

Matthew Series

Lesson #151

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Dean Bible Ministries

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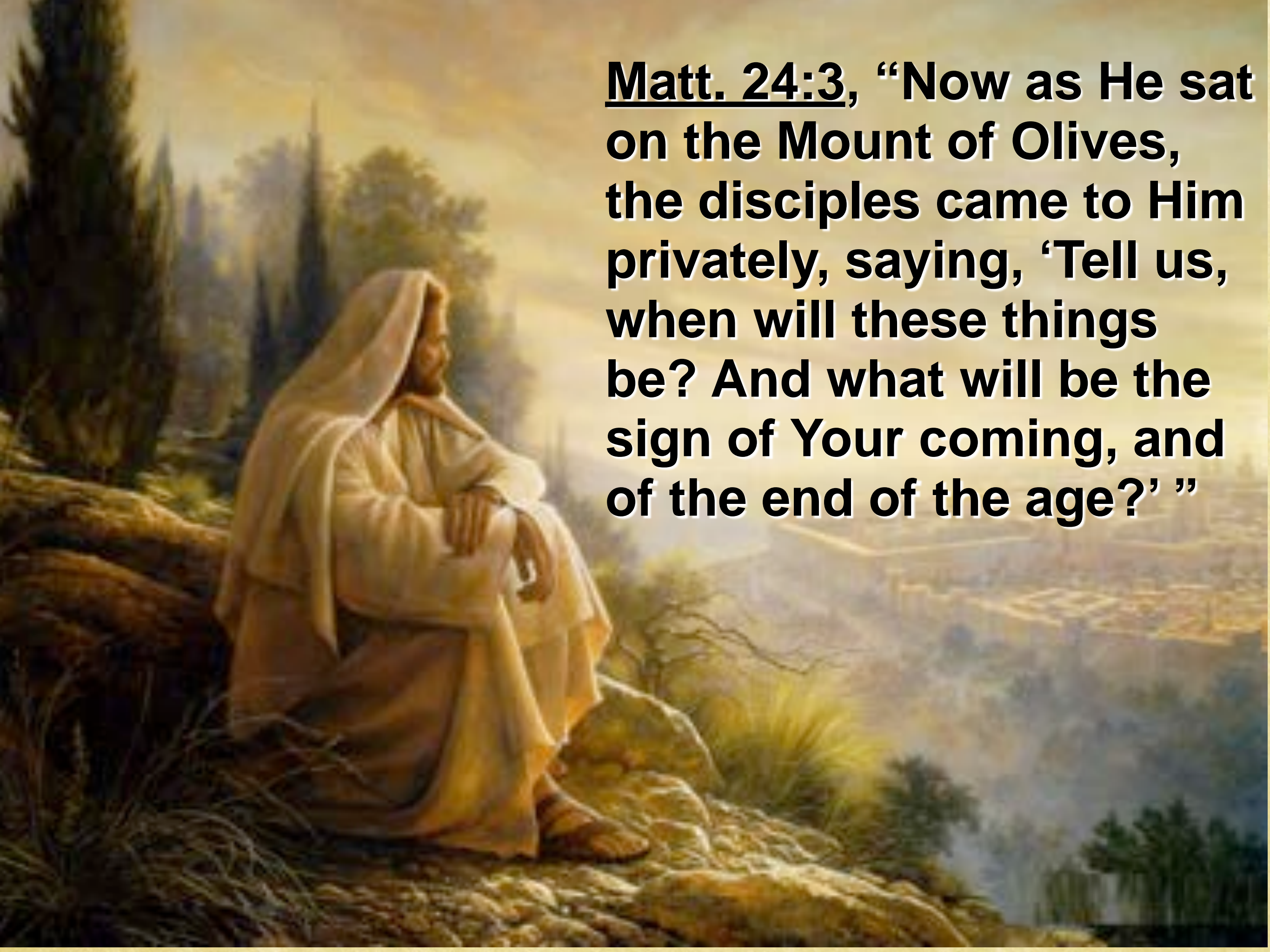
Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

The Beginning of Labor Pains
Matthew 24:4–8

A digital illustration of Jesus sitting on a rocky ledge, looking out over a vast, hazy valley. He is wearing a white robe and a white head covering. The background shows a landscape with trees and a distant city, all under a soft, golden light. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Matt. 24:3, “Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’ ”

Matt. 24:3, “Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, (1) when will these things be? And (2) what will be the sign of Your coming, and *the end of the age?*’ ”

Mark 13:3, “Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately,

Mark 13:4, “ ‘Tell us, (1) when will these things be? (2) And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?’ ”

Matt. 24:3, “Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, (1) when will these things be? And (2) what will be the sign of Your coming, and *end of the age?*’ ”

Sign (singular noun) refers to “Your coming” and “end of the age.”

Matt. 24:30, “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, 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.”

Of these two questions, Matthew and Mark answer the second, Luke answers the first as well, Luke 21:20–24; he adds the answer to the second in Luke 21:25–36.

- 1. Jesus is talking to them as Jews about Jewish prophecy.**
- 2. The Olivet Discourse is the last thing Jesus said to the Jews about Israel.**
- 3. Nothing in the Olivet Discourse is about Church Age believers or has direct application to Church Age believers.**
- 4. All living Church Age believers will be raptured and taken to Heaven before the beginning of the Tribulation.**

1 Thess. 4:15, “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

1 Thess. 4:16, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thess. 4:17, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up [*harpazo*] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

Rev. 3:10, “Because you have kept My command to persevere, [grammatically this goes to the previous verse]

I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

Three Views

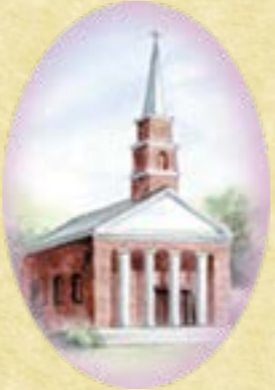
Preterism: Most prophecy including all of Matt. 24 and Rev. 4–19 was fulfilled in AD 70.

Historicism: Most prophecy including all of Matt. 24 and Rev. 4–19 is being fulfilled in the inter-advent age, between the two comings. Thus we can point to some contemporary events as fulfillments of these prophecies.

Futurism: Most prophecy including all of Matt. 24 and Rev. 4–19 will be fulfilled in the future. We hold to dispensational futurism.

THREE INTERPRETIVE FRAMEWORKS

JESUS CHRIST
JUDGED INSTEAD
OF BELIEVERS



Rapture of the Church

Second Coming

TRIBULATION
FIRST SECOND
3 1/2 3 1/2
YEARS YEARS

MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

HISTORICISM

AD 33

AD 70

AD ??

FUTURISM

MATT. 24
REV. 4-19

PRETERISM

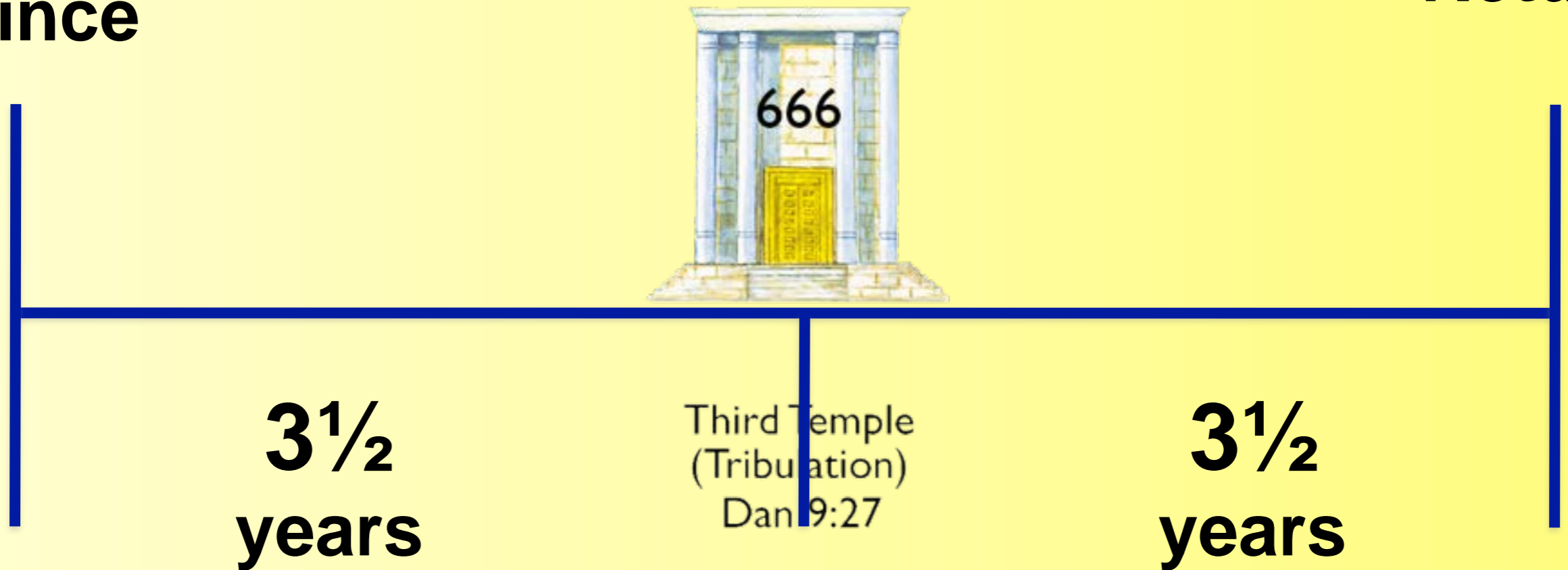
ETERNITY
NO KINGDOM

Daniel's Seventy "Weeks" Seventy Periods of Sevens

DAN. 9:24-27

**The
Coming
Prince**

**Messiah
Returns**



The Tribulation is for ISRAEL

Daniel's Seventy "Weeks"

The Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jer. 30:7)

The
Coming
Prince

DAN. 9:24-27

Messiah
Returns

The "beginning of
labor pains" Matt. 24:8

"but the end is not yet."
Matt. 24:6



Increased labor
pains:

"*then* the end will
come." Matt. 24:14

**3½
years**

Third Temple
(Tribulation)
Dan 9:27

**3½
years**

The Tribulation is for ISRAEL

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),”

- 1. The first 3.5 years of Daniel's seventieth week: The *beginning of sorrows* (labor pains) Matt. 24:4–8.**
- 2. The second 3.5 years of Daniel's seventieth week: Increased persecution of Jews after the Antichrist breaks the covenant (Matt. 24:9–12).**

Zech. 14:1, “Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst.

Zech. 14:2, “For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”

1. *Then (tote Greek)* shows progression of time through Matt. 24:4–31.

Matt. 24:4, “ And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you.’ ”

...

Matt. 24:8, “ ‘All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Matt. 24:9, “ ‘Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.

Matt. 24:10, “ ‘And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Matt. 24:11, “ ‘Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.’ ”

Matt. 24:4, “And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you.’ ”

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and **τότε *tote* Adverb (temp)**

Mat then; cf, Matt. 23:1; to introduce that **se
up which follows in time (BDAG)**

Matt. 24:9, “ ‘Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.

Matt. 24:10, “ ‘And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.’ ”

Matt. 24:14, “ ‘And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.’ ”

Matt. 24:16, “ ‘then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.’ ”

Matt. 24:21, “ ‘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.’ ”

Matt. 24:23, “ ‘Then if anyone says to you, “Look, here is the Christ!” or “There!” do not believe it.’ ”

Matt. 24:30, “ ‘Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, 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.’ ”

2. *For* indicates that vs. 7, is an explanation and cannot be separated from vs. 6.

Matt. 24:6, “ ‘And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Matt. 24:7, “ ‘*For* nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.’ ”

3. Important phrases:

Matt. 24:6, “but the end is not yet.”

Matt. 24:8, “but these are the beginning of sorrows (birth pangs, labor pains).”

Matt. 24:9, “*then* they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you ...”

4. Therefore, Matt. 24:4–8 describes the first half of the Tribulation, and Matt. 24:9–14 describes the second half.

The second half focuses on the intensified hostility toward Jews and Israel during the second half.

5. A hard break occurs at Matt. 24:15, “Therefore, when,” which draws a conclusion.

Matt. 24:15–28 provides the solution to Israel-based believers to survive the intense hostility of the second half.

Matt. 24:4, “And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you.’ ”

Matt. 24:4, “And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you.’ ”

**βλέπω *blepō*
pres act impera 2
plur
“to see, watch,
therefore, ‘Watch
out, Stay alert’ ”**

**πλανᾶω *planaō*
aor act subj 3
sing
“to deceive,
lead astray,
cause to
wander”**

Matt. 24:4, “And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you.

Matt. 24:5, “ ‘For many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ,” and will deceive many.’ ”

Matt. 24:11, “ ‘Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.’ ”

Matt. 24:24, “ ‘For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.’ ”

“The beginning of labor pains”

Isa. 13:6–13

Jer. 30:6–7

“The idea [in ancient Judaism] became entrenched that the coming of the Messiah will be preceded by greatly increased suffering ... This will last seven years. And then, unexpectedly, the Messiah will come.”

~Raphael Patai, *The Messianic Texts*, 1979

“A prominent feature of Jewish eschatology, as represented by the rabbinic literature, was the time of trouble preceding Messiah’s coming. It was called ‘the birth pangs of the Messiah,’ sometimes more briefly translated a ‘the Messianic woes.’ ”

~Millar Burrows, *Burrows on the Dead Sea Scrolls*, pp. 343–44)

Isa. 13:8, “And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames.”