## Revelation 1:1-3

The Imminent Coming of Christ's Kingdom Part 2

By Eric Douma

### **Confusion About Imminence**

- James 5:7-8 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
- "Obviously, the Passover was not going to occur at any moment. On the contrary, the Passover, which had a fixed day, had drawn near because of a past action...Therefore, this is confirming evidence that the declaration "the Lord is near" does not imply an any-moment coming of Christ" (Parable of Fig Tree, pg. 158).

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### **Confusion About Imminence**

- Passover = known day every 14th day of Nisan
- Parousia = unknown day

<u>Matthew 24:36</u> But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

 All these questions about the time of Christ's return are misguided because no one but the Father knows their answers anyway. "Day" and "hour" are regularly used throughout Scripture for "time" in general, not just twenty-four-hour or sixty-minute periods (in Matt cf. 7:22; 10:19; 24:42, 44, 50; 25:13; 26:45). "Day" especially reflects the Old Testament "Day of the Lord" (Blomberg, NAC).

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# The Difficulties in the Olivet Discourse Preceding signs: 24:33 ...when you see all these things recognize that He is near... Imminence: 24:36 ...of that day and hour know one knows... Preceding signs (4-35) Imminence (36-44) Inside Daniel's 70th week Beginning of 70th week

? Signs

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### The Setting of the Olivet Discourse

Matthew 24:1-3 (And) Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down." 3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

NET BIBLE NOTE: Because the phrase these things is plural, more than the temple's destruction is in view. The question may presuppose that such a catastrophe signals the end.

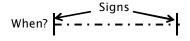
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### Structure of the Olivet Discourse in Matt. 24:3

- A. When will these things happen
  - B. what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end...
  - B. Signs? -vss. 4-35
- A. When? vss. 36-44



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### Jesus Explains the Signs Within Daniel's 70th Week

 Matt. 24:4-8 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. 6 "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. 7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. 8 "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

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### "Odin" Alludes to the Day of the Lord

■ <u>1 Thess. 5:2-3</u> 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 labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

Common Language in 1Thessalonians 5 and Olivet Discourse

- 1. Suddenly (aiphnidios) 2. Come (aphistemi)
- 3. Escape (ekpheugo)
- 4. That day (he hemera)
- 5. Watch (gregareo)
- 6. Drunkenness (methe)
- 7. Labor pains (odin)

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### Jesus Explains the Signs Within Daniel's 70th Week

• Matthew 24:9-14 Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. 11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. 12
"Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. 13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. 14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, <u>and then the end will come</u>. <u>15</u> "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)...

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### Jesus Explains the Signs Within Daniel's 70th Week

- Matthew 24:21-22 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. 22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.
- Matthew 24:23, 27-28 Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him... 27 For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

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# Jesus Explains the Signs Within Daniel's 70th Week

- Matthew 24:29 "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.
- <u>Joel 3:2, 15</u> I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel...The sun and moon grow dark and the stars lose their brightness.

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# Jesus Explains the Signs Within Daniel's 70th Week

- Matthew 24:30-31 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.
- <u>Isaiah 27:12-13</u> In that day the LORD will start His threshing from the flowing stream of the Euphrates to the brook of Egypt, and you will be gathered up one by one, <u>O sons of Israel</u> <u>13</u> It will come about also in that day that a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were scattered in the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD in the holy mountain at Jerusalem.

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### Discourse Marker: Peri De

- Matt. 24:32-35 Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.
- Matt. 24:36-37 But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.
   37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.
- Peri de = Now concerning (Matt. 20:6; 22:31; 1 Cor. 7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1)

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### Vss. 4-35 "what will be the sign of the parousia and end"

Vss. 4-8 famines, earthquakes, warfare (Rev. 6:1-8)

Vss. 9-14 tribulation, martyrdom, end (Rev. 12-13)

Vs. 15 Abomination of desolation (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 12-13)

Vss. 16-35 Great trib., sign of Son of Man, "you know..."

### Vss. 36-25:13 "When will these things happen"

Vs. 36 "no one knows the day or hour"

Vss. 37-39 – like the days of Noah

Vss. 40-42 two in field/mill, one taken one left, be on the alert

Vss. 43-44 – like a thief

Vss. 45-51 -unexpected return of the Master

Vss. 25:1-13 Par. of 10 virgins, "no one knows day or the hour"

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