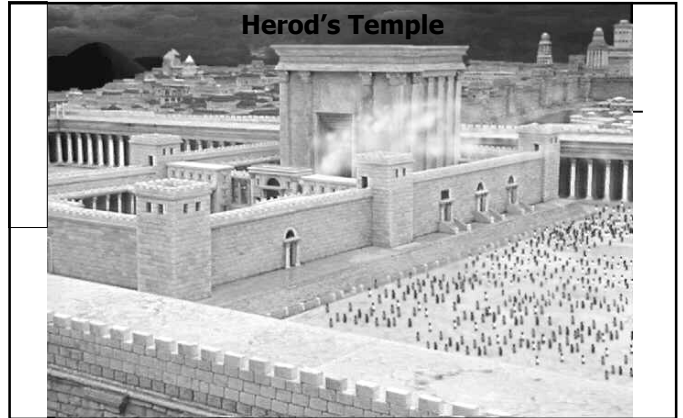




## The Gospel of Matthew

*“A Great Tribulation”*  
Matthew 24:15-28



## The Olivet Discourse

### Overview

- Jesus warns that there will be a delay before the End – a delay characterized by persecution and tribulation for His followers
- The destruction of the temple in the near future will be a piece of this tribulation, but it is not yet the End

Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains;

let him who is on the housetop not go down to get things out that are in his house;  
and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak.

But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days!

But pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath;

for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.

And unless those days has been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.”

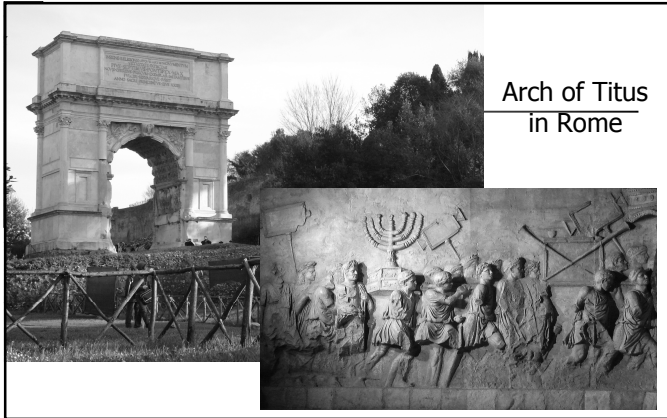
Matthew 24:15-22



## A Great Tribulation

### 1. Destruction of the Temple

- prediction by Jesus of the temple's destruction in A.D. 70 by the Roman army – unprecedented atrocity to Jerusalem!



Arch of Titus  
in Rome

## A Great Tribulation

### 1. Destruction of the Temple

- prediction by Jesus of the temple's destruction in A.D. 70 by the Roman army – unprecedented atrocity to Jerusalem!
- Jesus commands His disciples to flee Jerusalem with haste not stay and fight

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

For also false christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Behold, I have told you in advance.

If therefore they say to you, ‘Behold, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go forth, or ‘Behold, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them.

“For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

Matthew 24:23-28

## A Great Tribulation

### 2. Warning against deception

- this great tribulation of Jerusalem's desolation is not yet the coming of Jesus in glory
- His coming will not be an isolated, secret or local event but witnessed by all

## A Great Tribulation

### Implications

#### 1. The Old Covenant is obsolete

- the temple's destruction is an outward sign of the obsolescence of the Mosaic Covenant
- there is no temple, sacrifices, priesthood under the new covenant – fulfilled in Christ



## A Great Tribulation

---

### Implications

#### 2. The expectation of tribulation

- disciples are not exempt from the distresses of this age but are promised tribulation
- God will preserve His elect until the end