

**“The Olivet Discourse (pt6) –  
The Day Heaven & Earth Pass  
Away”**

**(Luke 21:32-33 & Matthew 24:33-44)**

## A Finished Subject – The Temple's Doom (v5-33)

- Jesus is preaching an unthinkable sermon about the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple (v5-6).
- It is anchored at both ends; by a question asking when & how this would happen (v7) and by an emphatic statement (v32-33).
- Jesus warned of misleading signs (v9-17), and said that the true sign was the arrival of the armies of Titus (v20).
  - Then the Lord would close visibly what was already closed spiritually, by ending Temple worship.
- Jesus announced God's wrath in vivid apocalyptic imagery (v25-27); the same language He used to describe the end of Babylon, Egypt, etc, through the prophets Ezekiel, Isaiah, etc.
- Then He promised relief for the church (v28) and the beginnings of a season of prosperous growth for the Kingdom (v29-31).
- And He made a plain statement that all this would take place in the lifetime of disciples (v32-33).

# A New Subject – The Second Coming (Matthew 24:33-44)

## 1. It's Hinted at with a Transitional Verse

- “Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but my words will not pass away” (v35 / Lk 21:33 / Mk 13:31)
- This affirms the truthfulness of what has been said; and hints at what is to come – the day Heaven and Earth pass away...

## 2. It's Introduced as a New Subject (v36 / Mk 13:32)

- “But concerning”
- Plural “days” becomes singular “day”
- ‘The day’ or ‘that day’ = the day of the final judgement (c.f. Mt 7:22, 11:22, 11:24, 12:36 etc)

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### 3. It's Apparent from the Radical Contrast in what Follows

- In the first part of the sermon, Jesus knew...now Jesus doesn't know (v36)
- In the first...there would be horrors & famines...now feasting & merriment (v38)
- In the first...wrath could be fled...now people are 'taken' (v40)
- In the first...you could know...now you cannot know (v42).
- In the first...there were signs (true & false)...now there is no warning (v44)
- The 3 parables of Matthew 24:51-25:30 reinforce what Jesus has said about His delayed, sudden, and unexpected return.
- In the first part of the sermon events were near and discernible...now events are far away and indistinct.
- In the first...there is judgement on earth...now there is judgement in heaven (Matthew 25:31ff).

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### 4. It Demands from us an 'ethical' Eschatology

- [We will continue in this next week.]
- The disciples weren't to spiral into depression because of the loss of the temple. They weren't to become worldly and idle away their time awaiting the second coming. They weren't try to speculate and make predictions about the end of the world.
- They were to be faithful and ready (Matthew 24:42ff / 2 Peter 3:11ff).