

# Pt. 4: The Last Week of the Savior's Life

## The *Anderson Tours* Holy Land Scripture Series;

Understanding God, Scripture, & Self

### Episode 5: Pt 2 - *The Mt of Olives Discourse* (2<sup>nd</sup> Coming)

“Knowledge of ‘the only true God, and Jesus Christ’ (John 17:3)  
**is the most important knowledge in the Universe...”**

President Marion G. Romney of the First Presidency (“Except a Man Be Born Again,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 14)

#### ➤ Background...

##### Disciples Specific Questions:

“...Tell us **when** shall these things be which thou hast said concerning the **destruction of the temple**, and the **Jews**; and what is **the sign of thy coming**, and of **the end of the world**, or **the destruction of the wicked**, which is the end of the world?” (JSM 1:4)

? When shall these things be regarding the Temple (and the Jews & Jerusalem)?

? What is the sign of thy coming?

? What is the sign of the end of the world (destruction of the wicked)?

##### Jesus Answer = Mt of Olives Discourse (Olivet Discourse)

\*3 Different Scriptural Sources: [Matthew 24-25](#); [JSM 1](#); [D&C 45](#) (Mark 13/Luke 17 & 21)

Last week we covered the first half of the Mt of Olives Discourse and covered the following phrases:

#### ➤ The Mt of Olives Discourse...Pt 1 (review):

“***Let no man deceive you!***” ([Matt 24:4](#)/JSM 1:5) Jesus **begins** with this phrase and warning!

“***Abomination of Desolation***” (Matt 24:15; JSM 1:12, 32)

“***Great Tribulation***” (Matt 24:21; JSM 1:18; D&C 45:18)

“***The Elect***” (Matt 24:22-24; JSM 1:20, 23, 27, 29, 37, 39)

“***Why Listen? (or Harken)***” (D&C 45:1-17; D&C 1; D&C 29:1-12; John 10; #HearHim)

“***Directly AFTER the Tribulation...JESUS APPEARS!***” (Matt 24:29; JSM 1:36)

#### ➤ The Mt of Olives Discourse...(continued):

“***Directly AFTER the Tribulation...JESUS APPEARS!***” (Matt 24:29; JSM 1:36)

“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: 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.” (Matt 24:29-30)

“And **again shall the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, **be fulfilled**. 33 **And immediately after the tribulation** of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven shall be shaken... that heaven and earth shall pass away; yet my words shall not pass away, but all shall be fulfilled. 36 And, as I said before, **after the tribulation of those days**, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken, 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;...” (JSM 1:32-36)

**“No one Knows the Day or the Hour”**... (Matt 24:36; JSM 1:40)

“But of that day and hour **knoweth no man**, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.” (Matt 24:36)

“Of the Savior's words that no man knows the day or the hour of the coming of the Son of Man (see Matt.24:36), the Prophet asked: **"Did Christ speak this as a general principle throughout all generations? Oh, no**, He spoke in the present tense. No man that was then living upon the footstool of God knew the day or the hour. But He did not say that there was no man throughout all generations that should not know the day or the hour. No, for this would be in flat contradiction with other scripture. For the prophet says that God will do nothing but what He will reveal unto His servants the prophets. Consequently, if it is not made known to the prophets, it will not come to pass.” (Joseph Smith, Ensign, Aug 2002 p.33)

**"The Brethren**, by virtue of **traveling constantly everywhere on earth**, certainly know what is going on and by virtue of **prophetic insight** are **able to read the signs of the times**..."Come away from any others. Follow your leaders, who have been duly ordained and have been publicly sustained, and you will not be led astray" (Elder Boyd K. Packer, Conference Report, Oct. 1992 or Ensign, Nov. 1992)

"it is true that no man knoweth the day nor the hour of his return - 'no not the angels of heaven, but my Father only' (Matt.24:36), as he himself expressed it - **BUT** those who treasure up his word will **Not be deceived** as to the time of that glorious day, nor as to the events to precede and to attend it..." (Jos. Smith 1:37) ".... The righteous will be able to read the signs of the times. To those in darkness he will come suddenly, unexpectedly, 'as a thief in the night,' but to **'the children of light'** who 'are not of the night, nor of darkness, as Paul expressed it, that day will not overtake them 'as a thief.' They will recognize the **signs as a woman in travail** foreknows the approximate time of her child's birth." (1 Thess. 5:1-6). (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp 688)

**“As in the Days of Noah”**: (Matt 24:37-39; JSM 1:41-43)

“But as it was in **the days of Noah**, so **it shall be also at the coming of the Son of Man**; 42 For it shall be with them, as it was in the days which were before the flood; for until the day that Noah entered into the ark they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage; 43 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.” (JSM 1:41-43)

**“As in the Days of Lot”**: (Luke 17:28-33)

“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom **it rained fire and brimstone from heaven**, and destroyed them all. 30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. 31 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**. 32 **Remember Lot’s wife**. 33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.” (Luke 17:28-33)

**“Remember Lot’s Wife”** (Luke 17:32)

The Savior delivers a powerful sermon with 3 words! Remember Lot’s Wife! These words are for those of us living prior to the Second Coming. What are we to learn from these 3 words? It has something to do with what our heart desires. “Where your treasure is there will your heart be also” (Matt 6:21) is one of His teachings from the Sermon on the Mount and relates well. If our heart is set upon the things of the world more than things of the Lord, then we will find ourselves in the same situation as Lot’s wife. If the “*focus of our lives*” ([Pres. Nelson, Oct 2016](#)) is with the Savior and our discipleship then we will be prepared, but if our focus is on the things of the world then we are in trouble.

**“The Rapture”** (JSM 1:44-46; Matt 24:40-41; Luke 17:34-37)

“Then shall be fulfilled that which is written, that in the last days, **two shall be in the field**, the **one shall be taken**, and **the other left**; 45 Two shall be grinding at the mill, the **one shall be taken**, and the other left; 46 And what I say unto one, I say unto all men; watch, therefore, for you know not at what hour your Lord doth come.”

**\*This is the basis for what other Christians call the Rapture** where the righteous are caught up to meet Jesus. This could also possibly be the description of Jesus return when the righteous are caught up to meet Him as described in [Moses 7](#) (see [Holy Land Scripture Series](#) pt. 1 Episode on “*Enoch*” OR in pt. 2 Prophecies of Last Days; “*Appearances of Christ #3 & 4*”)

**“Watch Therefore...”** (Matt 24:43-51; JSM 1:46-55)

\*This represents God recognizing **the natural disposition of human beings** (the Natural Man – Mosiah 3:19) to procrastinate and make minimum effort, etc. He purposefully doesn’t tell us exactly when He will return because otherwise we wouldn’t make use of our time. The best government systems include a “*Checks & Balance*” system to guard against corruption and to keep the Natural Man in check. We should do the same with ourselves if we are to be a conscious and dedicated disciple.

“**Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come**. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house **had known** in what watch the thief would come, **he would have watched**, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: **for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh**. 45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? **46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing**. 47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But and if that **evil servant** shall say in his heart, **My lord delayeth** his coming; 49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not

aware of, 51 And shall **cut him asunder**, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” END OF THE SERMON (Matt 24:43-51)

**“Be Not Troubled”** (Matt 24:29; JSM 1:32-26; D&C 45:33-35)

“And there shall be **earthquakes** also in divers places, and **many desolations**; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the **sword**, one against another, and they will **kill one another**. 34 And now, when I the Lord had spoken these words unto my disciples, **they were troubled**. 5 And I said unto them: **Be not troubled**, for, when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that the promises which have been made unto you shall be fulfilled. (D&C 45:33-35)

“Behold, I speak these things unto you for the elect’s sake; and you also shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars; see that ye **be not troubled**, for all I have told you must come to pass; but the end is not yet.” (JSM 1:32)

**\*Often when Jesus appears to His disciples or to people, He greets people with the phrase, “Be of good cheer...or Fear not...or Peace I leave with you...”** This is a consistent message from the Savior, regardless of the stressful situations of those He visits. The serenity prayer might be applicable here.

**“My Disciples Stand in Holy Places”** (Matt 24:15; JSM 1:12; D&C 45:30-32)

“When ye therefore shall see the *abomination of desolation*, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, **stand in the holy place**, (whoso readeth, let him understand:...)” (Matt 24:15)

“When you, therefore, shall see the *abomination of desolation*, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, concerning the *destruction of Jerusalem*, then you shall **stand in the holy place**; whoso readeth let him understand.” (JSM 1:12)

“And in that generation shall *the times of the Gentiles* be fulfilled. 31 And there shall be men standing in that generation, that shall not pass until they shall see an *overflowing scourge*; for a *desolating sickness* shall cover the land. 32 But **my disciples shall stand in holy places**, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God and die.” (D&C 45:30-32)

## ➤ **How do we Prepare and Survive?**

- **“Stand in Holy Places”** (Matt 24:15; JSM 1:12; D&C 45:32)
- **“Receive the Truth”** (D&C 45:57)
- **“Take the Holy Spirit for your Guide”** (D&C 45:57)
- **“Be not Deceived”** (D&C 45:57)
- **“Be the Elect of God”** – “mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts” (D&C 29:7)
- **“Remember Lot’s Wife”** (Luke 17:32)
- **“Watch Therefore...be in the process of preparing”** (Matt 24:43-51)
- **“Treasure up My Words”** (JSM 1:37)
- **“Follow the Prophet”** (and the Brethren) (Amos 3:7; Elder Packer)
- **“Be not Troubled”** (JSM 1:32)

## **3 Parables of Preparedness in Matthew 25:**

### **1. Parable of the 10 Virgins** (vs 1-13)

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. (Matt 25:10-13)

? **How do we get to KNOW HIM?** (See talk by Elder Bednar below as well as the “Good Shepherd” episode from the *Life & Ministry of Christ* Course in pt. 3 of the [Holy Land Scripture Series](#))

**Elder Oaks** said, “The arithmetic of this parable is chilling. The ten virgins obviously represent members of Christ’s Church, for all were invited to the wedding feast and all knew what was required to be admitted when the bridegroom came. But only half were ready when he came.” (“*Preparation for the Second Coming*”, April 2004)

? **How do we know if we are among the 50% who will be prepared?**

**D&C 45:57** “And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the **ten virgins**. 57 For **they that are wise** and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall **not** be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall **abide** the day.”

? **Who will “abide the day”?**

## 2. **Parable of the Talents** (vs 14-30)

“His lord said unto him (*those given 2 and 5 talents who doubled*), **Well done, thou good and faithful servant**: thou hast been faithful over **a few things**, I will make thee ruler over **many things**: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Matt 25:21)

“Then he which had received the **one talent** came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And **I was afraid**, and went and **hid thy talent** in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou **wicked and slothful servant**... 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 **Take therefore the talent from him**, and **give it unto him which hath ten talents**...30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into **outer darkness**: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matt 25:24-30)

? **Why is progression and improvement so important?**

? **How does this help us prepare for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming?**

## 3. **Parable of the Sheep & Goats** (vs 31-46)

? - **What is Jesus message to the Sheep?**

A - “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me!” (vs.40)

**Context (full Parable)...**

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw

we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” (Matt 25:31-40)

**? - What is Jesus message to the Goats? (What did the Goats do to become goats?)**

**A** – “Inasmuch as ye did it **not** to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.” (vs.45)

**Context (full Parable)...:**

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” (Matt 25:41-46)

**Elder Marvin J. Ashton** said, “The best and most clear indicator that we are progressing spiritually and coming unto Christ is the way we treat other people.” (“*The Tongue Can Be a Sharp Sword*”, April, 1992)

➤ **Conclusion**

**President Russell M. Nelson**; “My dear brothers and sisters, so many wonderful things are ahead. In coming days, we will see the greatest manifestations of the Savior’s power that the world has ever seen. Between now and the time He returns “with power and great glory,” He will bestow countless privileges, blessings, and miracles upon the faithful... Nonetheless, we are presently living in what surely is a most complicated time in the history of the world.” (Oct. 2022)

## **Links to the Scriptures:**

**Old Testament:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/1?lang=eng>

**New Testament:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt?lang=eng>

**Book of Mormon:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm?lang=eng>

**Doctrine & Covenants:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>

**Pearl of Great Price:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/pgp?lang=eng>



## Quotes & Resources:

[Holy Land Scripture Series](#) pt. 1 FOUNDATION Series; pt. 2 PROPHECIES OF THE LAST DAYS; pt.3 LIFE & MINISTRY OF CHRIST

[“Parables of Jesus: The Parable of the Talents”](#) By Elder Ronald A. Rasband Of the Seventy, (August 2003 Ensign)

[“Converted unto the Lord”](#) By Elder David A. Bednar (Oct 2012) – 10 Virgins

[“Oil in Our Lamps”](#) By Elder Lynn G. Robbins Of the Seventy, Ensign, June 2007

[“If Ye Had Known Me”](#) By Elder David A. Bednar, Oct 2016

[“Preparation for the Second Coming”](#) By Elder Dallin H. Oaks, April 2004

[“Be Not Deceived”](#) By Elder Dallin H. Oaks, Oct 2004

[“Joy and Spiritual Survival”](#), By Pres. Russell M. Nelson, (Pres of the Quorum of 12), October 2016

**The Serenity Prayer:** “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference.”

**Section 45;** [“Looking Forth for the Great Day of the Lord”](#) (Doctrine and Covenants Institute Student Manual)

**Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual:** [Enrichment H: The Last Days](#)

### **Resources on how to Feel and Recognize the Spirit (How to)**

**How does the Spirit operate and speak to us?**

**Scriptures:** (John 14:26; Moroni 10:5; 2 Nephi 32:3,5; Moroni 7:13,16-17; D&C 8:2-3; Galatians 5:22; Alma 32:28; D&C 9:7-9; D&C 11:12-13; Mosiah 3:19; D&C 84:33-35; D&C 50:13-25; etc.)

**For the Strength of Youth** (Look for References to the Spirit and also any insights to the Spirit)

### **Quote by President Ezra Taft Benson on Missionary Work:**

**“The Spirit** is the most important single element in this work! *With the Spirit...*you can do **miracles** for the Lord in the mission field. *Without the Spirit...*you will never succeed *regardless* of your talent and ability Remember... **IN THIS WORK IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT COUNTS!**”

(Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Ezra Taft Benson, 1987, Ch. 12)

**Joseph Smith appeared to Brigham Young with an important message:**

“Joseph stepped toward me, and looking very earnestly, yet pleasantly said, “Tell the people to be humble and faithful, and be sure to **keep the Spirit of the Lord** and it will lead them right...Be careful and not turn away **the small voice**; it will teach you what to do and where to go; it will yield the fruits of the kingdom. Tell the brethren to keep their hearts open to conviction, so that when the **Holy Ghost** comes to them, their hearts will be ready to receive it. They can tell **the Spirit of the Lord** from all other spirits; it will *whisper peace and joy* to their souls; it will take malice, hatred, strife and all evil from their hearts; and their whole desire will be to do good, bring forth righteousness and build up the kingdom of God... Tell the brethren if they will follow **the Spirit of the Lord** they will go right. Be sure to tell the people to KEEP the **Spirit of the Lord**...”

(“Brigham Young’s vision of Joseph Smith”. Manuscript History of Brigham Young. 1847. 56)

**Point of Interest Regarding the Mt of Olives and Jesus Return:**

**At Jesus Ascension (Acts 1:7-12) Jesus promises to Return to the Mt of Olives at 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**

(See Zechariah 1,2,3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14:1-5)

**Zechariah Account (is the most detailed):**

- Acts 1:9-12 = Jesus’ Ascension = the same way you see Him go from the Mt of Olives you will see Him return
- Zechariah 12, 13, 14:1-4 = Jesus setting His foot down on Mt of Olives (Direct fulfillment)
- Overview of the Book of Zechariah relating to this event:
  - **Chapter Headings of Chapters 1,2,3,8,9,10,12,13 (and 13:5-6), & 14**
    - Chapter 1 Heading: Zechariah calls upon Judah to repent—He is shown in vision that the cities of Judah and the temple will be rebuilt.”
    - Chapter 2 Heading: In the last days, Judah will gather to Jerusalem —The people will come from the land of the north—The Lord will dwell among them.
    - Chapter 3 Heading: Zechariah speaks about the Messiah—The Branch will come—At the Second Coming, iniquity will be removed in one day.
    - Chapter 8 Heading: In the last days, Jerusalem will be restored, Judah will be gathered, and the Lord will bless His people beyond anything in the past.
    - Chapter 9 Heading: Zechariah speaks as the Messiah—The Messiah will come, having salvation...— Judah and Ephraim are instruments of the Lord.



- Chapter 10 Heading: Judah and Joseph will be scattered among the people in far countries—The Lord will hiss for them, gather them, and redeem them.
- Chapter 12 Heading: In the final great war, all nations will be engaged at Jerusalem, but the Lord will defend His people—Then the Jews will look upon the Lord, whom they crucified, and there will be great mourning.
- Chapter 13 Heading: In the final great war, all nations will be engaged at Jerusalem, but the Lord will defend His people—Then the Jews will look upon the Lord, whom they crucified, and there will be great mourning.
- Chapter 13:5-6 “5 But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth. 6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”
- Chapter 14 Heading: At His Second Coming, the Lord will fight for Israel—His feet will stand upon the Mount of Olives—He will be King over all the earth—Plagues will destroy the wicked.
- **Zechariah 14:1-5** 1 Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. 2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3 Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4 ¶ And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. 5. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains...”