

## The Eschatological Discourse

*A colometric-concordant translation<sup>1</sup>*

### Matthew 24:3-31

<sup>3</sup> As he sits on the Mount of Olives the followers come to him on their own, saying,  
Say to us when this will be  
and what is the sign of your presence and the end of time?

<sup>4a</sup> And Jesus answers them, saying:



<sup>4b</sup> See to it that no-one leads you astray;  
<sup>5</sup> for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ',  
and they will lead many astray,  
<sup>6</sup> and you will begin to hear of wars and rumours<sup>2</sup> of wars.

See to it that you are not alarmed, for this has to happen,  
but it is not yet the end.

[cf. Dan. 2:28f]

<sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, [cf. Isa. 19:2; 2 Chr. 15:6]  
and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places,  
<sup>8</sup> but all this is just the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> Then they will hand you over to oppression and they will kill you,  
and you will be hated by all the nations because of my name;  
<sup>10</sup> and then many will stumble,

[cf. Dan. 11:41]

and hand over each other and hate each other;  
<sup>11</sup> and many false prophets will rise  
and lead many astray;  
<sup>12</sup> and because of the increase of lawlessness,  
the love of many will grow cold;  
<sup>13</sup> but the one who endures till the end will be saved.

<sup>14</sup> And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed  
throughout the whole inhabited earth  
as a testimony to all the nations –  
and then the end will come.



<sup>15</sup> Therefore, whenever you see *the abomination of desolation*, [= Dan. 9:17; 11:31; 12:11]  
according to the word of Daniel the prophet,  
standing in the holy place [cf. Ezek. 42:13]

– let the reader understand –  
<sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; [cf. Ezek. 7:16]

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<sup>1</sup> This is based on the work of F.H. Breukelman, *Bijbelse theologie. I,1 Schrift-lezing*. Een verhandeling over de kolometrische weergave van bijbelse teksten als hulp bij het lezen en als grondslag voor de exegese (Kampen: Kok, 1980) – probably a good reason to learn Dutch. Some information about colometry, as distinguished from stichometry, in classical texts was already in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition (1910 pass.), now on [Wikipedia](#). More can be found in: Bruce M. Metzger, *Manuscripts Of The Greek Bible. An Introduction to Greek Palæography* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1981), which is on [Google Books](#) now.

<sup>2</sup> Or: hearings.

17 let the one who is on the housetop not go down  
to take away what is in his house,  
18 and let the one who is in the field not turn back  
to take away his cloak;  
19 woe to those who are pregnant  
and to those who are breast-feeding in these days;  
20 but pray  
that your flight may not happen in the stormy season  
and not on a sabbath.

21 For there will be a great oppression, [cf. Dan. 12:1]  
such as never has been from the beginning of the universe till now,  
and never ever will be;  
22 and if these days would not be cut short,  
no-one of flesh and blood would be saved;  
but because of the chosen ones these days will be cut short.

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23 Whenever then someone says to you,  
'Look! here is the Christ', or, 'Here!'  
do not believe [it].

24 For false christs and false prophets will rise [cf. Deut. 13:2-4]  
and give great signs and wonders,  
so as to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen ones;  
25 look! I say it to you beforehand.

26 Therefore, when they say to you, [cf. Deut. 13:6]  
'Look! He is in the desert',  
do not go out,  
[or] 'Look! In the inner room',  
do not believe [it].

27 For as the lightning comes out from the east  
and shines as far as the west,  
so will be the presence of the son of man;  
28 wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

29 But immediately after the oppression of these days  
*the sun will be darkened,* [= Isa. 13:10]  
*and the moon will not give its glow,* [cf. Joel 2:10; Ezek. 32:7]  
*and the stars will fall from heaven,*  
*and the powers of the heavens will shake.*

30 And then the sign of the son of man will shine in heaven,  
and then the tribes of the earth will mourn, [cf. Zech. 12:10-14]  
and they will see  
*the son of man coming in the clouds of heaven,* [= Dan. 7:13f]  
with much power and glory.

31 And he will send his messengers with a great [sound of a] trumpet, [cf. Isa. 27:13]  
and they will gather his chosen ones from the four winds, [cf. Deut. 30:4]  
from the farthest boundary of heaven to the other.

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## Matthew 24:32-51

32 Now from the fig tree learn the parable;  
when its branch already becomes tender, and its leaves come out,  
you know that the summer is near;  
33 so likewise you, when you see all this,  
must know that it is near, [right] at the doors;  
34 for sure, I say to you, this generation will not disappear  
before all this has happened;  
35 the heaven and the earth will disappear,  
but my word will never disappear. *[cf. Isa. 40:8]*



36 But about that day and hour nobody knows, *[cf. Zech. 14:7]*  
not even the messengers of heaven, nor the son,  
but the father only;  
37 for like the days of Noah, *[cf. Isa. 54:9; Gen. 6:11-13]*  
so will be the presence of the son of man;  
38 for as they were in these days before the flood,  
gnawing and drinking, taking and giving in marriage,  
until it was the day that Noah went into the barge, *[cf. Gen. 7:7]*  
39 and they did not know, till the flood came and took all up –  
so too will be the presence of the son of man.

40 Then two will be in the field,  
one will be taken along and one sent away;  
41 two will be grinding at the mill,  
one will be taken along and one sent away.  
42 Therefore, stay awake!  
for you do not know which day your Lord will come,  
43 but this you know,  
that if the master of the house knows which watch the thief comes,  
he will stay awake and not allow his house to be broken in;  
44 for that reason you must be ready,  
because in the hour you do not think of the son of man will come.



45 Who then is the faithful and clever servant *[cf. Gen. 39:4f]*  
whom the Lord sets over his household *[cf. Ps. 104:27; 145:15]*  
to give them their provisions in [the right] time?  
46 – happy that servant  
whom his Lord will find doing so when he comes! –  
47 for sure, I say to you,  
he will set him over all his property.  
48 But if that servant is wicked and says in his heart,  
'My Lord takes his time',  
49 and begins to beat his fellow servants  
and eats and drinks with the drunkards,  
50 the Lord of that servant will come on a day he does not expect him  
and in an hour he does not know,

51 and he will cut him in two and put his pieces with the hypocrites;  
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



### Matthew 25:1-30

1 Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten girls  
who, taking their lanterns, go out to meet the bridegroom;  
2 but five of them are foolish, and five are clever;  
3 for the foolish ones, while taking their lanterns, do not take oil<sup>3</sup> with them,  
4 but the clever ones take flasks of oil with their lanterns.  
5 While the bridegroom takes his time,  
all become drowsy and fall asleep;  
6 but in the middle of the night there is an outcry,  
'Look! the bridegroom! go out and meet with him!'  
7 Then all these girls rise and arrange their lanterns;  
8 but the foolish ones say to the clever ones,  
'Give us from your oil, because our lanterns are quenched' — [cf. Prov. 13:9; Job 18:5]  
9 but the clever ones answer, saying,  
'No! there will not be enough for us and for you;  
you rather go to those who sell it, and buy for yourselves.'  
10 But while they go away to buy it, the bridegroom comes,  
and those who are ready go with him to the wedding  
and the door is closed;  
11 but afterward the other girls come, saying,  
'Lord, Lord! open to us' —  
12 but for an answer he says,  
'For sure, I say to you, I do not know you.'  
13 Therefore stay awake!  
because you do not know the day nor the hour.



14 For it is as if a man, on leaving home, calls his own servants  
and he hands his property over to them;  
15 and to one he gives five talents, to another two, and to another one,  
each one according to his own power,  
and he leaves his home.  
16 Immediately proceeding  
the one who took the five talents works with these  
and gains five more;  
17 in the same way the one with the two gains two more;  
18 but the one who took one, going away, digs a hole in the earth,  
and hides his Lord's money.<sup>4</sup>  
19 After a long time the Lord of these servants comes  
and he settles accounts with them.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Or: olive oil.

<sup>4</sup> Or: silver.

<sup>5</sup> Or: has a word with them.

20 And, coming forward, the one who took five talents  
 brings five more talents, saying,  
 'Lord, five talents you have handed over to me;  
 look, five more talents I gained' –

21 his Lord says to him,  
 'Well done, you good and faithful servant;  
 over a little you were faithful, over much I will appoint you;  
 enter into the joy of your Lord.'

22 Also coming forward, the one with the two talents says,  
 'Lord, two talents you have handed over to me,  
 look, two more talents I gained' –

23 his Lord says to him,  
 'Well done, you good and faithful servant;  
 over a little you were faithful, over much I will appoint you;  
 enter into the joy of your Lord.'

24 But, also coming forward, the one who took the one talent, says,  
 'Lord, knowing  
     that you are a hard man,  
 reaping where you do not sow  
 and gathering where you do not scatter;  
 25 and [also] fearing,  
     I went away and hid your talent in the earth;  
 look, you can have what is yours' –

26 but, for an answer, his Lord says to him,  
 'You wicked and lazy servant;  
 did you not know that I reap where I do not sow  
 and gather where I do not scatter?  
 27 then you ought to have thrown my money to the brokers,  
 and on arrival what is mine would have been returned to me with interest;  
 28 so remove the talent from him  
 and give it to him who has the ten talents;  
 29 for to each who has much will be given and he will have an abundance,  
 but from each who does not have also what he has will be removed;  
 30 and this useless servant, throw him out into the outer darkness,  
 there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



### Matthew 25:31-26:2

31 But when the son of man will come in his glory  
     and all the messengers with him, *[cf. Dan. 7:13f; Zech. 14:5;  
Deut. 33:2]*  
 32 then he will sit down on his throne of glory,  
 and all the nations will be gathered before him,  
 and he will separate them one from another,  
     like the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;  
 33 and he will make the sheep stand at his right hand, *[cf. Ezek. 34:17, 20]*  
 and the goats at his left hand.

34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand,  
     ‘Come, you who are blessed by my father,  
     inherit the kingdom that is prepared for you  
     from the foundation of the world;  
 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, [cf. Isa. 58:7; Ezek. 18:7]  
     I was thirsty and you gave me to drink;  
     I was a stranger and you gathered me in, [cf. Job 31:32]  
 36 I was naked and you clothed me;  
     I was ill and you looked after me,  
     I was in prison and you came to me.’  
 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying,  
     ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and we fed you,  
     or thirsty and we gave you to drink;  
 38 when did we see you [as] a stranger and we gathered you in,  
     or naked and we clothed you;  
 39 when did we see you ill or in prison and we came to you?’  
 40 And, for an answer, the king will say to them,  
     ‘Truly, I say to you,  
     in so far as you did it to one of the least of these brothers of mine,  
     you did it to me.’  
 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand,  
     ‘Go away from me, you who are accursed,  
     into the everlasting fire that is prepared for the slanderer  
     and his messengers;  
 42 for I was hungry and you did not give me food, [cf. Job 22:7]  
     I was thirsty and you did not give me to drink;  
 43 I was a stranger and you did not gather me in,  
     I was naked and you did not clothe me;  
     I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me.’  
 44 Then they too will answer, saying,  
     ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty,  
     or as a stranger or naked, or ill or in prison,  
     and we did not serve you?’  
 45 Then he will answer them, saying,  
     ‘Truly, I say to you,  
     in so far as you did not do it to one of the least,  
     you did not do it to me.’  
 46 And they will go away into everlasting punishment,  
     but the righteous into everlasting life.

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1 *And it happens, when Jesus completes all these words, [cf. Deut. 31:1]  
 that he says to his followers,*

2 *‘You know that after two days the Passover is coming,  
 and the son of man will be handed over to be crucified.’*

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