

PARALLEL ACCOUNTS OF THE OLIVET DISCOURSE (NASB)

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Matthew 24:1-51

The Setting: Adoring the Temple Buildings

- 1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.
- 2 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.”
- 3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Warning Not to be Misled

- 4 And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.
- 5 “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many.
- 6 “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.
- 7 “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.
- 8 “But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

Mark 13:1-37

The Setting: Adoring the Temple Buildings

- 1 As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”
- 2 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.”
- 3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately,
- 4 “Tell us, when will these things be, and what *will be* the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”

Warning Not to be Misled

- 5 And Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.
- 6 “Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am *He!*’ and will mislead many.
- 7 “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.
- 8 “For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will *also* be famines.
These things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

Luke 21:5-36 [Plus additions from Lk 17:23-37]

The Setting: Adoring the Temple Buildings

- 5 And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said,
- 6 “*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.”
- 7 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?”

Warning Not to be Misled

- 8 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.
- 9 “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.”
- 10 Then He continued by saying to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom,
- 11 and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

[ed Note: The parallels are not as precise in this paragraph, but the similarities are many.]

Expectation of Persecution

- 9 “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.
- 10 “At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.
- 11 “Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.
- 12 “Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.
- 13 “But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.
- 14 “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.

Expectation of Persecution

- 9 “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.
- 10 “The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.
- 11 “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 *it is* the Holy Spirit.
- 12 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.
- 13 “You will be hated by all because of My name,
- but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

Expectation of Persecution

- 12 “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.
- 13 “It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony.
- 14 “So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves;
- 15 for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.
- 16 “But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put *some* of you to death,
- 17 and you will be hated by all because of My name.
- 18 “Yet not a hair of your head will perish.
- 19 “By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Severity of the Great Tribulation

- 15 “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),
- 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.
- 17 “Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.
- 18 “Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.
- 19 “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!
- 20 “But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.
- 21 “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.
- 22 “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.

Severity of the Great Tribulation

- 14 “But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand),
- then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.
- 15 “The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house;
- 16 and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat.
- 17 “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!
- 18 “But pray that it may not happen in the winter.
- 19 “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.
- 20 “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.

Jerusalem’s Destruction (AD 70)

- 20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.
- 21 “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;
- 22 because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.
- 23 “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;
- 24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Taking Care Against Deception

- 23 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There *He is*,’ do not believe *him*.
- 24 “For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.
- 25 “Behold, I have told you in advance.
- 26 “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*.
- 27 “For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming [παρουσία] of the Son of Man be.
- 28 “Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

The Glorious Return

- 29 “But 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 the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- 30 “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 [ερχομαι] ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.
- 31 “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.

Taking Care Against Deception

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

The Glorious Return

- 24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT,
- 25 AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.
- 26 “Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory.
- 27 “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.

[Material from Luke 17:23-25]

- 23 “They will say to you, ‘Look there! Look here!’ Do not go away, and do not run after *them*.
- 24 “For just like the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in His day.
- 25 “But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

The Glorious Return [Back to Lk 21]

- 25 “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,
- 26 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.
- 27 “Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory.
- 28 “But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Parable of the Fig Tree

32 “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;

33 so, you too, when you see all these things,
recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.

34 “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass
away until all these things take place.

35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My
words will not pass away.

Parable of the Fig Tree

28 “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.

29 “Even so, you too, when you see these things
happening, recognize that He is near, *right* at the
door.

30 “Truly I say to you, this generation will not
pass away until all these things take place.

31 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My
words will not pass away.

Parable of the Fig Tree

29 Then He told them a parable: “Behold the fig
tree and all the trees;

30 as soon as they put forth *leaves*, you see it and
know for yourselves that summer is now near.

31 “So you also, when you see these things
happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is
near.

32 “Truly I say to you, this generation will not
pass away until all things take place.

33 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My
words will not pass away.

The Unexpectedness of Christ's Coming

- 36 “But [Περί δε] of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.
- 37 “For the coming [παρουσία] of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.
- 38 “For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,
- 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming [παρουσία] of the Son of Man be.
- 40 “Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.
- 41 “Two women *will be* grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

The Unexpectedness of Christ's Coming

- 32 “But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*.

[*Additional Material from Lk 17:26-37*]

- 26 “And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:
- 27 they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.
- 28 “It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building;
- 29 but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.
- 30 “It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.
- 31 “On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back.
- 32 “Remember Lot's wife.
- 33 “Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses *his life* will preserve it.
- 34 “I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left.
- 35 “There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left.
- 36 [“Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.”]
- 37 And answering they said to Him, “Where, Lord?” And He said to them, “Where the body *is*, there also the vultures will be gathered.”

Exhortation: Be Ready for His Coming!

- 42 “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming [ερχομαι].
- 43 “But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.
- 44 “For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming [ερχομαι] at an hour when you do not think *He will*.

Parable of the Servants: Be Ready!

- 45 “Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?
- 46 “Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes [ερχομαι].
- 47 “Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.
- 48 “But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’
- 49 and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;
- 50 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour which he does not know,
- 51 and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Exhortation: Be Ready for His Coming!

- 33 “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come.

[*similar parables but different*]

- 34 “*It is* like a man away on a journey, *who* upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, *assigning* to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.
- 35 “Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—
- 36 in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep.
- 37 “What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’”

Exhortation: Be Ready for His Coming!

Back to Luke 21:34-37

- 34 “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;
- 35 for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.
- 36 “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.”