



**Jesus Warns: Deception  
Lies, Lies and More Lies  
A Sign of the End  
The Olivet Discourse  
Matthew 24 & 25**

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Let me set the stage for you for the Olivet Discourse. Jesus has just left the Temple. He has made it clear that God is not there, and He is not in the worship taking place there. In fact, He has just said that He as God is leaving until the nation asks Him to return quoting from Psalm 118.26. Centuries earlier, Hosea predicted this moment.



Hosea 5:15 “I will go away and return to My place **Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their distress they will search for Me.**” (NASB 2020)

And yes, we know that that exact moment does not take place until the end of the Great Tribulation.

As He is walking away from the Temple, not to return until the moment we read of in Zechariah 14, the disciples are walking with Him and are wondering what has just happened.

They thought the Kingdom was about to begin, nope, that has been off the table for quite sometime now as in Matthew 12:22-45 the leadership attributed His works to Satan. That watershed event changed everything, and the Kingdom was off the table not to return for a long time.

What they have just heard though has them curious. When? We are curious as well.

For the disciples though, they have anticipated the Kingdom.

They have seen the miracles and really struggled to understand the people not believing, in fact one of their own number is one of those who do not believe, Judas Icarion.

They really want to see the Kingdom established but just now, they heard the King Himself pronounce a curse on the Temple.

The Lord is walking away from Israel but for how long? There are questions. Spoiler alert.

Hosea 6:1–2

“Come, let’s return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. “He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him.” (NASB 2020)

Israel is back in the land, yep we are at that point. In other words, we are entering or have entered the third day referred to here in Hosea. So, now the questions take on a new perspective.

Israel is in the land as a nation. What was before about to happen, is now happening everywhere and all at once.

Matthew 24:1–2

“Jesus left the temple area and was going on His way when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. But He responded and said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”” (NASB 2020)

Actually, at that time, the Temple buildings were not yet completed. The Temple Compound was begun by Herod the Great in 20 B.C., but it was not finished until A.D. 64, only six years before its destruction. The words of the Olivet Discourse were spoken in the year A.D. 30, so the building of the Temple Compound had been going on for fifty years. They would continue the building for another thirty-four years. The stones, which so impressed the disciples were indeed magnificent, and some of them are still visible in the walls of the Temple Compound to this day. These “Herodian Stones” are huge, each measuring ten to twelve feet in length and weighing several tons. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 4)

Jesus is talking to Jews, and the Jews are used to a specific prophetic proof type.



The prophets have always given a prophecy that has a near fulfillment, prior to going for the gusto and giving us those prophecies we are still waiting for even today. But because the near event took place, we know it is a prophecy from the Lord. Jesus does no different.

He has given the near prophecy and will also provide guidance for those in Israel as this near prophecy begins to happen. That guidance is in Luke 21. There it is not in relation to the abomination of desolation, but rather to the near prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem.

Luke 21:20–24

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are inside the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; because these are days of punishment, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled. Woe to those women who are pregnant, and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people; and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” (NASB 2020)

Without going into a detailed historical review, at a point in history, Jerusalem was indeed attacked by the Twelfth Legion from Syria which moved into Jerusalem and captured the northern portions of the city but then had to withdraw. That would have been the first warning. There would be another in 68AD when Vespasian encircled Jerusalem but due to the suicide of Nero and political instability back home, things were suspended until the summer of 69AD. Yes, many of those who were followers of Jesus fled and there would be one more pause. Thanks to civil war in Rome. But when Titus arrived, that pause ended and now Vespasian was emperor, it is 70AD.

Christians in Jerusalem knew what Jesus had said and they obeyed Him, fleeing across the Jordan River to a city named Pella. No Christians perished in the fall of Jerusalem. For these are the days of vengeance: But 1.1 million Jews were killed; and another 97,000 were taken captive in one of the worst calamities ever to strike the Jewish people. Jesus warned them to avoid it. (Guzik 2013, Lk 21:20-24a)

So, now we focus on what it is Jesus said there on the Mount of Olives and we will take a few times to cover this.

Matthew 24:3–4

“And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, **“Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”** And Jesus answered and said to them, **“See to it that no one misleads you.”** (NASB 2020)

Mark 13:3–5

“As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew were questioning Him privately, **“Tell us, when will these things come about, and what will be the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”** And Jesus began to say to them, **“See to it that no one misleads you.”** (NASB 2020)

Luke 21:7–8

“They asked Him questions, saying, **“Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?”** And He said, **“See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not go after them.”** (NASB 2020)

Before we get into the questions, there is the number one sign that Jesus warned His disciples about concerning the end of the age, it is this...deception.



Let's camp on this for a bit, deception, lying, gas lighting, misleading, and on and on.

There was a story released just this past week that was a full-blown video of an army of Chinese robots on a range firing weapons. "The viral post stated: "China officially begins training robots in preparation for military service. The live-fire testing of the Chinese robot 'Unitree' (Yushu) looks as if it were generated by AI. This is fascinating; in the future, wars may no longer require humans."” However, an analysis by Grok indicated that the video appears to be artificially generated. (ET Online 2026)

But for a short while, the panic online appeared to be genuine. Deception is alive and well online. It is also alive and well in the news media too.

It has reached the point that there are now several US departments that produce a news versus truth page every month.

Our challenge as followers of Jesus Christ is learning to discern what it is we see or read online or in the news. Will the enemy impersonate and try to destroy the ministry of others. Absolutely.

The only difference now is the image looks like and sounds like but isn't who you think it is.

Most AI fakes are easy enough to identify, for now. Six fingers on everyone tends to do that. But how much longer will that last? Why does this matter? Because Jesus tells us it is the sign of the time we live in. We want to believe what people tell us, but there are those today in politics who just do not tell the truth as truth is defined in the dictionary. They will indeed redefine the word for you to give themselves a pass as it is their truth, not your truth. But the Bible is objective truth that never changes. That is what Satan also has under attack in these last days.

Deceiving and being deceived. Self-deception.

2 Timothy 3:12–13

"Indeed, all who want to live in a godly way in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil people and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived." (NASB 2020)

What we are seeing today are those who are busy deceiving the flock, and they have also deceived themselves. How can someone lie and believe their own lie, easy, they have deceived themselves. There are four criteria that "must be satisfied simultaneously for the state of self-deception to exist :

1. A person must hold two contradictory beliefs.
2. These beliefs must be held simultaneously.
3. Only one of these beliefs must be subject to awareness.
4. The state of non-awareness, that is, the choice of what the individual chooses not to think about, is intentional. (van der Spuy 2011, 202)

In other words, the former Fox News personality who experiences the hospitality of Israel on video, but says he was held against his will.

I don't know about you, but I receive anywhere from five to fifteen phone calls everyday where the intent of the caller is to lie to me and get me to agree to do something I would never ever do. They try to disarm us by being friendly yet never identifying why they have called until they believe they have you in the palm of their hand.



This level of in-your-face deception also exists in the church today as well. Some of it is so blatant that you avoid it like the plague. But then there is what we see the enemy doing here in the last days, and we were warned by Jesus, Paul, John and Peter about this.

Here is a warning sign for us, if we hear of a manifestation of the Spirit, of revival and signs and wonders taking place. Things that tickle our fancy and lead us to believe that God has come down to visit us. Look out. We really want to believe revival is taking place and when true Biblical revival does, with it comes hearts broken over sin and lives changed and a church becoming obedient to Christ. It does not necessarily manifest as a carnival with folks being “slain in the spirit” or thrills, chills, gold dust and signs and wonders and other things taking place that you have never read about in the Bible at all. And yes, music can be part of that.

Music can bring us into the throne room of God, and it can also be used to deceive us to begin to become accepting of false teaching and theology. “Carefully crafted music is emotionally powerful, and it can therefore be quite seductive. It has a way of bypassing a person’s head and going straight to their heart. Maybe you’re like us and you’ve caught yourself singing along to a song with lyrics you don’t agree with—and with content you find morally objectionable—because the tune is catchy, the singer’s voice exudes passion, and you aren’t paying much attention. You’ve just been “feeling the music.” It can be a bit jarring, even embarrassing, to realize that you’ve been heedlessly paying tribute to some pagan sentiment or lustful impulse. To paraphrase an actual song, “How can it be so wrong when it feels so right?” (Pivec and Geivett 2022, 149-150)

Welcome to the world of commercialized worship music, deception in acceptable packaging. That is what makes deception work in the church. A warning from Peter about all this topic.

2 Peter 2:1–3

“But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their indecent behavior, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.” (NASB 2020)

Jesus warns us to keep us faithful and aware that we must be discerning all the time.

The songs Christians sing, especially in church services, are powerful. They aren’t just words on your lips, they express beliefs that penetrate your heart. Many people go home after a service and keep singing the songs long after they’ve forgotten the pastor’s message. Like it or not, belief is woven into hearts through music. Contemporary Christian music is the catechism of today’s evangelical church. So we must always ask what message is being conveyed by a song’s lyrics. (Pivec and Geivett 2022, 140)

You see, our enemy is a liar and all of those who work for him lie as well. And many write music, since their boss used to be a song leader at the throne of God.

When a false teacher or worship leader has allowed themselves to become self deceived to the point they believe their own lies, and look at all of the people who are swaying to the music and letting the spirit flow, how can it be wrong?

There are songs that move me to tears, How Great Thou Art for example. And there are some great new songs that do the same. But the goal of some, is to deceive, hook and mislead.

There is a guy coming who will be really good at this.



Revelation 13:13–15

“He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of the sky to the earth in the presence of people. And he deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause all who do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.” (NASB 2020)

Lots more to come as we deal with the words of Jesus in the Olivet Discourse.

Let's pray.

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