

## **Resources To Study Mark 13 and the Olivet Discourse**

### **Commentary on The Gospel of Matthew (New International Commentary on the New Testament) by R.T. France**

This is the best commentary on the Olivet Discourse. France writes from a preterist perspective, showing how Matthew 24:1-35 is centered on the destruction of the Temple in 70AD and not the final return of Christ. France does believe that there is a shift beginning in Matthew 24:36 and that the rest of the Discourse looks forward to the future final return of Christ and the end of the world.

### **Perilous Times: A Study In Eschatological Evil by Kenneth L. Gentry, Jr.**

This is a great volume looking at many texts thought to relate to eschatology and the final return of Christ. This includes chapters on Daniel 9:24-27, Matthew 24:1-20, Matthew 24:21-36, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Revelation 13, and Revelation 17. He writes from the same perspective I have argued for in looking at Mark 13, including seeing a change in subject at Mark 13:32/Matthew 24:36. he extends this through other passages as well.

### **The Great Tribulation: Past or Future? by Thomas Ice and Kenneth L. Gentry, Jr.**

This volume is a debate between a dispensational scholar (Thomas Ice) and a preterist scholar (Kenneth Gentry). The focus is specifically the Great Tribulation, but each author covers the whole of Scripture to look at the questions. Each author takes two chapters to develop their argument, and then each author is also given a chance to rebut the arguments of the other. The points are clear, but the tone is respectful and friendly throughout. Because of the debate format, this book is great for seeing both eschatological systems laid out in conversation with one another. Both do a good job presenting their side - though I think the arguments for dispensationalism are inherently flawed, so I think the clear winner in terms of biblical teaching is Dr. Gentry.

### **Last Days Madness: Obsession of the Modern Church by Gary DeMar**

This is a more in-depth look than most of the other books here. It gives most of its focus to the Olivet Discourse, but it covers Revelation, the mark of the beast, the antichrist, the man of lawlessness, armageddon, Daniel's 70 weeks, mystery Babylon, and Zechariah 14 as well! DeMar is a preterist. I agree with many of his views, though he does not believe there is a shift in topics at Mark 13:32/Matthew 24:36, and I disagree. His tone is also sharper than in some of the other books. Nonetheless, this is a very helpful book for studying the topics related to eschatology.

### **The Last Days According To Jesus: When Did Jesus Say He Would Return? by RC Sproul**

In this volume, RC Sproul, the noted Reformed theologian, delves into eschatology. Throughout he is concerned with apologetics, as many have claimed that Jesus was wrong in His predictions in Matthew 24/Mark 13/Luke 21. Sproul looks at the Olivet discourse, but also at Revelation, the resurrection, the antichrist, and the millennium. All of these are only dealt with in an introductory manner, but his comments are helpful. Sproul clearly is leaning towards preterism, but he is not dogmatic in his assertions.