

BACK TO THE FUTURE: UNDERSTANDING REVELATION IN LIGHT OF JESUS' PROPHECY
Temple Confrontation with Religious Leaders and the Olivet Discourse with Disciples
(Matthew 24–25 (with echoes from Matthew 23; Daniel 7; Luke 21))

Rejoice in Trials, Tribulations and Persecution

Romans 5:3–5 — “We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope...”

Matthew 5:11–12 — “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you... Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven...”

James 1:2–4 — “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness...”

1 Peter 4:13–14 — “But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”

Acts 5:41 — “Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.”

Luke 6:22–23 — “Blessed are you when people hate you... Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven.”

So plant your feet, lift your head, and nail your colors to the mast: **Jesus is Lord!**

“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for your labor in Him is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

❖ **Question One — “When will these things happen?”** (Matt. 24:4–28)

- The Birth Pains, not the Birth (vv. 4–8)
- Pressure on the People of God (vv. 9–13)
- The Gospel’s Unstoppable Advance (v. 14)
- The Signal to Flee (vv. 15–20)

“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation... standing in the holy place... then let those in Judea flee to the mountains.”

- The Great Tribulation of That Generation (vv. 21–22)

“This generation will not pass away until all these things take place” (v. 34)

- Don’t Chase After False Saviors (vv. 23–27)

❖ **Question Two — “What will be the sign of Your coming?”** (Matthew 24:29–34)

“When will You come back at the end of history?” “When will You take Your throne? When will You be vindicated as King? When will come in judgement, into your kingdom?”

- Cosmic Metaphors for Earth-Shaking Judgment (v. 29)
- The Son of Man Vindicated in Heaven (v. 30)
- The Gathering of the Elect (v. 31)
- Near—Right at the Door—and Again: *This Generation* (vv. 32–34)

❖ **Question Three — “What about the end of the age?”** (Matt. 24:35–25:46)

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows” (24:36)

- No One Knows the Day (24:35–36)
- Like a Thief, So Be Ready (24:42–44)
- Faithful Servants, Not Sluggish Ones (24:45–51)
- Jesus keeps teaching in Matthew 25—three parables for the in-between time.
 - *Ten Virgins (25:1–13): Readiness*—keep oil in your lamp; intimacy with the Bridegroom is your only entrance.
 - *Talents (25:14–30): Responsibility*—invest what the King has given; fear is not faith.

- *Sheep and Goats (25:31–46): Reality*—final judgment is sure; love for the least reveals loyalty to the Lord.

- The Nations Gathered, the King Judges (25:31–46)

So Here is the Four-Fold Call for a Faithful People

- *Endure with Courage.*
- *Witness with Clarity.*
- *Worship with Oil in the Lamp.*
- *Work with What He Gave You.*

Our testimony is simple and strong: **Watch. Witness. Worship. Work.**