

# The Olivet Discourse Cannot Be Divided

## Matthew 24

### SECTION A (events associated with AD 70)?

Matthew 24:1-34

- ① vss. 17,18 – “let him who is on the housetop not go down...”
- ② vss. 26,27 – “For just as the lightning comes from the east...”
- ③ vs. 28 – “Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

### SECTION B (events still future to us)?

Matthew 24:35ff

- ④ vss. 37-39 – “For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah”
- ⑤ vss. 40,41 – “Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.”

## Luke 17

### ALL ONE SECTION (one time period) AD 70!

Luke 17:20-37

- ② vss. 23,24 – “For just as the lightning, when it flashes...”
- ④ vss. 26,27 – “And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it shall be also in the days of the Son of Man”
- ① vs. 31 – “On that day, let not the one who is on the housetop...”
- ⑤ vss. 35,36 – “There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken, and the other will be left.”
- ③ vs. 37 – “...Where the body is, there also will the vultures be gathered.”

**EXPLANATION:** Some hold the idea shown on the left above. They think Matthew 24 speaks of two different time periods: (SECTION A) Events Associated With AD 70, and (SECTION B) Events Still Future To Us. They apply the events mentioned in verses 1-34 (SECTION A) to the first time period (AD 70), and the events in verses 35ff (SECTION B) to our future. Luke's statements in chapter 17 (on the right above) show that this idea cannot be correct. Luke 17 discusses the same events as Matthew 24, however there is not a hint that two different time periods are under consideration. Luke clearly deals with events that would happen in the same time period (“the day that the Son of Man is revealed,” vs. 30). Luke's account cannot be divided into the same two groups of events. Notice on the chart above how Luke records the same events as Matthew, but in a different order. Matthew's order is 1-2-3-4-5, but Luke's order is scrambled 2-4-1-5-3! Luke has an event from SECTION A followed by one from SECTION B, then another from SECTION A followed by SECTION B, and finally one from SECTION A. This presents a problem: If Matthew 24 really has two sections (or two different time periods) under consideration, then Luke's account is incorrect, because he mixes the five events up as if they are all to happen in one time period. Either Luke is mistaken (and therefore uninspired), or it is wrong to divide Matthew 24 into two sections. Of course, the solution to this is that both Matthew and Luke speak of the same events which would all happen in the same time period. And, Matthew 24:34 tells us when that time period was to occur: the “generation” alive when He spoke those words (the generation from AD 30-70)!