I. Slide1 Announce:
   B. Pray: HS Haiti return. Romulo Haiti.

II. Slide5 Intro: Thy Kingdom Coming
   A. Imagine the story of Cinderella ending after the Act where she enjoyed the night at the Ball?
      1. It would have been a wonderful dance…but no marriage; A great night on the town… but no hope for a groom; A thrill for the present… but no future.
   B. Now Imagine the story of God ending after the Act where we have the birth, life, death, resurrection & ascension of Jesus, but then no talk about a future, no Return of Jesus?
      1. But we are told about the next chapter…the next Act.
      2. It’s the one page left to be turned. The one story left to be told.
         a) If we leave off His 2nd coming…we’ve had a wonderful dance… but no marriage; A great night on the town…but no hope for our groom; A thrill for the present… but no future.
   C. God has placed w/in us an interest in the future, an awareness that life as we know it is not going to continue indefinitely. Jerry Vines, Mark, pg.249.
      1. I don’t claim to know how to unravel everything in the end times.
         Slide6 As G.K.Chesterton said, It is only the fool who tries to get the heavens inside his head, & not unnaturally his head bursts. The wise man is content to get his head inside the heavens.

III. Slide7 OLIVET OVERVIEW (1-3)
   A. How do we study End Times? How do we balance our theology.
   B. Some rules:
      1. Slide8 We will take it literally (not allegorically).
         a) When the literal makes sense, seek no other sense. When it doesn’t (i.e. a symbol) we will use proper rules of grammar & interpretation.
b) We will interpret it with “normal, grammatical, historical, ordinary literal sense” w/in the normal context that it is written.

2. We will **not make it a test** of orthodoxy or spirituality.

3. We will take it in the light of the **rest of scripture**.

4. We will look for the **practical application**. *It wasn’t written to satisfy curiosity.*
   a) **Note:** Take heed, now learn, watch therefore, be ready. **Don’t be deceived** (4,11)... *discouraged* (6)... *defeated* (13)... *doubtful* (34,35)... *distracted* (42).

5. We will better understand **present & future** events.

6. We will **not** hold a **narcissistic & self-centered** eschatology. *i.e. anything that happens to ‘Merica...it must be the end.*

7. We will **not** set dates.

8. We will not be **obsessed** by it **nor ignore** it.

9. We will note the **Jewish** atmosphere of Jesus’ teaching. [Israel/church]
   a) **We have 4 Jewish men, asked a Jewish Rabbi, about a Jewish Temple.**
   b) **He warned them of:** false Messiah’s, referred to Jewish courts & trials, & talked about fleeing to Judea. **And remember this tribulation to come was called the time of Jacob’s trouble** Jer.30:7.

C. **Slide9 The chapter overview:** *The Beginning of the Tribulation* (4-14); *The Middle of the Tribulation* (15-28); *The End of the Tribulation* (29-31) [note: vs.8,15, 29]

1. **Note:** *Rapture* is not discussed until vs.36-44. [**1st section** this morning]

D. **Slide10 WHAT WERE THEY SEEING?**

E. **The Stones** – some were 60’ long, 8’ high, & 9’ wide. Reckoned to be 500+ tons.

F. **The Buildings** – covered approximately 1/6th of the city.

1. **John 2:20,** Herod’s temple had been under construction **46 years.** *Completed 64ad*

2. It was considered one of the **great wonders** of the **Roman World**.

3. **Josephus quote,** The **exterior** of the building wanted nothing that could astound either mind or eye. For, being covered on all sides with massive plates of gold, the sun was no sooner up than it radiated so fiery a flash that persons straining to look at it were compelled to avert their eyes, as from the
solar rays. To approaching strangers it appeared from a distance like a snow-clad mountain; for all that was not overlaid with gold was of purest white.¹

G. Slide11 WHAT WERE THEY NOT SEEING?

H. (2) The destruction prophesied.

1. Jesus already gave his assessment of the temple. Jewish leaders had defiled it. Jesus departed from it & left it desolate (the ultimate failure of the Jews...to know God in a personal way).

2. Slide12 The Romans destroyed it in 70 ad led by General Titus.

   a) According to the Historian Josephus, over a million people were killed, mostly through starvation; nearly 100,000 were taken captive.

I. (3) Here we get the title of the Olivet discourse. [Note inner circle + 1]

J. 3 questions: Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, (1) Tell us, when will these things be? (2) And what will be the sign of Your coming, (3) and of the end of the age?

   1. The questions weren’t really being asked the right way, because they still had many political overtones in their questions.

      a) e.g. in Acts 1:6 (post res) they were still asking, Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?

      b) It is like the boy asking his father, Daddy, why does the sun shine in the daytime when we don’t need it, & not at night when we do?

   (1) That kind of question is difficult to answer, not because the answer is hard, but because the question is so wrong. :)

IV. Slide13 SPIRITUAL DECEPTION (4,5)

A. Jesus’ aim wasn’t to satisfy their curiosity about the future (or ours) but to encourage their faith & help them face the challenges that lie ahead.

   1. Slide14a A photographer has the ability to make 2 objects, 1 in the foreground, one in the background both come into focus.

¹ Josephus, Wars of the Jews, V.5.6. (Book 5, Ch.5, Sec.6)
a) That’s what Jesus does here: w/an event in ad 70 & an event to come... *The Trib.*

B. Slide14b Take heed – Watch, keep your eyes open, evaluate, test, try the spirits, bring everything to the test.

1. The predominate note of the age will be one of deceit & confusion.

C. Signs of the beginning of the Tribulation (8)

1. Don’t get these mixed up w/signs of His Coming. These are only the beg of sorrows.


1. Though these have always been with us, obviously they will accelerate.

2. So under our banner of Spiritual Deception we’re warned against False Christ’s.

E. Slide15a FALSE CHRIST’S

F. Pages of history are filled w/tragic stories of False Messiah’s, False Prophets, & their enthusiastic disciples.

1. How easy it is for people to follow popular leaders w/their simple but erroneous solutions for the problems of life.

2. Slide15b 1 Jn.2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

3. These anti-Christ’s are not someone who is against Christ, but who appears instead of Christ.

   a) These include the false Jesus of the cults; the false Jesus of the gurus of eastern religion; the false Jesus of ultra-liberal theologians.

   b) Their basic message is anti-Christian in that they reject the true Christ.

   c) Don’t be deceived because they use the same terms or names. Their Christ is an impostor

V. Slide16 INTERNATIONAL DISRUPTION (6,7a)

A. The Roman Empire had enjoyed a measure of peace for many years…but it wouldn’t last.
B. Nation against nation...kingdom against kingdom - speaks of not a specific war or wars, but instead *a general course of the age*. Continual turmoil among nations. Sounds like our day.

C. As the *American writer, historian, philosopher* Will Durant wrote, In the last 3,421 years of recorded history only 268 have seen *no war*.

VI. Slide 17 **PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION** (7b,8)

A. Slide 18a **FAMINE**

B. Famine is *an extreme scarcity of food*. 1 in 8 in our world live in *chronic undernourishment*

1. Famine is often left behind in a wars wake. [As Oddny Gumaer shared 2 weeks ago, of people starving in *Aleppo, Syria* in the wake of their *war*] (someone gave her a check for sleeping bags & said to keep the Muslims there???)

2. Famine is also caused by *man’s abuse of the environment*.

3. Famine is also can be *sent by God* as a judgment.


1. *People with money can always buy food. Famine affects only the poor. People that devote 60-80% of their income to food simply eat less and die sooner. Death usually results from diseases that underfed bodies cannot resist. Children are the 1st victims.*

D. Does the world produce enough food to feed everyone?

1. *Yes.* World agriculture produces *17% more calories per person* today than it did 30 years ago, despite a *70% population increase*. [*mud cookies* from Hinch market]

E. **PESTILENCES**

F. Not in some translations. It means *plagues* which usually follow famines.

G. **EARTHQUAKES**

H. You want to get away from earthquakes? Best continent to live on would be *Antarctica*.

1. Although they do have small *ice quakes* (ice sheets shift, not land mass).

I. To stay in America? Then try Florida & North Dakota.

J. There have always been earthquakes but *in various places* means, *from place to place, everywhere, here & there*. LKGNT
1. **Slide18b** According to the **US Geological Survey** there are approximately **1,000,000** earthquakes around the world every year. Of these approximately **1/10** are large enough to be felt by humans. So on any day there will be on average **275** earthquakes around the world that can be felt.

   a) Each year in So Calif we get about **10,000** earthquakes.

K. **Slide19 BEGINNING OF SORROWS** (8) (sorrows = Lit. *birth pangs*)

L. Birth pangs of course come suddenly, build gradually, & then lead to terrible sorrow.

   1. **Is.13:6-11** *(esp.8)* (6) Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand...(8) **Pangs** and **sorrows** will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth.

   2. **1 Thes.5:3,4** Peace and safety! then sudden destruction comes upon them, **as labor pains** upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

M. So, political & geological disruption will give false prophets & false Christ’s great opportunity to deceive people.

VII. **Slide20 RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION** (9-14)

A. Not only were the believers to take heed & avoid deceivers…but were also to take heed to **themselves**. Why? Because they would face increasing opposition & persecution from 2 main sources: **Official** & **Personal**.

B. Persecution would begin in the **local** Jewish courts & synagogues [says Mrk13:9] Then they would move to the **higher courts**. [governors, Kings]


D. They were to use these at opportunities to witness...for a testimony to them (Mrk.9b).

   1. **Persecution would only result in Proclamation**.

      a) Our friend **Dan Jones** in Alamos Mexico thrown into prison for 9 months? Led men to Christ & now is the only pastor allowed to go in & evangelize.

      b) Whether **Paul** before Agrippa; **Peter & John** before the Sanhedrin, or **Martin Niemoller** before Hitler...**Persecution results in Proclamation**.
c) More Christians were martyred in the 20th cent than in all other centuries combined [christianity.com]

d) 105,000 Christians are martyred for their faith each year [Deseret News, 2011]

e) Currently over 100 million Christians are being persecuted worldwide [Reuters, 2013]

f) 70% of the world's pop lives in a *religiously intolerant environment* [Pew Forum, 2011]

g) North Korea continues to be the worst country in the world for persecution.

(1) Tertullian to his persecutors, *We multiply whenever we are mown down by you. The blood of Christians is seed.*

E. (12) *Job security* for those of you in Law Enforcement...*lawlessness will abound.*

F. Slide22 (13) He who *endures to the end* shall be saved –

1. Not as a condition for *salvation*, for it applies to *witnesses* during the Trib.

2. During the tribulation true believers will *prove their faith* by their *faithfulness*.

G. (14) Gospel preached to *all* nations –

1. *Does this destroy the teaching of the imminent return of Christ?* (i.e. He can’t return until…)

2. *If* this is spoken in the midst of the *beginning* of the tribulation, *then by the end* of the tribulation I believe there will be *salvations* from *every Tribe, Tongue & Nation*.

   a) Isn’t necessary before the *Rapture*.

   b) Though I don’t think that *taking the gospel to all nations* is a *condition* for our Lords return; but it is certainly Christ’s *commission* to His people. *The question is...will you participate?*

H. Someone once said, *If the shoe fits...wear it. If the gospel fits...wear it; own it, live it, give it, share it.*

I. The coming events cast their *shadow* before His return.

1. **Illustration:** If you place your *hand* high above your lap, & then slowly move your hand *downward*, watching your hand’s shadow. It 1st starts out *fuzzy*, but as your hand draws near your lap, the shadow becomes more & more *clear*...till the hand is there. [so w/end times]
This chapter began with the disciples *admiring* the temple stones & the surrounding buildings...but they didn’t know it was *a sinking ship*. When the Titanic began to sink do you think they were still admiring *the awesome vessel it was*? No, they were concerned with their very *lives*.

Hopefully, the prophecy of the *rap up* of this planet, should *wean* us off this world.

1. **Why are we so mesmerized & enthralled by such a place destined for doom?**
   a) It’s like getting excited over *a nights stay in a cheap motel*, vs. owning a mansion indefinitely. - Let’s *wean ourselves* from this world!

If you want to be *distressed*...look within.
If you want to be *defeated*...look back.
If you want to be *distracted*...look around.
If you want to be *dismayed*...look ahead.
*Slide24* If you want to be *delivered*...*Look Up.*