

Jesus' Olivet Discourse

Matthew 24 & 25



Matthew 24:13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

We're still in the first half, the first three and one half years, of the seven year Great Tribulation. Intense persecution against believers will have broken out. Jesus promises,

Matthew 24:13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Endurance does not produce salvation. Salvation is always presented as a gift from God to be received by faith in Jesus Christ's death on the Cross as our substitute and sacrifice.

Those who **endure** are those who do not fall away from the faith; they do not follow after the false Christs and the false prophets. They continue to profess Jesus Christ no matter the cost or consequences.

To the end means to the end of the seven years when Jesus Christ returns to the earth in His Second Coming. Most of the earth's population will be killed and many believers martyred, but some will survive. They are the ones who will enter the kingdom of God on earth as its human citizens.

That is what Jesus means when He says they **shall be saved**. They are already **saved** for eternity. They will be saved through the Great Tribulation in contrast to those nonbelievers who will perish and those believers who will be martyred.

The word for **saved** in Greek is *sozo* and is being used in the sense of *being made whole*. It's a promise that God will complete the work He began in you when you accepted Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The word gospel first appears in Matthew 4:23 where you read,

Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Jesus was announcing Himself as the promised and prophesied Messiah – the King of Israel who would establish the kingdom of God. His miracles, signs, and wonders validated His claim.

When the leaders of the nation of Israel officially rejected Jesus as their King, God postponed the establishing of the kingdom on earth.

Acts 28:28 "Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"

The **gospel of the kingdom** is not being preached now. Instead God is building His church. We are looking for the coming of the Lord to resurrect and rapture us – *not* to establish the kingdom.

God is not through with Israel:

Romans 11:1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin.

Romans 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "THE DELIVERER WILL COME OUT OF ZION, AND HE WILL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB;

Romans 11:27 FOR THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

The **gospel of the kingdom** will be preached during the Great Tribulation. It is the good news that Jesus Christ is coming to set up

His kingdom on earth, and that those who receive Him by faith during the Great Tribulation will enjoy the blessings of His Millennial Reign.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations...

People have taken this to mean that Jesus cannot come back until or unless the gospel is preached to everyone – or at least to some in every nation.

Although we ought to do our best to bring the gospel anywhere and everywhere, that is not what Jesus said. He said that **during the Great Tribulation** the gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world.

God will supernaturally present the gospel of the kingdom to every person on planet earth. In Revelation 14:6-7 you read,

Revelation 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people -

Revelation 14:7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

That will be the final and total evangelization of the world. It will be miraculously proclaimed from Heaven.

Matthew 24:14 ... and then the end will come.

The **end** of the Great Tribulation, that is. Jesus returns from Heaven to earth with the church. All the Jews who survive will look upon Him and believe on Him as their God and King.

Jesus expects believers to be able to **endure** even the harsh conditions of the Great Tribulation. How much more, then, can we endure, or persevere, through our trials in this age of grace?

Jesus motivates Tribulation believers by reminding them God will complete the work He began in them. We, too, have that promise from the Lord. Coupled with His sovereignty and His providence we

know that nothing happens by coincidence. Nothing takes Him by surprise.

The key is to believe what God told Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

God promised this to the Jews who would endure the seventy-year Babylonian captivity. But it is just as true for us because God never changes. His thoughts that He thinks towards believers of any era are ultimately peace and not of evil to give us a future and a hope.

In the world we will have tribulation. In the future some will find themselves in THE Tribulation.

He that endures to the end shall be saved!

