

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #270

Tuesday of Passion Week... Day of Testing and Teaching Jesus' Private Teaching to His Disciples: The "Olivet Discourse"

Part IV: Three More of the Conditions Preceding Jesus' Final Coming MT 24.23-31 (Parallel Texts: MK 13.21-27; LK 21.25-27)

False Christs, including the Anti-Christ

23 "At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25^MI command you to remain on your guard. ^{MT}See, I have told you ahead of time.

26 "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. 27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

Signs and Distress in the Stars and Sky

*29 "IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DISTRESS OF THOSE DAYS
"THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED,
AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT;
THE STARS WILL FALL FROM THE SKY,
AND THE HEAVENLY BODIES WILL BE SHAKEN.'*

^L"Nations on the earth will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

The "Sign of the Son of Man" Visible in the Sky Throughout the World

30^{MT}"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	On Mount Olivet, Just Outside Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	C. Tuesday: Day of Testing and Teaching
	Jesus' Private Teaching to His Disciples: "The Olivet Discourse"
Title	Part IV: Three More of the Conditions Preceding Jesus' Final Coming

COMMENT:

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In today's reading Jesus gave three more conditions that will immediately precede his final coming. They are:

(1) The rise of false Christ's, with the power of signs and wonders to deceive people into believing they are really Jesus back on earth. Jesus had already talked about false prophets in the previous reading, and he mentioned them again here. The false prophets will support the false Messiahs, culminating in the rise of the THE Antichrist in the end.

(2) Signs in the sky, including the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars. These will be more than mere eclipses. They will be ongoing conditions. These phenomenon will send the whole world into consternation and fear.

(3) The sign of the Son of man will fill the entire sky so that everyone in the world will be able to see it. We do not now know what this sign is, but it will be obvious to everyone when it God places it in the sky. It probably be similar to the impact of a rainbow that covered the entire earth. No one will be able to miss it.

When these three signs are added to the four that Jesus spoke about in the last reading, they total seven distinct conditions that will all be fulfilled simultaneously before Jesus' final coming. This particular cluster of seven fulfilled conditions fit together as a package to indicate Jesus's return is imminent. It is the simultaneous fulfillment of all seven conditions that will announce the advent of the Lord's final coming.

Jesus also gave two commands here. The first was a repetition of the **"stay constantly on your guard"** command that Jesus began the discourse with. This is the key imperative of the discourse.

As an expression of this attitude, Jesus also commanded that we **"do not believe"** the false prophets and messiahs. This is possible because he gave us this authoritative checklist of seven conditions that will precede his coming. No false prophet or Messiah will be able to duplicate these seven factors.

APPLICATION:

Jesus' list of seven simultaneous conditions is critical to staying on our guard regarding his final return.

Write these seven conditions down for yourself, and memorize them.

This is the most direct application of Jesus' teaching in the Olivet Discourse. He gave us this information so that we could protect ourselves from deception with it. The history of the church shows that many believers have failed to use this list to guard against error, and false prophets. The results have been tragic.