

THE HARMONY OF THE OLIVET

DISCOURSE – PART 2

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Luke 21:20-24, Matthew 24:8
Olivet Discourse – Part 2
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The Lord Jesus gave some of the most detailed prophecies of future events just a couple days before His crucifixion. This teaching by Jesus was recorded in Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21. Theologians refer to these sections of scripture as the *Olivet Discourse* because Jesus spoke these prophecies while on the Mount of Olives.

There has been much confusion and debate about this discourse over the centuries. Much of the mystery has been removed with the rebirth of the nation of Israel, but views about who is being addressed and the timing of the events are still debated by sincere Christians.

After 35 (now 51) years of pondering the different views and arguments, I feel it is time to contribute some thoughts in the form of this commentary. I have put the three passages from the three Apostles' writings side by side (using the New King James) so the entire context of Jesus words can be more easily compared and discerned.

MATTHEW 24	MARK 13	LUKE 21
Matt 24:15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.		Luke 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 "Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 "For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles <u>until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."</u>

Matthew 24:15-22 will be covered later below, but is included with Luke's verses 20-24 text to show that these two prophecies cannot be the same. We skipped ahead in Luke's text to stick with the theme of wars and rumors of wars that Jesus said would typify the last days. Only Luke records Jesus' answer to the disciple's question about when the temple of their day was going to be destroyed to the point that **not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.**" which was fulfilled in 70 AD. Matthew's text pertains to the last day's kingdom of the antichrist when the antichrist commits the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel in Daniel 9 and 12. A careful reading of these two texts reveals the stark differences.

In Luke, Jesus explained to the four Apostles that the Roman army would surround Jerusalem, and when they did, those who were in the city should flee. Those who listened to Jesus would have been spared the death that awaited all those who stayed. Some historians have stated that there were no Christians in Jerusalem when it fell to the Romans.

The "Time of the Gentiles" that Luke refers to actually started in 586 BC when Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroyed Solomon's temple and Jerusalem. Since then, the Jews have never again been in sovereign control of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. When King Cyrus of Persia allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple in 539 BC, the Jews did so, but were still under the sovereignty of Persia. Then the Greeks took control of Jerusalem and then the Romans until Jerusalem was again destroyed in 70 AD (because the Jews kept trying to fight to regain their own sovereignty).

The Gentiles have continued to "trample" Jerusalem to this day. On June 7 during the six day war of 1967, the Jews took Jerusalem and the Temple Mount back from the Gentiles for the first time since 586 BC. However, the next day their famous general, Moshe Dayan, gave control of the Temple Mount back to Jordan as a gesture of peace. This act actually fulfilled prophecy and kept a portion of Jerusalem under the foot of the gentiles, where it will remain (according to Revelation 11:2) until Jesus returns, which is when the "time of the gentiles" will come to an end.

As a side note, Moshe Dayan was quoted as saying the following about the orthodox Jews rejoicing that they had sovereignty over the Temple Mount for the first time in 2,500 years:

Wikipedia - Dayan in one recollection, having seen rabbis flocking on the Temple Mount shortly after Jerusalem was captured in 1967, he asked "*what is this? Vatican?*" Dayan later ordered the Israeli flag removed from the Dome of the Rock, and gave administrative control of the Temple Mount over to the Waqf, a Muslim council. Dayan believed that the Temple Mount was more important to Judaism as a historical rather than holy site.

Had Moshe Dayan not made this decision to give back control of the temple mount, then according to Jesus the time of the gentiles would have ended on June 7, 1967, which would have made several other yet unfulfilled prophecies about the last days difficult if not impossible to reconcile. This again proves the sovereign hand of God in world affairs.

7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.
8 "All these are the beginning of sorrows [birth pangs]."

8 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows."

11 "And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven."

As discussed above, portions of these verses could easily apply to the time of the Romans around A.D. 70. But some could only apply to the future signs of His coming.

Jesus also talked of pestilence and famines in these passages. If the world ever experiences a biological weapons attack that would make the Covid 19 “pandemic” pale in comparison, the full weight of this prophecy will sink into the hearts of the survivors. Matthew and Mark record that Jesus said these things would be the “beginning of sorrows.” The Greek word for sorrows actually refers to the birth pangs of a woman in labor. Therefore, Jesus is saying that as the last days approach, earthquakes, pestilence, famines, etc., will grow in frequency and intensity, in the same way as the contractions associated with giving birth grow closer and closer together, with more and more intensity as the time of birth approaches. Although there have been famines, pestilences (40 percent of Europe died in the plague) in the past, Jesus is warning that in the last days there will be pestilence that will cause people to think it will be the end of life. The world experienced the man-made Covid pestilence from 2020-2023, but even that was nothing compared to what Jesus alludes to. Consider the following two articles pertaining to man-made viruses using Artificial Intelligence and “Sidewinder” that could wipe out life on earth:

Lab-Grown LIFE Takes a Major Step Forward – As Scientists Use AI to Create a Virus Never Seen Before

By William Hunter, Senior Science & Technology Reporter

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-15498221/Lab-grown-LIFE-AI-virus.html>

26 January 2026

Scientists Issue an Urgent Warning over Lab-Made 'Mirror Bacteria' That Could Wipe Out Mankind

By William Hunter, Senior Science & Technology Reporter

13 December 2024

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-14189233/Scientists-URGENT-warning-mirror-life.html>

Pertaining to earthquakes, they too have been part of Earth’s history since the flood of Noah. Luke records that Jesus said “great earthquakes.” The books of Isaiah and Revelation predict a future great, global earthquake which results in “every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.” Since the time Jesus spoke these warning in Luke, there have not been “great earthquakes” of this magnitude. Therefore, they must apply to a future event.

Isa 24:19 The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly. 20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again. 21 It shall come to pass in that day That the Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones, And on the earth the kings of the earth. 22 They will be gathered together, As prisoners are gathered in the pit, And will be shut up in the prison; After many days they will be punished. 23 Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; For the Lord of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before His elders, gloriously.

Rev 6:12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Rev 16:17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" 18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. 19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

Evolutionary geology would say it is impossible to have a global earthquake. But Jesus predicts there will be. Therefore the evolutionary paradigm about the root causes of earthquakes must be wrong.

2 Peter 3:5-7 teaches that the world was once destroyed by the flood of Noah, and that the energy reserved in the crust and mantle from this cataclysm will someday burst forth to destroy again by fire (see Dr. Walt Brown's hydroplate theory of the flood at www.creationscience.com, www.hydroplate.org for an explanation of how the flood of Noah occurred and how global earthquakes and magma eruptions are events waiting to happen).

Jesus also said that earthquakes would be in "various places". Currently, about 90% of all earthquakes are located in what is called the Pacific Ring of Fire. However, we know based on Dr. Walt Brown's Hydroplate Theory explanation for the flood of Noah that the inner earth is becoming more unstable due to the deep earthquakes (greater than 220 miles). Below this depth, earthquakes melt rock along the fault line creating magma that wants to increase in density (decrease in volume) which creates low pressure areas which increases stresses in the area setting up conditions for another earthquake. The resultant instability will someday cause earthquakes to occur in "various places" ultimately becoming global.

For decades some have claimed that earthquakes are increasing in fulfillment of this prophecy. But this claim is currently easy to challenge depending on how you graph the data (number of quakes?, number of earthquakes above a certain magnitude?, energy released by all earthquakes?, etc.). For example consider the following, year to date data for North American earthquakes greater than 2.5 and 4.5 magnitude

Earthquakes >2.5 Feb 4, 2024-Feb 4 2025 = 2804

Earthquakes >2.5 Feb 4, 2025-Feb 4 2026 = 2569

Earthquakes >4.5 Feb 4, 2024-Feb 4 2025 = 43

Earthquakes >4.5 Feb 4, 2025-Feb 4 2026 = 21

However, the day is coming when earthquakes, pestilence, famines are so frequent, widespread and destructive that no one will dispute that Jesus' prediction has been fulfilled.

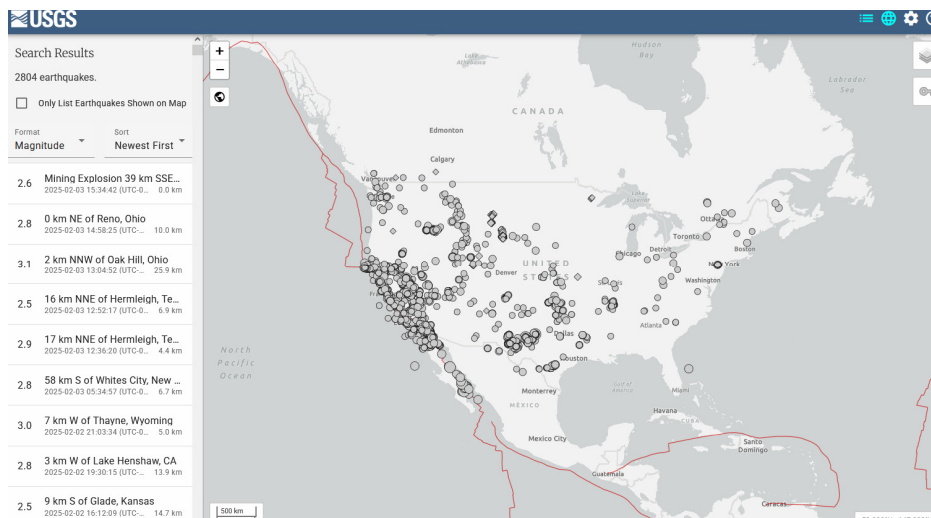
For a complete explanation for why earthquakes will increase, show up in unexpected places, and ultimately become globally cataclysmic, search on "Earthquakes 2012 update" on Youtube where you can watch my 1 hour, 36 minute teaching based on Dr. Walt Brown's hydroplate theory <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWUxW6B-5Ro>. Other teachings are available at Hydroplate.org (<https://hydroplate.org/?page=2>) and soon at HPTuniversity.com.

Luke verse 11 - and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. Josephus also records that there were fearful sights and great signs from heaven when the city of Jerusalem was under siege in A.D. 70 (*Wars of the Jews*, Book 6, Chapter 5), and Jesus could have been warning His disciples about this coming event in A.D. 70.

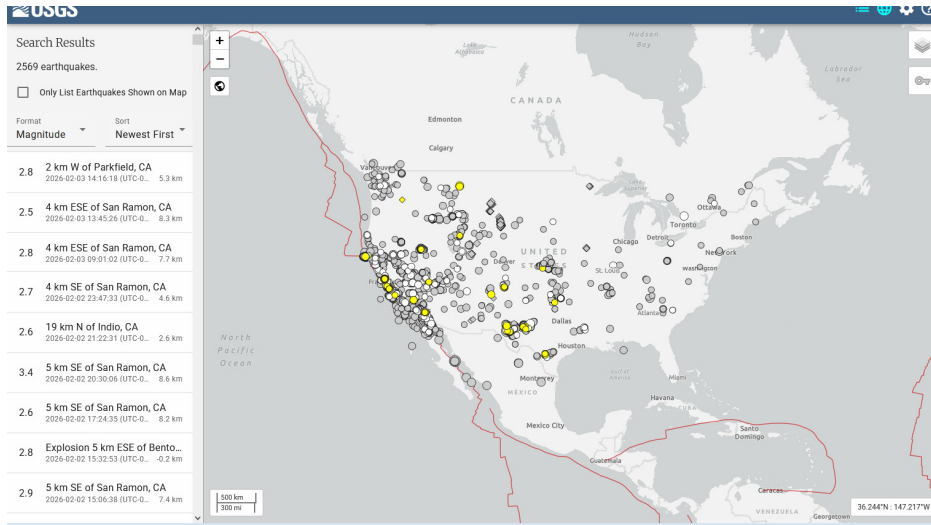
However, later on in the discourse Jesus goes on to explain that the signs in the heavens will include the sun and moon being darkened. Because these events have not occurred since this prophecy, it is possible that this portion of His answer to the disciples had a near and far meaning.

Since 2008, some have taught that combinations of lunar and solar eclipses on Jewish feast days are what Jesus was talking about when he spoke of “great signs from heaven.” However, solar and lunar eclipses are not “great signs” since they have occurred since the creation, are only seen by a small percent of the earth’s population, only last for short time during one night, and now (Nov 2015) that we are weeks past the last set of feast day eclipses, these speculations are proven to be false. **What Jesus was predicting is something so great that everyone on the planet will see it and will know.**

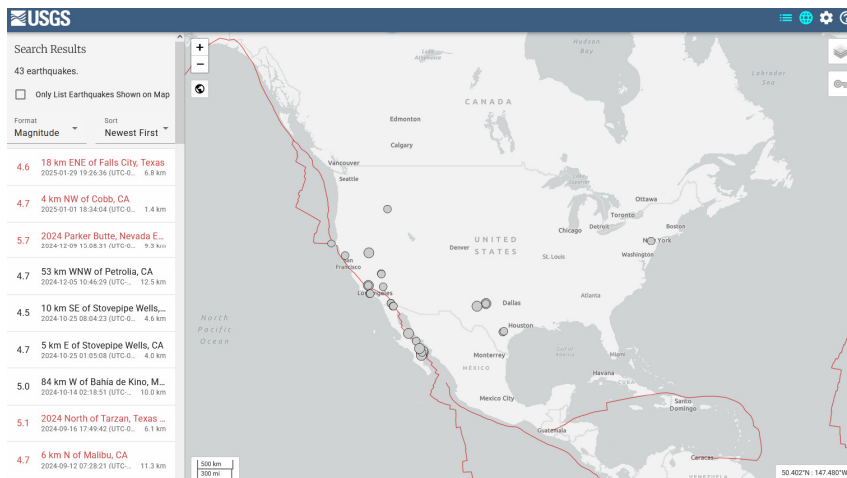
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