

**Matthew 24:29-31** - 29 "But **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 the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, 30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and **then all the tribes of the earth will mourn**, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. **31 "And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds**, from one end of the sky to the other. NASB

This **coming and gathering of His elect** happens "**after the tribulation**" and causes "**all the tribes of the earth to mourn**," but is a great deliverance "**for the sake of the elect**," for whom the **days of Tribulation** and persecution "**have been shortened**." This is in fact exactly what **Paul referred to** when He taught us about the **rapture/resurrection**. This was to be a **great encouragement** for the church as they knew it was a day when they would be **reunited** to their **loved ones** and would also, from that day forward, **be together with the Lord forever**.

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** - 15 For this we say to you **by the word of the Lord**, that **we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord**, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.** NASB

**Paul** clearly taught the **Thessalonians** that their **deliverance and gathering together with the Lord** would happen just **after** the **Antichrist** would be **revealed** and destroyed by Jesus at His Coming.

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-3** - 2 Now we request you, brethren, **with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him**, 2 that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, **for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed**, the son of destruction, NASB

This would happen when the **nations of the earth** would be **caught in sudden shock** when Jesus comes from Heaven.

**2 Thessalonians 1:6-10** - 6 For after all it is only **just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted** and to us as well **when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from**

heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed. NASB

See Paul has said that “7 when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,” that He will “7give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well.” He describes a deliverance of the “afflicted saints” and also the saints who have long since died (when he says “to us as well”), at the time when Jesus returns to destroy the Antichrist and bring judgment upon the nations who “8 do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.” This is how Jesus described it in Mark 13, that at His Coming He would gather the elect both from Heaven and Earth, “26 "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 "And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth, to the farthest end of heaven.” So see in these passages that deal with the Second Coming and our gathering together with Christ, the Antichrist is present and performing his deception, and the living saints are delivered and the dead saints are resurrected in that great event we refer to as “the rapture,” which is the First Resurrection of Revelation 20:5-6.

**Revelation 20:6** - 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in **the first resurrection;** over these **the second death has no power,** but they will be priests of God and of Christ and **will reign with Him for a thousand years.** Also, Paul taught that since we knew that it would happen like this, that we would **not be surprised** by the rapture/resurrection, but we would clearly know the season and see it approaching by these signs.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-6** - 5 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. **2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief;** 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. NASB

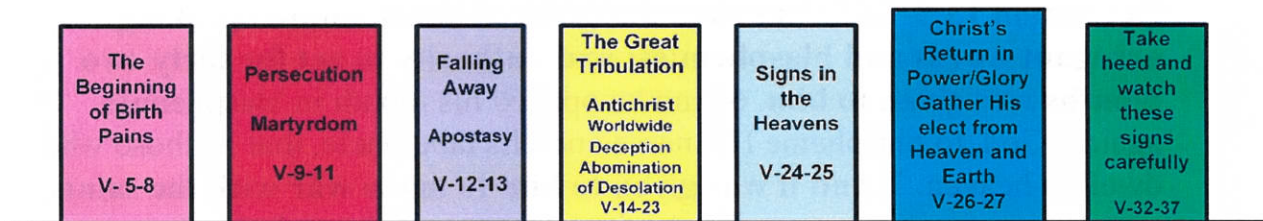
That “day” will “not overtake” the saints “like a thief,” because they have been told what this season of life will be like and should **expect** its signs (Antichrist,

Tribulation, world-wide deception by signs, severe persecution of saints) as the **time of deliverance**. Jesus clearly taught in this **Olivet Discourse** that His **Second Coming** would be a **deliverance** for His disciples, and that **when they see these events happening**, that they should **expect** this deliverance of the **Second Coming**.

**Luke 21:27-28 - 27 "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." NASB**

This is in fact the same thing Jesus is saying in Mark 13:32-37. And in regard to that serious **worldwide deception** and **persecution** of those days just **prior** to my Coming, don't be surprised or overtaken in deception when tested, **"23 "But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance."** Indeed, Jesus has laid out a **sequence of events**, that when considered as **future** events, gives a **chronology of signs and events** that will in fact equip His disciples of that day to know that the **season of His return** is at **hand**, even though they **cannot** know the **day** or the **hour** as verse 33 states.

### Chronology of Events in the Olivet Discourse in Mark 13



One last important note is that whenever the **Scriptures** speak of the **Antichrist** and the **Abomination of Desolation**, it happens at the time of Jesus Second Coming, when He delivers His people from Antichrist's deception and persecution, and He finally destroys Him. As we have seen, this was **worldwide** in **scope**, and described by **Paul** in **2 Thess 2:1-12**, and also by **John** in **Revelation 13:5-18**. Therefore, even though these events have **near fulfilment** in **70AD**, especially with the **Destruction** of the **Temple** (Mark 13:1-2), yet much of this Olivet Discourse has a grand fulfilment at distant future just prior to Jesus Second Coming, when He comes to reign over the nations of the earth with His saints. This is very clear in the prophecy about the Antichrist in Daniel chapter 7.

**Daniel 7:21-27 - 21 "I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. 23**



"Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. 24 'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. 25 **'And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. 26 'But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. 27 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One;** His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.' NASB

Here, Daniel had laid out the events of the **“little horn,”** how he **“21 wages war with the saints and overpowers them”** because they will be given into his hand for **“25 a time, times, and half a time”** (1260 days, 42 months, 3.5 years), the time described in Revelation 13:5-18 as Antichrist’s **worldwide deception and persecution** of God’s saints, which Paul referred to in 2 Thess 2:1-12.

**Revelation 13:5-7** - 5 And there was given to him a **mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.** 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 **And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them;** and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. NASB

As we learned in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and in Revelation 19:19-21, the whole scene **ends with Christ’s return and deliverance** of His saints and the destruction of the Antichrist. Daniel described this deliverance as the Coming of Christ’s Kingdom to reign on the earth with His saints, **“26 'But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever. 27 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One.”** This **reign of saints** was Jesus promise to His Church (Rev 2:26-27, 5:9-10, 20:4-6) and Paul’s teaching (1 Cor 6:3, 2 Tim 2:12). Now these events of the **distant future** are given to us by **Jesus** in a **clear chronology** in this Olivet Discourse, so that we may **“take heed”** to these signs and be **ready for His return**, watching and waiting eagerly for our deliverance from this world and the time comes for His **Kingdom to reign** upon the earth, and His enemies to be put under His feet forever.