

His Forever

From: <fmrglbd5@aol.com>
To: <peggym@his-forever.com>
Cc: <fmrglbd5@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2007 1:58 PM
Subject: Re: TO Simon - Matt 24:28

Dear Peggy,

Sister, the passages in *Matthew 24:28* and *Luke 17:37* should be studied in their context. Both passages are talking about the Lord's coming. But let me preface my explanation with an explanation...

Most people have never seriously studied the Olivet Discourse. Even most Bible believing Christians have read over it a time or two and then run to their "commentary" or to their pastor [*who probably hasn't seriously studied it either*] for an explanation. The common theory is that the Olivet Discourse is all about the Tribulation period, and therefore has nothing to do with the rapture of God's people. The two passages under discussion are generally attributed to the buzzards [*how one can change an "Eagle" into a buzzard escapes me*] gathering to feast on the "**carcasses**" of the wicked slain during the Tribulation. Believe me, this is commonly taught by so-called "scholars."

Don't believe it! It isn't so!

I have made an intense study of the Olivet Discourse, and checked and doublechecked my findings by "**comparing spiritual things with spiritual**" exactly as we are told to do in God's Word, *1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:21*.

The Olivet Discourse is a chronologically correct prophecy of events that begins at the time Christ ascended back to the Father, and proceeds right through the Tribulation, ending with His judgment of the surviving Gentiles at the beginning of His Millennial Kingdom. Carefully study **Matthew 24-25**, **Mark 13**, and **Luke 21** and you can see it for yourself. **Luke 17** adds details of some of the same events, but is not a part of the Olivet Discourse for it was given at a different time in the ministry of Christ. Read my study, "*The Olivet Discourse in Context*" for a little help. But keep in mind that while my study sets forth a brief overview, it is not an exposition. My point in that study was to emphasize the fact that God's people [*true believers*] are not in darkness as to the [*general*] time of the Lord's coming.

And yes, the Olivet Discourse does include the rapture of God's people whether some folks want to believe it or not. You might review my studies, "*The Parousia*," and "*The Parousia Revisited*." Both of them point out passages in the Olivet Discourse that definitely refer to the rapture of God's people. Anyway.....

The passage in **Matthew 24:28** is in the context of a warning to the Tribulation period Jews not to believe the outright lies they are told about where Christ is at; "*in the desert*" or "*in the secret chambers*." These lies will be proclaimed to them while they are secluded in Petra, in an attempt to lure them out so that the Antichrist can kill them. This is why the Lord specifically states, "*go not forth*," **Matthew 24:26**. Then the Lord emphasizes to the Jews that His coming will not be to slip in quietly as if He was afraid, but will be in a sudden instant and will be highly visual, "*For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming*

[erchomai] of the Son of man be, For wheresoever the carcase [ptoma...fallen thing] is, there will the eagles be gathered together," 24:27-28. I do think Matthew's account is probably referring to the dead bodies of those slain towards the end of the Trib, or perhaps even on the last day of the Trib. The reference to the "*eagles*" in this context probably refers to the great gathering of birds [*all kinds of birds*] called by the Lord Himself to clean up the mess. See *Ezekiel 39:4; 39:17-20;* and *Revelation 19:17-18.*

Sister, if you will carefully notice, the chronological order in *Matthew 24* is completed in verse *31*. Then beginning in verse *32* the Lord begins to fill in details that relate to the prophecies already given; that is, the Parable of the Fig Tree [*32-35*], the days of Noah [*36-39*], the rapture of God's people [*40-44*], and the admonition to faithfulness in view of future rewards [*45-51*].

However, this is not the case in *Luke 17*. In *Luke 17*, beginning in verses *20-21*, Christ first speaks to the wicked Pharisees, pointing out that they have no spiritual discernment.

Then the Lord turns to His own disciples in verse *22*. He emphasizes to them the suddenness of His coming in verses *22-24*, just as He did for the Tribulation period Jews in *Matthew 24:27*. Notice in verse *24* that the Lord did not add "east" or "west," but rather "*one part under heaven.....unto the other part under heaven.*" In other words, under the whole heaven. The Lord put it this way because He is preparing to talk to His own disciples exclusively about the rapture of His people in verses *26-37*. Read it for yourself. Glory!

It is obvious then that in this passage verse *37* is in the context of the rapture of God's people. After speaking about the rapture, the Lord's disciples then asked Him "*Where, Lord?*" They were

asking where it will be that "two are in the bed," "two grinding together," "two in the field," "one shall be taken and the other left?" Where will this happen?

The Lord's reply was, ***"Wheresoever the body [soma] is, thither will the eagles be gathered together."*** Notice that the Greek word translated as **"body"** in this verse is not the same as the word **"carcase"** in ***Matthew 24:28***. The word **"soma"** simply refers to the body of a person. That person can be living or dead [***1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-51***]. It is exactly the same Greek word that is used when referring to the Lord's church as ***"the body of Christ"*** in numerous places in the New Testament epistles, and to the body of believers awaiting the resurrection and rapture in ***1 Corinthians 15***. Glory! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Your comments about ***Isaiah 40:31*** were right on target in reference to ***Luke 17:37***. Praise God! ***"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*** Glory! Read ***Job 33:14-30*** and ***1 Corinthians 15:42-44***. Glory! Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! What a ***"blessed hope"*** is awaiting God's people, ***Titus 2:11-15***.

Sister, I hope this answers your questions. Please feel free to share my answers with Simon or anyone else you feel led to share them with. God bless you.

Bro. Riley

-----Original Message-----

From: His Forever <peggym@his-forever.com>

To: FM Riley (Pastor) <Fmrglbd5@aol.com>

Sent: Sat, 22 Sep 2007 11:02 am

Subject: Fw: TO Simon - Matt 24:28

Here's what I told Simon, but I have NO idea if this is correct or not.

Your sister in Yahshua!

Peggy

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----- Original Message -----

From: [His Forever](#)

To: [5 Doves](#)

Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2007 10:59 AM

Subject: TO Simon - Matt 24:28

I never fully understood it either; in fact, you bringing it up reminds me to ask Pastor Riley! One "possible" explanation is that in the KJV, the verse is translated:

And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the **body** is, thither will the **eagles** be gathered together.

Christians have, from time to time, been called "eagles" ("**They will soar on wings like eagles...**" in Isaiah 40, for instance), and I've heard it said that the word "body" in the original text was capitalized (as in Yahshua's "Body"). I will let you know what

Pastor has to say on the subject.

Your sister in Yahshua!

Peggy

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