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Volume 38
Issue 943

The Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24 and the Pre-Millennial Kingdom

Part 2 of 2¹

by — Tom L. Ballinger

:22 – *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*¹



We cannot minimize the persecution, destruction and horror that the faithful Jews will undergo. Many before their martyrdom will be forced to witness the immorality and wickedness which the so-called prophetess Jezebel installs in the Temple worship (Revelation 2:20).

:23 – *Then if any man shall say unto you, "Lo, here is Christ, or there"; believe it not.*

Here, the Lord Jesus Christ warns the four disciples not to believe every report that will circulate about Him having been seen in various places. "BELIEVE IT NOT," He warns.

:24 – *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

False (*pseudo*) Christs, and false (*pseudo*) prophets will be on the scene with all power and signs, and "lying wonders" (cf. II Thessalonians 2:9).

Imposters will abound! The imposters will perform great signs and wonders. They will demonstrate their

power and authority as if they were genuine. The masses will be deluded by them. The miracles seem to be "the real thing," so much so that even the elect would be deceived if it were possible.

II Thessalonians 2:9-10 gives a very descriptive synopsis:

*The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan, displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved (NIV).*²

Confusion will reign supreme in many quarters of Jerusalem. Rumors will abound, many of which will center on the idea that Christ has been seen to be present in different locales. The false Christs and false prophets will be eager to pass along the "news" that there had been sightings of the Lord Jesus.

(continued on page 7963)

2. [Editor:] This is what the *Concordant Version* renders in the next verse as, "an operation of deception, for them to believe the falsehood" (:11). – C.P.

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1. See BSN #942 for part 1.



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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Romans 6; Ephesians 2:6);
- adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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In :25 Christ reminds His disciples, “Behold, I have told you before.” Then He tells them, again,

:26 – Wherefore if they shall say unto you, “Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers”; believe it not.

This is the second verse in which the Lord states that some men will report that Christ is present in some particular place (cf. :23). They are not to believe either report.

:27-28 — For as the lightning cometh [flashes] out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the Coming [Parousia] of the Son of man be [cf. Luke 17:24]. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

This verse has been a source of perplexity for a long time. E.W. Bullinger’s *Companion Bible* note runs you back to Job 39:30 for an interpretation, where Job says,

Her [the eagle] young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain are, there is she.

Thus is a simple idiom, much like our idiom, “Where there is smoke, there is fire,”³

AFTER THE TRIBULATION

3. [Editor:] Because of all of the bloodshed, the birds will be gathered to partake of all of the dead bodies. Simply stated, there will be many birds who will feast on all of the dead bodies resulting from the cruel persecution of the Jews (cf. Luke 17:34-37; Revelation 19:17-18). – A.S.

:29 – Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from Heaven, and the powers of the Heavens shall be shaken.

All of this takes place after the tribulation of those days [the 70th week of Daniel]. “*The Day of Christ*” gives way to “*the Day of the Lord*” when the tribulation begins.

For the stars of Heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine (Isaiah 13:10).

And all the host of Heaven shall be dissolved, and the Heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree (Isaiah 34:4).

The Earth shall quake before them; the Heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp is very great: for He is strong that executeth His Word: for the Day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it? (Joel 2:10-11).

That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness (Zephaniah 1:15).



235 pages
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“Compilations.”

The Comfort and Encouragement of Hope (A Comprehensive Compilation)

The authors of this reassuring work includes: Tom L. Ballinger, Cecil J. Blay (1906-1976), E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), Edward H. Clayton (1887-1972), Dr. Edgar Gerald Jones (1894-1974), Joseph E. Kirk (1903-1974), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), J.C. O’Hair (1876-1958), C.H. Mackintosh (1820-1896), George Matheson (1842-1906), J.R. Miller (1840-1912), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank N. Pohorlak (1907-1988), Theodore Joseph Silva (1909-1974), Tony Smith, André Sneider, and Dean Wilkinson.

Then, immediately following on the heels of these catastrophic events shall the SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN BE SEEN.

:30 – *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in Heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the Earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory.*

Several of Christ's Disciples asked the question, "What shall be the sign of thy coming?" (Matthew 24:3). It is answered by the Lord Jesus in :30. The "clouds" will be symbolic of the *Parousia* of Jesus Christ. Clouds in Scripture are very symbolic of Divine presence, not necessarily meaning the personal presence of Christ.

Nelson's *Illustrated Bible Dictionary* says,

The cloud was symbolic of God's presence. The pillar of cloud leading the Israelites in the wilderness (Exodus 13:21-22) was the same as God's presence leading the people. When God wanted to reveal Himself to the Israelites, He used a pillar of cloud to do so (Numbers 12:5; Deuteronomy 31:15). Clouds also revealed God's power and wisdom (Psalm 147:8; Proverbs 8:28).

What a startling sight the world will see:

:31 – *And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect ...*

The elect Jews will be scattered when the outbreak of the Tribulation begins during the 70th week of Daniel. Some will seek asylum in friendly foreign countries, as indicated by a prophecy of Moses in Deuteronomy 30:4,

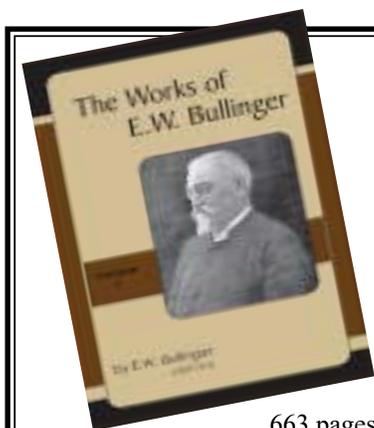
If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will He fetch thee.

The "great sound of a trumpet" is not the "last trump" of I Corinthians 15:52, or the "trump of God" of I Thessalonians 4:16, but rather, a sound of the pre-rapture-trumpet signaling the gathering of His Elect by the angels who will be sent forth.

"Gather together," from the Greek word *episunagō* (SEC, G1996), means "to collect upon the same place." Thayer's Lexicon states that *episunagō* means to "gather together in one place." Where will this "one place" be? Where will His tribulation elect be gathered? In the "Parable of the Tares" we read,

Let both [tares and wheat] grow together until the harvest [end of the age]: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers [the angels], "Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat [the Elect] into My Barn" (Matthew 13:30).

The "one place" in Matthew 24, and the "My Barn" in Matthew 13 may well be the "staging area" from which the Elect will be "caught-up to meet the Lord in



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Our closer attention is to focus on “*His elect*.” They will be those whom “*His angels*” gather together in one place. It will be a very discriminating gathering. “Elect” is the Greek word *ekletos*. Strong’s definition is, “picked out, or chosen.” *Fausset’s Bible Dictionary* says, “*ekletos*, chosen to be office holders.” According to *Nelson’s Bible Dictionary*, “*ekletos* = eminent, valuable, choice, *i.e.*, object of special favor for rendering special service to and for Him.” The “*elect*” will be those who were chosen for special service, or work, or office.

“*His elect*” will be a very elite troop. Many, if not all, of the “*great cloud of witnesses*” (Hebrews 12:1), some of whom are named in Hebrews 11, will make up this select crowd. Just imagine all of those who will be the “gathered-in-waiting” for the Lord Jesus to descend from Heaven. Great names of the faith, gathered in mass – God’s Hall of Fame, no less!

Along with those who were not named, are

Others [who] had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth (11:36-38).

These un-named heroes will have been well known by name throughout the long Pre-Millennial Kingdom of God. They will have received and enjoyed their

promises during this *Day of Christ*. Not only that, but they will have had prominent places of service in the Kingdom government.

PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE

:32-33 – *Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it [He]⁴ is near, even at the doors.*

The Lord Jesus utilizes the parable of the fig tree to caution those who will be left behind after the angels are to be sent forth to gather together “*His elect*” to a certain place (Matthew:30-31; *cf.* Mark 13:27).

He warned those who will be left behind, that is to say, those who were not part of the troop of “*His elect*.” Many will become lax in their everyday life and will be unprepared for His *Parousia*. When they see the events mentioned previously, they will recognize that He was even at the door, meaning that His *Parousia* was “*at hand*.” The left-behind in that day had better be ready.

Matthew 24:36-38

:36 – *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but My Father only.*

The “*day*” and the “*hour*” spoken of refers to the *Parousia* of the Son of Man as mentioned in :37.

:37-38 – *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the Coming [Parousia] of the Son of Man*

4. [Editor:] “He” - CLV, EWB-CB, REB.



The More Excellent Way

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

Reading of the marvelous gifts in 1 Corinthians 12, who has not been struck with the last verse of the chapter: “*Covet earnestly the best gifts*”? That is what we would like to do! But what do the closing words mean: “*And yet show I unto you a more excellent way*”? Can it be that there is something even better than the best gifts? If so, what is it and how may we enjoy it? This booklet helps us find the answer.

23 pp., BK See [order form](#) under “Knoch.”



be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark.

The expressions are a figure of speech, a *metonymy of the adjunct*, where the "eating and drinking" etc. is put for simply living and being alive. That is to say, those who are not part of "His elect" will be ignoring the impending crisis and continue on in their routine of life's chores and pleasures.

The idea here is that those who will not be living in view of the times will not be prepared for the Coming of the *Parousia* of Christ. He will have sent His "elect angels" to gather together "His elect." This gathering ought to be an alarm to the left-behind ones that "He is at the door" (consider the foolish virgins in Matthew 25:1-13).

The *Amplified New Testament's* rendering of Matthew 24:38 is instructive:

For just as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, [men] marrying and [women] being given in marriage, until the [very] day when Noah went into the ark.

:39-42 – *And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

The context of Matthew 24:39-42 is understood to be that the scenes described take place "immediately after the tribulation of those days" (:29).

How do we interpret the meaning of those who "shall be taken"? Are they rescued and raptured to Heaven? "And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away..." What does this mean? Does this mean they were "caught up" to Heaven? Let's allow the Scripture to answer for us.

Remember, it will be as it was in the Days of Noah; so shall it also be in the days of the *Parousia* of the Son of Man. How was it during the forty days of the deluge? The "flood came and took them all away." Took them to Heaven? Not hardly! What saith the Scripture? The explanation is found in Genesis:

And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man (Genesis 7:21).

"One shall be taken, and the other left." Those who will be taken will die. "Taken," in the context, means to be "destroyed." Luke 17:26-27 are parallel passages to Matthew 24.

And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

The Bible doesn't allow for a "rescue/rapture." What (see *OLIVET*, page 7968)



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André Sneidar's article, *Is Christ the "Messiah" of Daniel 9 Who Is "Cut Off"?* in [BSN 941](#) was excellent. It also was the "tipping point" that now has me believing in the Pre-Millennial Kingdom teaching. Your research was excellent, and your clear writing style really did the trick. This is where the "tip" happened:

"David was promised to rule over Israel. This cannot be the 1000-year reign of Christ, Who is to rule the Earth with His 12 disciples who will sit on 12 thrones governing the Earth. So, David's rule will have to occur before the 1000-year kingdom of Christ if the promise of prophecy is to be fulfilled."

That made total sense to me. I had read all the articles on the PMK in the BSN and I still just couldn't make the connection. But your article did it. ... What can I say? I thought I had most everything figured out and then you come into a new understanding. As they say, "God works in mysterious ways." – TN

Wow what a wonderful article by Mark D. Vogt. Incredibly insightful and encouraging information. ... I can tell by his writing that these truths are in the heart of this dear brother; it's so encouraging to realize that we "absorb" the understanding over time, not by our will but by Fathers' gift of insight. Abandoning works altogether – diligently seeking simply to know Gods' Will – being rewarded with a deeper, more intimate knowledge of our loving Father

is our example of godliness (proper worship) today.
– IN

Joseph W. Williams (1874-1963)¹ [author of [The Mystery of Evil](#)]² was my grandfather and was a traveling pastor who wrote at least several books. He was born in 1874 and was with his family as a young boy in the Oklahoma land rush of 1889 in a covered wagon. He was mostly self-educated and a voracious reader. He traveled extensively before finally marrying my grandmother.

They eventually settled in Iowa where their children were born. Joseph presided at a church in Marion, Iowa for many years until the family all moved out to the Seattle area. Unfortunately, my grandfather's ministerial career in Iowa was cut short due the onset of glaucoma, and he was nearly blind by age 60. He lived his final years on Day Island, Tacoma, Washington and passed away in 1963. – CA [BSN](#)

TOPICS:

Major: Williams, Joseph

1. Ernest Oliver Knoch (1906-1991), wrote concerning him,

"Brother William spent the major portion of his long life in the service of his Lord and Savior, Whom he loved with a fervor seldom seen. His spirit was gentle, yet his influence was great. Most of his active years as a minister were spent in the central part of the United States. Early in his ministry he had discovered in the Scriptures, the great truths of justification by faith, salvation by grace, the sovereignty of God, and the ultimate reconciliation of all mankind. He was a strong advocate of these truths throughout his ministry.

"An occasional contributor to *Unsearchable Riches*, he had long been sympathetic to its ministry, and very generous in his praise of its editor. In the early part of the previous decade, he had visited extensively with A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) at his home in Los Angeles, where he not only discussed the Scriptures with him, but also made himself useful in the office and warehouse.

"After his retirement in Tacoma, Washington, even though he became blind, he still wrote quite extensively on Scriptural topics." – *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 55 (1964)
2. See [order form](#) under, "Other Authors."



The Words of Jesus: As Recorded in the New Testament, Chronologically Arranged With Dates and Places of Interest

by — Albert Hallett

First published in 1904, this work arranges the words of Jesus in the Gospels in chronological order under separate headings which provide the person to whom they were spoken, the place and date, down to the day of the month by then modern calculation.

122 pages See [order form](#) under "Other Authors."

OLIVET (continued from page 7966)

many perceive to be a “rapture” in :39-42 is, in reality, a destruction.

REMEMBER LOT’S WIFE

To further emphasize the consequences of not being ready, In Luke 17 the Lord Jesus Christ additionally likens what will transpire to what happened in the day when Lot and his family went out of Sodom.

Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from Heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot’s wife (17:28-32).

The day in which the angels showed up in Sodom to deliver Lot and his family from the coming “fire-storm,” life in Sodom continued as usual – they ate and drank, sold and bought, planted crops, and built buildings. The very day Lot went out of Sodom, “it rained fire and brimstone” and destroyed the residents of Sodom.

Thus the warning to those who are “left behind,” if they’re on the housetop, is to leave immediately, don’t go into the house to get your stuff. Likewise, if you are in the field, and you perceive it’s time to run, don’t return to the house for any reason. The sobering admonition is, “REMEMBER LOT’S WIFE”! After all, Lot’s wife wanted only one last look, “*But his wife looked back from behind him, and SHE BECAME A PILLAR OF SALT*” (Genesis 19:26).

This reminds us of the proverbial saying of Jesus,

No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God (Luke 9:62).

Taken from:

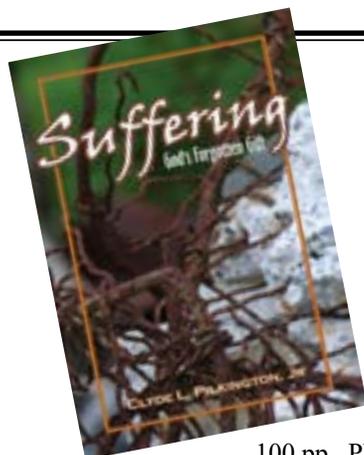
“The Pre-Millennial Predictions:

Portions of the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24”

— *Plainer Words*, 2009
(extracted & edited)

TOPICS:

Major: Great Tribulation; *Parousia*; Pre-Millennial Kingdom; Tribulation
Minor: ???



Suffering: God’s Forgotten Gift

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Two gifts given to the believer are mentioned by Paul in Philippians 1:29. The first is “to believe on Him.” This is a glorious gift. Every believer has been given this gift from God. Those who possess it may not even fully recognize it as a gift from Him, but indeed faith is God’s wonderful gift to us. Faith is a rich gift from God, but there is also another gift from God to the believer, mentioned by Paul in Philippians 1:29, that is equally as glorious. The second gift is “also to suffer for His sake.” This, too, is a glorious gift. Every believer has been given this gift from God as well, but those who possess it often do not fully recognize it for what it is. Indeed, suffering for His sake similarly is God’s wonderful gift to us. Paul teaches us to embrace this second gift as well as we do the first!

100 pp., PB

See [order form](#) under “Pilkington.”

“After over 40 years of seriously searching the Scriptures with the aid of writings from men of many varied walks, no literature has so profoundly changed my life as this book. It needs to be in the hands of every believer!” – *LA*

“It is rare to find someone who even mentions the topic of suffering, but you wrote an entire book on it, which I highly recommend to everyone!” – *Facebook*

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