

Today we call it “the rapture,” but He referred to it as “the gathering of His elect.”

The term “abomination of desolation” is critical to the teaching, for He revealed that it would trigger a lengthy time of unparalleled trouble. Jesus referred to this time of tribulation using a variety of terms, including: the beginning of birth pains, great tribulation, the tribulation of those days, and the days of vengeance. This time of great tribulation would end when the signs in the sun, moon, and stars signal the advent of the Day of the Lord (and His coming).

The proper identification of the abomination of desolation as being a first-century event means that the great tribulation began at that time as well. Therefore, the Church as always lived in great tribulation.

The restoration of the proper definitions of these terms, coupled with the Lord’s complete silence on all matters concerning the future Antichrist in His Olivet teaching, means that His teaching is all about His return in the rapture at the end of this age, not the final years of the Antichrist that will follow the rapture.

As more pillars of truth are deciphered, more of our eyesight is restored. We can locate prophetic events within the time-frame of the great Week (such that the sixth Day ends this present age, and the seventh Day begins the age to come.) The last half of Daniel’s 70th week will be fulfilled in the age to come, that is, during the first few years of Christ’s millennial reign.

In His Olivet Discourse, Jesus revealed that His return would be visible to all (like lightning flashing in the sky) (and in the clouds with power and great glory), how the days of His elect would be cut short (in the rapture), how they will be gathered by His angels (or eagles), and how they will escape the snare of that Day to stand in His Presence.

He also revealed that we can know when it is near, even at the door, by observing the “fig-tree signs” and how the simultaneous darkening of the sun, moon, and stars would signal the end of “the tribulation of those days” and the advent of “His Day.”