

many times Christians have been “**delivered up**” and “**put to death**” as they were “**hated on account**” of Christ's name and for His truth. But nevertheless, these words look to a specific persecution that Jesus calls His disciples to be faithful to the end as they stand for His name, even unto death. “**13 "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.**” When seen in the scope of the **Christian persecution** during the **Great Tribulation** at the **end** of this **current age** and just prior to the **Second Coming** of **Christ**, these words are obviously speaking of that time, and Jesus call to faithfulness for that generation of believers will be paramount.

Luke 21:18-19 - 18 "Yet **not a hair of your head will perish.** 19 "By your **endurance you will gain your lives.** NASB

Matthew 24:13 - 13 "But **the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.** NASB

This understanding is **further clarified** by what **Jesus** says **next**, in verses **14-37**, and this will bring into its **scope** the **Great Tribulation** at the end of this current age, just **prior** to the **Second Coming** of **Christ**, and thus **scriptures referring** to those **events** inform our **meaning** of details that Jesus describes here.

Mark 13:14-23 - 14 "But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 "And let him who is on the housetop not go down, or enter in, to get anything out of his house; 16 and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak. 17 "But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days! 18 "But pray that it may not happen in the winter. 19 "For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created, until now, and never shall. 20 "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He shortened the days. 21 "And then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ'; or, 'Behold, He is there'; do not believe him; 22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray. 23 "But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

The language of **verses 14-27** is clearly speaking of the **distant future**, and yet still contains language that applies to the **near time** of **70AD**. The reference to the “**abomination of desolation**” speaks of Daniel’s prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27, Daniel 11:28-31), but finds its **fulfilment** in the **career** of the **Antichrist** just prior to the **Second Coming** of Jesus, also referred to by **Paul** and **John** (2 Thess 2:1-12, Rev 13:11-18). In both of these passages, the **Antichrist** is **finally destroyed** by **Christ** after a **great deception** that he instigates, while also persecuting faithful

Christians. **“14 "But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”** The exact event of the **“abomination of desolation”** is controversial either speaking of a **great deception** among **professing Christians** or of a **desecration** of a **Jewish Temple in Jerusalem** just prior to the **Second Coming**. This is why there is widespread speculation concerning the building of such a temple. Nevertheless, **Jesus** instructs **His disciples** how to respond **when they see it**. **“15 "And let him who is on the housetop not go down, or enter in, to get anything out of his house; 16 and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak. 17 "But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days! 18 "But pray that it may not happen in the winter.”** The **near fulfilment** of this obviously took place in **67AD** when **Christians** fled **Jerusalem** at the beginning of the Jewish Revolt in 67AD, 3 years **before its destruction** as recorded by **Eusebius** the historian in his **Ecclesiastical History 3.5.3**. It is also worth noting here that there is a **prophecy** concerning the Second Coming of Christ in the Book of **Zechariah** which portrays **Jerusalem** being **surrounded by armies**, being initially over run and then ultimately delivered by Christ at His Second Coming.

Zechariah 14:1-6 - 14 Behold, a day is coming for the Lord when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. 2 For **I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. 3 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.** 4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. 5 And **you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel;** yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. **Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!** NASB

So, there is yet a fulfilment in the **distant future** yet awaiting these words in the **Olivet Discourse**, and Jesus here puts the timing of this just prior to His Second Coming. **“19 "For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created, until now, and never shall.”** This **“time of tribulation”** could not have occurred in **70AD** for He describes it as **“such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created, until now, and never shall.”** Surely there have been many times of tribulation since 70AD of **far greater scope** and destruction,