

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study for May 16, 2015

**“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”
Colossians 3: 1-2**

From Pastor Bob’s Notes:

OLIVET DISCOURSE (Mark 13:3-27)

After leaving the Temple with His disciplines, one of them said to him, *“Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”* ² And Jesus said to him, *“Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down”* (Mark 13:1-2).

³ *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?”* (Matthew 24:3).

Introduction to the Olivet Discourse

The Olivet Discourse is a prime source of instruction for Jesus’ Apostles and disciples – including us. Throughout history there has always been much discussion about the Olivet Discourse and its meaning

JESUS’ TEACHINGS (Read Mark 13:1; Matthew 24:4-28)

The Olivet Discourse was a pure teaching experience for the Apostles.

“And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” ² And Jesus said to him, *“Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down”* (Mark 13:1-2).

When did that occur? In 70, the Roman army laid siege of Jerusalem in what was the decisive event of the [First Jewish–Roman War](#). The army, led by the future Emperor Flavius [Titus](#) besieged and conquered the city of [Jerusalem](#), which had been occupied by its [Jewish](#) defenders in 66.

Titus surrounded the city, with three [legions](#) on the western side and a fourth on the [Mount of Olives](#) to the east. He put pressure on the food and water supplies of the inhabitants by allowing pilgrims to enter the city to celebrate [Passover](#), and then refusing to allow them back out.

First century historian, Flavius Josephus claimed that 1.1 million people were killed during the siege, of which a majority was Jewish, and that 97,000 were captured and enslaved. Some were assigned to gladiatorial games, some to Roman mines, and others were exiled from Judea and scattered throughout the Roman Empire and other nations.

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The siege ended with the sacking of the city and the destruction of the Temple. The Jewish revolt which began in 63 met its bitter end at Masada, built as a fortress by Herod the great between 37-31 BC. Masada is situated on top of an isolated rock [plateau](#) on the eastern edge of the [Judean Desert](#), overlooking the [Dead Sea](#). It fell to Roman legions in, c. 73-74.

The temple's destruction put an end to the Jewish sacrificial system which resulted in the creation of new rituals for home and synagogue. Another result was that the Sanhedrin was dissolved.

“And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?”

⁵ *“And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray” (Mark 13:3-6).*

Who are those would come to lead them astray?

They will be false messiahs and false prophets who “*will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect*” (Matthew 24:24).

The Scriptures identify a couple of them.

In Acts 5:36-39: Gamaliel warned the High Priest and the Sadducees to not act in haste in dealing with the Apostles, mentioning the short-lived, unsuccessful uprisings lead by Theudas (44-46) and after him Judas the Galilean (6).

Of the Apostles he said, “. . . *keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!*” (Acts 5:38-39).

Before Judas the Galilean and Thedus, there were [Simon of Peraea](#) (c. 4 BC), a former slave of [Herod the Great](#); and [Athronges](#) (c. 4–2? BC), a shepherd turned leader of a rebellion.

And after them, numerous others; the most famous of whom was [Simon bar Kokhba](#) (?– died c. 135). The list of would-be messiahs extends even into the 20th century ([Menachem Mendel Schneerson](#) {1902–1994}) who was hailed as messiah by his followers).

The Book of Revelation identifies two beasts - one “*rising out of the sea*” (Rev. 13:1) and the other “*rising out of the earth*” (Rev. 13:11) that are identified by some as political and religious entities that, at the end of the age, “*deceives those who dwell on earth*” (Rev. 13:14).

⁷ *And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.* (Mark 13:7-8).

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The events of which Jesus spoke were called "*birth pains*" because they will usher in a new era of God's creation. The metaphor refers to the beginning of sorrows, a prelude of what would be and far from the worst that would follow. They would pale in comparison of what would befall Israel and other non-believers in the day of God's wrath.

⁹ *"But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them.* ¹⁰ *And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.* ¹¹ *And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.* ¹² *And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death.* ¹³ *And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved"* (Mark 13:9-13).

What were the fates of the Apostles?

According to tradition, all except Judas Iscariot and John were martyred. Judas, of course, committed suicide out of remorse for his betrayal of Jesus and John died a natural death in his 90s. (This will be discussed during a latter session).

¹⁴ *"But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains"* (Mark 13:14).

What is "the abomination of desolation"?

As is noted in Matthew 24, Jesus referenced "*the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel*" who spoke of one who would, "*put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation*" (Daniel 9:27).

The prophecy came true in 167 B.C. when a Greek ruler by the name of [Antiochus IV Epiphanies](#) set up an altar to Zeus over the altar of burnt offerings in the Temple in Jerusalem. He also sacrificed a pig on the temple's altar. That is what became known as the "abomination of desolation."

Jesus was speaking some 200 years after the abomination of desolation described above, so He must have been prophesying about some future person and event.

Many Bible prophecy interpreters believe that He was referring to the coming "Antichrist" who will do something very similar to what Antiochus Epiphanies did, but more. For instance, the Antiochus did not confirm a covenant with Israel for seven years. It will be the "Antichrist" who, in the end times, will do that and then break it by doing something similar to the abomination of desolation in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem.

Revelation 13:14-15 describes an image that will be established which all must worship. Mark 13:14 notes that the "abomination of desolation" will stand "where it ought not," which some concluded to be the temple.

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¹⁵ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, ¹⁶ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁷ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ¹⁸ Pray that it may not happen in winter (or on a Sabbath (Matthew 24:20). ¹⁹ For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. ²⁰ And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. ²¹ And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. ²² For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³ But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand."

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 in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory" (Mark 13:15-26).

These are obviously future events since they have not yet occurred. They represent the "sign" the disciples asked about: (*what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?*) [Matthew 24:3]).

²⁷ "And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven" (Mark 12:27).

NEXT TIME: Who are the Elite?

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- 25 men were served. This was John's last breakfast. If you were unable to make this one hope you can make the next one. Many hands will make light of the tasks.
- **Treasurer's report:**

Starting Cash:	\$120.00
Collected:	\$ 88.00
Expenses:	\$ 23.00
Balance:	\$185.00

=> Next Men's Bible Study is at 0800 Saturday morning June 6th

Lift up prayers for:

- Sharon (Dean's wife)
- Ron (Ray's neighbor)
- Margaret Jones (Bob's friend)
- Mitze Ricks
- June Ricks (Billy's Sister-in-Law)
- Dot and Melvin Simms (Cliff's parents)
- Tomianne Anderson (Jim Langnecker's niece)
- Jennette Duncan (Larry Thomas)
- Frank Messina (Carlyle's former Brother-In-Law)

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- Bonnie Savelle
- Chloe and Hannah Savelle (Carlyle's granddaughters)
- David and Susan Boggs (Carlyle)
- Erline White
- Joan (Ernie's sister)
- Karen Sittig
- S.T.
- Bucky Creekmore (S.T.'s nephew)
- Bill McMurphy (S.T.'s son-in-law)
- Maria Gewerth
- Umberto Fristachi (Joe's Brother-In-Law)
- Ronnie and Adrianna Reed (Joe's Brother and Sister-In-Law)
- Scott (Joe's brother)
- Doug Dunagan and Natalie
- Bruce and Amy Clark
- Jennifer (Doug)
- Mike and Nancy Daniels
- Tom Tracy's very busy work schedule – time management
- Mary Early (Terry's wife)
- Bill Naise (Julian Swain)
- Frank Stevens
- Jimmy and Velma Meads

~GOD BLESS YOU, ALL MY BROTHERS, UNTIL NEXT TIME! ><> ☺

A square box containing the handwritten name "John" in a cursive script.