

## VI. A Chronological Framework for Prophetic events

### A. Chronologically Significant Passages in Scripture

Although the genre of Apocalyptic Literature is represented in Scripture by a number of passages, there are a few that are especially significant to the construction of a chronological framework for the events of the end time, as well as the relationship of the present age to the eschaton. These include the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, Luke 21), Daniel's vision of the seventy "weeks" (Daniel 9:24-27), Paul's reference to the "Man of Lawlessness" (II Thessalonians 2), and John's vision of the two "beasts" (Revelation 13).

#### 1. The Olivet Discourse

##### a. Preliminary considerations

###### (1) Why is this Discourse so important?

- (a) Because it is one of the few passages of Scripture that gives extended teaching concerning the course of the events of the present age, as well as so of the events immediately preceding and accompanying those of the Second Coming of Christ
- (b) Because it places the Second Coming of Christ in chronological relationship to other future events (i.e., future to the time when the Discourse was given)
- (c) Because it makes reference to or contains concepts linking it to other important passages in Scripture which also relate to the events of the last time
- (d) Because it is a passage which various views have claimed as teaching or at least supporting their particular concept of the nature and relative time of the events occurring in connection with the Second Coming of Christ

###### (2) What is the historical setting of the Discourse?

A few days before this Discourse, Christ had entered Jerusalem amid the loud praises of His followers. He had begun a week of teaching in the temple during the day and returning to Bethany each night. When He had approached the city during His triumphal entry, He had stopped, gazed at the city, and spoken these words:

"If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days shall come upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank before you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

This ominous prediction forms part of the setting of the Discourse.

On one of the days of that final week of His earthly ministry, Jesus had finished teaching in the temple and was preparing to leave it when some of His disciples pointed out to Him the beauty of the