

temple buildings. Jesus told them that the time would come when the temple buildings would be utterly torn down. After He and His disciples had left the temple area, gone out of a gate and across a causeway spanning the Kidron Valley, climbed up the slope of the Mount of Olives and sat down in the area overlooking the temple area, His disciples asked Him when the temple would be destroyed, and what would be the sign of His coming and the end of the age. This forms the occasion of the Discourse.

(3) What are the main sections of the Discourse?

There appear to be four main sections. The first may be entitled "Characteristics marking the present age". The second deals with "The Great Tribulation. The third may be headed "The Second Coming of Christ in Glory". And the fourth may be entitled "Exhortations in view of Christ's imminent Coming".

These verses included in these four sections are as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>
1	4-14	5-13	8-24
2	15-28	14-23	
3	29-31	24-27	25-28
4	32-51 25:1-46	28-37	29-35

(4) What is the gist of each of the main sections of the Discourse?

(a) Section 1 -- Characteristics marking the present age

Jesus tells His disciples that the entire present age will be characterized by a number of false Christs, wars, famines, earthquakes, plagues, persecutions, defections, and false prophets. The Lukan account also inserts a unique segment predicted the siege and destruction of Jerusalem (repeating His triumphal entry prediction as recorded in Luke 19:41-44) and the final dispersion of the Jews.

(b) Section 2 -- The Great Tribulation

Our Lord says that a unique period of great tribulation is coming, characterized by terrible distress and marked by the setting up in the temple of the abominable idol that makes the temple and Jerusalem desolate, as predicted by Daniel. Believers living in Israel at the time are urged to flee to safety in the hills.

(c) Section 3 -- The Second Coming of Christ in Glory

Jesus states that immediately following the Great Tribulation, awesome and fearful astronomical phenomena will prepare the way for His coming in great power and glory; and that at that time there will