

Is Jesus Coming Soon?



Matthew 24:1-36



- Do signs indicate the coming of Christ?
 - Does the Bible give signs when He will come
 - Do current events in the news fit these signs?
 - Are these signs in Jesus' Olivet Discourse?

Eschatology..

A man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored suit and a striped tie, is speaking at a podium. There are several microphones in front of him. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with warm lighting.

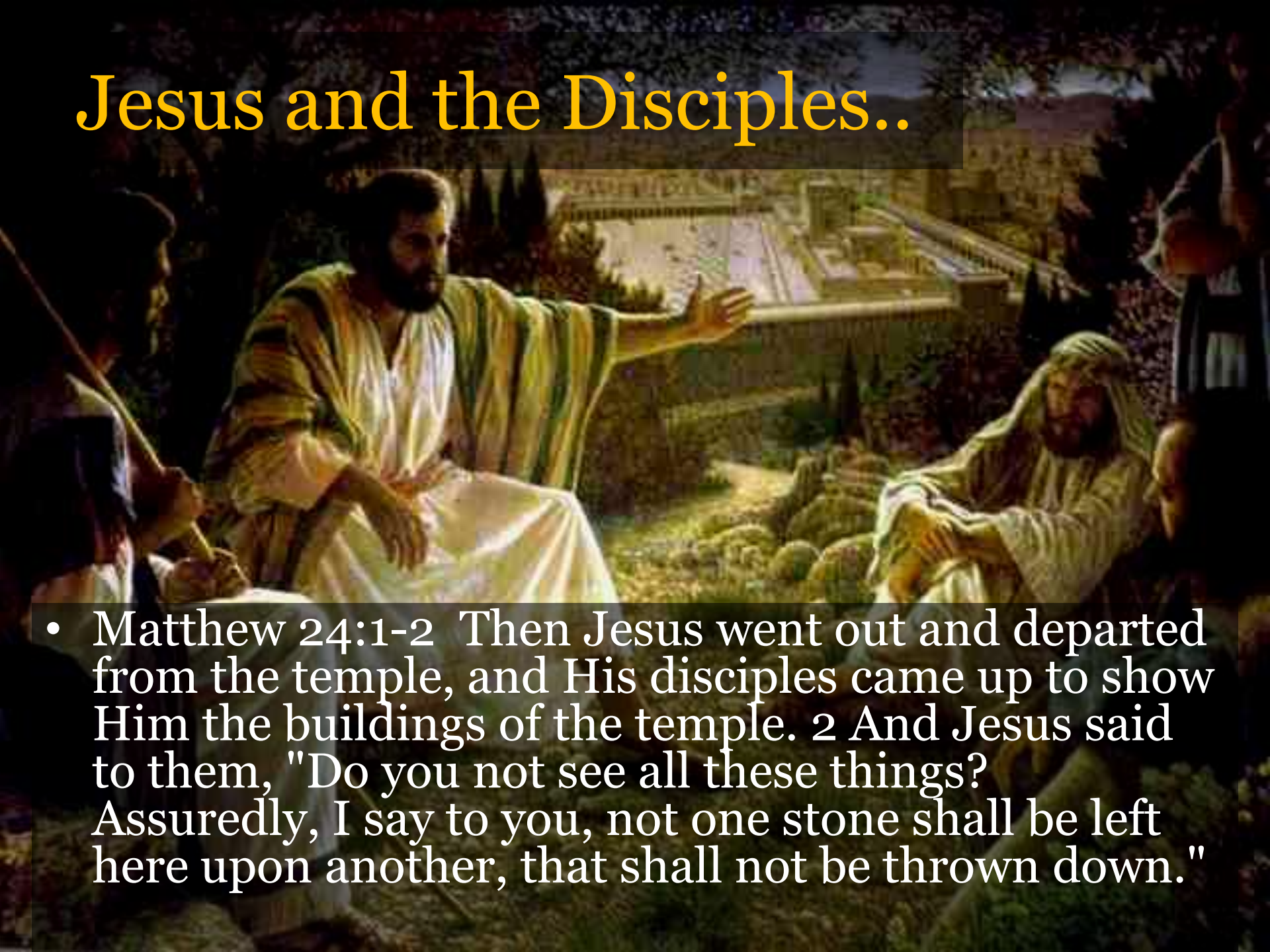
- Premillennial teachers apply prophecies to current events as indicating the imminent return of Christ..

The Olivet Discourse

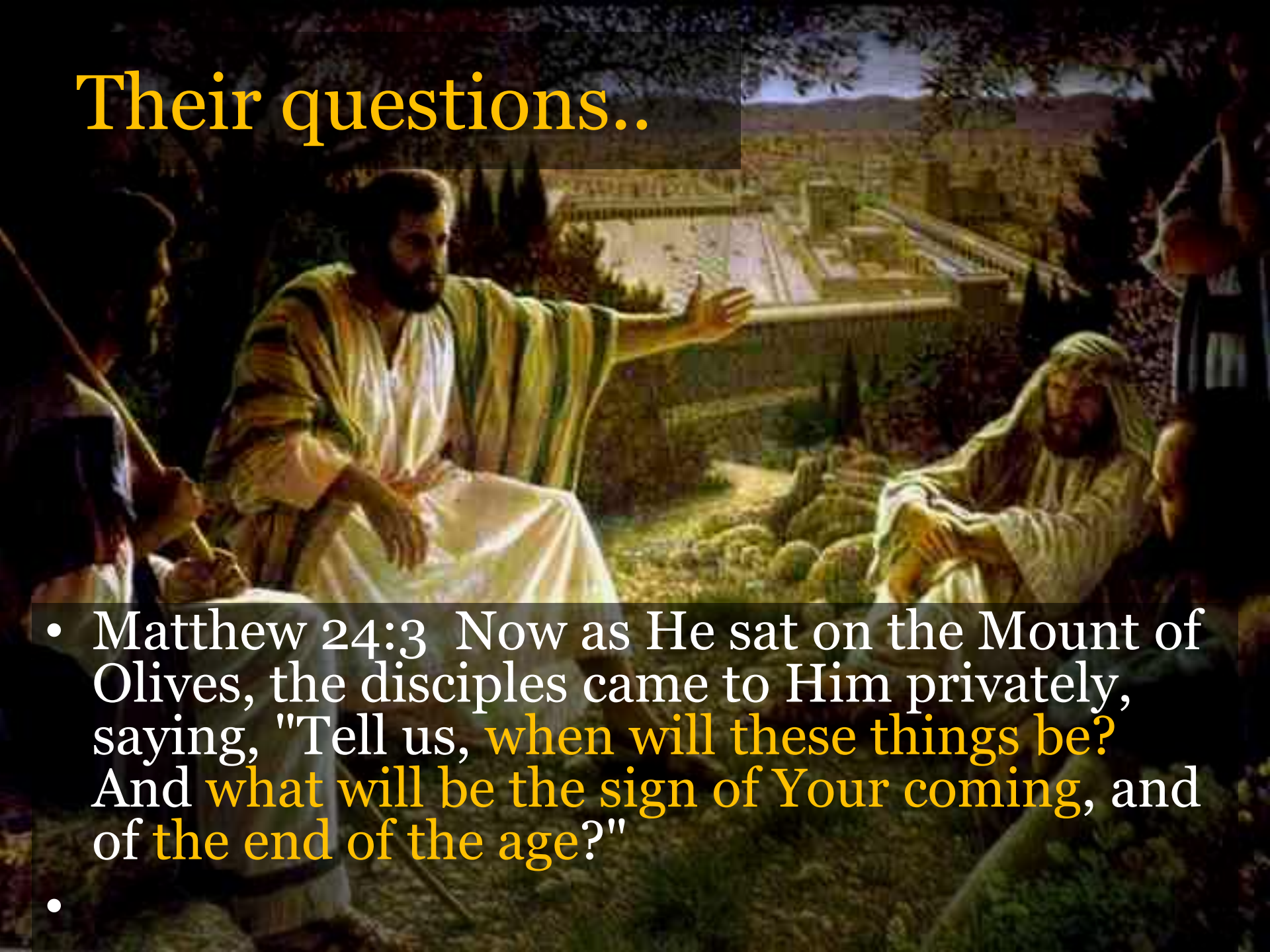
Matt 24 (Mark 13, Luke 21)

- Jesus warnings to Israel ..
 - Luke 19:41-44 Enemies siege Jerusalem
 - Matt 21:21-46 Kingdom taken from Jews
 - Matt 22:1-10 King would burn their city
 - Matt 23:34-39 Their house left desolate
 - John 12:27-33 Now is judgment of world

Jesus and the Disciples..

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- A religious painting depicting Jesus and his disciples on a hill overlooking the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus, with a beard and wearing a white robe with a green and yellow striped cloak, sits in the center, gesturing with his right hand towards the temple in the distance. To his left, a disciple is partially visible, holding a staff. To his right, another disciple with a beard and long hair, wearing a white robe, sits with his hands clasped. The background shows the Temple's architecture, including the Dome of the Rock, surrounded by trees and a clear sky.
- Matthew 24:1-2 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Their questions..

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- A religious painting depicting Jesus sitting on the Mount of Olives, gesturing towards the city of Jerusalem in the distance. He is surrounded by his disciples, who are listening intently. The scene is set in a lush, green landscape with trees and a view of the city below.
- Matthew 24:3 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?**"
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Key Verse ...

- Matthew 24:34 Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all these things take place.
 - Vs 4-34 all to happen in that generation
 - Vs 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Generation (genea)

- Matthew 11:16 "But to what shall I liken **this generation?** It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions
- Matthew 12:41-42 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment **with this generation** and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah.. a greater than Jonah is here.
- Matthew 12:45 So shall it also be with **this wicked generation."**
- Matthew 23:36 Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon **this generation.**

Generation (genea)

- Arndt and Gingrich: genea denotes “basically, the sum total of those born at the same time, expanded to include all those living at a given time generation, contemporaries” (153).
- McClintock and Strong “this generation” in Matthew 24:34 denotes “the generation of persons then living contemporary with Christ” (776).
- Herodotus, the Greek historian, said that “three generations” fill up a “century” (*The Histories* II.142). To him, a “generation” was a period of some thirty-three years.

Jerusalem's destruction..

- Early warnings (vs 4-14)..
 - False “messiahs” would arise.
 - There would be numerous military encounters.
 - Famines and earthquakes would occur.
 - Disciples would be persecuted.
 - Some would “stumble,” i.e., depart from the faith.
 - False prophets would be prevalent.
 - Decreasing spirituality on the part of some saints would be evident.
 - Those who endured would be delivered.
 - The gospel would be published far and wide during these four decades.

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Palestine in New Testament times

A.D. 6-70

Political boundaries A.D. 70-100

JUDAEA, etc. Political units

- Places mentioned in the New Testament
- Cities of the Decapolis
- Cities of the Decapolis mentioned in the New Testament
- Jerusalem



MEDITERRANEAN

SEA



Signs in heaven (29-34)..

- After the tribulation (29-31) Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-27).
 - a) Like other prophets, Jesus uses figurative language to depict the city's fall.
 - (1) Babylon (Isaiah 13:6-13).
 - (2) Egypt (Isaiah 19:1-2; Ezekiel 32:2, 7-9).
 - (3) Tyre (Isaiah 23:1; 24:21-23).
 - (4) Edom (Isaiah 34:4-6).
 - (5) Nineveh (Nahum 1:1-5).
 - (6) Israel and Judah (Amos 8:9; Jeremiah 4:23-28).

Signs in heaven (29-34)..

- The fig tree (Matthew 24:32-33; Mark 13:28-29; Luke 21:29-31).
 - a) When a fig tree blooms, it is an obvious sign that summer is near. Does anyone really need a calendar to tell when the seasons change?
 - b) Likewise, when these aforementioned signs occur, Christ's disciples will know that they should leave Jerusalem (Matthew 24:16-20; Mark 13:15-18; Luke 21:21-23).

The End of the World (36-44)..

- But.. Of that day and hour no one knows.. Only the Father
 - As the days of Noah .. Vs 37-39
 - The field and the mill .. Vs 40-41
 - The faithful householder.. 42-45
 - The wise servant.. 45-51
 - The ten virgins.. 25:1-13
 - The talents.. 25:14-30
 - Judgment of nations.. 25:31-46

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