

# **The Olivet Discourse:** *Prophecies About the Temple and Return of Christ*

**Luke 21:5-36**

# Overview of the Olivet Discourse

**1. Jesus' Prophecy of the Destruction of the Temple (vv5-6)**

**2. Jesus' Prophecy of the Beginning of Birth Pangs (vv8-19)**

- False Christs, prophets, and predictions
- Wars
- Natural disasters
- Intense persecution

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- 1. Jesus' Prophecy of the Destruction of the Temple (vv5-6)**
- 2. Jesus' Prophecy of the Beginning of Birth Pangs (vv8-19)**
- 3. Jesus' Prophecy of the Great Tribulation (vv20-24)**
  - Initiated by the Abomination of Desolation
  - Marked by the persecution of Israel
  - Described as a time of unparalleled tribulation
  - Shortened for the sake of the elect
  - Filled with spiritual deception

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2. Jesus' Prophecy of the Beginning of Birth Pangs (vv8-19)
3. Jesus' Prophecy of the Great Tribulation (vv20-24)
4. Jesus' Prophecy of the Second Coming (vv25-27)
5. Jesus' Exhortation to Be Certain, Alert, and Ready (vv28-33)

# Major Interpretative Approaches

**Prophecy of the  
Destruction of the Temple**

**Prophecy of the  
Beginning of Birth Pangs**

**Prophecy of the  
Great Tribulation**

**Prophecy of the  
Second Coming**

Amillennial Approach		Postmillennial Approach	Liberal Approach	Premillennial Approach	
Full/Hyper Preterist	Partial Preterist			Historic/Classic	Dispensational
Past (AD 70)	Past (AD 70)	Past (AD 70)	Jesus can't supernaturally predict the future, everything will work out	Past (AD 70)	Past (AD 70)
Past (AD 70)	Past (AD 70)	Now and Future (Things getting better and better, Millennium is essentially now)		Future (Millennium both now and future, not necessarily 1,000 years, Rapture happens at Second Coming)	Now and Future
Past (AD 70)	Past (AD 70)				Future (after Rapture)
Past (AD 70)	Future (no Millennium)	Future		Future (with Rapture)	Future (after Tribulation)

“A”=no, “Millennial”=1,000-year reign of Christ on earth

Latin *praeter*, meaning “past” – everything has happened in the past

“Post”=after – Second Coming is after non-literal millennial time period

“Pre”=before – Second Coming comes before millennial time period

**CBC’s Position**

**Prophecy of the Destruction of the Temple**

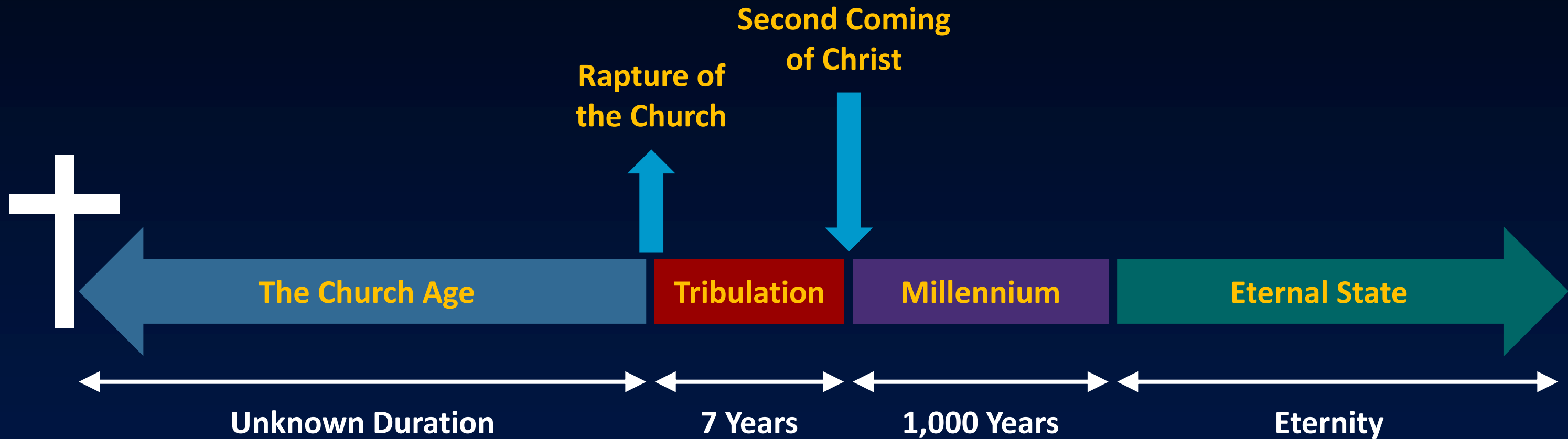
**Prophecy of the Beginning of Birth Pangs**

**Prophecy of the Great Tribulation**

**Prophecy of the Second Coming**

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# Overview of End Times



# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Destruction of the Temple* (vv5-6)

## ■ The beauty

### Matthew 24

<sup>1</sup>Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. <sup>2</sup>And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

### Mark 13

<sup>1</sup>As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" <sup>2</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down."

### Luke 21

<sup>5</sup>And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, <sup>6</sup>"As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down."







# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Destruction of the Temple* (vv5-6)

- The beauty
- The prophecy
- The fulfillment

- Herod's renovation was finished in AD 68
- In AD 70, the city and temple were utterly destroyed

## Matthew 24

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<sup>5</sup>And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, <sup>6</sup>"As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down."

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Destruction of the Temple* (vv5-6)

- The beauty
- The prophecy
- The fulfillment
- The lessons
  - Proves the deity of Christ
  - Shows Jesus' judgment on this false religious system and nation
  - Indicates the work of the Temple was done
  - Demonstrates how Jesus' predictions will always perfectly come to pass

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Destruction of the Temple* (vv5-6)

- The beauty
- The prophecy
- The fulfillment
- The lessons
- The question

## Matthew 24

## Mark 13

## Luke 21

<sup>3</sup>As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately, <sup>4</sup>"Tell us, when will these things be, and what *will be* the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?"

<sup>7</sup>They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what *will be* the sign when these things are about to take place?"

# Jesus' Prophecy Destruction of the Temple

- The beauty
- The prophecy
- The fulfillment
- The lessons
- The question

## Thinking of the Disciples and Jewish People Concerning “When Messiah Comes”

*These events would happen very quickly in succession:*

1. A period of great tribulation before Messiah comes
2. The return of Elijah as the forerunner
3. The appearing of Messiah
4. One final attack of hostile powers against God's people
5. Messiah's destruction of those hostile power
6. The renovation of Israel, Jerusalem, and the temple
7. A gathering of the dispersed Jews
8. The Messianic kingdom in Palestine as the center of the world
9. The renovation of the entire world
10. The general resurrection of the dead
11. The last judgment

### Matthew 24

### Mark 13

### Luke 21

<sup>3</sup>As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately, <sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will these things be, and what *will be* the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”

<sup>7</sup>They questioned Him, saying, “Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what *will be* the sign when these things are about to take place?”

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Beginning of Birth Pangs* (vv8-19)

## ■ False Christs, prophets, and predictions (v8)

### Matthew 24

<sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. <sup>5</sup>"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

### Mark 13

<sup>5</sup>And Jesus began to say to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. <sup>6</sup>"Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He!*' and will mislead many.

### Luke 21

<sup>8</sup>And He said, "See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He,*' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them.

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Beginning of Birth Pangs* (vv8-19)

- False Christs, prophets, and predictions (v8)
- Wars (vv9-10)

## Matthew 24

<sup>6</sup>"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. <sup>7</sup>"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom,

## Mark 13

<sup>7</sup>"When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; *those things* must take place; but *that* is not yet the end. <sup>8</sup>"For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom;

## Luke 21

<sup>9</sup>"When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end *does not follow* immediately." <sup>10</sup>Then He continued by saying to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom,

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Beginning of Birth Pangs* (vv8-19)

- False Christs, prophets, and predictions (v8)
- Wars (vv9-10)
- Natural disasters (v11)

## Matthew 24

and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

## Mark 13

there will be earthquakes in various places; there will *also* be famines. These things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

## Luke 21

<sup>11</sup>and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs (*attesting miracles*) from heaven.



# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Beginning of Birth Pangs* (vv8-19)

- False Christs, prophets, and predictions (v8)
- Wars (vv9-10)
- Natural disasters (v11)
- Intense persecution (vv12-19)

## Matthew 24

<sup>8</sup>"But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs. <sup>9</sup>"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

## Mark 13

<sup>9</sup>"But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to *the* courts, and you will be flogged in *the* synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them.

## Luke 21

<sup>12</sup>"But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake.

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Beginning of Birth Pangs* (vv8-19)

- False Christs, prophets, and predictions (v8)
- Wars (vv9-10)
- Natural disasters (v11)
- Intense persecution (vv12-19)

## Matthew 24

<sup>10</sup>“At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

## Mark 13

<sup>12</sup>“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. <sup>13</sup>“You will be hated by all because of My name,

## Luke 21

<sup>16</sup>“But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put *some* of you to death, <sup>17</sup>and you will be hated by all because of My name.

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Beginning of Birth Pangs* (vv8-19)

- False Christs, prophets, and predictions (v8)
- Wars (vv9-10)
- Natural disasters (v11)
- Intense persecution (vv12-19)

Matthew 24	Mark 13	Luke 21
(skipping) <sup>14</sup> “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.	<sup>10</sup> “The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.	<sup>13</sup> “It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony.
	<sup>11</sup> “When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but <i>it is</i> the Holy Spirit.	<sup>14</sup> “So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; <sup>15</sup> for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Beginning of Birth Pangs* (vv8-19)

- False Christs, prophets, and predictions (v8)
- Wars (vv9-10)
- Natural disasters (v11)
- Intense persecution (vv12-19)

## Matthew 24

<sup>13</sup>"But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

## Mark 13

<sup>13</sup>...but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

## Luke 21

(skipping) <sup>18</sup>"Yet not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>"By your endurance you will gain your lives.

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Great Tribulation* (vv20-24)

- Initiated by the Abomination of Desolation (v20, Matt 24:15, Mark 13:14)

Matthew 24	Mark 13	Luke 21
<sup>15</sup> “Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),	<sup>14</sup> “But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand),	
		<sup>20</sup> “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Great Tribulation* (vv20-24)

- Initiated by the Abomination of Desolation (v20, Matt 24:15, Mark 13:14)
- Marked by the persecution of Israel (vv21-23)

## Matthew 24

<sup>16</sup>then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup>"Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. <sup>18</sup>"Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.

<sup>19</sup>"But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>20</sup>"But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.

## Mark 13

then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. <sup>15</sup>"The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house; <sup>16</sup>and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat.

<sup>17</sup>"But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>18</sup>"But pray that it may not happen in the winter.

## Luke 21

<sup>21</sup>"Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; <sup>22</sup>because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

<sup>23</sup>"Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people;

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Great Tribulation* (vv20-24)

- Initiated by the Abomination of Desolation (v20, Matt 24:15, Mark 13:14)
- Marked by the persecution of Israel (vv21-23)
- Described as a time of unparalleled tribulation (v24)

## Matthew 24

<sup>21</sup>"For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

## Mark 13

<sup>19</sup>"For those days will be a *time of* tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will.

## Luke 21

<sup>24</sup>and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.



# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Great Tribulation* (vv20-24)

- Initiated by the Abomination of Desolation (v20, Matt 24:15, Mark 13:14)
- Marked by the persecution of Israel (vv21-23)
- Described as a time of unparalleled tribulation (v24)
- Shortened for the sake of the elect (Matt 24:21-22, Mark 13:20)

## Matthew 24

<sup>21</sup>"For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. <sup>22</sup>"Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

## Mark 13

<sup>20</sup>"Unless the Lord had shortened *those* days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

## Luke 21



# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Great Tribulation* (vv20-24)

## Matthew 24

<sup>23</sup>"Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There *He is*,' do not believe *him*. <sup>24</sup>"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup>"Behold, I have told you in advance. <sup>26</sup>"So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, *or*, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe *them*. <sup>27</sup>"For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>28</sup>"Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

## Mark 13

<sup>21</sup>"And then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ'; or, 'Behold, *He is there*'; do not believe *him*; <sup>22</sup>for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. <sup>23</sup>"But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

## Luke 21

- Shortened for the sake of the elect (Matt 24:21-22, Mark 13:20)
- Filled with spiritual deception (Matt 24:23-28, Mark 13:21-23)

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Second Coming* (vv25-27)

- The timing (Matt 24:29a, Mark 13:24a)

## Matthew 24

<sup>29</sup>“But immediately after the tribulation of those days

## Mark 13

<sup>24</sup>“But in those days, after that tribulation,

## Luke 21

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Second Coming* (vv25-27)

- The timing (Matt 24:29a, Mark 13:24a)
- The signs (vv25-26)

## Matthew 24

<sup>29</sup>...THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

## Mark 13

<sup>24</sup>...THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, <sup>25</sup>AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

## Luke 21

<sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Second Coming* (vv25-27)

- The timing (Matt 24:29a, Mark 13:24a)
- The signs (vv25-26)
- The appearance (v27)

**Daniel 7:13** I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.

## Matthew 24

<sup>30</sup>“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

## Mark 13

<sup>26</sup>“Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory.

## Luke 21

<sup>27</sup>“Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory.

# Jesus' Prophecy of the *Second Coming* (vv25-27)

- The timing (Matt 24:29a, Mark 13:24a)
- The signs (vv25-26)
- The appearance (v27)
- The focus (Matt 24:31, Mark 13:27)

## Matthew 24

<sup>31</sup>“And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

## Mark 13

<sup>27</sup>“And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.

## Luke 21

# Jesus' Exhortation to *Be Certain, Alert, and Ready* (vv28-36)

- Be encouraged that your redemption is drawing near (v28)

Matthew 24

Mark 13

Luke 21

<sup>28</sup>“But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

# Jesus' Exhortation to *Be Certain, Alert, and Ready* (vv28-36)

- Be encouraged that your redemption is drawing near (v28)
- Like a fig tree, recognize what is near when you see the preceding signs (vv29-31)

## Matthew 24

<sup>32</sup>"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; <sup>33</sup>so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.

## Mark 13

<sup>28</sup>"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>"Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.

## Luke 21

<sup>29</sup>Then He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they put forth *leaves*, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. <sup>31</sup>"So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.

# Jesus' Exhortation to *Be Certain, Alert, and Ready* (vv28-36)

- Be encouraged that your redemption is drawing near (v28)
- Like a fig tree, recognize what is near when you see the preceding signs (vv29-31)
- Know for certain that all of Christ's words will come to pass (vv32-33)

## Matthew 24

<sup>34</sup>"Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>35</sup>"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

<sup>36</sup>"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

## Mark 13

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## Luke 21

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# Jesus' Exhortation to *Be Certain, Alert, and Ready* (vv28-36)

- Be encouraged that your redemption is drawing near (v28)
- Like a fig tree, recognize what is near when you see the preceding signs (vv29-31)
- Know for certain that all of Christ's words will come to pass (vv32-33)
- Be on guard against sin and that you have a right standing when He returns (vv34-35)

Matthew 24

Mark 13

Luke 21

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; <sup>35</sup>for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.

# Jesus' Exhortation to *Be Certain, Alert, and Ready* (vv28-36)

- Be encouraged that your redemption is drawing near (v28)
- Like a fig tree, recognize what is near when you see the preceding signs (vv29-31)
- Know for certain that all of Christ's words will come to pass (vv32-33)
- Be on guard against sin and that you have a right standing when He returns (vv34-35)
- Keep alert and pray for strength (v36)

## Matthew 24

<sup>42</sup>"Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

## Mark 13

<sup>33</sup>"Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come.

## Luke 21

<sup>36</sup>"But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

# Jesus' Exhortation to *Be Certain, Alert, and Ready* (vv28-36)

- Be encouraged that your redemption is drawing near (v28)
- Like a fig tree, recognize what is near when you see the preceding signs (vv29-31)
- Know for certain that all of Christ's words will come to pass (vv32-33)
- Be on guard against sin and that you have a right standing when He returns (vv34-35)
- Keep alert and pray for strength (v36)

## Matthew 24

*Parable of the thief coming at night (vv43-44)*  
*Parable of the slave put in charge (vv45-51)*  
*Parable of the 10 virgins with lamps (25:1-13)*  
*Parable of the talents (25:14-30)*

## Mark 13

*Parable of the slaves put in charge (vv34-37)*

## Luke 21

# Closing

- Jesus is divine – every word spoken is truth and comes to pass
- God is in control of human history – the end is known
- As things on earth get worse, don't be afraid if you belong to Him
- Jesus is coming back! Are you ready?