

The Near and The Far
Matthew 24:15-31



Best of Israel

November 26 - December 5, 2027





“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

Three Major Interpretations of Jesus's Sermon

1. **Past** (preterist) -

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2. **Future** (futurist) -

“Matthew’s account of the Olivet Discourse simply does not include the A.D. 70 event.”

Ray Wenger

1. Past (preterist) -
2. Future (futurist) -
3. **Past-Future** (preterist-futurist) -

Some place the shift in 24:21 (Carson) or 24:32 (Brown) or 24:36 (France).

Some contend this shift is overlapping
(Beasley-Murray).

Some argue this is “a single prophecy with two fulfillments” (Davies and Allison).

Alternating/Intensifying - Near and Far

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near these things (3,8) tauta (3-20)

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<u>near</u>	these things (3,8)	tauta (3-20)
<u>far</u>	those things (22,22,29)	ekeinos (21-31)

Alternating/Intensifying - Near and Far

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<u>far</u>	those things (22,22,29)	ekeinos (21-31)
<u>near</u>	these things (33)	tauta (32-35)

Alternating/Intensifying - Near and Far

<u>near</u>	these things (3,8)	tauta (3-20)
<u>far</u>	those things (22,22,29)	ekeinos (21-31)
<u>near</u>	these things (33)	tauta (32-35)
<u>far</u>	that day (36)	ekeinos (36-51)
	those days (38)	

“Do not withhold discipline from a child;
if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.
If you strike him with the rod,
you will save his soul from Sheol.”

Proverbs 23:13-14

“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” (15-16)

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Antiochus Epiphanes



Emperor Caligula



“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains,”

Luke 21:20-21a

“But **when you see** Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its **desolation** has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains,”

Luke 21:20-21a

- Their banners displayed the emperor's image.

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- Their cargo carried many idols.
- Their goal was to destroy Jerusalem, defile and remove the temple, and kill and enslave the people.

Two Primary Warnings:

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Underreacting

Two Primary Warnings:
Underreacting
Overreacting



1. Don't **underreact** (16-20).

“Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

“Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.

“And alas for women who are pregnant and
for those who are nursing infants in those
days!

“Pray that your flight may not be in winter
or on a Sabbath.” (16-20)

Flee despite **distractions** (16–18)

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“Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” (16)

“Let the one who is on the housetop not go down” (17a)

“Let the one who is on the housetop not go down” (17a)

“... and let the one who is in the field not turn back” (18a)

Flee despite distractions (16-18)

Flee despite **difficulties** (19-20)

pregnancy (19a)

pregnancy (19a)

nursing (19b)

pregnancy (19a)

nursing (19b)

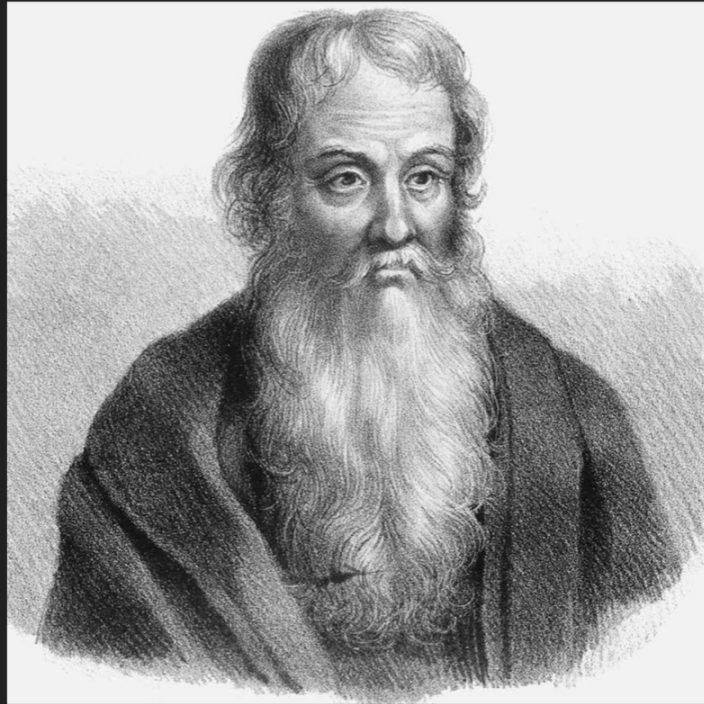
winter (20a)

pregnancy (19a)

nursing (19b)

winter (20a)

Sabbath (20b)



Eusebias

Interlude (21-22)

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

“And if those days had not been cut short,
no human being would be saved. But for the
sake of the elect those days will be cut
short.” (21-22)

1. Don't underreact (16-20).
2. Don't **overreact** (23-26).

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it.

“For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

“See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.” (23-26)

“For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.” (27-28)

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

“Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn,

“and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

“And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” (29-31)

“For the stars of the heavens and their
constellations will not give their light;
the sun will be dark at its rising,
and the moon will not shed its light.

“Therefore I will make the heavens tremble,
and the earth will be shaken out of its place,
at the wrath of the LORD of hosts
in the day of his fierce anger.”

Isaiah 13:10, 13

The return of Jesus will be . . . **dreadful**.

The return of Jesus will be . . . **dreadful**.

“sun . . . moon . . . stars . . . and the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (29)

The return of Jesus will be . . . **visible**.

The return of Jesus will be . . . **visible**.

“Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man,” (30a)

The return of Jesus will be . . . **judicial**.

The return of Jesus will be . . . **judicial**.

“then all the tribes of the earth will mourn,”
(30b)

The return of Jesus will be . . . **magesterial**.

The return of Jesus will be . . . **magesterial**.

“they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (30c)

The return of Jesus will be . . . **audible**.

The return of Jesus will be . . . **audible**.

“And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call,” (31a)

The return of Jesus will be . . . **universal**.

The return of Jesus will be . . . **universal**.

“they will gather his elect from the four winds,
from one end of heaven to the other.” (31b)

“... since indeed God considers it just to
repay with affliction those who afflict you,

“and to grant relief to you who are afflicted
as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is
revealed from heaven with his mighty
angels in flaming fire,

“inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

“They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

“when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.”

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

So why does Jesus alternate between near and far?

Near prevents **underreacting** – be alert.

Near prevents **underreacting** – be alert.

Far prevents **overreacting** – not alarmed.

“There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

“And he answered them, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?

“No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

“Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?

“No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

Luke 13:1-5

“No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

Luke 13:3, 5

Near without far -> rashness

Near without far -> rashness

Far without near -> indifference

“They will say, ‘Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.’”

2 Peter 3:4

How does near/far work in our lives?

“You hid in that ditch because you think there is still hope.

“But Blithe, the only hope you have is to accept the fact that you’re already dead,

“and the sooner you accept that, the sooner you’ll be able to function as a soldier’s supposed to function.”

Lieutenant Speirs

“If then you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above, where Christ
is, seated at the right hand of God.

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

Colossians 3:1-4

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

“On account of these the wrath of God is coming.”

Colossians 3:5-6

“I kept asking, ‘Why do I even keep doing this? I hate it, I get no real joy out of it,

“but I eventually realize that my sinful desire was a perversion of a much deeper desire; a faint whisper of something better.

“I realize that it wasn’t even sex that I ultimately longed for, but rather communion with God in the beatific vision.

“As soon as I came to understand that I was far more motivated to fight for a joyful vision of God – I replaced my desire for porn with a desire for God.”

Parkison's friend

“What such a believer needs is a break in the clouds and a burst of light to cut through the firmament –

“a hope and a joy that transcends the
suffocation of temporal, fleshly desires.”

Samuel Parkison