

## *Olivet Discourse*

*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?  
Matthew 24:3*

During the approach of hurricane Iren, people separated themselves into two categories, on the one hand were those ones who took it very seriously and made adequately long term preparations, and on the other hand were those who showed little concern and made no preparations at all.

Although the warning was sounded days in advance, although visual evidence of the approaching storm was presented, in spite of all the historical data of past destruction from related storms, there were some who were presumptuous and refused to take the threat seriously.

In much the same way with regards to the return of Jesus Christ for His church (rapture) and His second advent (the millennial rein), you have some who take it very seriously and prepare for His return, and those on the other hand who will not take it seriously and will fail to make themselves ready for His return.

***Matt 24:42-50 Watch therefore***, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have ***watched*** and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 ***Therefore you also be ready***, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. 45 Who then is ***a faithful and wise servant....?*** 46 ***"Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.*** 48 But if ***that evil servant says in his heart, My master is delaying his coming.*** 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of.

***Mark 13:32-37*** But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 ***Take heed, watch and pray***; for you do not know when the time is. 34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and ***gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and***

*commanded the doorkeeper to watch. 35 Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—36 lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"*

*Luke 12:37-38 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.... 38 And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.*

*Luke 21:34-36 But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

*Matt 24:44,50 ... for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of.*

*Mark 13: 33 ... for you do not know when the time is.*

*Luke 21:35 ... it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself has given us various signs to watch for as an indicator of His return. *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us,<sup>1</sup>when will these things be? And <sup>2</sup>what will be the sign of Your coming, and of<sup>3</sup>the end of the age? Matthew 24:3*

*These are the beginning of sorrows spoken of by Jesus at the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24/Mark 13/Luke 21*

*Matthew 24:4-8,10-12 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,'*

*and will deceive many.* 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. 7 For *nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.* And there will be *famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.* 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 10 And then *many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.* 11 Then *many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.* 12 And because lawlessness will abound, *the love of many will grow cold.*

**Mark 13:12** Now *brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.*

**Luke 21:9,25** But when you *hear of wars and commotions (instability, a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion),* do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately." 25 And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth *distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;*

**Many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ and deceive many;**

- Jim Jones of the Jonestown massacre, where 912 people were led to their deaths
- Marshall Applewhite founder of the Heaven's Gate cult,
- David Koresh of the Branch Divinian cult, of Waco, TX
- Sun Moon founder of the Unification Church,
- Jose Luis Dejesus Miranda organizer of Growing in Grace claims to be the resurrected Christ integrated himself within him

**And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars;**

- Red Cross estimates show over 100 million people have died in war since the 20<sup>th</sup> century began
- Since world war II there has been 150 major wars (conflicts resulting in 1000 deaths per month) and the death toll has reached 23 million and counting
- In the year 1993 a record 29 major wars were fought

- The United States is currently fighting 2 wars now and posturing for others
- Israel and Iran are rumored to go to war regarding Iran's nuclear capability

***Nation will rise against nation;***

- The Greek word for nation used in the prophecy is "ethnos" in which we get our word "ethnic". In other words Jesus was saying that the races would rebel against each other
- During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century murders perpetrated by nations against their own people exceeded deaths caused by wars outside their boundaries citing Stalin's purges, China's cultural revolution, the killing fields of Cambodia, ethnic cleansing of Bosnia and Rwanda, Hitler's atrocities against the Jews, the current killings in Darfur
- It's been estimated that the killings have exceeded 170 million

***Kingdom will rise against kingdom;***

- The Greek word for kingdom used in the prophecy is "basileia" (baa-see-lay-a) which used in the N.T. refers to the reign of the Messiah
- This Greek word is used 162 times in the N.T. only, and almost always refers to the Kingdom of God or Satan's kingdom

***Revelation 12:12*** Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But ***woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.***

***There will be famines & pestilences;***

- UN: About 5 million North Koreans will continue to face food shortages. The government plans to import only 325,000 metric tons
- UN: Improving economies in developing nations is allowing more people to eat better, but the nearly 1 billion will still face chronic hunger this...
- More than 20 million people in the Horn of Africa need food aid because of two years of poor rainfall, the UN's World Food Program (WFP) says.

- In 2010 All time record breaking heat and drought continues to plague the state of Texas. In fact, extreme drought conditions can be found in many agricultural areas throughout the United States this summer.
- If the drought conditions were not bad enough, a disease known as "late blight" is absolutely devastating tomato and potato plants in the eastern half of the United States. The prices for those two staple foods could shoot through the roof, hitting already hurting American consumers really hard.
- Agricultural scientists fear that Ug99, a devastating wheat fungus also known as stem rust, could wipe out over 80 percent of the world's wheat crop as it spreads out from Africa.
- United Nations UNICEF ORG claims that today almost 26,000 children die daily from hunger-related causes--one child every five seconds.
- 3 billion people in the world today struggle to survive on US\$2/day.

***And earthquakes in various places;***

- Over the past five years, the USGS recorded eight earthquakes with a magnitude of 8.0 or greater.
- Since the year 2000, well over seven hundred thousand people have died as a result of the largest and deadliest earthquakes recorded each year.
- To date, in the year 2011 alone, there have been a recorded thirty five earthquakes with a magnitude of 6.0 or higher
- U.S. Geological Survey recorded 22 magnitude-7 or larger earthquakes in 2010.
- Since the year 2000, there have been a recorded 181 earthquakes with a magnitude between 7.0 to 9.9 worldwide. An average of almost 1.5 per month
- As us Friday 9/2/11, there were 30 recorded earthquakes with a magnitude of 5.0 or higher within the last seven days.

***Many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another; brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death;***

- About 200 children are killed each year in the United States by their mothers or stepmothers, according to government statistics. In the large majority of cases, the victim is under age 6.

- According to data from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, about 3 percent of murder victims ages 15 to 17 are killed by a parent or stepparent. Among victims ages 12 to 14, about 11 percent are killed by a parent or stepparent.
- The federal data analyzed the cases of 52,300 children murdered in the United States between 1980 and 2006. Of the 38,700 cases in which the killer was identified, about a third were killed by a parent or stepparent.

***Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many;***

- Emerging churches are an informal network of worldwide Christian communities who believe God's way for today's generation is to focus more on relationships and emerging ideas than hard-and-fast truths and traditional statements of faith.

***Distress of nations, with perplexity;*** This year alone we witnessed the toppling of several Middle East countries and major uprising in others.

- **Tunisian** President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali loses his grip on power. The country's prime minister announces that he is taking over to organize early elections and usher in a new government.
- Tens of thousands of Shiite-led protesters fill the central district of **Bahrain's** capital in the largest demonstration since the campaign against the government began eight days ago
- Hundreds of thousands of **Egyptians** join nationwide demonstrations to mark the fall one week ago of President Hosni Mubarak and to press the country's military leadership to implement democratic reforms.
- Heavily outnumbered by riot police, thousands of **Algerians** defy government warnings and dodge barricades to rally in their capital, demanding democratic reforms a day after mass protests toppled Egypt's autocratic ruler
- Thousands of people march in cities across **Morocco** demanding a new constitution to bring more democracy in the North African kingdom amid the wave of Arab world upheaval.
- Widespread protests erupted across **Syria** on Friday, suggesting that a deadly military crackdown focused on the central city of Hama this week has served only to fuel anger with the government,
- Hundreds of thousands of **Yemenis** demonstrate in nearly every major city of the country, demanding trial for the family and close aides of the ailing

president. They are the largest protests since President Ali Abdullah Saleh went abroad for medical treatment for injuries suffered in an attack on his compound

- According to a National Climatic Data Center report released in August 2011. Hurricane Irene is very likely to be the 10th billion-dollar disaster of 2011, breaking 2008's record for number of billion-dollar disasters a year, according to preliminary estimates. Between the summer floods, tornados, blizzards and drought, 2011 had already racked up nine natural disasters that cost at least \$1 billion each, tying 2008's record. If damage estimates hold, Irene would make 2011 a record-breaker.

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### **Previous 2011 disasters is the US**

Pre-Irene, economic damage from natural disasters in the U.S. exceeded \$35 billion this year, Those disasters were:

- Upper Midwest flooding (summer): At least \$2 billion of damage as of mid-August
- Mississippi River flooding (spring and summer): \$2 billion to \$4 billion in damage
- Drought, heat wave and wildfires in the Southern Plains and Southwest (spring and summer): Over \$5 billion in damage
- Tornadoes (May 22-27): At least \$7 billion in damage in central and southern states, including the tornado that struck Joplin, Mo., killing 141
- Tornados (April 25-30): At least \$9 billion in damage in central and southern states
- Tornadoes (April 14-16): More than \$2 billion in damage in central and southern states
- Tornadoes (April 8-11): Losses exceeding \$2.2 billion in central and southern states
- Tornadoes (April 4-5): More than \$2.3 billion in damage in central and southern states

- Groundhog Day Blizzard: \$2 billion in damage after a massive winter storm dumped snow across the central, eastern and northeastern sections of the country.

*As in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man;*

**Luke 17:27-30** They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all 30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (NIV)

**Genesis 6:5-7** Then the LORD saw that *the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, *for I am sorry that I have made them.*"

11-13 The earth also was corrupt before God, and *the earth was filled with violence*. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, *for the earth is filled with violence through them*; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

**God's Wrath Against Mankind; (Romans 1:18-32 NIV)**

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, *but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent(insulters), arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

### ***Godlessness in the Last Days; (2nd Timothy 3:1-5 NIV)***

1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. **Have nothing to do with them.**