



God's Revelation of the Future

The Return of Christ

Contents

- **Where are we going?**
 - The Rapture of the Church
 - Daniel's Seventy Weeks and Christ's Olivet Discourse
 - An Overview of Revelation
 - The Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments
 - The Insets of Revelation
 - **The Return of Christ**
 - The Return through the White Throne Judgment
 - The New Earth into Eternity

The Olivet Discourse

- 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 70th week, including the return of Christ to earth
 - 24:32-25:30 – Illustrations related to Christ's return
 - 25:31-46 – The Sheep-Goats Judgment

The Olivet Discourse

- **24:29-31** – The Return of Christ

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

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The Olivet Discourse

- As Jesus teaches his disciples about his return, he includes six illustrations to help them understand the nature of that time.
 - 24:32-35 – The Fig Tree
 - 24:36-41 – The Days of Noah
 - 24:42-44 – The Householder
 - 24:45-51 – The Servants
 - 25:1-13 – The Virgins
 - 24:14-30 – The Talents

The Olivet Discourse

- 24:32-35 – The Fig Tree
 - You know summer is near when you see a fig tree budding.
 - So too when you see “these things” you know Christ’s return is near.

The Olivet Discourse

- **24:36-41** – The Days of Noah
 - At the time of Noah's flood, those prepared were kept safely on the ark while those not prepared were taken in the flood.
 - A similar situation will take place when Christ returns.

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- **24:42-44** – The Householder
 - Jesus uses the picture of a householder who would be on alert for a thief if he knew the time a thief would come.
 - The one waiting the return of Christ should have the same diligence even though he does not know the time.

The Olivet Discourse

- **24:45-51** – The Servants
 - A contrast is made between the actions of two servants while their master is away but knowing he will return.
 - The illustration is used to show the need for preparedness and includes the idea of reward vs. judgment.

The Olivet Discourse

- **25:1-13** – The Virgins
 - Two “kinds” of virgins are as seen awaiting the return of a bridegroom. Some, the wise, are prepared while others, the foolish are not prepared.
 - Only the wise are able to enjoy the celebration that accompanies the bridegroom’s return.

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- **25:14-30** – The Talents
 - Three servants are provided money to be used during the absence of their master. Two invest the money while the third doesn't.
 - Upon his return, the master rewards the two servants but punishes the third one.
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 - The Beast has destroyed Babylon, perhaps seen as an obstacle to his goal of worldwide control.
 - With the destruction of Babylon, the Beast is able to become the world ruler.
 - The armies of the world have come to the Middle East.

The Return of Christ

- 19:11-16

- These verses describe Christ, the white horse rider, as he returns to earth accompanied by “the armies of heaven.”

- 19:17-21

- These verses describe the outcome of the defeat of the armies of the world and the capture of the Beast and False Prophet.

The Return of Christ

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¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

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- 19:14

¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

The Return of Christ

- 19:15-16

¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

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Putting Down Opposing Enemies

- 19:17-18

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great."

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- 19:19-21

¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹ And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

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