

THE SIGNS OF CHRIST'S COMING, PART 2:
OVERVIEW OF "THE BIRTH PAINS"
(Matthew 24:4-14)

- I. Varied INTERPRETATIONS of the Olivet Discourse
 - A. That it WAS FULFILLED with Rome's destruction of JERUSALEM in AD 70
 - 1. Requires NEARLY EVERYTHING to be FIGURATIVE
 - 2. Concludes that the KINGDOM ERA is NOW
 - B. That it IS BEING FULFILLED during the CHURCH AGE
 - 1. Requires MANY DETAILS to be FIGURATIVE
 - 2. Concludes that the CHURCH will BRING IN the Kingdom through world EVANGELISM
 - C. That it WILL BE FULFILLED during the TRIBULATION after the CHURCH has been REMOVED
 - 1. Sees it as addressed to the JEWS, not the CHURCH
 - 2. Treats NEARLY EVERYTHING as LITERAL
 - 3. Concludes that CHRIST will ESTABLISH the Kingdom SUDDENLY...
 - a. He will DESTROY the kingdom of ANTICHRIST
 - b. He will RESCUE the surviving CONVERTS
 - c. He will RULE from JERUSALEM

II. Evidences Supporting a DISTANT FUTURE Fulfillment

- A. The SIGNS are compared to BIRTH PAINS (24:4-14)
 - 1. They BEGIN just BEFORE the birth
 - 2. They are a NECESSARY part of the birth PROCESS
 - 3. They come with increasing FREQUENCY and SEVERITY as the birth APPROACHES
- B. The ones “SAVED” are those who “ENDURE” to the “END” (24:13-14)
 - 1. Probably not those still BELIEVING when they DIE
 - 2. But the BELIEVERS who SURVIVE to enter the KINGDOM when Christ RETURNS
- C. The gospel will be proclaimed in “the WHOLE WORLD” (24:14)
- D. The “ABOMINATION of DESOLATION” will appear (24:15; cf. Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11)
- E. There will be a period of great TRIBULATION of unprecedented SCOPE and SEVERITY (24:21; cf. Dan. 12:1-2)
- F. That will be followed by spectacular CELESTIAL DISTURBANCES (24:29-30; cf. Isa. 13:6-13; Rev. 6:13-14)
- G. ALL these things will be experienced by a SINGLE GENERATION (24:32-35)