



God's Revelation of the Future

The Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24:4-28)

<https://sites.google.com/view/abfatcommunity/home>

The Tribulation

- The Tribulation is a future period during which God will prepare his people, Israel, for Christ's return and bring severe judgments on the Gentile nations while at the same time bringing many people to himself.

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- An outline of the Matthew account
 - 24:4 – Jesus cautions about the future
 - 24:5-8 – 1st half of the 70th week
 - 24:9-14 – 2nd half of the 70th week
 - 24:15-20 – Details about the middle of the 70th week
 - 24:21-28 – Details about the 2nd half of the 70th week
 - 24:29-31 – Events following the 2nd half of the 70th week, including the return of Christ to earth
 - 24:32-25:30 – Parables related to Christ's return
 - 25:31-46 – The Sheep-Goats Judgment

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▶ **Matthew 24:5-8** – 1st half of 70th week

⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

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- ▶ Middle of 70th week
 - From the midpoint through the end of the Tribulation, things change dramatically for the Jewish people.

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▶ **Matthew 24:9-14** – 2nd half of 70th week

⁹ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

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▶ John 15:18, 21

¹⁸ If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ... ²¹ But all these things [i.e., persecutions] they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

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▶ Ezekiel 20:33-38

³³ "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out I will be king over you. ³⁴ I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out. ³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. ³⁶ As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, declares the Lord GOD. ...

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▶ Ezekiel 20:33-38

³⁷ I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. ³⁸ I will purge out the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against me. I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

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▶ Zechariah 3:7-9

⁷ "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones. ⁸ In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive. ⁹ And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

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▶ **Matthew 24:15-20** – Middle of 70th week

¹⁵ So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.

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▶ **Matthew 24:21-22** – 2nd half of 70th week

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²² And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

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▶ **Matthew 24:23-26** – 2nd half of 70th week

²³ Then if anyone says to you, "Look, here is the Christ!" or "There he is!" do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶ So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.

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▶ **Matthew 24:27-28** – 2nd half of 70th week

²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.