
- Community fractures; neighbors turn away
- The church itself begins to divide (1 Tim. 4:1)

3



STEP 3 — OUTCOME

Faith Shipwrecked

Those who once burned for God grow cold, fall away, and embrace the world

- Believers betray one another
- Offense at the gospel hardens hearts
- Apostasy spreads (1 Tim. 4:1)



This is not speculation — it is the prophetic pattern Jesus described. And it is happening now.

This is the spiritual climate Jesus foresaw. Sound familiar?

MATT. 24:12 · 2 TIM. 3:1–5

Cross-Ref: 2 Tim. 3:1–5 · 1 Tim. 4:1 · Rom. 1:28–32 · 2 Pet. 3:3



But He Who Endures

*“But he that shall endure unto the end,
the same shall be saved.”*

— MATTHEW 24:13 (KJV)

Salvation is not just a moment — it is a life sustained by faith through every trial.

MATTHEW 24:13 · KJV

Cross-Ref: James 1:12 · Rev. 2:10 · Rom. 5:3–4 · Heb. 12:1 · Dan. 12:12



THE GOSPEL MUST GO FORTH

The Great Commission as End-Times Sign

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

— **Matthew 24:14 (KJV)**

Greek: εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας (*euangelion tēs basileias*) — *“the good news of the Kingdom.” Not just personal salvation, but the full proclamation of God’s sovereign reign over every nation, tribe, and tongue.*

*“And then shall the end come” — **Greek: τότε (tote)** — “at that time.” The end follows the completion of the global gospel witness. The church does not merely observe prophecy — it participates in its fulfilment.*

The church does not merely survive *the end times* —
it fulfills them.

Cross-Ref: Rev. 14:6-7 · Mark 16:15 · Acts 1:8 · Rom. 10:14-17 · Matt. 28:19-20

Every Nation, Tribe & Tongue

The gospel will reach every people group on earth — God’s declared purpose before the end arrives. *2025 (Wycliffe / SIL)*: Full Bible in 750+ languages; NT in 1,600+ languages; portions in 1,300+ more — 3,600+ languages total with some Scripture. Est. 1.5 billion people still without Scripture in their language. Rev. 14:6-7 — the everlasting gospel calls all the earth: “*Fear God, and give glory to him ... and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*”

Acts 1:8 — “*ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*” *The Holy Spirit empowers gospel witness in an ever-expanding circle from local to global. The same Spirit drives the fulfilment of Matt. 24:14.*

The Mission Is Advance, Not Retreat

The church’s calling in the last days is not to withdraw in fear — it is to press forward with boldness and urgency. *Matt. 28:19-20 (KJV)*: “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ... and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.*”

Greek: μαθητεύσατε (mathēteusate) — not merely “teach” but “make disciples” — forming followers of Christ in every nation, not just informing them. *Rom. 10:15 quotes Isaiah 52:7* — the Great Commission is not a NT novelty; it is the fulfilment of God’s ancient prophetic mission to all nations.

A Prophetic Countdown

Every sermon preached, every soul reached — the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom is itself the prophetic signal advancing the end. *Mark 16:15 (KJV)*: “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature*” — *Greek: πάσῃ τῇ κτίσει (pasē tē ktisei)* — “all creation.” *No person, no people group, no corner of the earth excluded.*

Rom. 10:14-17 (KJV) — “*How shall they hear without a preacher? ... faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” This chain — sending → preaching → hearing → believing — is the mechanism by which the gospel reaches the nations. *Rom. 10:15 quotes Isa. 52:7*: “*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings.*”

Cross-Ref: Rev. 14:6-7 · Mark 16:15 · Acts 1:8 · Rom. 10:14-17 · Matt. 28:19-20



Jesus' Three-Part Warning

The Core Message of Matthew 24:4-14

Q1

BEWARE OF DECEPTION

False christs, false prophets, and false apostles — Jesus warns first about deception because it is the most dangerous threat to the church.

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus..." — 2 Cor. 11:4

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ." — 2 Cor. 11:13-15

• MATTHEW 24:4-5, 11 · 2 COR.
11:4, 13-15

Q2

ENDURE TO THE END

Persecution, betrayal, and the cooling of love will mark the age — but endurance, not escape, is the calling.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about..." — 1 Pet. 5:8-9

"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord..." — Phil. 4:1

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation..." — Rev. 3:10

• MATT. 24:9-10, 13 · 1 PET. 5:8-9 ·
PHIL. 4:1 · REV. 3:10

Q3

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

The mission continues until the task is done — the gospel must reach every nation before the end.

kēryxthēsetai (κηρυθήσεται)
"shall be preached" — future passive indicative. The gospel will be preached; it is a divine certainty, not merely a human effort.

The passive voice reveals the theological heart of the verse — God Himself ensures the gospel advances. The church participates, but the outcome belongs to God.

• MATTHEW 24:14

WATCH · STAND · GO — *Jesus does not call His church to fear the end — He calls it to faithfulness within it.*

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." — Matthew 24:13 (KJV)

Cross-Ref: 2 Cor. 11:4 · 2 Cor. 11:13-15 · 1 Pet. 5:8-9 · Phil. 4:1,4 · Rev. 3:10



CLOSING CHARGE · MATTHEW 24:4-14

Stand Firm. Stay Faithful. The End Is Not Yet.

Jesus did not warn us to create fear — He warned us so we would **not be**
shaken.

Know the signs. **Guard your faith.** Proclaim the gospel.

STUDY

· PRAY

· STAND



MATTHEW 24:13

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

MINISTRY

Cross-Ref: Rev. 2:10 · 2 Tim. 4:7-8 · Heb. 10:36 · 1 Cor. 15:58 · Rev. 22:20

Gospel Ministry of Jesus Christ

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