Eschatology in the Synoptics

- Olivet Discourse
- Individual eschatology
- Corporate/cosmic eschatology

Olivet Discourse

- Compare the Olivet discourse in the three Synoptic accounts.
  - Mt. 24:23ff // Mk. 13:21ff are also paralleled in Luke 17:23-24 (the day of the Son of Man).
- What questions are being asked and answered?
- What differences can you identify? Do they relate to distinctives of the Gospels?

Olivet Discourse

- Questions:
- Differences

Olivet Discourse

- What do these passages suggest about the view of eschatology in the Synoptics?

Individual Eschatology

- OT doesn’t have developed view of afterlife.
- Late books do suggest resurrection; this further developed in intertestamental period.
- By first century, most Jews believed in some kind of intermediate state.
- Synoptics say little about intermediate state but seem to affirm one for the righteous.

Individual Eschatology

- Synoptics affirm resurrection of righteous.
  - Immortality, eternal life; different from this life.
- Affirm gehenna as final destiny of wicked.
  - Garbage dump and place of human sacrifice.
  - See Mt. 7:23; 10:28; 25:12, 30, 41.
  - Separation from the presence of God and the blessings of the kingdom.
Corporate/Cosmic Eschatology

- Suggestions of both imminence and delay.
  - Imminence: Mt. 10:23; Mk. 13:30.
  - Delay: Olivet discourse; talents (Lk. 19:11).
- The uncertainty of the time; be watchful.
- Eschatology is already/not yet.
- The Son will be the eschatological judge.
- In the end, evil will be destroyed, and God will fellowship with his people.

Corporate/Cosmic Eschatology

- Luke: Jesus returns as enthroned Messiah.
- Only Luke explicitly connects the completed kingdom with Jesus’ return.
- Luke and the “delay of the parousia.”
- Luke emphasizes on Jesus’ enthronement.
- Individual vs. corporate eschatology?