HOW SHOULD WE LIVE IN LIGHT OF HIS COMING? FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS FOR RIGHTLY UNDERSTANDING THE OLIVET DISCOURSE Matthew 24:1-3

- I. We must understand THE LORD'S OLIVET DISCOURSE PRIMARILY CONCERNS ISRAEL (not the Church): Jesus responds to the disciples pointing out the grandeur of the temple, revealing again it will be destroyed, prompting His discourse (1-2, 9, 15-16, 20, 32-34)
 - A. Jesus prediction of the destruction of the temple (23:37-39) prompts the disciples question and then Jesus' affirmation the reality of its destruction (1-2)
 - B. The external and internal context of the Olivet discourse reveals Jesus is speaking to Jews not Gentiles or the church, (23:37-24:2, 9, 15-16, 20, 32-34)
- II. We must understand THE CONTENT OF OUR LORD'S OLIVET DISCOURSE IS IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE DISCIPLES SECOND QUESTION NOT THEIR FIRST:

 The disciples ask two questions they believe are related concerning Jesus's ushering in His kingdom, yet Jesus only answers their second one, because it alone is directly related to His coming again (24:3, ch 24-25)
- III. We must understand THE EVENTS OF OLIVET DISCOURSE OCCUR DURING THE TRIBULATION (not 70 AD) (3, 9, 21-22, 29)
 - A. The events clearly take place during a unique final tribulation that concludes with His coming in the end of the age (3, 9, 21-22, 29)
 - B. What is the tribulation? A brief overview of end times events (Attached)
- IV. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE DISCOURSE POINTS DIRECTLY TO JESUS CHRIST'S SECOND COMING (Ch. 24-25)

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW OF END TIMES EVENTS

From Greg Lundstedt's sermon Notes (Scriptures read in caps)

Now today I'm going to give you my view of end times events. And I believe, as we will see it is a well founded biblical view. Now I must caution myself and all of you to remember there are true believers who have different views of end times events and we need to be gracious in how we deal with our doctrinal differences. Yet some of these differences are quite important, and I believe cut at the core of how we interpret the Bible,

Let me give you a QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN EVENTS from Scripture

I must make it clear in the time we have today, I cant read all Scriptures that support the massive amount of biblical information you'll hear today. Thus you need to, as always, be a Berean and go home, pull out your Bible and check it out to see that it is so.

So then let me give you a brief overview of future events

I believe the first event on God's prophetic clock is what we call **the rapture**. It is the event when Christ comes to take His bride, the church, unto Himself, it is what Scripture calls the harpodzo, a forcible grabbing unto oneself. This event is where the spirits of the dead in Christ come with Him, and their bodies are resurrected from the graves and then those believers who remain and are alive are forcibly grabbed by Christ, harpodzo to meet Him in the air, being **given their resurrection bodies at this time**. **1Corinthians 15**1Thes

4:13-18

It is when Jesus takes His bride to the place that He is prepared for her JOHN 14:1-3

And I believe, it is during this time in heaven, that the church is judged for her works done in the body at the bema seat of Christ, 2Cor 5:8-10, Romans 14:10-12 and 1Cor 3

I believe that this time also, while we the church, His holy ones, His saints are in heaven, enjoying Christ and one another, that the church, being the bride of Christ Ephesians 5, experiences **the marriage of the Lamb**, Revelation 19:7-9

What a glorious time in heaven the Saints will experience with Christ, but the events on earth at this time will be much different- for during this period of seven years, Daniel's 70th week Daniel 9:21-27 the earth will experience tribulation such that the world has never seen and at the end Christ will come Matthew 24:20-21

Now in this seven-year tribulation, will begin with a covenant made between Israel and the Antichrist, yet the midpoint of the tribulation 3 1/2 years, As Satan is cast out of heaven for good then pursues Israel Rev 12:13-14, we see his power and authority given to the antichrist Rev 13;2-7

And at this time the Antichrist will break the covenant and declare himself to be God. Daniel 9:27

2Thessalonians 2:1-4, and this abomination of desolation will enter the holy place Matt 24:15

This tribulation is the **day of the Lord** spoken of in a myriad of passages including **Zeph 1:14**, **Isaiah 13:6**, Jer 30, Ezekiel, **Zechariah 14** Luke 17 1Thes 5, 2Thes 1 and 2, 2 Peter 3

It will be the time of Jacobs trouble or distress Daniel 9 Jeremiah 30:7, Romans 11

This great tribulation, this day of the Lord, will be a time in which God will sovereignly draw His enemies against Israel, ultimately to bring their destruction and judgment, and at the same time He will **purge Israel leaving only 1/3 Zech 13:7-9 & 14:2-5**

And it is at the **end of the tribulation** that **Christ will personally come**, with all His holy ones that's the Saints, the church, and plant His feet on the Mount of olives, and at the battle of Armageddon He will destroy His enemies and **save all Israel** as we saw last week in Ezekiel 34, Ezekiel 36-39, Jeremiah 30, Joel 3, Zechariah 12 & 14 Romans 11:25-32 Rev 19

Here we have the resurrection of tribulation and OT saints Dan 12:2 Rev 20:1-4

Then we have **the millennial kingdom** a thousand year reign of Christ on earth -- we saw in portions of Ezekiel 34-39, and in 40-48 which is also mentioned throughout, by the Old Testament prophets, and it is mentioned specifically in **Rev 20:1-10**

In this we 1000 year reign Church age believers will reigning with Him upon earth 2Tim 2:12 Rev 2;26-28, Rev 5:9-10

Now the Old Testament Scripture makes it clear that the curse will be removed and the earth changed during the thousand year reign that Christ will rule and shepherd His people and will receive worship in the milenail temple Zech 14 Rev 16, Isaiah 27:35, Amos 9, Isaiah 65, Ezekiel 34 & 40-48

After the tribulation, Satan will be bound for a thousand years, Rev 20 the curse will be removed from the earth, and there will be a thousand year millennial reign of Christ on the earth. And at the end of the millennial reign Satan will be set free to instigate one last uprising against Christ and His people, and then he and his angels will be cast into hell to be tormented forever. Rev 20:7-10

It is at this point we have the **great white throne judgment**, Revelation 20:11 15 where every one who has rejected Christ, their bodies resurrected and then they will be judged for their deeds and then thrown into the lake of fire, this is the second death.. **REVELATION 20:11 15**

And it is at this point Revelation 21 and 22 that God's people enter into their eternal state. Where there will be no more tears or sorrow, where Christ makes all things new, where there is a new heavens and a new earth where righteousness dwells, and Christ Himself will dwell in the midst of His Saints --- REV 21:1-8

Okay so then, we have the church taken up to be with Christ, where there is the judgment seat of Christ and the marriage of the Lamb, in heaven

Yet on earth there will be a **seven-year tribulation** such as the world is never seen—a time in which Jesus Christ will pour out His wrath upon the nations and through this great purging **Jesus will draw Israel unto Himself and save them**.

At the end of the great tribulation there will be a thousand year millennial reign of Christ, culminating in one final rebellion, Satan and all his cohorts will be eternally judged and on the lake of fire to be tormented forever. And there will be the great white throne judgment for all of those who have rejected Christ, they will be judged and thrown in the lake of fire for ever, Then Jesus will make all things new, a new heavens and a new earth where righteousness dwells. Where Christ is in its midst. Where we will be with Him forever.

That is a summary of and time events

Now again remember the references I gave you today are minimal, there is much more Scripture to support these truths. But remember **it's all about Christ**, the King of Kings and Lord of lords, coming again, ultimately to judge sin the wicked, established the redeemed for ever with Him and righteousness.

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Folks God's redemptive plan is advancing. Eternity is just around the corner. There are two destinies one for the redeemed and one for the unrepentant sinner. The redeemed will spend eternity with Christ, Sin, sorrow and evil will be gone. And the unrepentant will spend eternity in torment, away from God, in outer darkness.

Now your eternal destiny is determined by response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ--- Where will you spend eternity?