

Eschatology in the Synoptics

- Olivet Discourse
- Individual eschatology
- Corporate/cosmic eschatology

© 2002 Brenda B. Collins 1

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).
 - Mt. 24:28 is paralleled in Luke 17:37b (eagles).
- What questions are being asked and answered?
- What differences can you identify? Do they relate to distinctives of the Gospels?

2

Olivet Discourse

- Questions:
- Differences

3

Olivet Discourse

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

4

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.

5

Individual Eschatology

- Synoptics affirm resurrection of righteous.
 - See Mark 10:17, 30; 12:18-23; Luke 14:14.
 - 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.

6

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.

7

Corporate/Cosmic Eschatology

- Luke: Jesus returns as enthroned Messiah.
- Only Luke explicitly connects the completed kingdom with Jesus' return.
- Luke no longer connects destruction of Jerusalem with return of Son of Man.
- Luke and the "delay of the *parousia*."
- Luke emphasizes on Jesus' enthronement.
- Individual vs. corporate eschatology?

8