



## Mark Chapter 13 The Olivet Discourse Competing Views

**Interpretations of Biblical Prophecy:** There are four different interpretations within Biblical Prophecy.

**1. Preterit 2. Futurist 3. Idealist 4. Historic**

By far the more prominent are **futurism** and **preterism**.

**Partial Preterism** (from Latin for "past") considers that most prophecy has been fulfilled already, usually in relation to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70.

Since it still includes belief in a future physical "Second Coming" of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, and the last judgment, partial preterism falls within the parameters of orthodoxy because it conforms to the early Christian creeds.

Preterism holds that Israel finds its continuation or fulfillment in the Christian church at the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. God therefore is done with Israel as a nation but not as individuals.

In the preterist view, the Book of Revelation and the Tribulation took place in the past when Roman legions destroyed Jerusalem and its temple in AD 70.

Partial preterism holds that most eschatological prophecies, such as the destruction of Jerusalem, the Antichrists, the Great Tribulation, and the advent of the Day of the Lord as a "judgment-coming" of Christ, were fulfilled either in A.D. 70 or during the persecution of Christians under the Emperor Nero.

Some partial preterists identify "Babylon the Great" (Revelation 17-18) with the pagan Roman Empire, though some, such as N.T. Wright, identify it with the city of Jerusalem. Most interpretations identify Nero as the Beast.

**Futurism** is a Christian eschatological view that interprets the Book of Revelation, the Book of Daniel, the Olivet discourse and the parable of the Sheep and the Goats as future events in a literal, physical, apocalyptic, and global context.

Futurism typically holds that all major unfulfilled prophecies will be fulfilled during a global time of catastrophe and war known as the Great Tribulation, in which many other prophecies will be fulfilled during or after the Millennium Reign of Jesus Christ.

Futurists anticipate many coming events that will fulfill all eschatological prophecy: the seven-year period of tribulation, The Antichrist's global government, the Battle of Armageddon, the Second Coming of Jesus, the millennial reign of Christ, the eternal state, and the two resurrections.

**The various views on tribulation** are actually a subset of theological interpretations on the Millennium, mentioned in Revelation 20. There are three main interpretations:

**Premillennialism, (futurist)** in Christian eschatology is the belief that Jesus Christ will literally and physically be on the earth for his millennial reign at his second coming.

**Amillennialism, (preterit)** believes that the thousand years mentioned are not a literal thousand years, but is figurative for what is now the church age, usually, the time between Christ's ascension and second coming.

**Postmillennialism (preterit)** believes that Christ will return after a literal/figurative thousand years, in which the world will have essentially become a Christendom.

## "What is the Olivet Discourse?"

**Answer:** The Olivet Discourse is the name given to the orderly and extended teaching given by Christ on the Mount of Olives.

This discourse is recorded in Matthew Chapters 24,25 Mark 13 and Luke 21.

Christ's discourse is in response to questions from the disciples, concerning the destruction of the Temple and Christ's return or 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

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

### 3 questions:

1. when will the temple be destroyed?
2. what will be the sign of your return?
3. what will be the sign of the end of all things

**In the preterit view** Mark chapter 13 verses 4-30 all have to do with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70 by the Roman legions led by General Titus.

In the Futurist view Mark 13 is all about the end of the age and the destruction of Jerusalem is a type of a future judgment.