

IS THE RAPTURE CONCEPT IN THE OLIVET DISCOURSE?

Matthew 24-25

Mark 13

Luke 21

PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS (WHEN?)

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 (logistical teaching on harpazo)
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (mystery of one generation not dying)
- John 14:1-3 (intimacy of a future regathering by Jesus to His home)
- Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21 (2-3 days before His death)
- Luke 19:11-27 Parable of the Ten Minas (6 days before His death)
- Luke 17:20-37 Kingdom suddenness (about 2 weeks before His death)
- Luke 12:35-48 Parables on watching and readiness of unknown time
(these parables were about 5 months before crucifixion)

³⁵ "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,

³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.

³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. (Luke 12:35-36, 39 ESV)

ADD 12:38 ALSO!!!

⁴¹ Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?"

⁴² And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?"

(Luke 12:40-42)

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⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

⁴¹ Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?"

⁴² And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?"

(Luke 12:40-42)

“THIEF” LANGUAGE IS FOR WHO? FAITHFUL AND WISE MANAGER

Matt. 24:43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

Lk. 12:39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.

1 Thess. 5:2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

1 Thess. 5:4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

2 Pet. 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Rev. 3:3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Rev. 16:15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!")

“AWAKE” LANGUAGE IS FOR WHO? (SEE NOTES)

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Lk. 12:39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.

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DO THE THIEF PARABLES POINT TO:

BEING READY AT THE RAPTURE?

OR

**THE 2ND COMING OF JESUS
AT THE END OF THE 70TH WEEK?**

THE MINI ESCHATOLOGY SERMON (LUKE 17:22-37)

Why is this important in understanding the Olivet Discourse?

- **About 2 weeks before**
- **The disciples were known NOT TO UNDERSTAND, especially in the gospel of Luke (2:50; 9:45; 18:34). Anyone ever feel this way?**
- **Jesus introduces several themes here that He brings up 2 weeks later in the Olivet Discourse (“days of Noah”, “one taken and one left”).**
- **This sermon has unique features only to Luke:**
 - **“days of Lot”**
 - **“days of the Son of Man” (plural)**
 - **“remember Lot’s wife”**
 - **“buying and selling and planting and building”**

OUTLINE OF LUKE 17:20-37

- **PREFACE** concerning the days of the Son of Man (17:20-25)
- **PATTERN** concerning the days of the Son of Man (17:26-30)
- **PERSPECTIVE** concerning the days of the Son of Man (17:31-33)
- **PAYOFF** concerning the days of the Son of Man (17:34-37)

PREFACE concerning the days of the Son of Man (17:20-25)

²⁰ Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed,

²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

²² And He said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.

²³ And they will say to you, 'Look, there!' or 'Look, here!' Do not go out or follow them.

²⁴ For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day.

²⁵ But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

- **Jesus Himself is the essence of the kingdom. Where He is, the kingdom is.**
- **The kingdom's arrival is also at a future time. The disciples will not see it, but long for it.**
- **Jesus will return on a specific day like lightning. Unmistakable.**
- **The return of Jesus language inherently involves DAYS (length of time, not just one day)**

PATTERN concerning the days of the Son of Man (17:26-30)

²⁶ Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man.

²⁷ They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

²⁸ Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot-- they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building,

²⁹ but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all--

³⁰ according to this pattern it will be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

- **Jesus makes a specific comparison between the DAYS of Noah and Lot with His own coming. “Just as” “Likewise” “according to this pattern” *kata ta auta* (plural)- Luke 6:23, 26**
- **The pattern of the days of Noah and Lot include the entire scope of time from the short time period before the judgment came up until the fulfillment of the judgment.**
- **In the same way, the days of the Son of Man will include the whole scope.**
- **Casual, normal, unaware living followed by sudden unexpected judgment.**

PATTERN concerning the days of the Son of Man (17:26-30)

OBJECTION- Parables only have one point

“However, in support of the major point, some details in the parables are analogous to certain spiritual facts. Sometimes this is necessary for the major point of the parable to be fully drawn. In the Parable of the Lost Sheep, the shepherd obviously represents Jesus, the 1 sheep represents a lost sinner, as Jesus explained in Luke 15:7, and the remaining 99 sheep represent “righteous persons who do not need to repent.” And yet other details such as the open country, the shepherd’s shoulders, and his home and friends and neighbors should not be made analogous to some spiritual elements. They simply are parts needed to make the story lifelike and to add local color...Sometimes Jesus did explain a number of the details of a parable, as in the Parable of the Sower in which He explained the meaning of each of the four places where the seed fell (Matt. 13:18–23; Mark 4:13). He also interpreted several details in the Parable of the Weeds, including the sower, the field, the good seed, the weeds, the enemy, the harvest, and the harvesters (vv. 37–39). Since Jesus did not normally point out analogies in all parts of His parables, these examples in Matthew 13 should be seen as exceptions” (page 215-216- my emphasis).

Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation*

“ACCORDING TO THE SAME”

KATA TA AUTA

LUKE 17:30

PLURALITY OF PATTERNS

Days of . . .	Description of Daily Life	Description of Rescue	Description of Direct Judgment
NOAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eating, drinking, marrying, given in marriage; normal activities• Noah preaches in the time period prior to judgment (2 Pet 2:5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noah and family commanded to enter the ark• They escape and are rescued from judgment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judgment began only after they all enter the ark; came quickly and interrupted normal life• Windows of heaven opened; rain began on a certain day and lasted forty days.
LOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building-normal activities• Lot vexed in the time period (“day to day”) prior to judgment (2 Peter 2:6-8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lot and family commanded to leave Sodom• They escape and are rescued from judgment (except Lot’s wife who was left behind)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judgment began only after Lot fled the city, but came quickly and interrupted daily normal life.• Fire from heaven came on a certain day.
SON OF MAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pattern reveals that before the judgment comes, people are living normally• Two types of people will be living side by side under these normal conditions.• Pattern shows one group of people will be preaching and also vexed prior to the judgment arriving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pattern shows us that there should also be a group to be rescued and escape coming judgment.• Rapture generation commanded “to be ready at all times”-• They will escape and be rescued from the coming judgment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pattern shows us that the judgment will begin only after believers are rescued, but will come quickly and interrupt daily normal life.• The heavenly judgment begins on a specific day and will last seven years, based on other passages

PERSPECTIVE concerning the days of the Son of Man (17:31-33)

³¹ On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back.

³² Remember Lot's wife.

³³ Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

- **Jesus makes the point of being SINGLE MINDED when it comes to being ready.**
- **Do not get caught up only in the normal activities of life.**
- **Be a true disciple who loses their life for the sake of the gospel.**

PAYOFF concerning the days of the Son of Man (17:34-37)

³⁴ I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left.

³⁵ There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left."

³⁶ *Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.* (oldest Greek manuscripts do not have this)

³⁷ And they said to him, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather."

- **Jesus describes the days of the Son of Man will involve separation.**
- **The separation will involve some in bed, some grinding, others in the field (Matt 24:40)**

Are the righteous TAKEN or LEFT? REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE (and Noah)

- **Noah clearly taken (rescued) to safety, the rest were left to judgment of flood**
- **Lot and his daughters were clearly taken (rescued) to safety; the rest were left to judgment**
- **What about verse 37?** Behold, your house is left to you desolate (Luke 13:35)

SUMMARY OF LUKE 17:20-37

- **Days of the Son of Man follow the pattern of the days of Noah and Lot**
 - **Involves a description of the period of time before a sudden judgment**
 - **Includes a RESCUE before the judgment upon a CASUAL world**
 - **The believers are taken to salvation. The unbelievers are left to judgment.**
 - **The days of the Son of Man entail the time from the RESCUE up through the 7-year tribulation judgment and Jesus' return in great glory at the 2nd coming**
 - **The “day of the Lord” is often synonymous with the “days of the Son of Man”**

OUTLINE HARMONY OF THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

1. **Questions about Jerusalem destruction, the sign of end of the age and His coming.**
2. **Jesus explains there will always be deceit and rumors of war. End is not yet.**
3. **Jerusalem will be surrounded and destroyed, leading the Jews into captivity.**
4. **Before the end of the age, the apostles themselves will suffer persecution.**
5. **Signs of the end of the age include war, famine, pestilence, earthquakes, astronomical disturbances and persecution of believers.**
6. **Abomination of desolation and extreme unprecedented tribulation worldwide.**
7. **After the tribulation, more cosmic signs and the sign of the Son of Man's return!**
8. **Parable of the Fig Tree in all THREE synoptics (Great consistency)**
9. **That generation will not pass away. The words of Jesus will never pass away.**

Matthew 24

³⁵ "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

³⁷ "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

³⁸ "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark.....

Mark 13

³¹ "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

³² "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*.

³³ "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come.

³⁴ "*It is* like a man away on a journey, *who* upon leaving his house and putting his slaves

Luke 21

³³ "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap;

³⁵ for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.

³⁶ "But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." **Discourse ENDS.**

Matthew 24**Mark 13****Luke 21**

³⁵ "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

³⁴ *"Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and **that day** will not come on you suddenly like a trap;*

³⁵ for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.

*³⁶ "But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to **escape all these things** that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

³⁶ "But of **that day** and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

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³⁵ for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.

³⁶ "But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

IS THIS DAY REFERRING TO RAPTURE OR SECOND COMING?

Revelation 3:10 (hour)

“THAT DAY AND HOUR”

Based on context and harmony of the Olivet Discourse:

- **“That day and hour” refers to the DAY OF THE LORD in its entirety**
- **“That day” (and hour) comes upon the whole world suddenly as a trap**
- **“That day” (and hour) can be avoided by being watchful and escaping ALL the things that are contained in it.**
- **All these things, Jesus just explained in the previous sections of the O.D.**

² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. (1 Thess. 5:2-4)

¹⁰ Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. (Rev. 3:10)

The Days of the Son of Man (Matthew 24:36-45)

³⁶ "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,

³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

⁴⁰ **Then** (*Τότε*) two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. (*Τότε is a temporal adverb*)

⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.

⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the **thief** was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

- **The arrival of THAT DAY AND HOUR is unknown but will happen suddenly on the unaware**
- **That DAY and HOUR will arrive with judgment. A rescue will occur where the righteous will be taken to salvation and the rest will be left for the judgment of that great day.**

The Days of the Son of Man (Matthew 24:36-45)

OBJECTION- Taken in the gospel of Matthew means to judgment

- The Greek word *sullego* (“gathered/taken”) are in a negative context
- Matthew 13:28, 29, 30, 40, 41 are negative
- Matthew 13:48 is positive

Matthew 13:48 *When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and gathered the good into containers but threw away the bad.*

Additionally, Matthew uses a synonymous Greek word (*episunago*) in showing that the angels are gathering the elect after the tribulation (24:31).

You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect (Lk 12:40).

Revelation 6-18 “living”

War, massive inflation (2 loaves of bread costing a full day's wage), One-fourth of world killed by sword, hunger, disease, martyrdom, great earthquakes, cosmic astronomical disturbances, One-third of earth burned up, sea turned to blood, sea creatures, ships destroyed, wormwood, more cosmic disturbances in sun, moon, stars, 5 months of demon locust plague where people seek death, 200 million demons killing 1/3 of humanity, painful sores on those with mark of the beast, all sea creatures die, rivers and springs turn to blood, sun scorches mankind, periods of darkness, greatest earthquake in history, 75 lb. hailstones, cursing God.

Olivet Discourse “living”

Birth pains which increase in frequency and intensity. These include great earthquakes in various places, famines, pestilences, fearful sights and great signs from heaven, nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom, tribulation, betrayal by family, hating of one another, false prophets and deception, love of many growing cold, people fainting from fear, Jews fleeing into the mountains to hide from the antichrist, greatest time of tribulation in the history of the world, it is so bad that if God did not limit the time period of Great Tribulation, all humanity would be eliminated, great signs and wonders to deceive, final war before Jesus returns.

The Day & Hour “living”

Matthew 24:37-39

Noah's Day—
“In the days before the flood”
- unaware (oblivious),
eating, drinking, marrying,
giving in marriage

Luke 17:26-27

Noah's Day—
eating, drinking, marrying,
giving in marriage

Luke 17:28-29

Lot's Day—
eating, drinking, buying,
selling, planting, building

Normal Everyday Living

Are we running out of normal?